



The Villages Art League Newsletter

www.thevillagesartleague.org

1989 - 2024

January 2024

Message from our President—Lisa Melcher

I would like to wish each and every one of you a very happy New Year!

I really can't believe how fast this year has passed. I must admit that I've enjoyed every minute of it and am looking forward to this new year.

Time seems to fly by faster as we age. There is a theory behind this phenomenon that hypothesizes that over time, the rate at which we process visual information slows down, and this is what makes time 'speed up' as we grow older. I don't know about you, but I'm going to take that as a positive and enjoy the slow viewing and processing of all the beautiful artwork created by all the VAL members.

Which brings me to our first meeting of the new year, which is a "member to member" event. There is so much talent in the VAL, this is a great opportunity to share your individuality and creativity. Please bring one piece of art you've recently finished or are still creating. These masterpieces will be displayed on the tables around the room for everyone to slowly view, process and enjoy. Please bring a table easel if required/possible to display your piece and an ID card.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nan, Marilyn, Gail and all the committee leaders, chairpersons and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be the great organization that we are! Ellen, Gail, Janet, and I would also like to thank each of you for electing us as your 2024 officers. We are looking forward to working with you throughout this year to further the objective of the VAL as documented in the By-Laws.

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sincerely, your 2024 Officers:

President, Lisa Melcher

Vice President, Ellen Hellwege

Secretary, Gail Parker

Treasurer, Janet Marks



REMINDER: meeting date is JANUARY 8!

Artist of the Month—Carol Reynolds



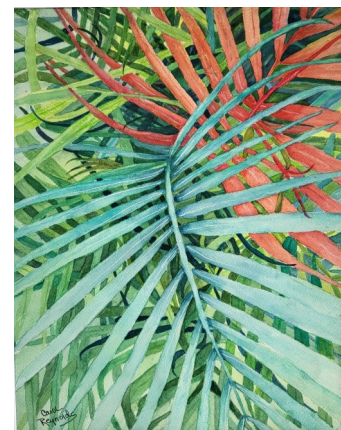
I was born and raised on a farm in Monmouth, IL, a small town in Western Illinois. I attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. I have been married to Jim Reynolds for 49 years. Together we have 5 children, 8 grandchildren ranging in age from 31 to 12 and one great grandson who is 5.

For 26 years I worked as a secretary for the UAW (United Auto Workers) Sub Regional Office in Moline, IL. I was also elected to the Henry County Board and served for 14 years. I held the position as Chairman of the Health and Human Services committee which included the County Nursing Home and County Health Department. During that time I also served a term as President of the Illinois Democratic

Women. I guess my leadership abilities have turned into art work here as Vice President of VAA and Chairman of VAA "Fall Festival of Art" for 3 years.

After the children left home I took a few acrylic art classes and participated in craft shows throughout the midwest selling mostly personalized wood products that my husband made and I painted!

We moved to The Villages in 2004 and live in the Village of Poinciana. I decided to take watercolor classes around 2008 and have learned so much from great teachers such as Jan Ramsay, Linda Hammons, Pat Jawanda, Julie McGlone, Pam Bennett, Anne Abgott and Mark Polomchak. I thank them for everything I know!! One never stops learning from others! My favorite part of watercolor is the way they blend and turn into something unexpected! I enjoy painting pet portraits, birds, Florida florals and of course my grandchildren! There is nothing better than going to a class in The Villages...Everyone is so nice and helpful. I have made a lot of friends though "art" in The Villages and continue to go to classes!



EISENHOWER EXHIBIT NEWS

Awarded ribbons in December were: 1st Place Betty Waisanen, collage "Mama"; 2nd Place Carl Johnson, acrylic "Landscape"; 3rd Place Darlene Hayes, watercolor "Venice"; Awards of Merit: Susie Schreiber, watercolor "Mardi Gras" and Adeline Curlett, watercolor on Yupo "Jewels of the Sea II".

2024 exhibit dates are January 8, May 13, July 8, September 9 and November 11.

Susie Schreiber, chairperson. Phone 740-407-7383.

Program—Member-to-Member Show and Tell

Bring a piece of artwork that you've recently finished or are working on. Tables will be set up around the room on which to display it. Also bring a table easel if needed.



Some art from last January—photos by Dave Boege.

Ribbon winners of the 2023-24 Winter LaGalleria exhibit are: 1st Place Kathleen Karol's pastel "Big Blue." 2nd Place Janine Motto's watercolor "Good Day Sunshine." 3rd Place Victoria Peterson's color pencil "Fragrance of Talc." Honorable Mentions for Bob Schutte's oil on panel "Pink Clematis" and Meg Hay's color pencil "Charleston Gallery." CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Monthly Sunshine Report from Charlene Sasto

- ◇ An encouragement card was sent to Cheri Ptacik.
- ◇ A get well card was sent to Connie Giebels for her hip replacement.
- ◇ A sympathy card was sent to Fran Melton for the loss of her husband.



Goodies brought by our Members.

2023 Holiday Party



Photos
thanks to
President
Lisa.
Melcher

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

2024 OFFICERS

President	Lisa Melcher
Vice President	Ellen Hellwege
Secretary	Gail Parker
Treasurer	Janet Marks

CHAIRPERSONS

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

Art League Places to Exhibit in 2024

- ♦ **Eisenhower Art Exhibit** in the Eisenhower Regional Rec Center has a fine art exhibit that is judged and ribbons awarded. Exhibit dates for 2024 are: Jan. 8, May 13, July 8, Sept. 9, Nov. 11.
- ♦ **La Galleria** at La Hacienda Rec Center, the Masters Exhibit: TBD.
- ♦ **Summer Art Festival** on July 13 at Lake Miona Rec Center. The **Fall Art Showcase** on October 26 at Eisenhower Rec Center. VAL members can show and sell their artwork during these one-day events.