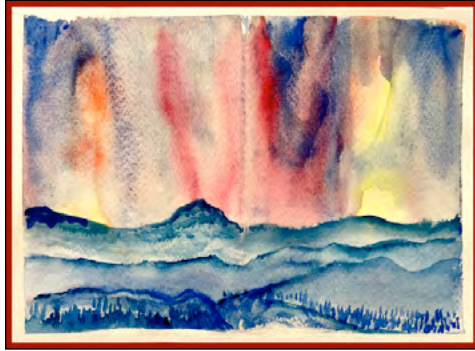




Community Outreach Winter Solstice Greeting Cards



The holidays were imminent, and greeting cards a timely painting project for our Vet Center veterans gathering. CWA paid for cards and envelopes, and one of our team leaders, Nancy Redden, suggested the aurora borealis as the subject. We had painted something similar before, much larger, on a quarter sheet.

Michael led the group in the classroom and on Zoom. We opened the card and painted the front and back in one go. “Just let the colors flow, loose and free,” and we did. Then add the night sky and the foreground — Michael made it look easy. Sheila added a spirit guide riding a wolf that complicated things.

The card stock was a softer watercolor paper than we were used to working on which had unexpected consequences. This was a “let go — let it flow” project, and we had happy results, plus cards we could share with friends.

The lesson was very instructive. Michael pointed out that “having a bit of paint left over after painting a wash was a sign that one had started with a large enough puddle.” The second important concept we learned, or relearned, was “to keep a clean, damp, thirsty brush handy to pick-up the excess paint from a wet wash.” The “thirsty brush” concept had come up last month. Having a vet bring it to the attention of the class again indicated that these ideas were sinking in.

We left the class in the holiday spirit and eager to return and paint together in the New Year! Wishing you health and happiness for the New Year...2023.

Enjoy our Solstice cards.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach

