



# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

[www.PinoleArtisans.org](http://www.PinoleArtisans.org)

OUR FIRST ANNUAL  
HOLIDAY DINNER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 7:00 PM

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Please join us for our First Annual Holiday Dinner—A Fun(d) Raising Event -at the **Pinole United Methodist Church** (our usual meeting place, located at 2000 San Pablo Avenue, just past the Bus Stop Mural) at 7:00pm.

Did you make your reservation for our first fund raiser dinner? Call the Pinole Art Center and add your name to our growing list. We will collect the \$15 per person charge at the door. The meal includes salad, chicken entrée, veggies, dessert and beverage. Some surprise musical entertainment is guaranteed to delight even the Scrooges among us. There will be some very exciting raffle prizes, so bring some dollars in your pockets to buy raffle tickets. If you would like to donate something for the raffle, call Joan. So far, prizes include unique and wonderful offerings such as Urban Stroll Walking Tours (donated by Bill Lake), a Roy Javellana carved wood bird, watercolor paintings, a Landis painting, and even a vacation package (donated by Jim Culang, CEO of Sun Pacific Federal Credit Union—thanks!). Please note that this is NOT a White Elephant raffle. Only high quality items please. If you are donating some of your own artwork, donate some of your BEST.

We need volunteers to help with the following: set up, serving, ticket sales, clean up, and raffle ticket sales. If you would like to help, please call Joan (510-758-2935) or Vickie (510-758-3558).

If you would like to attend, but you feel you just can't stretch your budget to cover the cost, we have good news for you. Please call Joan and reserve one of the tickets that our Secret Santa brought early. We don't want any of our members to miss out on this fun event. Happy Holidays!

We also encourage you to bring artwork to share - at least one piece to enter for peer awards. Bring new pieces to show us what you have been working on, or old favorites.

## FOUNDATION EVENTS & INFORMATION

I can hardly believe that Christmas is only three and a half weeks away and the new year will soon be upon us? By the time you read this newsletter, the Holiday tree will be up in the Gallery and kids will be counting down the days until their Christmas school break.

This weekend I will be helping to pack 1500 care packages which will be sent to the troops for Christmas. In each care package we include hand-written notes of thanks and support. I

wanted to invite you to bring some hand written notes with you to the Holiday Dinner so that I can take them for packing Saturday morning. I have included a sheet of ideas on page 5.

It is also time again to renew your Pinole Artisans Membership. I will have membership forms available at the Friday meeting if you need to update your contact information. Please make checks payable to the Pinole Artisans and give them to Penny or myself (Amanda).

Get ahead and renew now so you don't forget in January. If you wish to participate in February elections, you must renew before then. In consideration of the financial difficulties that many among us are having, dues will remain at \$25 but donations above \$25 are also greatly appreciated as we plan for the future of our organization.

Please note that the Gallery will be closed on Thursday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

## THE PINOLE ART CENTER

The Pinole Artisans  
Foundation  
Gallery and Classes  
2221 Pear Street  
Pinole, CA 94564  
(510) 724-2008  
Gallery Hours  
Tuesday—Saturday  
10:30—4:30

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings! The Holidays are officially begun, and it is my hope that all of you will be enriched by time spent with loved ones. Our "Holiday Antics" Show is installed and doing well. We will have some 10% off sale days, to be announced at the Friday the 5th of December meeting.

The Holiday Tree will be put up on Monday the 1st of December, starting at 10:30 AM. If you would like to help, please come. We could still use some more ornaments (hand made of course)!

Just a reminder: The December Meeting will be a catered dinner (A fund raiser). The cost to you will be \$15. Approximately \$8 will be going to a Pinole Artisans future rent fund. Please come and bring friends. There will be a very brief business meeting, surprise musical entertainment, and a raffle for lots of great prizes! Bring checks and cash. If you have items to donate for the raffle, call me (510-758-2935) or Vickie (510-758-3558).

Hope you all have a lovely Thanks giving, and Christmas and

Hanukkah celebrated as you wish.

Joan Landis,  
President  
Pinole Artisans Foundation



## POET'S CORNER

### Postcard from Oulipos

© Maggie Morley

The photo on the front is so inviting,  
green island, blue water,  
white clouds continuous as angels.

On the back, handwriting  
takes up every jot of space;  
lumpy strands of thickish ink  
lie so close together, they form  
a mat of packed black twigs.

My dear, you seem always to have  
so many good things to tell me  
(I "can" make out the exclamation points!)  
You travel with such delight, always sending back  
charged communiqués. I rejoice for you!

My dear, we understand each other.  
It is as important that you send me messages  
As it is that I cannot decipher them.

### Commentary by Claire J. Baker

"Postcard..." is semi-light free verse. One can easily

relate to this, since we've all received postcards/ letters/notes, etc. that are barely readable; the sender here (perhaps "rushed") feels she/he is warmly reaching out to share the good fortune of travel. We who stay behind hold down the homestead, then struggle to make sense of the scribble...This may be an old friendship that in a single postcard delivers some confusion/frustration. But, as Morley expresses, it's still an important exchange, and arrangement between the two. The postcard scene itself may actually inspire.

I especially admire lines 3, 6, 8 for their images. Line 3 in stanza 3 is a kick. The whole poem works for me...With the Holiday season upon us and the sending of cards and letters, we will all try to decipher handwriting/read between the lines even...Wishing you an easy read and Happy Holidays.

Claire J. Baker, Poet  
Pinole Artisans Member

Note: "Oulipos" is a real word, but not a geographical location. Maggie liked the sound of it for, perhaps, a Greek Isle. "Postcard..." first appeared in Blue Unicorn, later in her collection at Blake Gardens © 2004, from which she granted me permission for use.

## PINOLE ART CENTER CLASSES

**Art with Vickie:** This class will be a continuation of acrylic painting for kids 8 years and older. Kids will continue their practice of basic technique and composition in painting still life.

**PMC Drop Earrings:** In this class you will be using PMC+ to make drop earrings that consist of several components that will be joined together after firing to create a dangly earrings. These will make wonderful Christmas presents! Lis will have stamps, molds, texture plates, and more available for your use, as well as some material available for purchase. She will take the pieces to her studio for firing and return them to the PAC for you to pick up.

**Melinda's Bead Night:** You bring whatever bead project you want to work on. Get together with others to exchange ideas and have fun. Three opportunities to attend in December.

**Peyote Beading with Casey:** Learn to make unique peyote stitch earrings and jewelry in this freeform class, held on evenings during the week and on the weekend, 5 times in December.

**Melinda's Crop Night:** Whether you're an experienced scrap-booker, or a beginner, bring your photos to crop and drinks to accompany snacks provided by Melinda, to get you going. Space is limited, but there are 2 evenings scheduled this month.

**Introduction to Airbrush with Joe Shaw:** Classes by appointment. Hands on airbrush lessons. Students will learn what equipment to use and how to use it effectively, leaving with a booklet of information and a piece of artwork made by you.

**For More Class Info...** visit our website, where you can link to a calendar with all the dates, times, costs, and registration information. For further info, contact the Class Coordinator, Lorena Fink, at (510) 222-2425.



"PMC drop earrings" - Lis Mahnken

## BULLETIN BOARD

**Heidi Rand** is having a Holiday Gift Sale and Art Show the first two weekends of December, that's December 6th -7th and 13th-14th. This year Heidi is holding her Show at the Glenn Custom Framing and Art Gallery, 7027 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito (Stockton runs perpendicular, to the east of San Pablo Ave., and the Gallery is on the left side of the street as you drive up from San Pablo Ave., across from the 7-11). The Show will be open from 11:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. If you can't make it then, Heidi's work will remain on display at the Glenn during the week between those two weekends, Tuesday through Friday, Dec. 9th-12th from 12:00-6:00p.m. You can contact Heidi at HeidiRand@aol.com if you have any questions.

**Turburam "Scissorhand" Sandagdorj** invites you to his upcoming show "Silhouettes by Turo Scissorhand: The Breath," which will hold it's opening exhibition Saturday, December 6th, 2008 from 1-4pm, and run through December 22. Visit the exhibition at the Silk Road House: 1944 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705. Gallery hours are by appointment only (510-285-7938 or 510-981-0700). Website: [www.Turburam.com](http://www.Turburam.com) or [www.SilkRoadHouse.org](http://www.SilkRoadHouse.org)

**Library Art:** The Pinole Library is asking for help in putting together some classes for children in the summer of 2009. Anyone interested should contact :

Dori DeCommer  
Youth Services Librarian  
Pinole Library  
2935 Pinole Valley Road  
Pinole, CA 94564  
(510) 758-2741 ext. 13  
[ddecomme@ccclib.org](mailto:ddecomme@ccclib.org)

NOVEMBER PEER AWARDS

FINE ART

**1st Place:** Jim Davis for his “Train Trilogy” photograph.

**2nd Place:** A two-way tie between Jean Fisk for her water-color “With Shoes” and Joan Landis for her painting of “Vog over Mauna Kea.”

**3rd Place:** Stanley Satchell for his sculpture “Cowboy Pickin.”

JEWELRY

**1st Place:** Cheryl Johnson for “A Christmas Ornament.”

**2nd Place:** Annie and Emily Goetsch for “Earrings.”

**3rd Place:** Margaret Rodriguez for “Copper Bangle Bracelet.”

Congrats to all of you who have received awards for your art. Doesn't it feel great to share your artwork and know that other people are connecting with it?! Don't forget that each month we encourage you to bring your art work to share at each general meeting, where we will do peer awards.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, December 4th, 2008: Board of Directors Meeting 7:00PM; call Joan to be on the Agenda

Friday, December 5th, 2008: First Annual Holiday Fun(d) Raiser Dinner 7:00  
at the Pinole United Methodist Church

Gallery Sale Days: To Be Announced at the Holiday Dinner

Thursday, December 25th, 2008: The Gallery will be closed for Christmas

Thursday, January 8th, 2009: Last Day of the Gallery Show “Holiday Antics”

Wednesday, January 14th, 2009: Last Day of the Library Show “Every Day Matters”

WHO WE ARE

We believe that art enhances the quality of life of both individually and as a community. We are a group of artisans whose purpose in forming an organization is to:

- 1) Form a network for mutual learning and support
- 2) Provide art education, open to all levels of ability
- 3) Provide opportunities for artisans to show their works locally

The Pinole Artisans Foundation is a non-profit community organization whose purpose is to promote the arts, provide a forum for Pinole-area artists and artisans and to sponsor lectures, classes, and other artistic learning events and activities.

Contact Information: Board of Directors

President—Joan Landis (510) 758-2935, [President@PinoleArtisans.org](mailto:President@PinoleArtisans.org)

Vice President—Ira Nelken (510) 222-9668, [VicePresident@PinoleArtisans.org](mailto:VicePresident@PinoleArtisans.org)

Secretary—Amanda Bruun (510) 499-1283, [Secretary@PinoleArtisans.org](mailto:Secretary@PinoleArtisans.org), [PinoleArtisans@yahoo.com](mailto:PinoleArtisans@yahoo.com)

Treasurer—Penny Bledsoe, [Treasurer@PinoleArtisans.org](mailto:Treasurer@PinoleArtisans.org)

Founder and Board Member—Vickie Resso (510) 758-3558, [Info@PinoleArtisans.org](mailto:Info@PinoleArtisans.org)

Board Members: Roy Javellana, Jean Fisk, and Semion Mirkin

Webmaster—Alan Vaughn—[Webmaster@PinoleArtisans.org](mailto:Webmaster@PinoleArtisans.org)

[PublicRelations@PinoleArtisans.org](mailto:PublicRelations@PinoleArtisans.org)—Ralph McCaskey

[Classes@PinoleArtisans.org](mailto:Classes@PinoleArtisans.org)—Lorena Fink

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

## LETTERS FOR OUR TROOPS

You might remember that a couple of newsletters ago I included information about my work with Their Angels, a local non-profit which coordinates monthly packing of 500-1500 c-rats (short for civilian rations) to be sent to troops serving abroad, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Each package is a quart sized bag with several items (snack bars, powdered drinks and coffee, sugar, condiment packages, crosswords or word searches, pens and pencils, etc.) along with at least one hand-written note from home here in the U.S.. While

all of the items are either donated or purchased with donated funds each month, the notes and cards are a bit more scarce. I think people often find it is easier to contribute items for the care packages because they are not quite sure what to write.

That is why this month, as Their Angels prepares to pack 1500 c-rats, I would like to ask you to write a few heart-felt messages of thanks and support to the troops and bring them with you to the Holiday Dinner on the 5th of December. I will be taking them with me to Their Angels for our

monthly packing on Sat., Dec. 6th.

We just want to encourage, uplift and thank our troops while keeping our personal and political views to ourselves. I have included a few instructions and ideas for writing letters to the troops. If you have a chance, write out a few, ask a few friends to join you, and bring them to the meeting. If you don't have a chance before Friday, I will bring some cards & pens with me so you can write out a note or two then.

## WRITING IDEAS

- Write a brief note, letter or postcard which will be included in the care package. The message can be as short or as long as you would like. It can be on an index card, post card, personal stationary. It doesn't matter to the troops, they're just happy to hear from home. Please leave your last name and personal contact information out please, and know that all written correspondence will be censored for inappropriateness.
- Address the note: Dear Hero, Dear American, Dear Service Member...
- Tell them a bit about yourself.
- Send them well wishes or let them know that you have included them in your prayers.
- Share an experience of gratitude for their service, sacrifice, and dedication to their country.
- Let them know that their service hasn't been forgotten.
- Offer an inspirational or famous quote.
- I appreciate what you are doing for the people of our country.
- There are so many citizens who feel the way I do.

Here are a couple of examples:

### Dear Service Member.

Among memories of September 11th, our recent celebration of the labor day holiday, and the election activities taking place here at home—are also many thoughts about your heroic service for our country. It is because of your hard work that we are able to maintain our way of life at home. Your service has not been forgotten.

### Dear American Hero,

It is the week of Thanksgiving as I sit here in unseasonably warm weather in California and many things are on my mind. I am so grateful for my life here: I just completed college and I am looking forward to a Holiday season filled with family and warmth. I just wanted to let you know that now, and every day, I think about how much of my way of life I owe to you.

Thank you so much for your continued sacrifice and service to our Great Nation. Thank you for working so hard to maintain our way of life, our safety, our freedoms here at home. Thanks also to your family for their sacrifice, which is, I imagine, particularly great during this time of year.

My thoughts and prayers are with you every day. Happy Holidays.

“My name is Elizabeth and I am six years old. My family and I have filled this little bag with many things just for you. There are things in this bag which you can see, like toothpaste, soap, lotion, and shampoo. But there are many things you cannot see. My heart, my love, my respect, and most importantly, my prayers for you to return home safely to your family very soon.”

### SOME SAYINGS

- You are a true American Hero.
- Your service and sacrifice to our nation are appreciated.
- We owe you a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.
- We are so proud of you to go anywhere and do anything that you are asked to do to protect us and our country.
- We are so encouraged when we hear of the progress that is being made.
- I am writing to thank you very much for going through this unbelievable process of joining the military and defending the U.S.A.
- We are all here waiting to welcome you home and to thank you for your service.
- I salute you today and every day!
- I am amazed that people like you exist.