



# Gilbert Visual Art League

DECEMBER 2025

ART  
VINE

Let's Mark Our Calendars!

## March Presentor

Susan Seaborn is passionate about watercolor. Her work is known for its expressive use of color. Whether painting plein air or in her studio, she paints fast yet deliberate to capture the essence of what is in front of her. She wants the viewer to feel the energy and joy in her paintings. "For me a successful watercolor painting will bring the viewer joy and possibly bring back a fond memory." She will demonstrate several techniques using yupo as an alternative to paper.



## GVAL Meeting Thurs. Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>





The Member Show was wonderful with beautiful works created by the GVAL members.



# Mohan Toopal

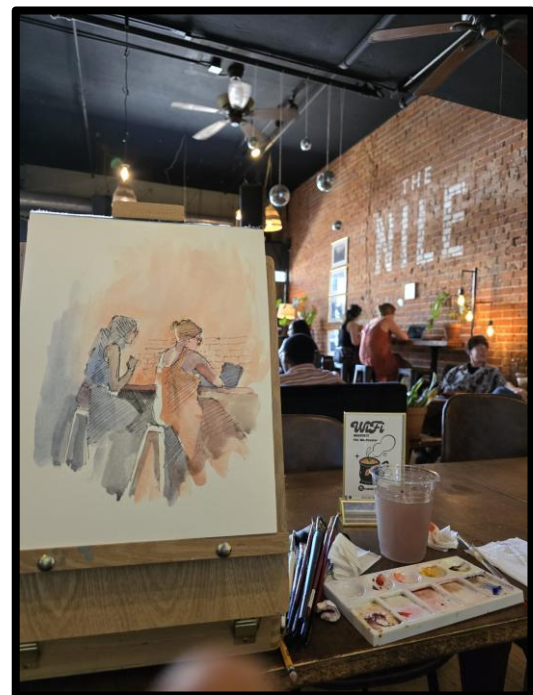
As Mohan likes to say, he wasn't born with a paintbrush in his hand, but with springs in his feet. A lifelong athlete, he traveled the world competing in Grand Prix track events while pursuing a degree in engineering. Painting entered his life by accident in 2010. Although he stepped away from it between 2012 and 2017, creativity eventually pulled him back in.

Mohan is drawn to painting the human form shaped by light. Beginning with watercolors, he later explored acrylics and ultimately found his way to oils. His watercolor roots still shine through in his oil paintings: loose, suggestive, intentionally vague in places, yet clear where it matters. He has also experimented with gouache, achieving beautifully abstract effects.

His work blends realism with abstraction, and his recent pieces reflect this shift. Mohan's brushstrokes are broad, spontaneous, and purposeful—creating a sense of freedom while offering just enough detail. He hopes paintings invite the viewer to interpret, rather than merely observe.

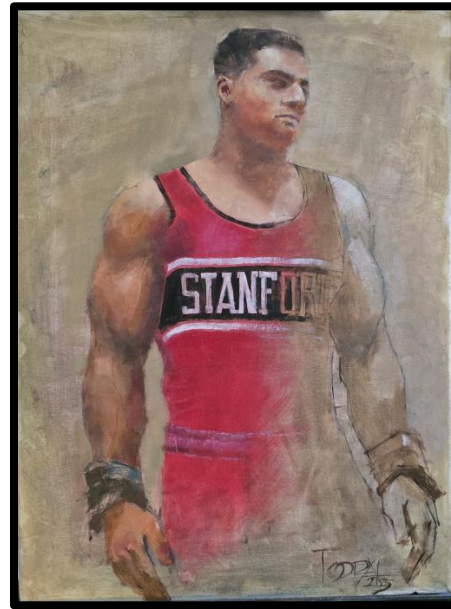
True to his engineering background, Mohan approaches each painting with a clear vision of the end result. And as we see the end results certainly invite us to immerse ourselves in his vision. There is beauty in his subtle shift from dream to reality.

Since retiring, he has expanded his creative pursuits to include leathercraft, adding yet another dimension to his artistic journey





# Mohan Toopal





# GVAL OUTREACH

"Our art league's volunteers serve House of Refuge every Wednesday. They volunteer at many other locations monthly. The people served include children, adults, and senior adults at nonprofits and schools. Thank you to GVAL's dedicated art volunteers! Contact Donna Finter at email [donnafinter@gval.org](mailto:donnafinter@gval.org) for more information. Pictured below are some of the art projects done by participants and the names of the volunteers who led those activities.



**Holiday Candle**  
HD South  
Pam Hendricks  
Donna Finter



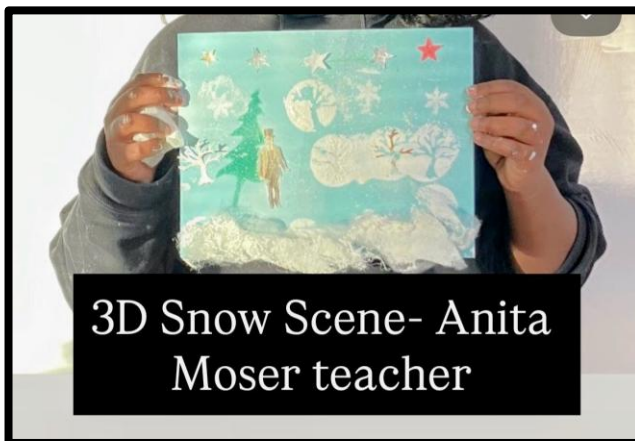
**Door Decoration**  
House of Refuge  
Donna Finter



**Holiday Cards**  
HD South  
Peter Eobbi



**Winter Scenes**  
House of Refuge  
Merrie Taverna



**3D Snow Scene-** Anita  
Moser teacher



**Jewelry Classes**  
House of Refuge  
Anita Moser



# Christmas Party Fun!



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## VERENA SALE

GVAL Small Art Sale was held on Dec 5-6 at Verena in Gilbert. 13 members participated with 150 pieces for sale.

Linda Taylor prepared the show. GVAL participants worked a shift. Verena staff was a big help. There were 22 pieces sold. Stevie Denny donated her oil painting that was raffled to raise funds for House of Refuge.

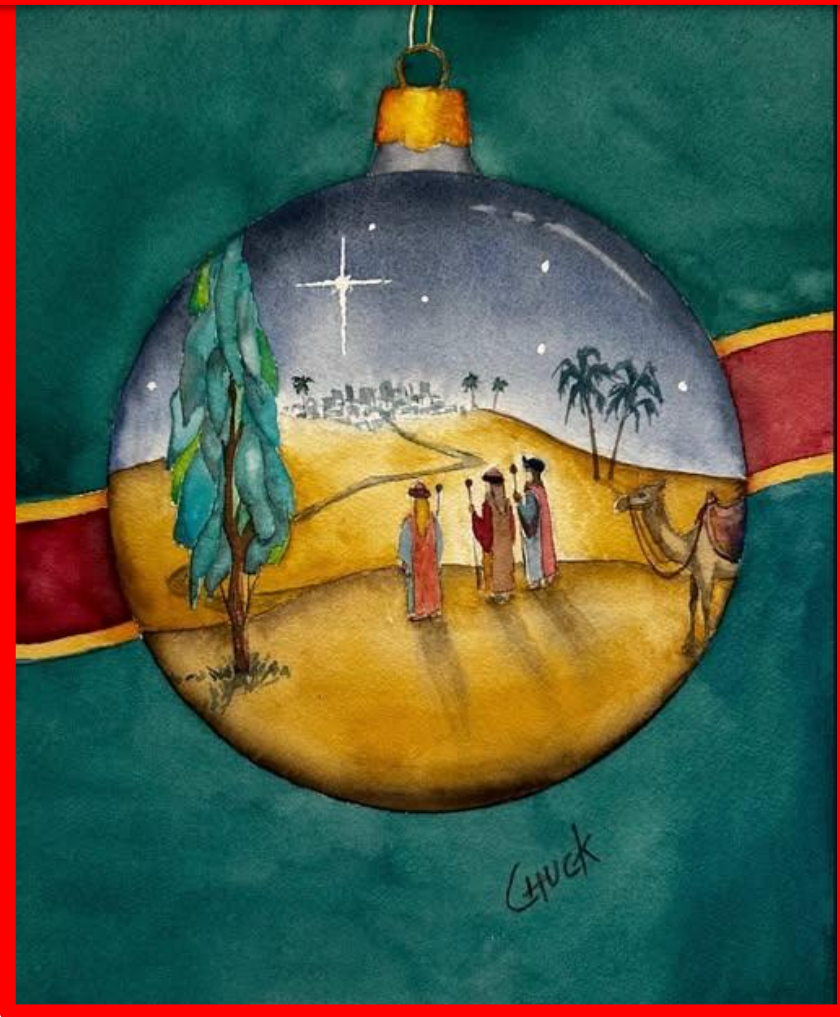


Winner of raffle: Dolly, resident of Verena



GVAL members Carol Cole-Mar and Linda Taylor.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



Anything you  
would like to add  
to the newsletter  
contact Jane  
Bradley at  
[redjb7@cox.net](mailto:redjb7@cox.net)

This is from Chuck Lambson  
co-founder of GVAL in 2003.  
“Thanks for all you do.. I love  
seeing the newsletter and all of  
the updates. I just finished my  
annual Christmas watercolor.  
Please give my thanks to  
everyone at GVAL. Keep up  
the splendid work.”