

**ARTIST OF THE
MONTH
Joal Litavsky**



Joal was raised in Wheaton, IL, a suburb of Chicago. Joal's art career began in 3rd grade when "a nun put a pencil in my hand" and continued into high school where she "painted Oriental murals in the gym for the prom." The cultural area surrounding the Chicago art museum had a great influence on her respect for fine works of art.

Joal's home overflows with art. Not only does Joal create beautiful landscapes, still life, portraits, etc. but she decorates porcelain sinks, matches wall tiles to shower curtains, trims vases and other artifacts, designs gift baskets, paints slats on window blinds to match wallpaper, matches chair seats to her dining room table cloth, designs and sews clothing, sketches pictures of private homes for greeting cards, faux painted 5 rooms in her home, and she even designs, plants and cares for her garden.

After marrying, Joal opened her own business, *The Chandelier* in Lake Geneva, WI, where she "brought light to the beauty of people's faces." Using her own private line of cosmetics, she taught women "basic good skin care" and helped them with make-up and wigs. "The wigs were the most fun." Later a mortician invited her to reconstruct hair into wigs which she styled for his business. Her crew was invited to do make-up and style hair for all the contestants in a Miss Wisconsin pageant. Joal's group sponsored one of the contestants and was overjoyed she won and became Miss Wisconsin.

At age 35, Joal went back to school at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellen, IL, where

she studied real estate and, of course, art. "I took every art course they offered: fashion illustration, life drawing, interior design, and even commercial art." She has saved everything from school in a portfolio and is extremely proud to have made the Dean's List every year.

Always "thinking ART" (such a small word for such a large concept) and looking everywhere for stimulation, often grabbing a napkin to make a rough sketch. She is always designing in her head .. at night she might get out of bed to put an idea on paper. Her ideas are always amazingly passionate and creative

Joal and Warren (her 2nd husband) moved to The Villages in 1998 where she became involved with the Visual Art Association as Program Chair and was secretary for The Villages Art League. She has been a member of the Ocala Art Group, Brick Center for the Arts, The Leesburg Art Association, the Mt. Dora Center for the Arts, and the Florida Watercolor Society. She is Queen Mum of the Red Hat Ladies' Society and has enjoyed taking her ladies to art museums, the beach, outdoor art shows, historic homes, etc. She plays golf, works out daily in the pool, and participates in art plein air painting, either in a group or alone. Joal has taken workshops from Judi Betts, Jean Morey, Janet Rogers, Herbie Rose, Sherill Shoening and Jane Slivka whom she introduced to The Villages when Joal was program chair 3 years ago.

Joal works in all media, sometimes combining two or more to achieve the desired effect. At present, her passion is painting with dye on silk. When she is not busy with the above, she does traveling fashion shows for Red Hatters locally and to Daytona, Ormand Beach, Orlando, Leesburg, Ocala, Sanford, Mt Dora, Dunnellin, Water Oaks, Eustis and Tavares. She has also arranged 16 trips for artists to museums, conventions and specialty art shows.

*Joal believes -- Youth is a gift of nature
Age is a work of art*