The Villages Art League Newsletter

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS - 1989 - 2014

January 2015

"All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt ."
Charles Schulz

The President's Message

Nancy Dias

What a year we have had. 2014 has been an exciting year with so much going on to celebrate our silver anniversary with something new every month: new badges and lanyards and saying thank you to our past Presidents, officers, and volunteers; a paint around; plein air picnic; a very successful bookmarker gift project; a second Masters exhibit at La Galleria; a sold-out Summer Art Festival; the inaugural opening of the Eisenhower Art Exhibit in October; a very successful Artist Showcase and a wonderful Christmas party. The only project not finished yet is the yearbooks and that will happen. For those of you who signed up for one, thank you for your patience.

January 2015 brings with it our Gallery East Invitational for The Villages Art League. On Friday January 9 there will be a reception and open house in our honor from 5-7 with awards at 6pm.They are having a party just for us. Please come and celebrate with our members.

There will be a new exhibit at the Eisenhower Art Gallery on January 19. There is still room available so send in your entry. Members who have paintings hanging now need to be there at 1pm for pick up and the new paintings will be accepted at 2.

This has been a special year of celebrating our 25 years as the first painting club. The Villages Art League has been fortunate to work with the Recreation Department and staff over the years and in all our special events this year with great cooperation and support. In a reply from John Rowan he wrote, "*We truly appreciate the partnership and interaction we have with your organization. It really is a collective effort that makes our community such a positive place to live, work and play. We love being a part of it.*"

Thank you to all the members who participated in the many activities and projects that made 2014 a very special year of celebration. It was really a pleasure to work with all of you.

Happy New Year everyone. Nancy

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

Congratulations to Arrachme for being accepted into the Art Basel International Contemporary Art Exhibit that showcases artists and galleries from around the world held this year in Miami. In addition another one of her paintings was selected for the Cosmic Connections Contemporary Art projects USA International juried exhibit during Art Basel week December 4-7.

I LOOK TO THE PAINTINGS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN CHINESE MASTERS FOR MY INSPIRATION.

Artist of the Month—Bonnie Canning

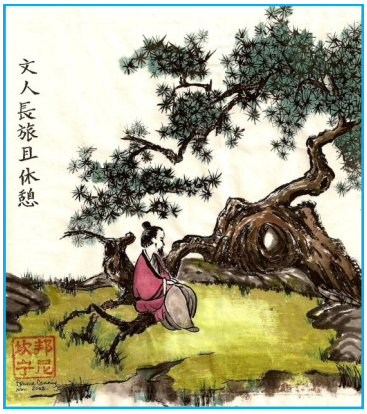
I began drawing and painting as a little girl, when I discovered that, unlike my sisters, I had absolutely no musical talents. I got my first commission and sold my first painting when I was thirteen. I continued my artistic endeavors throughout high school, where I designed the covers for my high school's literary magazine, was president of the Art Club, and sold portraits of my classmates to their adoring parents.

Thinking that I wanted to make art my career, I began college as an art major. However, my fascination with all things Chinese soon led me to change majors and schools. I was the first undergraduate to receive a degree from the George Washington University's Sino-Soviet Institute in Chinese Language and Studies.

After receiving a master's degree in Information Science, I went on to a corporate management career. Meanwhile I pursued my artistic interests on the side by taking up fiber crafts. I became fascinated with spinning various types of fibers, from cotton bolls to dog hair, lama to sheep's fleece; and, using natural dyes for color, produced woven art hangings for many years.

Upon my retirement in 2000, I returned to my interest in Chinese culture and art. After moving to Florida in 2005, I began to concentrate on Chinese painting techniques. I look to the paintings of ancient and modern Chinese masters for my inspiration.

I have taught Chinese Painting at the Lifelong Learning College, and since January 2014, I have been teaching Chinese painting every Saturday to a group of enthusiastic artists here in The Villages at the Pimlico Recreation Center. I try to imbue in them the philosophy that Chinese painting is an expression of your "chi" or energy; that there is no "right" or "wrong" way to paint.



CONGRATULATIONS! Winning artists at the La Galleria Winter Show are:

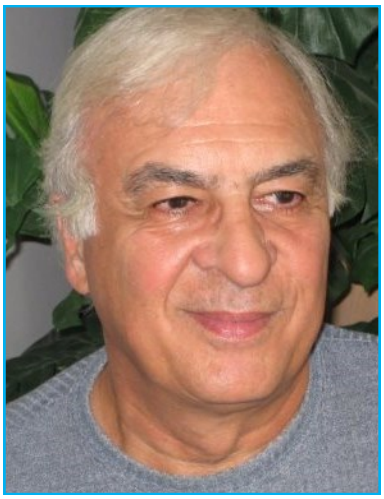
First Place-Susan Donohoe, Second Place-Diane Lawlor, Third Place-Carol Basso.

Awards of Merit: Cindy Martel, Jeanne Willette and Connie Giacobbe.

Honorable Mentions: Wendy Lahey, Carol Hickman, Norma Parcell and Jane Connolly.

Photography First Place-Leroy Pettis, Second Place-Eileen Sklon.

January Program—Frank Zampardi



Frank Zampardi is a retired secondary school art educator, having taught in public schools for thirty-two years. During that time many of his students won art competitions and went on to further their artistic development.

Over the years, Frank has established himself as an accomplished portrait artist, specializing in exact detail through the use of graphite, colored pencil, watercolor and oil. Most recently, Frank has included wildlife and American life subjects in his work. He chooses subject matter for its design possibilities and emphasizes intricate compositions. These elements are coupled with the skillful use of light and shadows and enhanced with well-developed shading techniques.

Frank's work has been exhibited in numerous art festivals, the Central New York Adirondack Art Shows, where he has received numerous awards, including selected to the prestigious Master's Division. In addition he won three first place awards in the Utica, NY Art Association's annual competitions. He has exhibited at the Central New York Community Arts Council, The Fenimore Gallery, The Smithy Gallery in Cooperstown, NY, Cooperstown Art Association Exhibition, The Gannett Gallery, Munson Williams Proctor Institute in Utica, NY, McKenzie Art Gallery in Cazenovia, NY, Rome Community Art Center, 531 Central Fine Arts Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL and The Wild Life Exhibit at the New York State Fair.

Since Moving to The Villages, Florida, Frank has continued to garner awards at events sponsored by the Visual Arts Association, The Villages Art League and the Colored Pencil Painters Guild. He presently teaches adult art classes through The Villages Lifelong Learning College. He was director of the Artists Helping Artists program and currently directs the "Jump-Start" artists program at SeaBreeze Recreation Center in The Villages; a program where self-motivated, like-minded artists can accelerate their skills under Frank's direction. Presently, he is the President of the Visual Arts Association, the largest art club in The Villages.

TWO OF FRANK'S WORKS "ALICIA" AND "NEED A WRENCH" WERE PUBLISHED IN NORTH LIGHTS DRAWING SERIES, "STROKES OF GENIOUS 5", OCTOBER 2013.

Lifelong Learning College Winter 2015 Art Workshops Overview

Karlyn Holman watercolor—January 12-14 and January15-16. www.karlynholman.com
Lyn Asselta pastel Intermediate & Advanced January 19-20. www.lynasselta.com
Ruth Paul color pencil January 22-23.
John Salminen watercolor January 26-30. www.johnsalminen.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.
Jeanne Willette acrylic/collage/canvas April 13.
Susanna Spann watercolor April 7-8-9. www.susannaspann.com
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

The Villages Art League Newsletter

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	Laina Schmidel	259-8805
Sunshine	Charlie Clayton	750-4110
Webmaster	Leda Rabenold	352-1918
50-50 Raffle	Shirley Jerez	250-4751

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

Jan. 19	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
Sept. 5	Inspired by the Masters	La Hacienda Rec Center
Oct. 31	Registration Showcase	Savannah Center
Nov. 28	Artists Showcase	Savannah Center

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

Art League Places to Exhibit

Opening in August 2014, **The Eisenhower Art Gallery** in the Halsey Room of the Eisenhower Rec Center will have a fine art exhibit every 2 months during 2015. It is not judged and will be changed out every 2 months starting in January.

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.

To display a painting at the **Citizens Bank** on Rt. 466 or on Rt. 441contact Diane Andrus 751-4824.

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

Thank You!

Sherry White and Billie Edwards provided the refreshments today. To help with snacks for a future meeting, please contact Laina, 259-8805.

EDITORIAL

As this year ends and a new one begins it is time to consider new officers. There will be nominations at the February meeting with a vote. With that in mind I would like to table our discussion we were scheduled to have in January on what is allowed in our art shows until after the new officers are elected. It should be up to them to decide what course of action to take. I have thought long and hard on this and have talked to many and asked for opinions and suggestions. Many of you who have an interest in the outcome have generously offered your solutions.

There has been much talk about The Villages Art League and what we are, what our shows are about and what we want to do moving forward. This club started with friends painting together and for 25 years that is what we have done. Talk about discussing what fine art is and changing our by-laws seems to have started because of the sell-out at the Summer Art Festival. It touched a nerve with many because for the first time there were large numbers that couldn't be ignored. The statistics are staggering how many painters never got into the show and how many non-painters did. We had many more applicants than we had tables to accommodate them and ended up with a long waiting list that was nearly impossible to deal with. Longtime members that painted at Paradise before we moved to Saddlebrook and had been in every show never got a spot this time.

Back in 2007 when the Summer Art Festival started it was a way for our members to bring along some of their other art, like pottery or glass or china painting just for an example, and showcase that in addition to their paintings. At the very first Festival we invited other clubs to participate and it was a big success. Because of that summer show's success, people started joining the Villages Art League just to be assured they would get in the Summer Art Festival. It was a place for them to sell their art work. At that time there were not the number of art show and opportunities available that there are now.

Many members who joined because of the popularity of the Summer Art Festival do not paint. Some of them like who we are and enjoy coming to meetings and others say there is nothing for me there; I just want to be in the summer show. We are a club open to everyone. Should we have allowed non-painters to enter our summer show? I think it gave them the opportunity to grow and learn and ready them to start their own shows. We did not realize it could shut out our painting members. The Recreation Department now gives all art clubs the opportunity to have their own shows and most of them do. Why plan and run a big show of their own when they have other opportunities in other clubs? Right now there are many more places for non-painters to sell than there are for the painters. As a painter I belong to several painting clubs. I do not belong to any non-painting clubs. Why would I?

This is not about what is or is not art or what art form should be included. This is a painting club and the question should be do we want to stay a painting club? It is really that simple. That's the only question we have to decide on. It is all about the art shows.

Do we want to return to our origins as a painting club and have shows for painting members only?

There should be a meeting for opinions, giving 2 minutes for anyone to talk with no discussion allowed with each other, followed by the next meeting to vote on that one question by paper ballot.

This is one opinion. Thanks for listening.

Nancy