The Villages Art League Newsletter

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS - 1989 - 2014

February 2015

"How did it get so late so soon? My goodness how the time has flewn. How did it get so late so soon?" Dr. Seuss

The President's Message

Nancy Dias

I am using one of my favorite quotes in my last message as your President because it just seems to apply. It has been a fast paced year loaded with activities and events. It has been my pleasure and privilege to take you on this journey. Time seems to move too quickly now. There never seems to be enough of it.

Celebrating 25 years was very special and we did it with style. Remembering our roots was important to me and to honor the members who built this club and the members who kept it going just seemed right, so we had a celebration in April. We were able to bring together 9 past Presidents and one of the original founders, Eleanor Simmons, along with other officers including Adrienne Davis who was a valued member handling membership, putting together art shows and initiating a monthly newsletter.

We had some fun with the paint-around and the plein aire picnic. The bookmarker project to thank our patrons was a huge success and with over 3000 made, it still goes on at the local libraries. Adding a new place for our members to showcase their artwork at the Eisenhower Regional Recreation Center was a dream of mine. The Eisenhower Art Gallery opened October 19 with a Silver Anniversary Presidents Exhibit that included ten Presidents. A new exhibit was hung January 19 and we will continue to do that every 2 months.

The success of the La Galleria *Inspired by the Masters* exhibit and both of the successful annual art shows, along with our own Invitational Exhibit at Gallery East in Belleview, have also been a highlight of this year. The Gallery East Invitational gave members, some for the first time, the opportunity to experience having a painting hang in a gallery.

The Villages Art League is now able to offer our members a variety of places to exhibit their art: two annual one-day art shows, an exhibit that hangs for 2 months and a juried exhibit that hangs for 3 months, along with exhibiting at local banks for a month at a time. We continue to offer 3 open workshops to paint together.

So many people have helped make this year so special. I was able to work with old friends and have made some new ones along the way. So many wonderful happy memories have been made. Thank you Pauline Vital, Dorothy Nelson and Helen Gromadzki all special friends and my main source of strength. All of the people who are chairs of committees: Charlie Clayton, Bill Main, Diane Andrus, Phyllis Speicher, Jay Summers and Jan Barlow, Shirley Jerez, Joal Litavsky, Laina Schmidel, and a very special thank you to Bonnie Canning, Margie Picard, and Leda Rabenold who I worked with closely every month to get mail, notices and events out to the membership. What a great group that I have had the pleasure to work with. Each did their tasks so efficiently and interacted with the other so well that this club ran smoothly without any ripples. There is a thread connecting each one that passes information along effortlessly and I was blessed to work with them all. Thank you all so much.

This month we will vote in a new slate of officers to take us into 2015. It has been an honor and privilege and I have enjoyed every minute of my tenure as your President. The Villages Art League is so much more than art shows to me.

Happy Painting Everyone,
Nancy

"I CAN'T REMEMBER A TIME WHEN I WASN'T DOING ART."

Artist of the Month—Laina Schmidel

I was a native of New York City until 1993 when we moved to the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania. There we lived in a lake community in the deep woods. We moved to The Villages in 2001 and I joined the Villages Art League in 2002. We all painted at the old Paradise Center as it was the only venue available.

Like many VAL artists, I can't remember a time when I wasn't doing art - sketching, doodling, drawing on any available piece of paper. As for art credentials, they're non-existent. Except for one year of art in high school, and learning about perspective from an art book my Father gave me when I was fourteen, there was no other training. For decades I was a kitchen-table artist. I painted in oils until artist-grade acrylics became available. I switched to that medium and never looked back.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Five Village artists from the Art League have been selected to be in the **Florida Watercolor Society Online Exhibit 2014**. The winners are Sharon Wilson, Fran Naughton, Ruth Ann Maury, Susan Jane Donohoe and Nancy Dias. You can see the paintings at www.floridawatercolorsociety.org.

Awards were given to four artists from the Art League at the **Gallery East Invitational Art Show**. They are first place Roger Sherman, second place Cindy Martel, third place Judy Kraft and honorable mention RoseMarie Langworthy. Paintings are posted at www.thevillagesartleague.org.

Ribbon winners of the current **Florida Blood Center exhibit** at Spanish Springs are first place Bill Main, second place Char Meeker, and third place Mike Daley. Paintings on display until March 3.

February Program—Mark Polomchak

Mark Polomchak's medium is watercolor. He will demonstrate how to paint the river scene. During the demo he will show how to control the water, hold the paint brush so it can be used to make different strokes, and paint a soft picture with watercolor.

Born and raised in Northwestern Indiana, Mark now resides in Crown Point, Indiana. A 1975 graduate in fine art at Indiana University, Mr. Polomchak has exhibited his watercolors in various art shows and galleries throughout the United States and Canada. Prior to attending Indiana University the artist spent two years pursuing a career in music at Franklin College before giving in to his true calling, watercolors.

MARK'S HEARTWARMING STYLE IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE SIMPLICITY AND GRACE OF HIS PAINTING.

Mark's heartwarming style is achieved through the simplicity and grace of his painting. He produces a wide range of images finding much of his inspiration in the serene lifestyle of the Amish, in the landscapes of the Midwest and the seascapes of New England. Mr. Polomchak's variety of subject matter also includes contemporary florals, abstracts, the Southwest, and wildlife. Mark owns the Court Gallery located in the "Grand Old Courthouse" on the square in Crown Point, Indiana. Originals and limited editions can be found in the gallery and at major fine art showings throughout the country.

Thank You!

Ginna Cole and Norma Harding provided the refreshments today.
To help with snacks for a future meeting, please contact Laina Schmidel, 259-8805.

Lifelong Learning College Winter 2015 Art Workshops Overview

For class description and supply list go to www.thevillagesartworkshops.com

Joe Miller (Cheap Joe) watercolor February 2-6 (2, 3 or 5 days). www.cheapjoe.com
Sterling Edwards watercolor February 9-11 and February 12-13. www.sterlingedwards.com
Kathie George batik design February 16-18. www.kathiegeorge.com
Karen Knutson watercolor/Acrylic February 23-25 and February 26-27.
Janet King watercolor March 4-6. www.janetkingwatercolors.com
Brenad Swenson watercolor March 9-13. www.swensonsart.net
Kate Carney acrylic March 18-19. www.katecarneyfineart.com
Jaimie Codero watercolor March 23-25. www.aquarellestudiosandgalleries.com/
Sharon Wilson watercolor March 26-27.
Susanna Spann watercolor April 7-8-9. www.susannaspann.com
Jeanne Willette acrylic/collage/canvas April 13.
Gerald Brommer watercolor/acrylic April 20-24.

For details or to sign up for the monthly Brush Strokes newsletter, visit **www.thevillagesartworkshops.com**
To register, call Lifelong Learning College 753-3035 Questions: Beverly Hennessy 753-1383 email: bbaug97@aol.com

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
Eisenhower Exhibit	{Nancy Dias	751-1033
	{Carol Hickman	259-4084
Email	Bonnie Canning	259-9553
Historian	Joal Litavsky	259-0459
La Galleria Exhibit	Catherine Sullivan	259-4308
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	Laina Schmidel	259-8805
Sunshine	Charlie Clayton	750-4110
Webmaster	Leda Rabenold	352-1918
50-50 Raffle	Shirley Jerez	250-4751

Visit http://www.thevillagesartleague.org/calendar-by-month.html for the 2015 calendar of art events in The Villages.

The Villages Art League 2015 Show Dates
For details: www.thevillagesartleague.org

March 9	New Eisenhower Art Exhibit	Eisenhower Rec Center
June 13	Register-Summer Art Festival	Lake Miona Rec Center
July 11	Summer Art Festival	Lake Miona Rec Center

Art League Places to Exhibit

New in 2014: the **Eisenhower Art Exhibit** in the Eisenhower Regional Rec Center has a new fine art exhibit every 2 months that is not judged.

The Villages Art League has a fine art exhibit in **La Galleria** at La Hacienda every year from September to December that is judged.

There is a monthly exhibit at Citizen's Bank in Spanish Springs for the **Artist of the Month** program that started in 1998.

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.

New paintings are displayed each month at **Citizens Bank** on Rt. 466 or on Rt. 441.

The **Florida Blood Center** at Spanish Plains Shopping Center has a 3-month exhibit open to all Village residents. Art pick-up and hanging-new-paintings day is always the first Tuesday of March, June, Sept. and Dec. at 10 a.m. For information call Fran Naughton 350-2169, Vivian Chaska 750-5367, Margie Picard 750-1965 or "Freddie" Venturoni 259-2577.

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

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