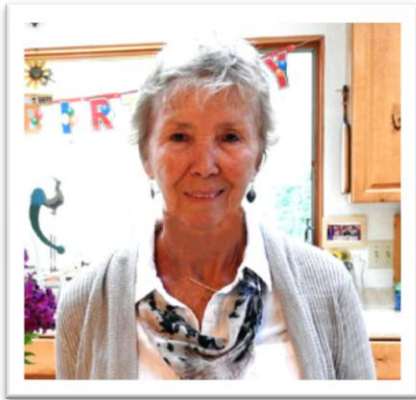


Spotlight on Jeanne (Gault) Hinojosa



I have been hard on my body my whole life asking it to do great feats of strength beyond its capabilities. Always on the move doing house repairs, moving things, gardening, yard work and being on the **fire department for 10 years. Anything I wanted to do, I figured out a way to make it happen, thus wearing out my body parts.

In 2017 I had a little vertebrae repair done and my husband, Michael, ordered me a John Gnagy Art Studio box so I would have something to do while recovering. I followed along in the drawing book and found that I could draw what they showed you to do. I could draw more than a stick figure fairly soon and found I loved it! It opened a door in me that I never knew was there. Then I wanted to add color to what I drew. That was fun too. I joined a painters group who meet at a local library room on Tuesdays for a couple hours and have a potluck lunch together. There is no teacher; each person has their own project. You get comments from better painters and try to apply what they share. It has been a lovely growing experience and love their support as I tackle things I have never done before.

The end of 2019 and 2020 I have been trying portraits. Pretty hard to capture the spirit of a person on paper with watercolor but you get overjoyed when they suddenly appear in your painting and all their facial features come together as the real person you know. However, I found that one stroke of the brush after that can make them disappear again. Recently I have done a few portraits from photos for friends of their loved ones who have died.

It has been a satisfying 3 years of watercolor and has gotten me through many physical challenges and sleepless nights. I see the outdoors so differently now, looking at the texture on tree trunks and veins on leaves

and the miracle of the colors all around us. Walking my dogs on our property is more about seeing new things to paint and looking at things that I might have passed by before. It will be a growing pastime until I die. I'm loving it.

-- Jeanne

I asked Jeanne to give me more information on the fire department this is what she sent.

**The rag tag fire department in our nearby small town came knocking on our door one evening as we were setting down to dinner. They had mismatched turnouts on and looked like a couple little boys in their dads coats. They wanted to know if we would like to volunteer in Drain 6 miles away. I said yes and Michael looked at me and them and said well you aren't going without me. We started going to drills Tuesday nights and soon we were driving the trucks and putting out real fires. Another thing that stressed my body I was too small for the big equipment that had to be hauled around, but I did it. We are 6 miles from the town and 1 mile from the freeway. We helped build a station by us a mile away and ran the trucks out of there when Drain got a fire call. I did it 10 years and Michael 20. We did all the various jobs from president, sec. treasurer etc. We have some stories to tell, a whole season of our lives that was helpful to the community, hard and fulfilling and challenging. I loved all of it.

Here are some of Jeanne's watercolor paintings; she's done such a stellar job capturing the life and essence of her subjects. Watercolors are a very difficult medium to master and she has embraced them quickly.



