The Villages Art League Newsletter

1989 - 2016

January 2016

Word of the Month: "Brilliance" is a word that Robert Henri professes throughout his book, "The Art Spirit." It refers to luster excellence, elegance or magnificence.

President's Message

Jeanne Willette

"The Art Spirit" by Robert Henri is one of those books that has influenced me from the first time I read it more than 25 years ago, to today. I encourage all of you to pick up your own copy or Kindle download it, and browse thru his many writings. You, too, will see that his insights can alter and reassure you at the same time, that making art is magical and that with your own perceptions of art overall can be so worthwhile and personally gratifying. The Art Spirit is in all of us who are visually gifted and visionaries for today and tomorrow. Henri was a teacher of the late 1800's with an extraordinary gift of speaking and very prophetic to the point of transforming pupils into artists of individual creativity. I hope that many of you will feel that the beginning of this new year, 2016, will be YOUR year to bring yourself to the table, so to speak, artistically! Be constant and be brave in your convictions and know that your decisions not only impact your life, but by sharing your talents with the public, you are giving them a gift of appreciation.

The VAL has experienced a year of transformation, and with the tremendous committee people we have, it's no wonder that our meetings are not only interesting, but influential and valuable in many personal ways. Each of us has a different perception of what makes art tick, what makes us want to trade in some hours of relaxation with some evidence of our exploring natures. I would at this time like to congratulate all the various committee leaders, especially Diane Andrus and John O'Hara who are both leaving the leadership after many years of loyal service. We will be presenting our 2016 slate of officers at the January meeting for you to vote on, and also you can expect a few minor changes in the lineup for the meetings. We will continue to have a demo for 8 months of the year, with occasional meetings that might have a different focus. We will be having an early brunch at the beginning of the meeting in January to see how members feel about coffee hour beginning the club.

We would also like to encourage all members when paying their dues to fill out a new annual "VAL Volunteer Form" with a few questions so we know what your medium is and what you are interested in doing.

Meantime, enjoy the season of cheer, and welcome in the New Year with positive energy and verve....it will be so nice to reconvene and share time with you on Monday, January 4th.

From my desk,
Sincerely Jeanne Willette, President

VAL DUES ARE DUE!

The committee has agreed to raising the VAL annual dues to $15, but it will be officially voted on at the January 4th meeting by the membership. VAL membership dues cover the calendar year January-December. If you haven't already renewed, please come to the Membership table prior to the start of the meeting and bring along your VAL badge. Or you may mail your check, written to V.A.L., to Margie Picard at 928 Ramos Drive, The Villages, FL 32159.

Refreshments for our January meeting are by Diane Weekley and Ruth Lawrence. Thank you, ladies!

Artist of the Month—Sandy Simpson

Sandy's art is about tropical colors. The professional A.S.I.D interior designer believes color sets a happy cheerful mood in a home.

Sandy graduated B.S. Purdue University double major: art history & Interior Design

1975 Architectural Designer in Indpls. Ind.

1977 Instructor @ Interior Designer's Guild in Los Angeles, California

1979 co-owner of a commercial design firm in central California

2002-2006 co-owner of Waterways Gallery in Stuart, Florida

While serving in Papua New Guinea, Sandy began pursuing her passion for watercolors using vibrant, transparent colors. Sandy is a 7 yr. survivor of stage 3 colon cancer, thyroid cancer, brain AV fistula, surgery & stroke. She uses watercolor as an expression of her love for God (Colossians 3:23). "*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the LORD…*" Sandy & Jim, married 45 years, are blessed with 4 married children and 11 grandchildren.

2004 Certified Terry Madden Teacher

2005 A.E. Backus Gallery & Museum juried 4 county show

2006 2nd Place, A.E.Backus Gallery & Museum

2007 Arts Council juried show "Art of the Heart"

2010 Artist of the month (Art Assoc. Martin County).

2011 & 2013 Molly's House juried show

2013 "From the Heart Photography" juried Photography

2013 A.E.Backus juried "Best of the Best juried show," Award of Merit, A.E.Backus Gallery & Museum

Her work is in many private collections in US & Europe.

Sandy uses art as a motivational speaker & offers workshops.

Now showing at Gilda Matilda's, U.S. 301 @ Exterior Spaces and Florida Porch Cafe in Leesburg, Florida.

watercolorsbysandy@gmail.com 772-475-8939

Congratulations! Ribbons for the current art exhibited in La Galleria were awarded to: 1st-Bridgette Greb, 2nd-Marilyn Hill, 3rd-Frank Zampardi. Award of Merit: Terri Behar, Dolores Pare' and Lisa Woodward; Honorable Mention: Amy Zelle, Freddie Venturoni and Catherine Sullivan. Photography: 1st-Diane Patti.

The **Villagers' Art Gallery** at the Wildwood Antique Mall is up and running with over fourteen artists participating. We need your help in getting Villages residents to come to the Art Gallery and possibly buy an item for their homes. Please tell ten of your friends or people you meet around The Villages about the Gallery. The average Antique Mall shopper is looking for a "nick knack" for twenty dollars or so. The Art Gallery will only work if each member spreads the word and we get people from The Villages to come and look and hopefully buy your art work to beautify their homes.

Have you seen photos of the VAL Christmas Party on the website?
www.thevillagesartleague.org

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

January Program—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.

Lifelong Learning College Winter 2016 Art Workshops Overview

Karlyn Holman *watercolor*—January 11-15. www.karlynsgallery.com

Jeffrey Smart Baisden *colored pencil*—January 18-20. www.jeffreysmartbaisden.com

Lyn Asselta *pastel*—January 20-22. lynasselta.com

Karen Knutson *acrylic*—January 25-29. www.karenknutson.com, www.karenknutson.blogspot.com

Linda Baker *watercolor*—February 1-5. www.lindadalybaker.com

Fealing Lin *watercolor*—February 8-12. www.fealingwatercolor.com

Sterling Edwards *watercolor*—February 15-19. sterlingedwards.com

Myrna Wacknov *watercolor*—February 22-26. www.myrnawacknov.com

Kathie George *batik/watercolor*—March 1-3. www.kathiegeorge.com

Sandy Mauldin *yupo*—March 7-11. www.sandymaudlin.blogspot.com

Virginia Lloyd-Davis *Sumi painting*—March 14-15-16. www.joyfulbrush.com, www.facebook.com/VirginiaLloydDavies
www.youtube.com/virginiald

Sharon Wilson *watercolor*—March 17-18. (no website)

Trish McKinney *acrylic*—March 21-23. www.trishmckinney.com, www.facebook.com/trishmckinneystudios?ref=hl

Gerald Brommer *watercolor/acrylic collage*—April 4-8. (no website)

Kate Carney *acrylic*—April 12-13-14. www.katecarneyfineart.com

Anne Abgott *watercolor*—April 18-19-20. http://www.anneabgott.com

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	Jeanne Willette	753-6488
Vice President	John O'Hara	751-0780
Secretary	Bonnie Canning	259-9553
Treasurer	Gail Parker	751-0200

Chairpersons:

Artist of the Month	Jo Magram	845-807-7489
Bank Exhibits	Catherine Sullivan	259-4308
Eisenhower Exhibit	Irene Wantroba	753-9182
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	Jay Summers	350-2116
Refreshments	Laina Schmidel	259-8805
Sunshine	Charlie Clayton	750-4110
Volunteers	Dwight & Jan Cresap	940-250-5637
Webmaster	Leda Rabenold	352-1918
50-50 Raffle	Shirley Jerez	250-4751
	Irene Wantroba	753-9182

Art League Places to Exhibit

Eisenhower Art Exhibit in the Eisenhower Regional Rec Center has a fine art exhibit that is not judged. 2016 dates/times are: Jan. 6 from 9-11 a.m.; May 9, July 11, Sept. 12 and Nov. 14 from 1-3 p.m.

La Galleria at La Hacienda from September to December that is judged.

Citizens Bank on Rt. 466 or on Rt. 441 monthly exhibit. Also in Spanish Springs for the **Artist of the Month.**

Summer Art Festival held at Lake Miona Rec Center the second Saturday during July.
Artist Showcase at Savannah Center the Saturday after Thanksgiving. VAL members can show and sell their artwork during these one-day events.

Florida Blood Center at Spanish Plaines Shopping Center has a 3-month exhibit open to all Village residents. It changes the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December 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

2016

Contact Rebecca Schwartz for details of the South of France, **July 24-August 2**. (352)633-3887, email: rebecca@schwartzusa.net; website: www.rebeccaschwartz.gallery.

Contact Joal Litavsky for information about the Euro Cruise on **September 3-13**. (352)259-0459 or email: jowar43@cs.com.

COMING UP IN MARCH.... Our VAL meeting will be in support of a project to bring all our unused or extra art supplies to a veterans cause. Art supplies will be used for therapy and education in our tri-county area. Please set aside your items to bring to the March meeting for a festive in gathering and social time for our club!

Upcoming Art League Show Date For details: www.thevillagesartleague.org		
January 6—9-11 am	Eisenhower Exhibit Change-out	Eisenhower Rec Center