

## Art Scene

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- Painted Tree Studio, 429 Reeves. Leslie Toombs (pastels and mixed media), and Steve Robinson (weavings). Robinson will demonstrate rag rug weaving on his walking loom. Information: (575) 636-3654
- Dunklee's Art Studio, 1201 2nd, in a 1878 Farmhouse. Artist Penny Dunklee will show her watercolors, prints and cards. Information: (575) 523-1889.
- Betty and Ken Krebbs 715 N Reymond, (watercolors, pastels, oil painting and weavings). Information: kbkrebbs@gmail.com.
- Kathleen Deasy, 625 Van Patten (oils and mixed media on canvas and paper). Artists wanting to participate in future events should notify Deasy one month prior to when they want to open their studio. Information: Katheen, (828) 467-9060 or kdarts2u@gmail.com.

**Tombaugh Gallery** — First Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, 2000 S. Solano. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Closed Thanksgiving Day. Information: (575) 522-7281 or uuchurchlc.org.

Showing **Dec. 3-Jan. 26**: "Masks, Maidens and More," highlighting the work of four New Mexico gourd artists: Joanna Bradley, Sylvia Hendrickson, Karen Phillips and Kathe Stark. Visitors can enter a drawing to win a piece of gourd art made by Stark.

Artist reception is 11:30 am to 1 p.m. Sunday, **Dec. 3**. The artists will demonstrate the art of this ancient craft at 11:45 a.m.

## Also

**Art Hop** — MainStreet Truth or Consequences sponsors the event 6 to 9 p.m. the second Saturday of each month (**Dec. 9**) in the downtown gallery district. Information tor-mainstreet.org.

**Deming Arts Center** — The Deming Arts Council's gallery and gift shop is at 100 Gold Street in Deming, N.M. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Admission is free. Information, details: (575) 546-3663, demingarts.org or on Facebook.

Showing **Dec. 2-29**: Holiday Gift Boutique, with opening reception for artists and crafters 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, **Dec. 3**.

**Kate Brown Pottery Holiday Show** — Artist Kate Brown hosts a show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, **Dec. 2-3**, at Kate Brown Pottery Studio & Showroom, 147 Hot Springs Canyon Road in the Mimbres Valley, with slip-decorated earthenware tableware and serving pieces. Gourmet Mexican lunch by Brenna Brown offered noon to 4 p.m. Information: (575) 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com.

Take Mimbres Valley Hwy 61 to Royal John Mine Road at mile marker 19.5. Follow signs 2.5 miles to the studio.

**Rio Bravo Fine Art** — 110 Broadway in Truth or Consequences, N.M. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Information: (575) 894-0572 or rio-bravofineartgallery.com.

Recently I was asked to give a message at church on "tribulation." The problem was that I did not have the kind of experience of my own for such a topic. And I knew it would be a mistake to give a message on "tribulation" without drawing on real life. Instead, I presented a series of short video interviews with people from my church who had powerful stories of their own to share.

- One was a young couple who suffered the loss of a parent, brother and their jobs the year their twins were born, while dealing with the woman's multiple sclerosis and their kids' major medical problems.
- An older woman shared how her husband lost his leg in a near-fatal accident that left him unconscious for 40 days. A few years their adult daughter died suddenly of an undiagnosed illness. Another daughter got hooked on drugs and she and her disabled husband eventually adopted their granddaughter as a result.
- Our pastor and his wife updated us on her fight against Stage 4 breast cancer, which has led to lengthy and specialized treatment in Dallas and Los Angeles.
- One member of the congregation talked about his emergency trip to Oregon after he learned his best friend's wife was dying. She died before his plane landed. But he stayed with his friend for a week to help any way he could.

All of these people related these stories from the viewpoint of faith. Not a blind faith of believing that everything is God's will, but a faith that prays and hopes and




waits even as it wrestles with evil, trusting that good can come out of the worst of situations.

One theme kept coming up: The role of those who came alongside during these times. Friends and family often made considerable sacrifices to help, which gave enormous comfort and support to those dealing with tragedy.

The process of interviewing these people and editing the videos made me realize how much we need to hear these stories — to really listen and try to learn from them.

It also taught me how much we need to be part of the stories of those around us. We may not experience such trouble in our life, but each of us probably knows or will know someone going through hardships. We have the opportunity to be a part of those stories. We can be the ones who come alongside, who pray with those in pain, who fix meals and drive their kids to practice, who give generously to help them cover their bills. We can be the ones who listen and who lean in.

Randy Limbird is editor of El Paso Scene. Send comments to randy@epsce.com

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## Gallery Talk

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Livingston also enjoys doing photography. "I choose to shoot things that are around me, while also looking for abstract shapes. I want people to look at the subject, and then challenge them to figure out what it is. Whenever a person asks me, "What is it? I simply tell them it is whatever you see in it."

Goldman attended Parsons School of Design and earned a B.A. at UTEP. After spending 43 years as a studio potter, the vibrant 90-year-old has begun a new phase of her artistic career as a painter.

"I work in acrylics, often beginning with sketches done in charcoal," Goldman said.

The life drawing classes she attends on a regular basis now provide her with a rich array of subject matter. "After class, I come home and dress up my figures in whatever clothing I want to put on them. I love the human body so I have a lot of fun using my imagination. When I get through with them you wouldn't recognize their origin began as simple figures. I love color, design, and the repetition of things. It's different on canvas, but the designs are similar to what I used to do on pottery."

El Paso native Vanessa Clark earned a BFA at UTEP with a focus on graphic design and ceramics. A mother of two sons, ages 5 and 8, she also works for a firm downtown that does commercial screen printing and freelances from home.

"I just recently got back into painting after being on hiatus for a few years, so I have been creating a number of new paintings. I work in acrylics and my creations are inspired by nature in the local area as well as adventures I have had with my

family. We lived overseas in Japan so I was able to take several classes while there. Right now I am using photos mixed with acrylic painting. Pat and I have known each other for about 15 years so I'm very excited that she asked me to be part of an exhibition with these other ladies."

Allen, who also grew up in El Paso, is a painter who creates vibrant works in oils, pastels and encaustics.

"I started painting as a graduate student at UTEP. My really important mentor was Dr. Robert Massey and I also want to give credit to Barbara Brown. They taught me the really solid things you need to know such as composition and color, and a whole lot more like values, how to use shadows — things you can only learn from masters like these two. Without these elements, you just have stuff on a piece of paper that you can't really call art.

"While I paint in many mediums, pan-pastels is really my favorite. These are powders which you apply with sponges. Although the colors are often soft, they can be more intense. These make beautiful landscapes and gorgeous portraits — especially women because of the skin tones. However, pastels need to be framed under glass, and have many other requirements to be done right, so I am currently working in acrylics and also doing some encaustics. "As for subject matter, whatever grabs my imagination, that is what I paint. I am also considering charcoal at the moment.

"I am really emotional about what I paint; what I do has to come from inside myself."

Myrna Zanetell is a freelance writer specializing in the visual arts.