



What's Happen'N Art Movement

May 2026 Newsletter - There's much to learn, and celebrate!



"Sorcerer's Apprentice" – Acrylic – Annick Biaudet

Annick Biaudet – Celebrated artist who is noted for her creative versatility. Licensed by Disney through Artland UK, she has been featured in galleries in her home Country of France, the UK, Japan, China and the USA. In recent years, after mastering the use of acrylics, she is specializing in pet portraits and Disney Characters. With her work becoming very popular around the world.

Kelly Bracken – Accomplished photographer who has been honored with many awards for her incredible under water work. Kelly has recently moved away from the ocean and into wildlife, landscapes and general nature, with photo trips in Moorea, South America's Pantanal, Yellowstone and throughout the American west.

Penny A. Bragg - Local artist and current WHAM Member. Penny specializes in soft pastels and oils. Her preferred subjects include animals, still life, portraits and western themes. She has done many commissions and is honored that people have the confidence in her work to have her paint their pets, from dogs and cats to horses and donkeys.

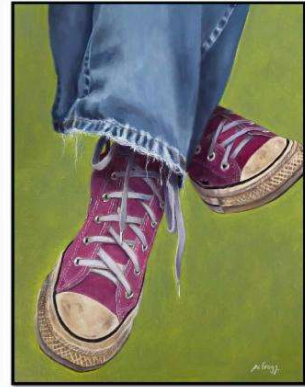
**CELEBRATION
of
ART**

May 2nd thru May 30th

Gala Reception
May 2nd - 4:30 to 7:30pm

Food
Liquid Refreshments
Entertainment

Featuring the Works of:
Annick Biaudet - Acrylics
Penny A. Bragg - Oils & Pastels
Kelly Bracken - Photography
Peter Ferk - Acrylics
Ron Souza - Oils



"Pink" – Oil Painting – Penny A. Bragg

Peter Ferk – Emmy Award winning artist whose accomplishments in Animation have been given the highest honor. His earlier work included TV's *Pinky and The Brain*, *Animania*, *Superman*, and *Batman*. Peter's work is featured in a book, commissioned by George Lucas to commemorate the Star Wars Movies. Peter has recently expanded his passion to include teaching all aspects of Animation at the College Level.

Ron Souza – Local Oil Painter and member of WHAM. Specializing in Tropical Seascapes, Ron was invited to exhibit his work by several galleries in the Hawaiian Islands. Since moving to Arizona, he has been drawn to landscapes and buildings from around the world. His ability to share his self-taught techniques has resulted in teaching for seven years in California, two years at WHAM and now in his home.



"The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of" – Acrylic – Peter Ferk



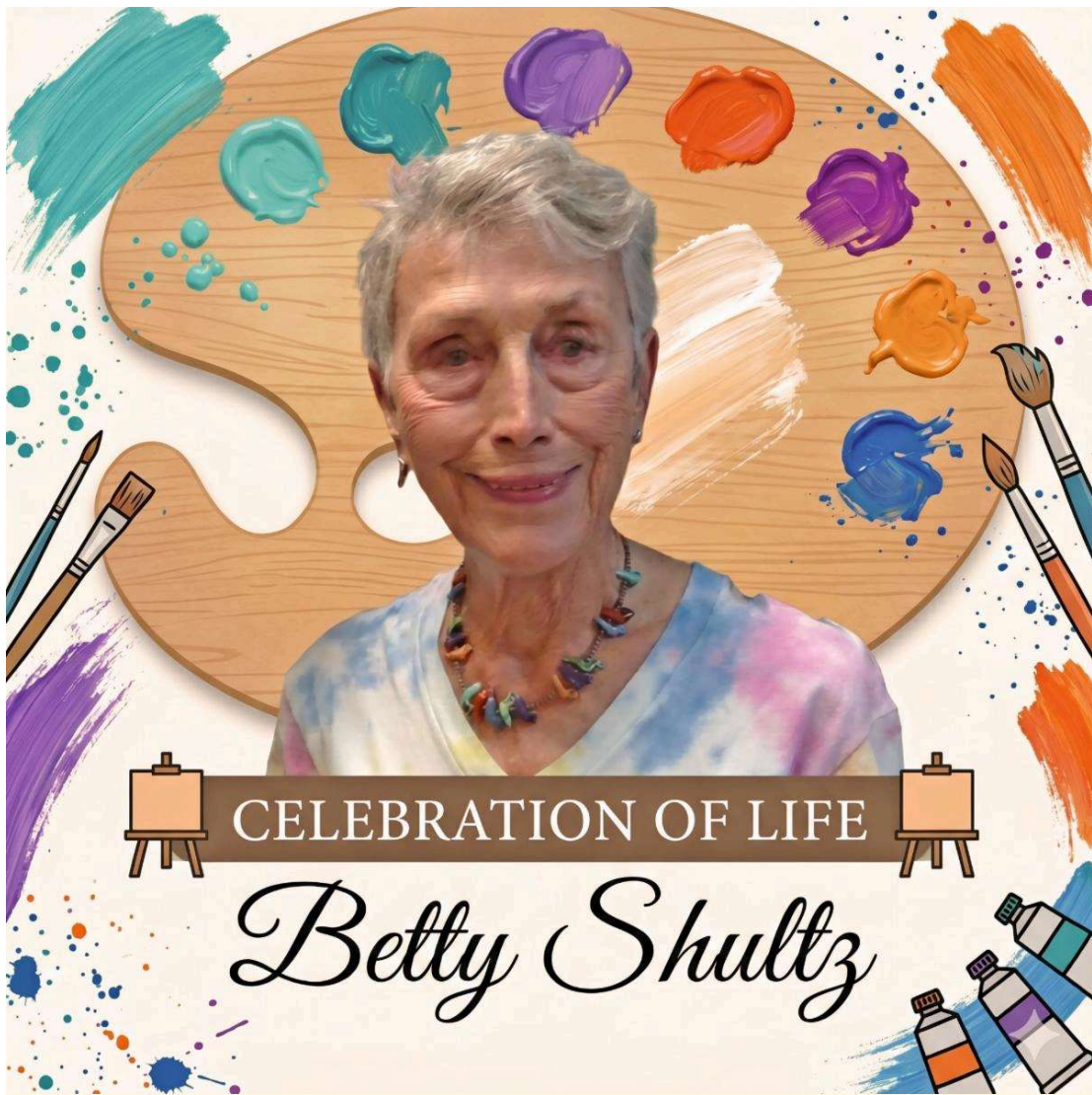
"Arizona Desert" – Oil Painting – Ron Souza

**WHAM
ART CENTER**

**16560 N. Dysart Rd.
Surprise, AZ 85378**



"Grand Canyon Winter Vista" – Photograph – Kelly Bracken



Dear Friends and Community,

WHAM Art Center warmly invites you to join us in celebrating the life and legacy of Betty Shultz, a beloved longtime member of WHAM, friend, and integral part of our creative community.

Celebration of Life for Betty Shultz

Date: May 10th

Time: 2 – 4 P.M

Location: WHAM Art Center, 16560 N. Dysart Rd., Surprise, AZ 85374

This gathering will be a time to honor Betty's remarkable talent, generous spirit, and lasting impact on WHAM and all who knew her. In keeping with her love of art and sharing beauty with others, many of Betty's original paintings will be available for guests to select as a lasting memory of her extraordinary artistic gifts.

We invite you to come together to reflect, share stories, and celebrate a life well lived through creativity and community.

Thank you for joining us in honoring Betty Shultz and the legacy she leaves behind.



Watercolor Class

Desert Scenes

May 6th
9am - 12pm

Introduction to Potter's Wheel

4-Week Class

May 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
10am - 12pm



The Coiled Jar

4-Week Class

May 7th, 14th, 21st, and June 4th
10am - 1pm

Handbuilding 1

4-Week Class

May 7th, 14th, 21st, and June 4th
6pm - 8:30pm



Vets Program

A Path to Healing

May 11th
10am - 2pm

WHAM Kids - Saturday Arts & Crafts

Drawing & Overlapping Color Shapes
(Abstract Art Class)

\$15

May 16th, 20th, 27th

10am - 11:30am **New Time**



Mindful Art for Seniors & Caregivers

Mixed Media Art "Art Journaling"

May 19th

10am - 12pm

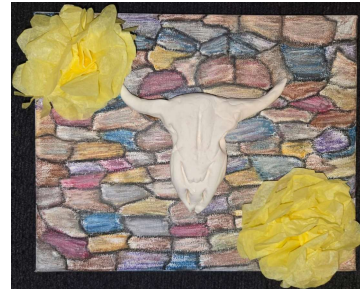


TeenWHAM

Oil Pastel & Clay Skull

May 20th

4:30pm - 6:30pm



Make Art Accessible for All

Bid Now!

PLACE YOUR BID

WHAM Annual Fun Fundraiser

Online Silent Auction

Bid Now!

 Your bid makes a real impact—don't wait!

WHAM Art Center's Online Silent Auction is now live featuring original artwork, experiences, and one-of-a-kind items.

Every bid helps fund accessible art programs for veterans, teens, literary arts, and community outreach—keeping creativity alive and accessible across the West Valley.

 Bidding closes May 4—once it's gone, it's gone!

 Browse and bid now:

[Winning Bidder](#)

Art is Happen'n Here: Open Studio

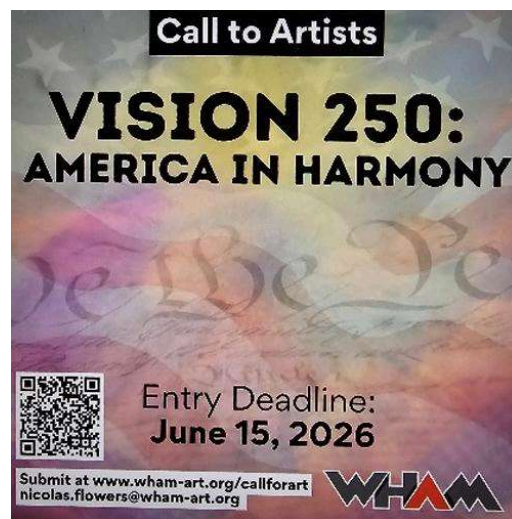
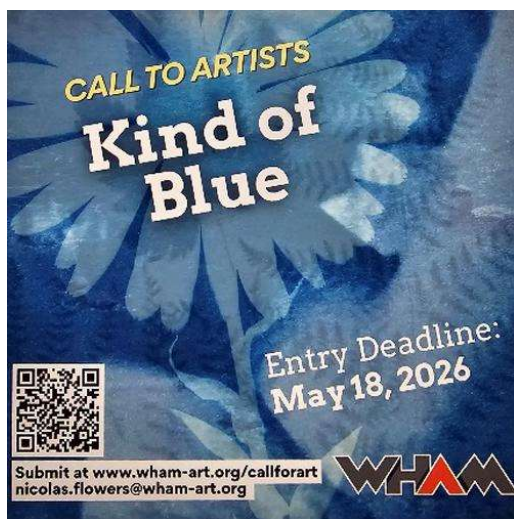
Join us for a relaxed, creative evening—bring your art supplies, ideas, and a snack to share while connecting with fellow artists.

Demo (5:30 PM): Decoupage on Rope Baskets

Friday, May 15, 2026 | 4–8 PM

Gallery Events

We still have two Open Calls for Art for the front gallery. Information and the prospectus for each call is on the WHAM Website under Gallery/Call for Art. If you have questions or help entering your artwork for consideration, contact Nicolas Flowers, the Front Gallery Manager at nicolas.flowers@wham-art.org.



WHAM is out and in the newspaper with What's been happening in Literary Arts.



Laura Blain earned the title “Best in the West Valley” for her outstanding original work and performance. on April 10.

The competition was meant to celebrate the creativity and talent of teen poets from across the region.

[Click here to read more](#)

Did you see us at Taste-of-Surprise?



VISION 250: A Month-Long Community Celebration at WHAM

This July, join us at WHAM Art Center as we celebrate America’s 250th anniversary through art, creativity, and community.

From hands-on art activities and live performances to powerful exhibits and Open Mic Night, there’s something for everyone—all events are FREE and open to the public.

Stay tuned, mark your calendar, and come celebrate with us this July!



WHAM Gift Shop

Come to WHAM's Gift Shop where featured artist Gary Kilsdonk has beautiful things displayed among the other artists whose wears are for sale.

July Is A Big Month for Celebration.

Here's a sneak peek at how WHAM is Celebrating with You and for you and your friends and family.

VISION 250

July Event Lineup

This July, WHAM Art Center is celebrating America's 250th birthday with a month of events honoring veterans and the arts in the West Valley.

**JULY
11
2026**

Vision 250 Artist Reception: 2pm-4pm

Meet featured and veteran artists as they share works celebrating freedom, creativity, and a harmonious vision of America on its 250th anniversary.

Free Kids' & Adult Make-and-Take:

10am-12pm
Unleash your creativity and make your own patriotic masterpiece! Paint, glaze, and personalize a handmade clay eagle to take home – perfect for all ages.

Heroes in Harmony: 5pm-7pm

In collaboration with WHAM's veteran program and Michael Maisano's programs, experience a powerful patriotic performance by veteran artists celebrating service and freedom.

**JULY
12
2026**

2pm-3:30pm

Salute in Song & Stage

In collaboration with WHAM's veteran program and Michael Maisano's programs, experience a powerful patriotic performance by veteran artists celebrating service and freedom.

**JULY
17
2026**

7:30-8pm

Open MIC Night

Veterans and community members take the stage to share stories, music, poetry, and performances honoring service, freedom, and the spirit of America.

**JULY
18
2026**

10am-12pm

Free Kids' & Adult Make-and-Take

Unleash your creativity and make your own patriotic masterpiece! Paint, glaze, and personalize a handmade clay eagle to take home – perfect for all ages.

**JULY
25
2026**

6pm-8pm

250th Grand Celebration

Watch artists create live and join in interactive art projects inspired by freedom, liberty, and creativity. A hands-on celebration of expression for the whole community!



(623) 584-8311
16560 N Dysart Rd,
Surprise, AZ 85378

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

WHAM Has Such Diverse Ways in Which to Volunteer. What piques your interest?

We always need help setting up events in the Gallery. To help with changing out the front gallery shows, contact **Nicolas Flowers** email: nicolas.flowers@wham-art.org

To help with setting up the classroom and assisting the art instructors with their classes, contact **Dede Robinson** email: dede.robinson@wham-art.org

Want to become a WHAM member?

- Access to an Artist community to share ideas

IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ARTS WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY



Newsletter Editor: Maggie Gautier, WHAM Literary Arts Manager
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WHAM is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing art education for the local community with the intent of enhancing artistic talents.

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WHAM | 16560 N. Dysart Rd | Surprise, AZ 85378 US

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