

**Topeka Art Guild & Gallery, Inc.**

**FEBRUARY  
CALENDAR**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2009**  
**FIRST FRIDAY ART  
WALK**

**6:00-8:00 PM**  
**HIGH SCHOOL EXHIBIT  
WASHBURN RURAL**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2009**  
**GRANT WRITING  
RETREAT FOR BOARD  
MEMBERS**  
**10:00AM-5:00PM**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2009**  
**GALLERY & BOARD  
MEETING**

**GALLERY-5:00PM**  
**BOARD-6:00 PM**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2009**  
**ARTIST'S WAY**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2009**  
**DEADLINE FOR TAG  
NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 21 & 22,**  
**2009**  
**WATERCOLOR  
WORKSHOP 2 DAY  
EVENT**

**21ST- 9AM-4PM**  
**22ND-10AM -5PM**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH 14, 2009**  
**NEEDLE FELTING  
WORKSHOP**  
**10AM-5PM**

**MARCH 29, 2009**  
**ENTRY DAY FOR RITES  
OF SPRING SHOW**

**FEBRUARY TAG NEWSLETTER** January 2009

**Your connection to the creative side of Topeka**

**NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT by Marie Plinsky**

We at TAG are looking forward to a very difficult year in 2009. Roscoe gave us the treasurer's report from 2008. Unless the sales or memberships increase significantly we will be out of money by August. As it stands now, we will be about \$4,000 short for the year. The bulk of our money is on the safe secure stocks, and anyone who has watched TV or read the newspaper since October already knows that the US stock market has taken a huge hit. This includes our money. We can take only 10% of our total on January 1 each year for our funds to spend. That is the \$4,000 we are short from last year.

We are asking our members to step up and make up the difference. If each member would contribute an extra \$30 X 150 members we would have \$4,500. Or if the lifetime members would each give \$80 X 50 that would give us \$4,000. EVERY MEMBER OF TAG needs to decide to keep the gallery open by giving more money, working as a staffer so we can keep the gallery open more days a week, donating food and wine for receptions, taking more classes, and buying more items from TAG. OR, if a wonderful person wants to just write us a check for \$4,000, the rest of us will be off the hook.

TAG is important to us and we must keep it open. It will take a strong commitment from each one of us to make it through 2009.

**February Artist of the Month – Sandy Kay Hunter**

I am a native Kansan and started painting in 1982. I had always been interested in art and started taking some painting classes after attending an art festival. My own style has evolved and developed over the years through workshops and simple observations. I have enjoyed taking workshops with nationally famous artists such as Tom Lynch, Linda Kemp and Karlyn Holman. This past year I started participating in more art festivals across Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas. I dabble in acrylic and graphite but my great love is watercolor, of course with a twist. I like to try different techniques and effects to make it my own. My greatest reward is when people like my work.



**REMINDER FOR WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP.....**TAG will be hosting a visiting watercolor artist from Hutchinson, Carolyn Lutzenhiser. The workshop will be held February 21st from 9am to 4 pm and February 22nd from 10am to 5 pm. This 2 day workshop will cost \$150 for members and \$170 for non-members. A single \$20 membership to TAG is included with the workshop fee for non-members. A sign up sheet is located at the TAG gallery with an attached workshop supply list. Students will not be signed up until they have paid the workshop fee.

**GRANT WRITING RETREAT.....**Barbara Ballentine met with TAG members at the January meeting. She has offered to host a retreat for us. The retreat is for Board Members only and will be February 7, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. This will give us a chance to talk about our wildest dreams and hopes for the gallery, and most of all, how to get there. We will discuss more than just grants. Barbara is very exciting and upbeat and should be a great help to TAG. I hope all Board members will attend.

**THE ARTIST'S WAY WORKSHOP.....**The second Saturday will continue to meet throughout the year. The next meeting is February 14. Those attending will make a donation to TAG. The first month we collected \$75. The class is facilitated by Cynthia Stotlar.



**FELTING WORKSHOP.....**Nikol Lohr, from The Harveyville Project, will conduct a Needle Felting Workshop on Saturday, March 14, 10:00 to 5:00. Member Fee will be \$75.00 and Non-Members will be \$95.00 (with TAG membership included in that price). An additional Supply Fee of \$35 will be charged per student. This supply fee includes a bag with needle felting tools and a colored wood sampler to take home, plus wool felt squares for monogramming, and a wide assortment of fiber types and colors for in-class projects. Extra kits, fiber and tools will be available for purchase.

Students will learn both flat and three-dimensional needle felting techniques. We'll dive in with our own projects, starting with a flat embellishment, a monogram or simple design applied to wool felt. The finished monogram can then be made into a glasses case, needle book, pot holder, etc. Then we'll advance to create a three-dimensional flower, simple animal, or other tiny treat (food items like cupcakes or sushi pieces are very popular) to make into jewelry, hair accessories, or package embellishments.

After lunch, we'll start with a demo on the drum carder for blending fibers. Then we'll cover a few techniques for incorporating beads and cut felt scraps into projects. Afterwards, each student will choose a larger project (hat, scarf, bag, doll, etc.) or several smaller ones (Christmas tree ornaments, jewelry, cat toys, stocking or gift items, wedding favors, etc.) and begin supervised work, and will complete a project or projects. Students may also bring in personal wool items to embellish (felt shoes or slippers, Christmas stockings, baby items, etc.)

## **OPEN INVITATION TO ALL FABRIC ARTISTS & QUILTERS**

TAG is inviting all fabric artists and quilters to show their work in our spring show entitled "The Rites of Spring". Participants may enter their work on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am. to 2:00 pm. The entry fee is \$10.00 for 3 items. The pickup dates are April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> during regular hours.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

1. **NEWSLETTER PERSON NEEDED:** Marty has had to step down from the newsletter and many of her other TAG positions as she returns to work and cares for ailing family members. We wish her the best. SO - If anyone would like to take over the newsletter, please let Marie know ASAP. There is a member who will take it on if there is no one else, but if this is something you would like to do and help out TAG, it would be much appreciated!
2. Wanted new or used – if anyone received a new office chair for their home and the old one isn't needed and is still usable, please consider donating it to the gallery. The chairs at the desk are worrisome and hard to sit in easily because they are so low to the ground.
3. Traci Osborne has had to postpone the home school classes while she is dealing with skin cancer. Our best wishes to her in this fight.
4. After meeting with Arts Connect, we decided to branch out and create a Facebook page. This may draw some younger members and students. Facebook is an arena to connect with other people, chat and keep in touch. Best of all its free! To become part of Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). You will be prompted to create a login. After typing your basic info to create a login and profile for yourself, you can “surf” for friends and groups. If you go to the right side of the page, there is a box of “Applications”. You can click on groups and type Topeka Art Guild. Be sure to click “Join this group” to get updates! In “Events”, there is also a page for the next show.
5. Deadline for High School Senior art scholarships is April 2009. The scholarship winner will have their art on display in May at TAG.
6. **TIME TO PREPARE FOR SPRING TAG SALE** - On Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have a tag sale in the mall corridor. We are asking members to start putting aside donations to this fund raiser. We are looking for paintings, prints, frames, art supplies, interesting jewelry, carvings, and sculptures. We are not limiting ourselves to original art. In the past our sale was very successful and we are counting on our members for a repeat performance. You may bring your donations to the gallery anytime in March.

### ARTIST PROFILE OF THE MONTH.....interviews by Cynthia Stotlar

#### Angela Lexow

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**Type of media you prefer:** I mostly do gourd art, but I also paint (acrylics) and use pastels. I currently have my gourd art in Taos Blue, in Taos, NM.

**What got you interested in art?** I have always been interested in art. As a kid, I always had "artist" on my list of "things to be when I grow up". I got into gourd art about 5 years ago when I was pregnant with my youngest son, and needing back surgery at the same time. (which I DID have at 4 months pregnant) I couldn't stand at an easel or sit or be in any one position for too long, so gourd art kept me creative. There are lots of steps to it, so I can easily stop and start projects. Each gourd is different, so its always new. I had always wanted to try gourd art, and I ended up loving it. It is a little like doing

ceramics, woodwork and basketry all in one.

**What training (formal or informal ) do you have in art?** I graduated from Baker University with a degree in Art History and a minor in Studio art. After I graduated, I worked in the Bryon C. Cohen gallery in KC for a year.

**Why did you decide to join the Topeka Art Guild?** I recently moved back to Topeka (I am from Topeka originally- THS grad), and before moving, we lived in Lansing, KS. I was a member of the Leavenworth County Artists Association. I was ready to get into the art community here and get involved in some way.

**How long have you been a member of the Topeka Art Guild?** About 2 months!

**If there's one thing we should know about you or your art, what would it be?** Most importantly, I want people to know that gourd art does not only have to be "crafty", it can be fine art as well. I think people still have a mindset that "gourd art" means santas and snowmen, and that is definitely not the case anymore. There are some truly amazing things being done with gourds. If you aren't familiar with any gourd artists, start with Robert Rivera. I also have a link on my website to other gourd artists.

**A quote that you love is:** I am not really a quote person, but I do have 2: My favorite is "Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History" and the other (which came to mind first since this is for TAG)" I decided that the only thing I could do that was nobody else's business was to paint. I could do it as I chose because no one would care." - Georgia O'Keeffe.