

Mission: *The Permanente Journal* is written and published by the clinicians of the Permanente Medical Groups and KFHP to promote the delivery of superior health care through the principles and benefits of Permanente Medicine.



On the cover: "Things That Are Round" by Marsha Balian, NP, is an acrylic on canvas. Ms Balian is self-taught and loves to use highly saturated color. She feels her work can be occasionally confrontational but always has a humorous edge. She is increasingly aware of how the issue of

family plays into our lives, not just as it has impacted our pasts but how each of us weaves the desire for family (traditional or not) or connection with the world into the fabric of our lives. This concept leads her as a Nurse Practitioner to a continued focus on the lives of women and children as the subject of her art.

Ms Balian is a Nurse Practitioner in the Ob/Gyn Department at the Oakland Medical Center in California.

More of Ms Balian's art can be found on pages 35 and 72.

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A Focus on Women's Health

Guest Editor: Ruth Shaber, MD

This special edition of *The Permanente Journal* features a sampling of the excellent research, innovative programs, and health education that Kaiser Permanente has developed to address women's health needs. These programs, and others like them, constantly improve the quality of the health care we provide to our female members.

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Submitting Artwork: Send us a high-quality color photograph of your art no smaller than 4"x5" and no larger than 8"x10". Please include a cover letter explaining Kaiser Permanente association, art background, medium and a brief statement about the artwork (description, inspiration, etc). Electronic and e-mail submissions are accepted; 600 dpi resolution is required.

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