



Community Outreach

Oakland VA Community Outreach

Volunteer with Community Outreach and help bring the wonders of creativity to your community. Call Sheila Cain (510) 845-0863

“East meets West” was the theme in the Oakland veterans Community Outreach group incorporating an Asian Sumi style brush painting of a bird with a more Western style flower and vase composition. As we painted a group member shared the following story.

The Healing Power of Art

Michael Anderson served in Vietnam as a medic. Upon returning home, his refuge became the De Young Museum in San Francisco. For a number of years he spent hours wandering the galleries looking at the paintings, losing himself in the artwork and finding some solace. As he puts it, “I like art. I can’t paint, but I like art.” Though he may claim he can’t paint, he does put paint on paper and his work is delightfully original. We affectionately call Michael the “Picasso” of the group.



Michael demonstrates the Sumi bird brushwork.



Nancy beaming as she shows Michael (Picasso) Anderson’s painting.



Sheila leads the group.



At right, clockwise from top; Michael, Cody and George.