

The Ukiah Daily Journal  
(<http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com>)

Friday, February 14, 2014

# Artists Look Back - Part 5: Lifelong Learning

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As Tom Montesonti kicked off our program for 2014 with a hands- on mosaic workshop, I could not help but wonder about all the teachers and artists that came to Ukiah in the past 60 years to share their knowledge and provide inspiration to our members.

I pulled out those scrapbooks again and after a bit of sleuthing on the Internet, I grasped the scope of talent that came through this valley. Marvin Schenck, curator at the Grace Hudson Museum, reminded me that since the

early days when Grace Hudson lived at the Sun House her charm and talent drew artists, writers, poets and scholars. They seem to be coming here ever since.

Kenneth Potter, AWS, (1926-2011) who taught a portrait workshop here in 1960, is a fine example. Educated at the San Francisco Academy of Art, after gaining popularity as an artist, he went on to become a workshop instructor, a muralist, and the artistic director for several advertising agencies.

Then in 1972, I spotted E. John Robinson, who is described on the Internet as "America's Renowned Seascape Teacher." He has many books and instructional DVDs to his credit.

But I was really amazed to find that in 1988, Joseph Bohler, taught plein air watercolor at a campsite overlooking Lake Mendocino.

His biography reads like a "who's who" in American art. To think he was actually here!

But the scrapbooks taught me something else. The Ukiah Valley didn't just attract artists for an occasional visit. A lot of very talented people chose to make their home here. Many became members and all worked hard to support the artistic community. The MCAA did not have to look very far for inspiring teachers.

For more than 50 years, Adele F. Pruitt, has taught a variety of workshops. The earliest one I found was from 1960, titled "Artist, Technique & Idea." This odd photo accompanies the newspaper article. Who is that under the wrapping paper???

As you can imagine, the list of past workshops is much too lengthy to share in this brief account, but it includes names familiar to all. It is with deep gratitude that I think of them and what they contributed to our understanding and appreciation of art.

I am also reminded, that we work hard to continue this fine legacy. Workshops and demonstrations for 2014 will bring our members both local and national talent, offering instruction in a variety of mediums. You can check under "What's Happening" on our website,

[www.mendocinoartassn.org](http://www.mendocinoartassn.org), for a sneak preview of what we have planned for this year. Our web mistress posts complete details at the beginning of the month on our calendar. Should you have any questions, please email us at [mcaa@mendocinoartassn.org](mailto:mcaa@mendocinoartassn.org).