



# The Villages Art League Newsletter

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS - 1989 - 2014

May 2014

*"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up." Pablo Picasso*

## The President's Message

There was lots of excitement in the air at our April meeting. John Rohan made a special appearance to congratulate our achievements of 25 years.

Just getting a chance to see Eleanor Simmons again was a special treat. As founder and past President you could see how much pride she has in our Art League and how much she means to so many of us. Being in her 90's was not going to stop her from coming to celebrate with us.

Adrienne Davis came. She was a major force behind our club and surely contributed to our success. Starting the newsletter and emails were a major part of our club moving forward and growing and she had her hand in many other projects. Both of these ladies received a special pin recognizing their contributions.



Nancy Dias

Every past President still here in The Villages came to celebrate with us. Each one of them received a pin and all members who have become an officer were awarded pins for their service to the Art League. If you see someone who is wearing their new 2014 badge and lanyard and you see a gold pin attached, remember these are the members who volunteered their time and we all are grateful to them.

All of the contributions of our members are not recorded if they have not had a position as an officer or was on any committee position. There were many of you sitting in the audience who have volunteered time after time to help the club at our art shows or functions and are as valuable as the members whose names gets recorded. You are important to our club and deserve our recognition and applause. Thank you all.

The new badge design is symbolic of our history and journey from that only Rec Center at Paradise and how, as The Villages built more houses and more Rec Centers our club grew also.

We had an invitation from the Rec Department to help at Camp Villages this summer and a July 17 date is now set for the 3-6 year olds at Savannah. Debbie Hurtt has an exciting program that differs every week. Our week is drawing what you want to be when you grow up. Thank you to everyone who signed up. You will hear more later on.

There is a group working on setting up a day for painting at Paradise Park. For those who signed up, look for more information coming in an email.

There were about 120 of us at the April meeting and when asked about a 25th anniversary yearbook almost all of you said yes but the sign-up sheet has only 56 names. I will have the sheets again at the May meeting and if you missed signing for one, you will get your chance then.

The subject of the September La Galleria Exhibit will be discussed at the May meeting. Anyone who has an opinion one way or the other needs to be there. We want your input.

COMING IN JUNE: A paint-around has been planned for the June meeting. There will be a short business meeting and then members are going to paint together. Draw out what you want to paint and bring your references and supplies. Tables will be set up where you will start with your own painting and then pass it along to a member next to you. The painting goes all the way around the table until it comes back to you and you get the last few minutes on your own painting. It is really fun. Nothing serious. It will be explained at the May meeting.

Happy Painting, Nancy

## Artist of the Month—Diane Andrus



“WHO ELSE GETS TO CREATE  
A COMPOSITION WITH  
MRE’S? I DID!”

I have been doing art since before kindergarten. I was always the class artist in school and was allowed to fill an entire blackboard panel with “seasonal” colored chalk illustrations.

I loved horses and drawing horses. We were required to do a book report on a 3x5 card and an illustration on the reverse. Every “Black Stallion” novel was done.

I attended Kutztown State College in PA for a BS in Art in art education and taught art for a while. I later went to Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine for a BFA in Graphic Design. I did some free lance design and book illustration work.

I got hired by a small framing shop in Missouri to teach painting and gradually started doing picture framing while the regular framers were on vacation. I have now been doing framing for about 30 years in Missouri, Rhode Island, and here in Florida. I just can’t seem to retire.

I did some oil painting in college, but watercolor has always been my favorite medium. I like to paint in a very direct manner, wet puddles of color on dry paper—more of an Oriental style.

Animals and pet portraits are my favorite. I also do floral paintings, landscapes and whatever takes my fancy.

I currently work at “The King’s Gallery” in downtown Spanish Springs doing framing, pet portraits and art restoration. All last summer, I had the very great honor of doing much of the framing and all of the shadow boxes for the new “Eisenhower” Recreation Center. It was a privilege to handle the Medals, photos and diaries included.



A special **THANK YOU** to **Mary Ann Main** who has graciously created a web presence for The Villages Art League and maintained it every month for the past eight years! She well deserves our appreciation.



---

E-mail: [villagesartleague@gmail.com](mailto:villagesartleague@gmail.com) Website: [thevillagesartleague.org](http://thevillagesartleague.org)

---

**THANK YOU** Diane Weekley and Ruth Lawrence for providing today’s refreshments.  
To help with snacks for a future meeting, contact Judy Kimmel 259-5781.

## May Program—Susan Donohoe

Born and raised in St. Paul, MN, I lived in the Twin Cities until adulthood. After extensive travel in my 20's, I chose San Francisco as my home of choice. It was there that I met my husband, raised a family and built my design career. My careers have always provided for insightful interaction between myself and others. In sales, counseling and as an award winning Kitchen & Bath Designer, demanded that I understand the human psyche in order to satisfy the needs of my clients. To understand, was to imagine myself in their shoes.

Today I imagine myself into my paintings. I become what I am painting. Whatever I am painting, I feel its shape, its color, its texture. This intense involvement exacts an exchange, a connection of the essences and leaves behind a bit of my soul in every work.

As a Florida resident, I find that the exotic wildlife of Florida and the aging population often find their way into my paintings. My paintings tell a story. I try to infuse my characters with a personality that draws the viewer into the story being told. I use watercolor to interpret my art. I find it mesmerizing to watch the vibrant

pigments mingle on the paper, as the liquid travels across the shape that it is bringing to life.

Susan will show her techniques in watercolor.



"I IMAGINE MYSELF INTO MY PAINTINGS."



### Art Workshops—Lifelong Learning College

For details or to sign up for the monthly Brush Strokes newsletter, visit [www.thevillagesartworkshops.com](http://www.thevillagesartworkshops.com)

Workshops:

Jeanne Willette April 28-29

Christine Peloquin May 6-7

April 27 - new college catalog will be released with fall workshops.

To register, call Lifelong Learning College 753-3035

Questions: Beverly Hennessy 753-1383 or email: [bbaug97@aol.com](mailto:bbaug97@aol.com)

### Save the Dates

May 5—Art League business meeting

June 14—Register for Summer Art Festival

July 12—Summer Art Festival at Lake Miona



# The Villages Art League Newsletter

**Business Meetings: 9-11:30 am  
the first Monday of the month  
at Saddlebrook Rec Center.**

## Officers:

President	Nancy Dias	751-1033
V-President	Pauline Vital	603-707-7326
Secretary	Helen Gromadzki	750-5651
Treasurer	Dorothy Nelson	259-0147

## Chairpersons:

Artist of the Month	Bill Main	430-2923
Bank Exhibits	Diane Andrus	751-4824
Email	Bonnie Canning	259-9553
Historian	Joal Litavsky	259-0459
Membership	Margie Picard	750-1965
Newsletter Editor	Leda Rabenold	259-1918
Program	Phyllis Speicher	391-5967
Publicity	Jan Barlow	751-7910
	Jay Summers	350-2116
Refreshments	Judy Kimmel	259-5781
Sunshine	Charlie Clayton	750-4110
Webmaster	Leda Rabenold	259-1918
50-50 Raffle	Shirley Jerez	250-4751

## Art League Places to Exhibit

The Villages Art League has 2 art shows a year where you can show and sell your own artwork during a one-day event:

- 1) The second Saturday during July is our **Summer Art Festival** held at Lake Miona Rec Center.
- 2) The Saturday after Thanksgiving is the **Artist Showcase** at Savannah Center.

Last year the Art League introduced an exhibit at La Hacienda in **La Galleria** in September. That exhibit hangs for 3 months.

There is a monthly exhibit at Citizen's Bank in Spanish Springs for the **Artist of the Month** program that started in 1998.

To display a painting at the **Citizens Bank**, on **Rt. 466** contact Diane Andrus 751-4824, **Rt.441** contact Catherine Sullivan 259-4308.

The **Florida Blood Center** at Spanish Plains Shopping Center has a 3-month exhibit open to all Village residents. Art pick-up and hanging-new-paintings day is always the first Tuesday of March, June, Sept. and Dec. at 10 a.m. For information call Fran Naughton 350-2169, Vivian Chaska 750-5367 or "Freddie" Venturoni 259-2577.

## Free Art League Workshops

MONDAY 9:00-NOON SADDLEBROOK REC CENTER  
THURSDAY 1-5 PM MULBERRY REC CENTER  
SATURDAY 8:30-11 AM PARADISE REC CENTER

## The Villages Art League Show Dates For details: [www.thevillagesartleague.org](http://www.thevillagesartleague.org)

June 14	Registration-Summer Art Festival	Lake Miona Rec Center
July 12	Summer Art Festival	Lake Miona Rec Center
September 6	La Galleria	La Hacienda Rec Center
November 1	Registration-Artist Showcase	Savannah Center
November 29	Artist Showcase	Savannah Center

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline 20th of month:  
[leda.rabenold@gmail.com](mailto:leda.rabenold@gmail.com)