

THE VILLAGES ART LEAGUE NEWS - MAY 4, 2009

The Villages Art League Officers - 2009

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Presiden: Diane Andrus</i> | <i>751-4824</i> | <i>Secretary: Marilyn Davis</i> | <i>350-2145</i> |
| <i>Vice Pres.: Susan Evans</i> | <i>753-3841</i> | <i>Treasurer: Sheila O'Brien</i> | <i>751-1738</i> |

Committee Chairs

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Artist of the Month: Gino DeLuca</i> | <i>753-6030</i> | <i>Historian/ Publicity and</i> | |
| <i>Program: Rebecca Schwartz</i> | <i>430-3396</i> | <i>e-mail: Bonnie Canning</i> | <i>259-9553</i> |
| <i>Showcase/Art Festival: Nancy Dias</i> | <i>751-1033</i> | <i>Membership: Rose O'Donoghue</i> | <i>753-6393</i> |
| <i>Refreshments: Irene Wantroba</i> | <i>753-9182</i> | <i>Newsletter Ed. Vivian Chaska</i> | <i>750-5367</i> |
| | | <i>Sunshine: Charles Clayton</i> | <i>750-4110</i> |

MaryAnn Main - VAL Web site: www.thevillagesartleague.org

A Message From Your President Diane Andrus



May is here already. Many of the snowbirds have flown back North. We will miss them.

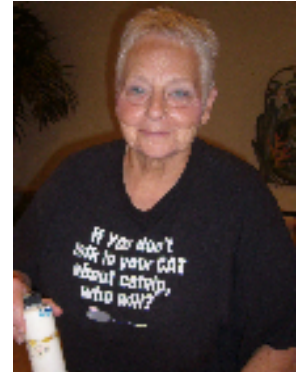
I hope many of us have sent Bill a design for the newsletter. This vote today should be fun and interesting,

and the result is a new image for the club. We can rework it for our new name tags, letterheads, etc. Good luck to all!

I'm looking forward to Pat's demo for this month, today. Rebecca will not be here at this meeting, so Laura Miller is going to introduce the theme for next month's program which is an "art challenge" (not apparently a landscape now). This will be interesting and entertaining. Let's give it a go!

See you next month.

Diane



Pat Ford will demonstrate and discuss some of the do's and don'ts in setting up a floral still life to make the finished work exciting both to the artist as well as the person viewing the finished painting. She will demonstrate the most important step, laying in the foundation of their painting and will take the painting as far as time allows. She will work with oils (acrylics are done with the same procedures). The viewers will come away from the demo with a much better understanding of the methods and importance of a "good" lay-in. Watercolorists should be able to pick up some hints also.

Pat has been involved with the entire art world for many years, trying to encourage beginning artist by mentoring and teaching. She has taught workshops both locally and nationally. And organized several cooperative galleries, helped establish the Northern Michigan Workshops summer art program while in Traverse City, Michigan. She has studied at the Washington Univ. School of Art, St. Louis; Northwestern Michigan College, and Michigan State University.

She has been published in "The Best of Floral Painting II," and Northern Light Book Club magazine cover. Two of her works will be will appear in a soon-to-be published book authored by Pat San Soucie.

A gift certificate will be awarded for the best design of a LOGO for the Villages Art League.

The winner will be chosen by popular vote at the May 4th meeting.

The program for the June 1 VAL meeting will be a contest. The paintings should include some kind of flower in the red family and some kind of animal or insect. Painting do not have to be framed or matted. Do not sign the piece. There will be 2 categories for prizes: 5 for people who have never won a prize and 5 for people who have been previous winners.

Villages Art League Art Donations to Area School Children

We are blessed here in The Villages. Our artists are also generous.

Children in nearby schools come from families in hard economic times. Over 50% of them are on Title I (free breakfast and lunch) for the children from those qualifying families. School budgets are stretched as thin as some of the children.

We at the VAL decided to help. Our team contacted the art teachers or representatives at 4 elementary schools: Stanton-Weirsdale; The Villages Elementary of Lady Lake--VELL (not our well-funded charter school); Wildwood Elementary and Fruitland Park Elementary. Each school has an average of 400 children in grades 3-5, our target audience. We asked the teachers what they needed most that was not obtainable through their school districts.

A budget for these needs was presented and all of our members present at the March meeting approved a request for these funds. The first school to receive the items was VELL. Mrs. Sopotnick, the art teacher, said the children were thrilled to do paintings inspired by Matisse on their new 50# white paper. They began using clay this week. Cheap Joe's matched Wal-Mart's prices for us on construction paper, watercolor pencils and oil pastels, but gave us much better quality.

The remaining schools will receive their items after the Spring Break. The Wildwood School doesn't have an art teacher but a team of teachers incorporate art in their regular lessons.

I am attaching a picture of Mrs. Pierro's classroom at Stanton-Weirsdale. It is bursting with joy and color. She uses every scrap of materials anyone donates to inspire her young artists.



The VAL should be very proud of this outreach program for these grateful kids.

Sheila O'Brien

THE VILLAGES ART LEAGUE NOW HAS A WEB SITE www.thevillagesartleague.org

Hello. I'm MaryAnn Main, faithful side-kick to my husband, Bill Main. I've had the



opportunity to work in a variety of different jobs and attend college. I hold a B.S. degree in Computer Science and a Masters (MSA) in Software Engineering. My primary work experience was with Ford Motor Company

as a Computer Programmer and PC Support Specialist. After 18 years working at Ford, I decided I needed a career change. At the same time, Bill received an early retirement offer, we learned about The Villages and here we are!

I've spent some time enjoying retirement with Bill and looking into several career alternatives. More recently I've tapped into my computer background and added website development to my tool-kit. Bill asked me to make him a website so he could share his art with friends and family.

Bill then asked if I would be interested in creating a website for his Wet 'N Wild Watercolors Art Group. The site was well received and now helps the club share information with its members, such as their calendar, meeting location changes, and the winning artwork for their monthly contests. He then asked if I would make a site for The Villages Art League, another group he is involved with. I was happy to take on yet another project and add it to my growing portfolio.

As I continue to increase my knowledge of web design and improve the sites I've created, I look forward to new projects and helping people in any way I can.

I set up my own site, www.alittlehelpilc.com, where I have my portfolio and also share links to information for safely driving our **Roundabouts**. If you have not seen the 9 minute video that people have been talking about, please go to my site and check it out.

I'm happy to be Bill's webmaster, helper, harshest critic and biggest fan. I look forward to meeting more of his friends in the art groups and wish you all the best.

MaryAnn Main

ARTIST OF THE MONTH Barbara Wensel Severns



Barbara Severns has specialized in portrait painting for over 35 years. Studying oil portraiture with John Howard Sanden in New York City, and pastel and oil workshops with Daniel E. Greene in the 70's and 80's, as well as life-drawing at Ringling School of Art with Marbury Hill Brown and Fiore Custode, she has followed both traditional and contemporary methods to capture a realistic image and bring out the "zest for living" in each model.

Born and raised in Iowa, Barbara has drawn all her life. She took oil painting classes at Des Moines Art Center; and later enrolled in Interior Space Design at Drake University where she discovered the excitement and immediacy of throwing vivid color washes over pencil renderings. While still an Iowa resident, Severns did portrait commissions, taught adult-ed art classes through the community college and in her home studio, judged art competitions, gave demonstrations and lectures to women's groups, designed the cover and illustrations for the 782-page "Lucas County History Book," meanwhile balancing homelife with husband Ron and their 4 children.

Since moving to Sarasota in 1978, Barbara's paintings have won first place and top awards and have been exhibited in numerous shows in Florida, Iowa, New York, and Washington DC. In 1979 her aqua-tint of "Junonia Shell" was selected from 2700 entries as a finalist in the International Society of Artists 2nd Annual Juried Show held at the Foothills Art Center in Golden, CO (ISA was a subsidiary of American Artists Magazine). In 1989 she received national recognition when her acrylic painting "Still Life with Happiness Jar" was accepted in the 45th National Juried Fine Arts show at the Colorado Springs Art Guild Gallery. It was selected from over 500 entries by Juror, Ray Vinella of the Toas Six.

During the 20 yrs spent in Sarasota, Severns held offices and served on committees of several art organizations including: The Sarasota County Arts Council's Visual Artists Task Force and the 3-person Exhibition Selection Committee; The Women's Caucus for Art (now the Women Contemporary Artists); and the Ringling Museum of Art jurying committee for the 20th Annual Crafts Festival; and chairing committees annually for the Children's Art Festival, and working at the calligraphy booth of The Medieval Fair. In 1995, Barbara was nominated by the WCA for the Sarasota Visual Arts Center Artist of the Year Award for artists who through their work and personal commitments have contributed to the advancement of the visual arts in the Sarasota and Mantatee area.

Two years ago Barbara and Ron retired to The Villages after "full-timing" in a motor-home for almost 7 yrs "which were ... wonderful ... no calendars or time schedules." Now she paints for state and national shows and her own enjoyment; but has joined the VAL and the VAA as well as the Artists Trading Card group to be with fun, creative people.

Severns is a signature member of the Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society and a Signature and Life member of the Florida Watercolor Society where earlier her painting "The Enchanted Garden" won the Cornish Corporation Award. Her paintings are in many private collections and in the permanent collections of the John L. Lewis Museum of Chariton, Iowa, and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, TX.

Barbara Wensel Severns' painting "Crystal & Aqua" was accepted into the Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society's Juried Open Transparent Exhibition at the Art Center Mantatee in Bradenton April 6-May 23. The show was judged by Jean Grasdorf AWS and will run concurrently with the National Watercolor Society's traveling show.

Severns' work will be displayed at the Spanish Spring Citizens Bank during the month of May.



**Summer Art
Festival
Nancy Dias, Chair**



The time has come to think about whether or not you are going to participate in the Summer Art festival on July 11.

You will find all the information on our new web site and in this newsletter. Registration is on June 13, a Saturday at Lake Miona this year.

I had an idea to involve all the members of the VAL and would like your input. Tell me what you think.

I wondered if we had part of the art room at Lake Miona set up so any VAL member who wanted to could come and paint just like one of our regular weekly workshops. That is how the VAL got started back in 1989.

A group of artists would meet at Paradise Recreation Center to paint together and share ideas. The group grew and officers were elected. The VAL's main focus has always been the camaraderie of painting together and the art shows came about as a way for the members to showcase their artwork.

It might be nice to have all our members participate, especially this year. There are a large number who are interested in painting for the fun of it and never enter any of the art shows. They paint for themselves or family. This would bring us all together as a club, everyone doing their own thing and celebrating 20 years together.

We have the opportunity to do this at this summer show because there is a room available that can be used. At Savannah where the Artists' Showcase is held every November, space is limited and this won't be possible.

Everyone who wants to be in the Summer Art Festival should make sure their dues are paid for 2009. When you are at the next VAL meeting check at the membership desk in the back of the room or call Rosie O'Donoghue at 753-6393.

You also need to check the new registration guidelines that will be used for this Summer Art Festival. Go on the VAL web site at www.thevillagesartleague.org where you can read the guidelines. Make sure you understand what the priorities are and what that means for you.

Thanks to John O'Hara and Fran Naughton who will be helping Sheila O'Brien with the raffle and door prizes. Pete Hawes is going to be passing around sign-up sheets at the meeting for volunteers that are needed to make this art show run smoothly. or give Pete a call at 753-2879.

I am still looking for someone to help organize the distribution of the flyers and would like to see a few of you get together to do this. It really is a simple task and does influence the success of the Festival.

You probably have seen the write-ups in the paper. Something every one of you could do is talk up the Festival whenever you get interviewed by the Daily Sun. There are always reporters and photographers showing up at the various clubs. Mention that the VAL is having an art show this summer. Every little bit helps.

There will be a free lunch for all the artists participating in The Summer Art Festival and for all the volunteers who donate their time on July 11. There will be a lunch buffet with a salad bar and sandwich bar just like we had last year. It was a big success.

There is a lot going on and if you have any questions you can give me a call at 751-1033.

For those of you who are leaving for the summer, mark your calendar for the Artists' Showcase that will be held on Nov. 28, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Registration for that will be in October.

Until next time, happy painting.

Nancy

Dates to remember

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| June 13, 2009 | Register at Lake Miona for Summer Art Festival |
| July 11, 2009 | Summer Art Festival at Lake Miona |

NOTES

- We welcome the following artists who joined the Villages Art League at our March meeting:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Larry Brown | Nancy Ochal |
| Blanche Carol | Nina Steele |
| Ellen Hellwedge | Frances Williams |
| Judy Kulka | |

- Thanks to Sheila O'Brien and Joal Litavsky for providing the refreshments at today's meeting.
- Julie McGlone is in need of an artist to display his/her artwork at the Colonial Bank during the month of May. Julie's phone number is 750-1068; her e-mail is mcglone72@hotmail.com. Contact Pat Claunch 259-9795 for exhibiting work at the Citizens Bank on 466.

Linda Hammons has set up a new website for Workshop Committee showing all the upcoming workshops, information about artists, and samples of their work.

www.artworkshopsinthevillages.com

MAY CALENDAR

4/29 = AHA Suzanne Sveljcar
4/30-5/1 - Sue Connor Workshop
5/4 - VAL - 9:00 AM
5/9 - Brandenton trip
5/11 Painting at Lake Sumter Pavilion
5 13 = AHA Pat Ford
5/17 VAA
5/27 - ATC
5/22 - Bonita Villages Arts Block Party
May 18-28 - Hang art at Rec Centers



SPRING ART TRIP

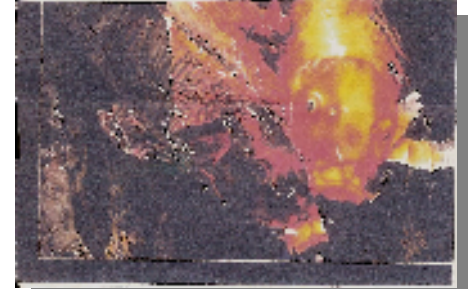
May 9th - Bradenton, Florida

The bus leaves Saddlebrook at 8:00 a.m. (Board by 7:30) - Will be home by 6:30.

Don't miss the NWS 88th Annual Traveling Exhibition (Apr 6-May 23) -- a unique opportunity to view the

best watercolor paintings in the nation! These striking works of art begin their journey in California, traveling to just 5 cities around the country. Art Center Manatee

is proud to be the only host site in the Southeastern United States.



Also showing is "Open Transparent Exhibition" featuring artwork by members of the Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society, juried by award winning artist and author Jean Grasdorf.

Lunch on your own will be at the Riverside Restaurant on the pier. Our afternoon will be spent at The Villages of the Arts -- Florida's largest artist village -- home to 40 artists.

Cost: \$40 (bus, show, art videos, and refreshments. Send your check to Joal Litavsky, 1004 Sierra Blanca Ct., The Villages, and FL 32159-0099. By May 4th. (include your telephone number)

Check out VAL's website
www.thevillagesartleague.org for information on Joal's exciting trip to Paris in May 8, 2010
This is a 9-day trip with Go Ahead Tours (Paris Stay)

Registration Notice for the Summer Art Festival

There are new guidelines for registration that will be implemented for the first time. The rule where you can sign up another member including yourself is on the verge of becoming unfair. In the past we never sold out the day of registration and so everyone got a table. We are now selling out and therefore had to make changes in order to ensure fairness to all members who are present.

This is the priority order that will be used for future art shows.

Priority 1 is members who are present and members who have a representative present.

Priority 2 is members who can not attend but send in payment to be considered after Priority 1 has their turn, and providing there is space available.

Priority 3 is non-members present, providing there is space available.

Priority 4 is any person who contacts the chair after registration day, providing there is space available.

There is a Registration Guideline paper that will be on the VAL web site and you can go read it as it was written but this might help to explain it for you. There will also be the registration notice and information about the Summer Art Festival rules.

In simple terms, it is in your best interest to attend registration. That is priority 1 and the first to choose. You may have a representative attend in your place and choose one table for you.

Your second option is to send in a check for the registration fee and you will become priority 2. As long as your money is in the chair's possession the day of registration and, providing there is space available, you will get assigned a table by the chair after all of priority 1 has their turn, and before it is open to non-members.

Priority 3 and 4 are for non-members.

All VAL members will get priority over non-members. You decide which category you want to be in when registration day arrives. All of this was discussed at the April VAL meeting and agreed upon by the members.

The registration for the July 11 Summer Art Festival will be held at Lake Miona on Saturday June 13 at 8:30-10 o'clock for VAL members. Non-members will register between 10:30 and 11.

Please visit our new web site and give your feedback to Bill and Maryann Main. It is a wonderful place we hope you will visit often. Save it to your Favorites or do what I did. I have put mine on my links bar for easy access.

Nancy Dias

www.thevillagesartleague.org

VAL Editor's Note: Because of all the activities in the art scene this month, the following items will appear on the our VAL web site rather than in the May Newsletter:

www.thevillagesartleague.org

- **(AHA)Artists Helping Artists workshops:**
 - 4/29 - Suzanne Svejcar -Terry Madden "The Fishermen"**
 - 5/13 - Pat Ford "It's All About WHY"**
- **ATC's (Artists Trading Cards) (Margie Picard)**
- **Operation Shoebox (Lee Asta)**
- **Hanging Your Art in Villages Rec Centers (Bill Main)**
- **New Painting Venue (Carolee McReynolds)**
- **Opportunity to Display Art (Bonita Villages) (Linda Tresvant)**
- **PARIS TRIP (MAY 2010) (Joal Litavsky)**
- **VAL Workshop Schedule**