



The Villages Art League Newsletter

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS - 1989 - 2014

March 2014

The President's Message

"It's never too late to be what you might have been."

George Elliot

It is an honor and privilege to be President in the year that The Villages Art League will be celebrating 25 years. At the March meeting I will introduce you to the new slate of officers: Pauline Vital as Vice-President, Helen Gromadzki is Secretary, and Dorothy Nelson the Treasurer. All three are dear friends and will be so much fun to work with. I want you to get to know them, too.

I want to take you on a journey. Imagine for a moment that you have a friend that you just want to get together and paint with. You want to have a few more friends join you but your house is too small. Imagine you have a Recreation Center that has a room where you can get together. Imagine there are 12 of you, so you start a club and call yourself the Villages Art League. Fast forward 25 years later. The club still exists and now there are close to 300 members.



Nancy Dias

There was no Spanish Springs Town Square when you wanted to paint with your friends. County Road 466 was a two-lane road with no development. There was no Lake Sumter Landing, no 466A, and no Brownwood. Can you imagine that? On the east side of 441 there is a small group of buildings with a post office, a Mexican Restaurant, gas station, there was one church, and one Recreation Center, Paradise. A big blue tent was put up so there could be entertainment at night. This was the beginning of The Villages. Then building started on the west side and a bridge was built across Highway 441 that gave access to the wonders that is now Spanish Springs and beyond.

Back in 1989 a group of friends started something that survived the test of time and with not one but 3 Town Squares; not one but 31 Recreation Centers; art clubs that have formed to promote judged and juried art shows; clubs to promote water-color painting; clubs for photography; recently a club for colored pencil; clubs to promote art in many forms making The Villages the best place for any artist to thrive and enjoy life.

Could you have imagined back in 1989 that there are people moving to The Villages because of the thriving art community? Could you have imagined what was in store for an artist or someone who moves here just wanting to maybe take an art class at last? Could you have imagined the opportunity to study with an award winning artist, or for that matter an internationally famous artist who travels to your home town to give a week long class?

This has been a wonderful journey for The Villages Art League to be a part of and we are going to be celebrating all year. It was all about painting together back then and the same is true today. The Villages Art League has free workshops for you to meet your friends and paint together 3 times a week. We will be adding another for our members south of 466.

The April meeting will be all about our history, our founders, and our members who have contributed to the growth of this club. We will celebrate together and share the accomplishments of The Villages Art League. I want to keep some surprises secret so I won't say any more but The Villages Art league will celebrate 25 years and you want to be a part of it all. You won't want to miss our April meeting. Let's celebrate together.

Happy Painting,

Nancy

Membership \$10 — January to December

March 3rd is the deadline to be included in the 2014 Membership Directory which will be available next month.

Renew today!

Artist of the Month—Diane Pattie

“THE ART ELEMENT
OF PHOTOGRAPHY
I BELIEVE COMES
FROM WITHIN MY
SOUL.”



I originally had aspirations of being a commercial artist or similar type artist, having been a very good art student (4 years), winning awards

and praise in high school. But being the oldest of 6 children in a working class family, there was no money for me to go to school. So my first real job just happened to be working at a high-end camera store, answering the phone and filing. I was there long enough to purchase a 35 mm camera. Eventually I wanted a more sophisticated camera. Several years later my uncle invited me to join the Toledo Camera Club. That was 1986. I was a member for 18 years including 2 years as its president. I learned a lot there although the art element of photography I believe comes from within my soul. Composition comes to me without a thought.

I approached digital with caution in the late 90's with my photography. But once embraced, I realize that it has opened a whole other world. It is not only the next step of photography but also the next step in art for those who choose to use it. It is just another tool in the toolbox. From scratching on a cave wall, to the development of pigments on paper or canvas, I choose to use a camera and a computer.

I print most of my own images, at least up to 13" x 19". I still learn new software and what it can do all the time. New ideas and new techniques are always available.

I have had my own very small photography business since 1998, knowing that I would be retiring in 2001 after 30 years of working for the State of Ohio at the Hospital of the Medical College of Ohio. This included 10 years as a Pharmacy Tech and 20 years as a senior medical/surgical purchasing agent. I moved to The Villages in 2005 and live in the Village of Sunset Pointe with my husband, Bill.



Thank You!

Thank you Jan Balow and Fran Milton for providing today's refreshments.
To help with snacks for a future meeting, contact Judy Kimmel 259-5781.

E-mail: villagesartleague@gmail.com
Website: thevillagesartleague.org

Art Travel Winter Park Art Festival

March 23, 2014
For details, contact Joal Litavsky
259-0459
email: jowar43@cs.com

March program—Christine Peloquin



Christine Peloquin is a 2-D mixed media artist currently showing her work at Arts on Douglas Gallery in New Smyrna Beach, Bennett

Galleries in Knoxville, TN, Studio E Gallery in Palm Beach Gardens, and Orlando Museum of Art Gift Shop in Orlando. She has also shown in numerous galleries around the country including Atelier Galleries in Asheville, NC and Charleston, SC, Longstreth-Goldberg Gallery in Naples, Hanson Gallery, Knoxville, TN, Loretta Goodwin Gallery, Birmingham, AL, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO, and Kristal Gallery, Sugarbush, VT to name a few.

The majority of her art work is drawing and painting on fabric and paper collage. The subjects range from faces and figures of women and children to landscapes, nature scenes and abstracts.

All the pieces begin with fabric and paper collage arranged, sewn and adhered to wood panels. The collages consist of any of the following; antique cloths, contemporary fabrics, antique dictionary pages, old children's school books, atlases, architectural plans, wallpaper, tablecloths, napkins, lace, buttons, flowers, leaves and any variety of papers and 2D found objects. Over the collages, the

drawings are done in charcoal and the work is painted with acrylics and mediums.

"The joy in this process of collaging, drawing and painting is the instinctual choices of rendering and harmonizing what I will cover up and what I will leave to be revealed.

"My intention is to weave an autobiographical tapestry invoking and addressing universal issues such as philosophy, spirituality, sexuality, motherhood and self-awareness. Most of the titles come from appropriate words found in the collage. I believe that art and life is always about becoming more conscious, more aware, and more of yourself. For me, this includes life as an artist, a woman and a mother.

"I have been proud to call myself an artist since the age of three and have been selling my work for well over 20 years. I am so grateful for all the people who have collected my work through the years. I am continually amazed and thrilled when I think about my work hanging in so many homes. They are testaments to the power of art that the creative life that brings me so much joy continues to ripple through the world making people feel happy."

Christine lives and works in Mount Dora with her husband and their two sons.



Soul Level—Mixed Media Fabric and Paper Collage Drawing/Painting

"I BELIEVE THAT ART
AND LIFE IS
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BECOMING MORE
CONSCIOUS, MORE
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OF YOURSELF."

The Villages Art League Show Dates - For details: 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



The Villages Art League



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	Mary Ann Main	430-2923
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 **Rt. 466 Citizens Bank**, contact Diane Andrus 751-4824.

The **Florida Blood Center** at Spanish Plains Shopping Center has a 3-month exhibit open to all Village residents. Change-out is the first Tuesday of March, June, Sept. and December. Contact Freddie Venturoni 259-2577 or Fran Naughton 350-2169.

Art Workshops—Lifelong Learning College

For details, go to www.thevillagesartworkshops.com

- Karen Knutson - March 3-7 "Painting Illusionary ..."
Sharon Wilson - March 14-15 "Experimental Water Layering"
Gene Rizzo - March 26-28 "Florida Water Birds"
Carlyne Hershberger - April 3-4 "Acrylic Landscapes"
Lynn Ferris - April 8-10 "Capturing the Light"
Sharon Wilson - April 14-15 "Designing Surrealistic Flowers"
Jeanne Willette - April 28-29 "Enjoying Mixed Media"

To register, call Lifelong Learning College 753-3035

Questions, Beverly Hennessy 753-1383
email: bbaug97@aol.com

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

March Calendar

3—Art League business meeting

4—Blood Bank Change-out

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline 20th of month: leda.rabenold@gmail.com