



*H*elen Durham Gromadzki originally hails from Maple Shade, New Jersey. She is married to Cas and they have 3 children, two grandchildren and 3 step-grandchildren. She was a 5th grade reading and math specialist in Columbia, MD, until her retirement in 2001. She currently

lives in the Piedmont Village.

*H*elen's art teachers in elementary and middle school saw some early talent and they were very encouraging. She was often selected for special art projects around the school at holiday times. She didn't know how well she could draw or paint until her Art 101 professor in college urged her to switch her major from education to art. But she kept her brushes dry and paints in their tubes, and went on to become a teacher. Painting would have to wait.



*A*fter her retirement in 2001, she and her husband moved to The Villages, Florida, and she fulfilled the promise to herself that she would pick up those brushes once again. She went to the Vil-

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*S*oon, she was inspired by other artists to show her artwork. Along the way, she took several classes in watercolor, colored pencil, drawing, oils, mixed media, composition, and studied under several Lifelong Learning College Instructors. Her subjects of interest are landscapes, seascapes, still life, and more recently, portraits.

*H*er favorite medium is colored pencil. Her work can sometimes be seen at the La Galleria in the La Hacienda Recreation Center, and at the Sumter County Sheriff's Annex on Rte. 466 in The Villages.



*H*elen is happily exploring her talents, and her art will always be special to her. It brings her inner peace and allows her creativity to flow in new and exciting avenues as she explores several media and varied subject matter. She continually challenges herself by attempting new and more difficult subjects to paint. Although she

always enjoyed her role as a classroom teacher, she much prefers that of being a student of the arts.

*H*elen is a member of the Villages Art League and the Visual Arts Association, where she has served as their Newsletter Editor, and as a member of the Executive Committee. She has also been the co-chair and publicity chair of the VAL's Summer Art Festival and their Artists' Showcase. She is currently the founding president of the new Colored Pencil Painters' Guild.