



The Villages Art League Newsletter

www.thevillagesartleague.org

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February 2023

Message from our President—Lisa Melcher

Wow, what a great start to the new year! The January member-to-member event was just amazing! I am humbled to be amongst so much talent and hope I can learn a thing or two this year. Below are 3 of the many pieces created and shown by our very talented members.



Rhonda Duffy



Teresa Cresap



Janine Motto

Your 2023 Committee would like to thank you for your support. We are busy planning a very full year. With the results of the questionnaire tallied and the help of our new Program Volunteers, Hallie Deutsch, Lois Kamp and Nan Kohr, we are filling the monthly programs for this year. I would also like to thank Wanda Boyd and Bev Hennessy for their contribution.

You are in for a real treat with this month's watercolor demonstration by Tom Jones. Tom is an internationally known watercolor artist who will provide us with not only a demonstration, but will give away the painting he creates. I don't think you are going to want to miss this one!



Nan Kohr, Lisa Melcher, Marilyn Wright, Gail Parker

Our membership directory is well underway thanks to Marrienne Clark and our Summer Art Festival, scheduled for Saturday, July 8th at Lake Miona, has a Chair and team thanks to Gail Latta! If it were not for our volunteers, we would not be able to accomplish all that we do.

"When Plan A doesn't work, don't worry, you still have 25 more letters to go through." —unknown

Sincerely,

your 2023 Officers:

President Lisa Melcher, Vice President Nan Kohr, Secretary Marilyn Wright, Treasurer Gail Parker

Artist of the Month—Gigi Hayes-Polk



My husband and best friend Ray and I moved to the village of Belvedere in 2020. Prior to moving here we alternated living in Cape Cod, MA, Kailua-Kona and Waikiki Hawai'i and traveling in our RV across country. I am originally from Buffalo, New York and my husband is from Northern California. We love to travel the world and learn about different cultures.

I'm proud to say I have raised 4 children on my own and now have 9 grandchildren. Together with my husband we have 7 children and 13 grandchildren.

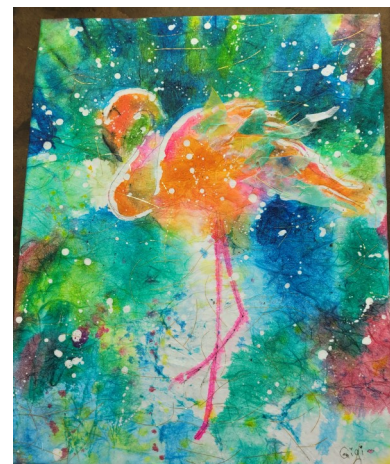
I have an extensive background in advertising from my father's company "Hayes Advertising." My father was an artist as are many in my little family.

I then followed my Passion into the medical field. I was an RN hospital nurse and when my children were grown I started travel nursing, my 1st assignment being in Hawai'i. My 2nd year out there was when I met my husband.

20 years ago we were on a cruise in Australia and our ship skipped many ports. This left me to find something to do. They had an onboard art class and that is where I found my passion in watercolors. I have expanded since moving to The Villages and have interests in pottery and many more thingswhen I find the time!

Last year was my 1st contest here. I won 1st place with the VAA "Arts Around The Square!" I won 3rd place in an art show up against a tough group of professional artists in Cape Cod at the creative art center.

My favorite style of watercolor painting is with just 3 colors and making your own colors with layers.



Monthly Sunshine Report from Charlene Sasto

An encouragement card was sent to Betty McClelland for family illness.

A get well card was sent to Bonnie Canning for health issues.

Program—Tom Jones

This remarkable artist (who is known for his signature Panama hat) paints spectacular watercolors that all tell a story, some with multiple chapters that reflect his love of landscapes or travel experiences. He enjoys creating a series of three to five paintings to complete his story of the subject. He is known for his multi-day plein air painting events for watercolor artists of all levels both here and abroad. We are so fortunate that this talented artist calls Central Florida home.



Tom's art can be found internationally in many private and corporate collections, including commissioned paintings displayed in the Florida State Capitol Building, Walt Disney World Corporation, the Omni Corporation and Museums. Tom's work has been featured in many books, magazine articles, posters and brochures.

Tom shares his passion for art and love of nature with students of varying skill levels through international workshops, demonstrations, instructional watercolor books and DVDs. www.tomjonesartist.com

Eisenhower Rec Center

A new exhibit was hung on January 9. Patricia Gilmore, from Leesburg Center for the Arts in charge of adult programming, was the judge. The winners were:

- First Place Helen Poor for her ink and pastel, "Love Is Everywhere You Find It"
- Second Place Chris Palmer (first time entering) for her mixed media, "The Patron of Circles"
- Third Place Kat Campau (first time entering) for her fiber piece, "Matisse in Stiches"
- Honorable Mention Victoria Peterson for color pencil piece, "Sunny Sunday Morning"

Go by and see the show!

A new exhibit will be hung on March 13, 2023. All forms and information are on the VAL website.

Open to all members of VAL.

Lois Kamp, chairperson



January Artist of the Month Loli Larson



Great attendance at January 2, 2023 meeting



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Business Meetings: 9-11:30 am the first Monday of the month at the Saddlebrook Rec Center.

2023 OFFICERS

President	Lisa Melcher
Vice President	Nan Kohr
Secretary	Marilyn Wright
Treasurer	Gail Parker

CHAIRPERSONS

Artist of the Month	Jo Magram	Program	Hallie Deutsch
Eisenhower Exhibit	Lois Kamp	Publicity	
Email	Marilyn Wright	Refreshments	Linda Yeck
Historian	Wendy Lahey	Sunshine	Charlene Sasto
Membership	Dore Via Dumas & Sue Tribble	Volunteers	Bonnie Canning
Newsletter Editor	Leda Rabenold	50-50 Raffle	Shirley Jerez & Irene Wantroba
Photographer	Dave Boege	Webmaster	Leda Rabenold

Art League Places to Exhibit in 2023

- ♦ **Eisenhower Art Exhibit** in the Eisenhower Regional Rec Center has a fine art exhibit that is judged and ribbons awarded. Exhibit dates for 2023 are: Jan. 9, Mar. 13, May 8, July 10, Sept. 11 and Nov. 13
- ♦ **La Galleria** at La Hacienda Rec Center, the Masters Exhibit from September 9 to December 9, 2023.
- ♦ **Summer Art Festival** on July 8 at Lake Miona Rec Center. The **Fall Art Show** in October at Eisenhower Rec Center. VAL members can show and sell their artwork during these one-day events.