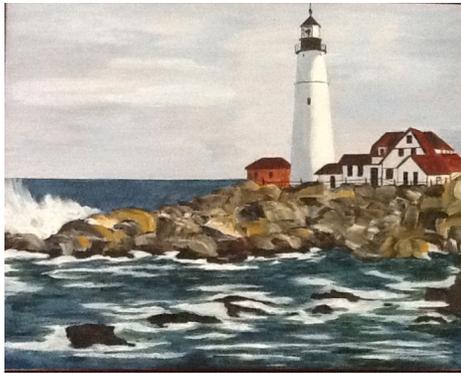




*I* was born and raised in Gary, Indiana; spent my teaching years in Merrillville, Indiana; and retired to the Villages in 1999. Since I was taking college prep classes to be a business education teacher, I had no electives to use to take art. I became interested in acrylics when my daughter, Lori, asked me to take her to art classes being taught locally by Rose-

mary Lovegrove, who now teaches in Sarasota. The year was perhaps 1976.

*A* whole new world opened up for me then. I began to paint at home. Teaching and raising my three children took priority, however.



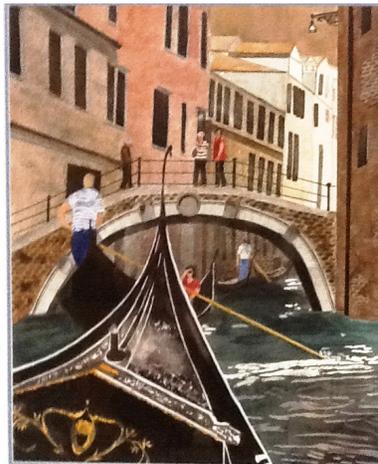
*W*hen I retired in 1999, I packed up my art materials and moved them south to the Villages. Most of my paints had dried up; but I still had brushes and canvases,

and lots of hope. Now I had the time and dedicated and patient teachers like Judi Adams, and Julie McGlone to inspire me. Watercolor was totally new to me; but Julie soon made it a passion. It presented a new technique and new challenges. Acrylics, with Judi, presented a renewed joy and accomplishment.

*I* tried to paint or attend a class each day, only to find out that this was impossible!! I soon got so far behind in my art that I had



to skip classes in order to catch up with projects. Housework became a real nuisance when I decided that I loved to paint more than clean. I still find housework to be a bore!!



*I* have been fortunate to take classes with some world-famous artists through the college classes. Artists such as John Salminen, Roger Bansemer, Janet Rogers, Joseph Fettingis, and Louise Jackson, have inspired me to learn more and experiment with art. Each artist brings his or her own techniques

and abilities, making that class very unique and enjoyable.

*I* truly wish that I had started painting in earnest in my 20's or 30's, since my time is running out... There is so much to learn and so little time. I truly thank God for giving me this very special time in the Villages to pursue this enjoyable hobby. If I have ANY talent at all, it comes from God. I call it "Being in the Zone." It is that very special time when you complete a portion of your painting, and ask yourself, "Oh, my!! Did I do that?" It is when you completely lose yourself in the art....and you know that God held the brush.

*Rosalyn Marie Fischer*