



The Villages Art League Newsletter

www.thevillagesartleague.org

1989 - 2024

March 2024

Message from our President—Lisa Melcher

Is it Spring yet? I hope everyone has been taking advantage of these cold rainy days to get their creative juices flowing.

A huge thank you to Peter Kushner for the wealth of information on perspectives and for sharing his amazing artwork last month!

I would like to remind you of the wonderful opportunities we have at several recreation centers to create and encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities:

Mulberry – Thursdays from 1:00 to 5:00

Paradise – Saturdays from 8:30 to 11:00

I would like to dedicate this year to you, our members. This year we will focus on your creativity, health, happiness....it's all about you! We have some wonderful demonstrations, presentations and informational sessions planned for the year. If you have any questions or suggestions you would like to ask and/or share, please let me know.

This month we have a demonstration by Betty Waisanen. Betty is such a talented artist and instructor. She loves to continually play and seek new creative endeavors to pass along. I know you are going to thoroughly enjoy the demonstration she has planned for us using tea bags.

"Everything you can imagine is real" – Pablo Picasso

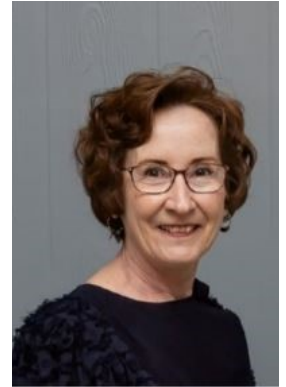
Sincerely, your 2024 Officers:

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.



February's Artist of the Month, Connie Giebels (left); Program Presenter, Peter Kushner (right).



Artist of the Month—Linda McVicar



I was born and raised in Michigan. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Wayne State University. While in school, I was exposed to many different art forms, beyond the traditional offerings. I learned puppet making, macaroni weaving and became an expert in mixing up wheat paste!

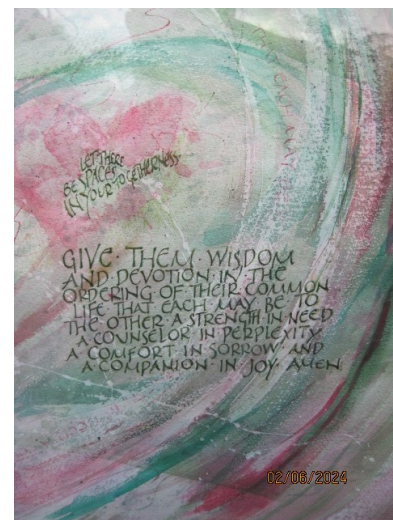
Upon graduation I taught middle school art classes for six years. I took leave to raise a family. I returned to the work force as an artist in a commercial print shop specializing in offset printing. I returned to WSU and earned a vocational graphics certification. I then taught high school graphics for four years and found it very rewarding.

I developed an interest in Calligraphic Arts and pursued it through additional classes and seminars. After completion of a series of classes, I was invited to join the staff as an instructor. I taught Calligraphic Art classes for 10 years at four different school

districts.

I also discovered that there were Calligraphic Societies all over the country, and the world! I joined the Michigan Association of Calligrapher and have been a member for over thirty-five years. I have served several years in leadership positions. I attended over ten International Conferences and was on the board for "Mosaic," the Annual International Conference. In 1993, I enrolled in a two-year intensive calligraphy course taught by renowned instructor, Reggie Ezell, from Chicago. In addition, I have studied with many famous national and international instructors through workshops sponsored by calligraphy guilds. My work has been shown at several of the International Conferences, as well as in invitational and juried shows. I organized several activities that became annual events for MAC: Tips and Tricks, a day-long selection of mini-workshops, and a three-day Scribes Holiday weekend.

I am also a member of the Livingston Fine Arts Association in Michigan, and recently joined the Ocala Calligraphy Guild. I enjoy combining my calligraphy and calligraphic marks when I work in watercolors and acrylics.



Monthly Sunshine Report from Charlene Sasto

No cards were sent out this month.

"Art enables us to lose ourselves, and find ourselves at the same time." - Thomas Merton

Program—Betty Waisanen



I grew up in New England and went to college in Vermont. In all of this time I remember that I experimented with art material, nature's offerings such as shells, clay, etc., food...I loved to cook, crafts of all sorts, and gardening. Even now I tell people that if they enjoyed any one of these things, they can paint! In college, I majored in Fine Arts and Home Economics. I learned the finer aspects of creative living: painting with oils, cooking, sewing my own clothes, and all artistic endeavors.

In 1965, I became an early childhood professional, having finished my graduate work in N.Y. For 30 years I marveled at the free expression that four-year-olds have as each child grows and learns in their own way. I treasured their artwork and made sure it would be displayed in the classroom and then treasured again at their home.

Though unaware at the time, I was grooming myself for my ensuing career! So, finally, upon my retirement, I found I could do all of these things for myself. My work today reflects constant experimentation. I have studied under many professional artists, each giving me a step forward. In return I have given many new artists encouragement through years of teaching my peers.

Coming to The Villages in 2013, I set up my studio in my enclosed lanai. It's where I lose myself within this passion for watercolor, acrylic, and now...collage. I have taught others in these ten years, and now can marvel at who these artists have become. I think, for me, painting is the one thing that keeps this old person alive.



Today I am painting what I call...One Teabag at a Time....yep, I'm painting teabags! It's fun, different, and not so easy.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Judge Susan Silverman Fink selected these winners for the February 3 Annex Exhibit:

- * 1st Place Victoria Peterson, colored pencil "Wash Day"
- * 2nd Place Helen Poor, gouache "Morning in the Corn Patch"
- * 3rd Place Vera Kasberger, oil "Shady Archway"
- * Honorable Mentions: Terri Behar, watercolor on silk "Open Heart" and Maureen Terrien, photography "Golden Morn"
- * Awards of Merit: Marge McQueston, watercolor "Proud Peacock" and Katharine Bloom, graphite pencil "Gentle Strength"

MORE CONGRATULATIONS!

- Winners of Peoples' Choice Awards at **Arts Round The Square (ARTS)** on January 28 at Spanish Springs were: 1st Place, Kathy Greco's watercolor "Dylan." 2nd Place, Leda Rabenold's acrylic "Hitched Again." 3rd Place, Debbie Bloom's watercolor "Aspen Sunset."
- Susie Schreiber entered and won the **Jazz Festival Poster Competition** to promote The Villages' Recreation Department's annual Jazz Festival on April 27th. This is her winning entry:



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

2024 OFFICERS

President	Lisa Melcher
Vice President	Ellen Hellwege
Secretary	Gail Parker
Treasurer	Janet Marks

CHAIRPERSONS

Artist of the Month	Jo Magram	Program	Hallie Deutsch & Lois Kamp
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Newsletter Editor	Leda Rabenold	50-50 Raffle	Shirley Jerez & Irene Wantroba
Photographer	Dave Boege	Webmaster	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.