

## Artist of the Month—Elisabeth (Betty) Mix Waisanen



Middlebury College 1959

Adelphi College 1966

Looking back through my life, I can see where this passion for painting with watercolors developed. As an Early Childhood Professional, it was my 4 and 5 year olds who could experiment so freely with paint, scissors, markers...glue. Throughout the process they learned the basics of color, counting, and eventually creating representations that told their personal stories. Each child was unique. I knew this was

what I wanted to be.

Once retired, I grew as an artist rather quickly. I had a few special teachers who certainly molded me. There was always a vase of fresh flowers on the table. By drawing these we learned about composition, about mistakes and successes. The group painted en Plein Aire often, getting first hand experience with perspective. I began to realize that here was a lifetime of learning...watercolors.

Now, 25 years later, watercolor is my medium...still learning, still progressing, never quitting.

I do feel the freedom, the experimentation, and the variety it offers. If I paint something again, it will be totally different. I like to tell my students to see things differently. I ask them to feel the apple before attempting to put it to paper, and to draw it over and over. And I encourage each student to use their imagination, to be unique.

This is who I am, this is what I do. I hope it shows.

