



# The Villages Art League Newsletter

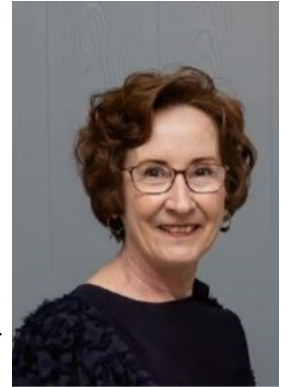
[www.thevillagesartleague.org](http://www.thevillagesartleague.org)

1989 - 2024

February 2024

## Message from our President—Lisa Melcher

♥HAPPY  
Valentine's  
DAY♥



It was great to see so many members at the January meeting. The member-to-member event was amazing; your work always inspires me. Thank you for sharing your works of art!

The 2024 committee is busy planning this year's events. Sue Schreiber will be providing information and updates on the ongoing Eisenhower Exhibit; Catherine Sullivan will provide information and updates on the Inspired-By-The-Master's Exhibit; and Hallie Deutsch will be chairing the Summer Art Festival scheduled for Saturday, July 13th at Lake Miona Recreation Center.

This month we have a demonstration by Peter Kushner. Peter is an amazing artist who works primarily in colored pencil. I hope you'll plan to stay and see what Peter has been doing.

Your 2024 Committee would like to thank you for your continued support. If you have any suggestions, questions and/or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.

"Art is the greatest form of hope" - Banksy

Sincerely, your 2024 Officers:

President, Lisa Melcher

Vice President, Ellen Hellwege

Secretary, Gail Parker

Treasurer, Janet Marks

### Have you renewed your VAL membership?

Annual dues of \$15 cover membership from January through December.

### EISENHOWER REC CENTER EXHIBIT NEWS

Ribbon winners of the January 8 through May 13 exhibit are:

- \* 1st Place, watercolor, Darlene Hayes
- \* 2nd Place, watercolor, Janine Motto
- \* 3rd Place, photography, Diane Pattie
- \* Honorable Mentions: Rosie Brown and Marcella Martin, both watercolor.

Susie Schreiber, chairperson. Phone 740-407-7383.

## Artist of the Month—Connie Giebels



I was born in Rotterdam, Holland and moved to New Jersey when I was 4 along with my parents and 2-year-old sister Milly!

I always liked art in school and my father was a very gifted self-taught artist in oil painting. I would watch my father paint and how he did different things. I started in oils too and won 1st Place in a school dental contest. I received a \$100.00 savings bond and an oil paint set! That started me on my art adventure at age 11.

My husband is retired Executive Chef who also was born in Holland and came to the U.S.A at age 21. We met in Michigan in 1965. We have 1 daughter and 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter. We have been married 58 years.

I changed to acrylic painting over the last 30 years. I also discovered seashells as an interesting art form. Living in Naples, FL for 30 years made it easy to collect shells off the beach and in some stores. I would make all kinds of things with shells for my family and friends.

Then I moved to The Villages in 2013 and belong to the VAA and VAL, thanks to my sister Milly, and I love it.

Being retired has given me more time to create my artwork.



### Monthly Sunshine Report from Charlene Sasto

No cards were sent this month.

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." - Picasso



## Program—Peter Kushner

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I have loved art for as long as I can remember. When I was 9 or 10, I was taking art classes every weekend at the Boston Museum of Fine Art. My father would drop me off at the museum and, when my class was over, I would take the subway by myself to a location where my father or one of his friends would pick me up. I really enjoyed drawing the most. From the time I was 14-22, I worked at a theatrical arts camp where I taught theatrical makeup, tennis and fencing. As a Senior in High School I loved art, science and math and had to make a decision which way to go in college. Since I didn't think I could make a flawless drawing of a person or a portrait from my imagination, I decided to go into math and computers. Of course in my later years I found out that really good artists would hire models for portraits or figure drawings - oh well!

I continued to take sporadic art courses as well as software courses to create programs to help artists do computer graphics. I was actually accepted to Brown University as a Master's student to work with Professor Andy Van Dam who was one of the early creators of computer graphics. Incidentally, the character of Andy in Pixar's "Toy Story" was named after Professor Van Dam. Due to unfortunate circumstances, I was unable to work for Professor Van Dam but still attended Brown University.

After starting a family I didn't seem to have time for art until my daughters were 16 or above. I got back into color pencil drawing and surprised my family that I could create art. Since then I took many art courses at the Worcester Museum of Fine Arts. During COVID I took some courses for credit from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). After retiring and moving to The Villages last September, I became a full-time artist, drawing 7 days a week for 8-10 hours a day.

I am an active member of the Colored Pencil Painters Guild and have been asked to help teach "Colored Pencil levels 1 and 2" enrichment classes. In addition, I have given two well received presentations with demonstrations on 3, 4, 5 and 6 point perspective.

Prior to moving to The Villages I was doing colored pencil paintings with pastel backgrounds and acrylic or white ink highlights.

One of my hobbies is to attend comic conventions where I would find out the voice actors who would be attending. I would then draw colored pictures of their characters and get the actors to sign them. In this way I have gotten signatures of the actors who voiced the Little Mermaid, Belle from "Beauty and the Beast", Mulan, Batman, Avatar the Last Airbender, C3PO from every Star Wars movie as well as many others.



# The Villages Art League Newsletter



[www.thevillagesartleague.org](http://www.thevillagesartleague.org)

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

2024 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Lisa Melcher
<b>Vice President</b>	Ellen Hellwege
<b>Secretary</b>	Gail Parker
<b>Treasurer</b>	Janet Marks

CHAIRPERSONS

<b>Artist of the Month</b>	Jo Magram	<b>Program</b>	Hallie Deutsch & Lois Kamp
<b>Eisenhower Exhibit</b>	Susie Schreiber	<b>Publicity</b>	
<b>Email</b>	Marilyn Wright	<b>Refreshments</b>	Linda Yeck
<b>Historian</b>	Wendy Lahey	<b>Sunshine</b>	Charlene Sasto
<b>Membership</b>	Dore Via Dumas & Sue Tribble	<b>Volunteers</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Leda Rabenold	<b>50-50 Raffle</b>	Shirley Jerez & Irene Wantroba
<b>Photographer</b>	Dave Boege	<b>Webmaster</b>	Leda Rabenold

## Art League Places to Exhibit in 2024

- ♦ **Eisenhower Art Exhibit** in the Eisenhower Regional Rec Center has a fine art exhibit that is judged and ribbons awarded. Exhibit dates for 2024 are: Jan. 8, May13, July 8, Sept. 9, Nov. 11.
- ♦ **La Galleria** at La Hacienda Rec Center, the Masters Exhibit dates: Sept. 14 through Dec. 14.
- ♦ **Summer Art Festival** on July 13 at Lake Miona Rec Center. The **Fall Art Showcase** on October 26 at Eisenhower Rec Center. VAL members can show and sell their artwork during these one-day events.