



PROUD of its past  
PREPARED for its future



Welcome all new members!

Banner artist revealed inside

## New Member Corner

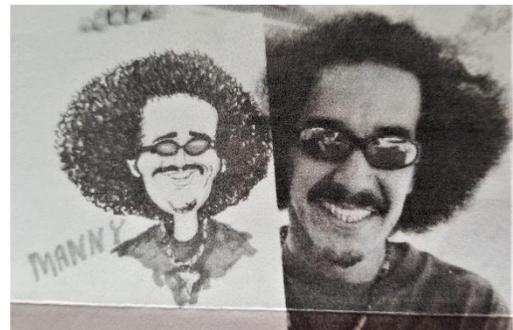
### How to be introduced in this column...

Welcome to all new members! So pleased you've joined us. We'd love to get to know you and your work. To better facilitate this, new members are encouraged to send us a few sentences about yourself: including your Village now, if you are a full or part-time Villager, what city/state/country you are from, your preferred art media, and a sentence or two about what or who inspires you to create. Please add a photo of your work and a head shot of yourself that we could include in an upcoming Newsletter. **Please email** information to **Sally LaBaugh** at [sallylabaugh@gmail.com](mailto:sallylabaugh@gmail.com) **within 2 weeks of joining**. If you have questions, please call Sally at 502-500-0160.

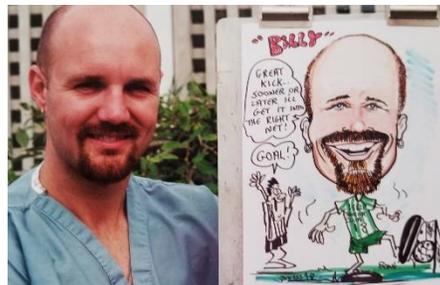


CARICATURES  
BY  
JOHN BURGESS

**John Burgess**  
Phone: 352-350-2511  
Email: [johnburgessart@aol.com](mailto:johnburgessart@aol.com)



John Burgess has been a professional caricature artist since 1965. He lives in the Village of Sable Chase since moving here from New York. He prefers to work in acrylic, pen & ink and markers. He and his work were featured on the Fox television program "Good Day New York." He has worked for major fairs and festivals, ranging from the Maine State Fair, the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, MA to the Broward County Fair in FL. He worked as a caricaturist at Oceans World in Ft Lauderdale for 13 years. John has also taught caricature and cartooning at the Lighthouse School of Art in Juno Beach, as well as the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach. For the past 32 years, he has worked as a caricaturist at Gosman's Dock Resort in Montauk, NY. His caricature and cartoon work have been used in a number of books, magazines and newspapers. In 2006, he added pet caricatures to his repertoire.





**Leslie Estroff**

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I started painting about 10 years ago when I retired after working for 33 years in the IT industry. I did landscapes in acrylic and some abstract painting in oil.

After I moved to The Villages (about 5 years ago) I attended one of the art fairs and saw some poured or fluid acrylic paintings. I was fascinated by them and started experimenting. With fluid acrylic you give up some control but gain an element of surprise. My husband and I live in the Village of Hillsborough and I enjoy golf and pickleball and am inspired daily by the beautiful environment that we live in.



**Carl Johnson**

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**[carlbonnie72@gmail.com](mailto:carlbonnie72@gmail.com)**

My wife and I lived in Michigan all of our lives and retired in Interlochen, Michigan prior to making the Village of Osceola Hills our permanent home three years ago. I have always had a strong desire/need to work in art. While I work with a variety of materials, clay is my primary medium. Although I enjoy making utilitarian pottery most of my work is expressive and meant to be visually appreciated. The thing I'm most influenced by is nature and life experiences. I work intuitively, relying on my senses and response to the clay.



I graduated with an M.F.A. from The University of Michigan. My career as an automotive clay sculptor with Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corporation allowed me work in and enjoy the medium of clay."



**Brock Wagner, DVM**

Phone: 812-350-1613

Email: [tallryder78@gmail.com](mailto:tallryder78@gmail.com)

Originally raised in Illinois, Brock moved to Columbus, IN in the '80s and enjoyed a career in veterinary medicine. In May, 2019 he moved to the Village of Lake Deaton permanently. Brock has worked in oil and crayon, enjoyed acrylic paint a lot. A favorite technique was an acrylic pour using a spatula to swipe and get the desired effect.



Who or what inspires Brock? His girlfriend Chris Miller and the work of artist John Beckley.





## The President's Message

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Good Morning to all. It's Sunday the 19 and I am getting a head start on my letter to you. We have a very busy February starting with Ground Hog Day, we always have 6 more weeks of winter in the mid-west but here in Florida we have a chance for an early spring.

Our meeting is the 7<sup>th</sup> and it is an IMPORTANT meeting I hope all of you or at least 50% of you will be present. We have to vote on the new Bylaws. It was a major clean-up job, giving us more flexibility with dates, times and names. Connie Giacobbe did a great job. Thank you, Connie.

We will be previewing the new registration form for our shows. We will start using the new form for the October Fine Art show. This form was changed again to give you and the VAA protection from possibilities that could arise. You need to know about these possibilities but it's up to you to choose to be aware or possibly protect yourself. Again, The VAA does not recommend you do anything it's strictly information you need to make an informed decision. This form was updated by Connie, Frank Zampardi and Bobbin Rubin. Thanks to all of you for your dedication to our VAA.

Now for some fun, Tim Totten will be presenting "A night with Wright." Mr. F.L. Wright was and still is the darling of the Architectural world. I hope all of you enjoy this presentation.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> will be the Winter Fine Art Show. You received an email from Jo Magram with a copy of the ad for the show, I hope you will make some copies for friends and your golf art. It looks like it is going to be a great day. I will be there in the afternoon being a monitor, I'm sure several of you will also be helping.

To round up the month we have Valentine's Day, a chance for candy and flowers or maybe dinner out with friends or sweetie.

See you on the 7<sup>th</sup>!  
Barb Justice, President

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*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*

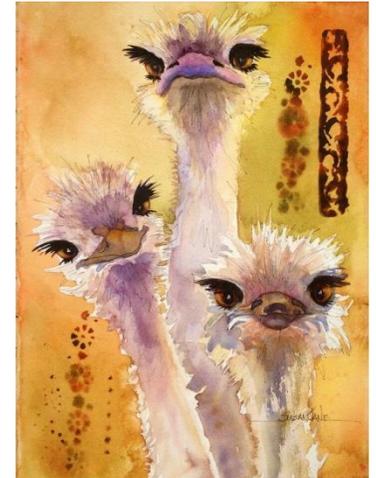


## Spotlight on You



### Susan Donohoe

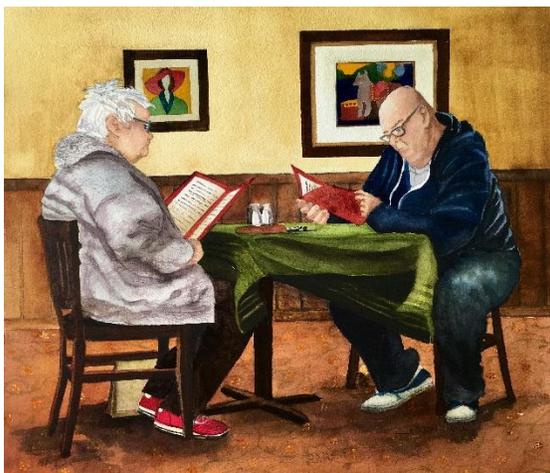
A visual story teller, the artist known as "SusanJane" seeks to elicit an emotional and intellectual response from the viewer with her paintings. Her characters, both human and animal have been described as "whimsical" and as "having attitude." They exude charming personalities that are meant to make you smile.



SusanJane Donohoe's painting process is mesmerizing to watch as she allows the water to carry the pigment over the surface of the paper, mingling one color with another to create new hues not obtainable by any other method.

Today Ms. Donohoe shares the lessons she has learned from the experts in watercolor with her students. Her highly sought-after workshops fill quickly. In them, she teaches The Basics of Watercolor covering the important topics of Brush Techniques, The Value of Values, Color Theory/Mixing and finally Composition. She also teaches weekly, bi-weekly and monthly classes that focus on a painting subject.

SusanJane's works can be found in several galleries, national watercolor exhibits and contests, and private collections in the USA and abroad.





## Scholarship News

The 2020 **Scholarship applications are out to all the public, private and charter schools in our area.** Packets have been sent to all senior level art teachers, art coordinators & administrators as needed. We also follow up with private art teachers, and local contacts, who may be aware of a candidate. **Applicants must be permanent residents of Lake, Marion or Sumter Counties,** and be applying for a college art major. **Applications are due March 7<sup>th</sup>.** They are also available on line at our VAA website. It is your hard work, gifts and donations that make these awards possible. Help us find our next class of VAA winners starting now!

**Big events are happening on our VAA Feb. Calendar!** The Winter Annex Exhibit is up first, and then the **Feb. Art Show 2/8/20 at Laurel Manor.** Scholarship will have a presence & fund raising opportunity that day. The Scholarship team is looking for extra volunteers that can help with sales, raffle opportunities, and Scholarship Café support. **If you are not going to be in the show, we would love to have your help.** Show Chair Jo Magram, and her team, do a wonderful job and are great supporters for our Scholarship cause. Also, Scholarship is **again happy to announce that our major donor & creative partner, KC Productions, will be joining us (midday) to entertain with selections from "GREASE," their spring production.** Tickets for Grease will also be raffled that day!

We are always very appreciative of donations of large art/photography, unique luxury items, and gift certificates and restaurant cards. They are tax deductible...and **Thank you to those who have already contributed.**

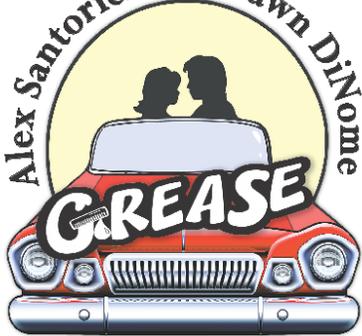
As we head into a new year our team continues to look for art event & fund raising possibilities. Many of our best ideas and items come from you.... our members. Also, **major financial gifts and memorials are tax deductible.**

Looking forward to seeing you all on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.  
It's going to be a fun time ...and A GREAT SHOW!

Please call with any ideas and volunteer support 352 561 4474

*Helen Poor and the VAA Scholarship Team*



KC PRODUCTIONS  
*presents*  
Alex Santoriello • Dawn DiNome  
  
**GREASE**  
*also starring*  
• Tony Brown • Brynn Neal  
• Clark Barrios • Mark Stephen Schmidt  
March 24, 25 and 26, 2020  
The Savannah Center

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The following VAA members had paintings that were selected by nationally-recognized watercolor artist and judge for this show, Carrie Waller, to participate in the **Florida Watercolor Society 2020 Online Show**:

Nancy Dias	<i>"Tilting at Windmills"</i>
Martha Ayotte	<i>"All My Friends are Manatees"</i>
Cheri Ptacek	<i>"Crab Walk"</i>
Peggy Lefebvre	<i>"Sumaya"</i>

FWS is the largest watercolor society in the nation with almost 1,000 members. It is an honor to be selected for this show. You can view the Online Show for the entire 2020 year at [floridawatercolorsociety.org/online-show/#!](http://floridawatercolorsociety.org/online-show/#!)



## Banner Artist Reveal

The three paintings displayed in the banner on the front page of this newsletter were created by the following VAA artists:

First Painting:	"Coral Reef"	Doris Glapion
Second Painting:	"Water Lily"	Carol Reynolds
Third Painting:	"Napoleon House"	Diane Page

## This Month's Program

Our February 7th program will be *"Night with Wright"* about the life and work of a man named "America's greatest architect of all times" by the American Institutes of Architects, Mr. **Frank Lloyd Wright**. Mr. Tim Totten has studied Mr. Wright's life and works when his mother gave him a book about Mr. Wright when he was a 13 year-old after expressing an interest in architecture.

Mr. Totten is a well-known story teller, who also created and presents the popular Lake County series, "Living Legends of Lake County." He directs "Amazing Race for Charity" based in his home town of Eustis, Florida. He is managing partner and head product designer for Final Embrace, LLC and a part of a company "Fun Ventures."

In 25 years he has done research in hundreds of books, documentaries and TV specials, visited 200 F.L.Wright designed structures and still feels the joy and wonder he experienced as a 13 yr-old boy. It is this joy that drives his entertaining lecture series about the life and work of his favorite architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

## Spring Show – La Galleria

### A Call to Villages Artists

Did you know that 3 times a year you can hang your work in a gallery setting that is judged by experienced, educated artists from around the country?

Our next La Galleria Show will hang **March 14, 2020**. The registration forms and instructions are now on the VAA website under forms. The following awards will be given: 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$75.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$50.00.



(Note: In addition to judging the La Galleria Spring show, Marie Natale will be teaching a three-day workshop at Village Art Center on March 16, 17 and 18.)

Following is the bio for Marie:

**Marie Natale** started painting at the age of twelve encouraged by a teacher who recognized her early potential. Marie developed her talent through high school then went on to receive a Master's degree in Art Education from Rowan University. Thus, began a lifelong love affair with creativity and art, which has manifested in a variety of achievements. An early advocate of art education for children of all ages, Marie taught in the public school system for ten years, and won the acclaimed "Teacher of the Year Award".

Marie is also a businesswoman who founded Paw Togs/Enchanted Beginnings, a designer clothing line for infants and children. After successfully running this business for 10 years, Marie turned her attention to industrial design, creating gift products and plant containers distributed world wide via national chains such as Walmart, Lowes, K-mart and others. Marie designed and painted covers for Exit Zero Magazine in Cape May, and Ocean City Magazine in Ocean City, both located in NJ. Her work is published in "Splash 14- Best in Watercolor 2013 and Splash 17- Best in Watercolor 2016, North Light Books.

A Signature Member of the Noyes Museum in Galloway, Marie has been exhibited in and captured many awards for her watercolors both locally and on the National level. Marie was awarded the Gold Medal of Honor in Aquamedia by Audubon Artists Inc. in 2013, and Silver Medal winner in 2018. Marie currently teaches watercolor privately at her home studio as well as at the Ocean City Art Center in Ocean City, in Gloucester County, Cape May and at community centers and art guilds throughout the East Coast and abroad. Sharing knowledge of art theory and design as well as techniques in this exciting medium brings Marie full circle to her early training with a Master Degree in Art Education.

A signature member of both NJWCS and Philadelphia WCS, Marie Natale is an award winning and highly recognized artist who says her goal in life is to use her talents to make the world a brighter place while she continues to share with others the joy that art has brought into her life. Marie works in her studio at home in EHT, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Billie Edwards

## Last Month's Program Presenter

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Mindy Lighthipe gave a wonderful presentation at last month's meeting. She is a naturalist, botanical illustrator and wildlife painter.

We all enjoyed her discussion and it's fair to say she held our attention the entire time!

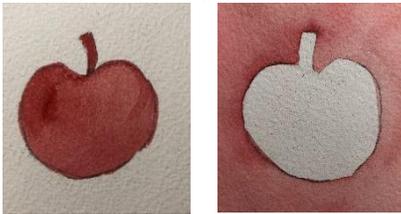




## Conversations with Martha Ayotte

### Negative Painting Technique

To begin with, every scene that you paint is made up of both negative and positive space. Positive space is the subject itself. Negative space is the area around and in between your subject. For example; if you paint an apple, the apple (subject) would be the positive space and the background would be the negative space.



If you wanted to paint the apple with the negative technique, you would just paint all around the apple (background), and keep the apple the white of the paper. You still have the image of the apple without actually painting it. You are basically pulling an object or image out from the background by covering the background with colors to reveal the image in the foreground.

You can use this technique in one layer as you see in the before and after photos. Negative paint was added in the sky and to define the trees.



Or in many layers using a darker value or hue in each layer.

Multiple layers are especially useful in backgrounds for leaves. This gives depth to your painting and a more 3-dimensional look. I painted 5 or 6 layers in this painting of palm leaves.



You can use negative painting in different stages of your work. In the planning stage, you would use this in your first washes to preserve the



whites of the paper, or in the last stages to develop new shapes or add depth by painting a deeper color over a previously painted area, as seen in the trees above.



When painting multiple layers, you can paint each layer all the way out to the edge of the paper. Or you can just soften the edges of each layer.

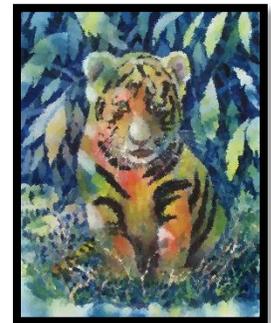
Using masking fluid is also a way to create negative technique. Mask out your lighter areas and paint over the masking with a darker color. This nest was painted with alternating layers of darker paint and masking fluid. At the very end you remove all the masking fluid.



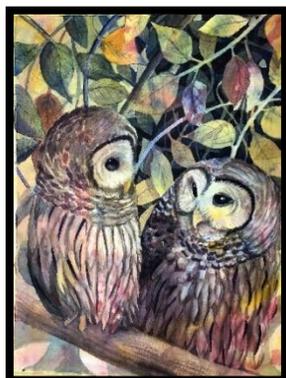
You have probably already used negative painting without realizing you did. If you have ever painted the sky around the clouds, or painted a picket fence by painting the space around the fence, you have used this technique.

If you have some old paintings that need a boost, try adding some negative painting to them. Here is a before and after photo of a tiger I painted for my grandchildren.

Watercolor is not the only medium for negative painting. When you use oil or acrylic paint negative painting is usually in a lighter color. For example when painting a tree in front of a bright sky, you can negative paint the light shining through the trees with the lighter sky color.



Here are some photos showing step-by-step the layering process.



If you want to know more about negative painting, there are some great resources on the internet. Linda Kemp has some great books on Negative Painting: "Watercolor: Painting Outside the Lines", and Lian Quan Zhen's videos. YouTube has some excellent step-by-step videos also.



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## Events & Opportunities

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**Village Art Workshops** is providing the most comprehensive line up of nationally known artists in its history, and March is proving to be an outstanding presentation of artists including Bob Burridge, March 3-6; David Lobenberg, March 8-10; Marie Natale, March 16-18; Soon Warren, March 23-26, and last but certainly not least, Jennifer Stone, March 30-April 1.

Village Art Center and Village Art Workshops are located adjacent to The Villages at 10935 SE 177th Place, Suite 406-407 in Summerfield, making it a convenient art destination for Villagers.

We invite you to learn from these master artists right here in The Villages at Village Art Center and take your art skills to the next level. Visit our website at <http://www.villageartworkshops.com> or call Wanda Boyd at (804) 536-1794 today to register.

**Coming this spring**, Village Art Center will expand its offerings with a "Learn to Paint" program that includes beginner art lessons in watercolor and acrylic. Starting in April, they will also provide fun paint parties twice a month for kids ages six to eleven.

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## Note from the Editor

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After volunteering her efforts to the "Banner Art" and "Spotlight" sections of this newsletter for a very long time, Dianne Zalewski has decided to step down. I want to recognize and thank Darlene Hayes for stepping up to the plate to take over this position! I know she will do a great job.

As Ellen Zellwege has also stepped down from contributing to the "3D Artist" section, we are looking for someone to take over her position. This would involve highlighting a 3D artist once every 3 months. If you are interested, please let me know.

Cheri Ptacek, Editor



## Bulletin Board



PO Box 1655  
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655  
[visualartsassociation.com](http://visualartsassociation.com)

### CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

**Friday, February 7**  
1:00 pm, Seabreeze  
VAA General Meeting

**Saturday, February 8** \*  
Winter Show, Laurel Manor

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** \*  
ARTS at Lake Sumter

**Saturday, October 10** \*  
Fall Show, Rohan

**Sunday, October 11** \*  
ARTS at Brownwood Paddock Square

**Sunday, December 13** \*  
ARTS at Spanish Springs

\* indicates show or exhibit activity

### VAA Executive Board

President	Barb Justice	barbjustice@centurylink.net
Vice Pres	Catherine Sullivan	cnjsullivan@aol.com
Secretary	Marilyn Wright	marilynwr555@comcast.net
Treasurer	Billie Edwards	billieedwards@gmail.com

### Past Presidents

Lee Asta  
Marge McQueston  
Frank Zampardi  
Nan Kohr

### Appointed Members

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Helen Poor  
Bobbi Ruben  
Sally LaBaugh  
Janeen Whetstone

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**Cheri Ptacek**, Editor  
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### Next Meeting

February 7 @ 1:00 PM  
Daytona/New Smyrna Room  
Seabreeze Recreation Center