Visual Arts Association

Hues News

December 2026

Happy Holidays!

Connie Chandler, Newsletter Editor



May this holiday season

bring you peace, joy,

and special moments

with those you love.



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Nan's Notes

Nan Kohr, President

> A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.
>
> (Herm Albright)

In all seriousness, sometimes when I begin a painting, I start out excited. Then poof!! Reality stops me cold. So I turn the paper over or use sandpaper to remove the paint and start again.... This time, using my positive thinking, I realize it doesn't have to look perfect! It can just be an expression of my madness. (You thought I was going to be serious?). Still yet, it has been my experience that positive thinking, mixed with some humor, works!

What might your positive thinking unleash in your art world?



At the VAA meeting on Friday, December 4th, we will present a special award to a special member! Come see who!

December 12th is another opportunity to show off a masterpiece at the La Galleria. Come join us!

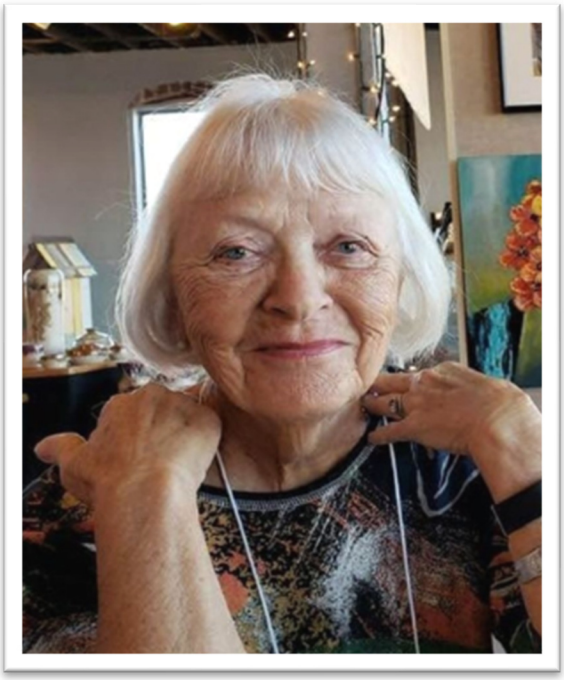
December -- with all kinds of Joyfulness -- leads us into 2027.

Nan Kohr, President
Eileen Sklon, Vice President
Raymonde Winans, Secretary
Bob Schutte, Treasurer



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Remembering Marilyn Bachelor



Marilyn L. Bachelor, 87, of Hubbard Lake, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, October 4, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Marilyn was a gifted and accomplished artist. She enjoyed painting in watercolor, oils, and acrylics, and her talent took her work far beyond her own home. She was a founding member of the Northeast Michigan Artist Guild and a member of the Visual Arts Association, as well as the International Society of Experimental Artists, where she earned the distinguished status of Nautilus Fellow. Her artwork was exhibited in numerous locations, including the Sloan Museum in Flint and in Washington, D.C.

Marilyn often showed her art in the Artists 'Round the Square and the big shows. Both she and her husband helped with the Scholarship Café at our big shows.

Her husband will be donating her art supplies to our Membership auction in February.

Learn more about Marilyn's wonderful life using the link below:

https://www.gilliesfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/marilyn-bachelor

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Programs

Carol O'Brien, Programs



The VAA Holiday Party will be held on Friday, December 4, during the general membership meeting!!

The guest speaker for the January 8th meeting is Carol O'Brien, demonstrating paper flower art.

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In the Spotlight

Jo Magram



Annette Jaret

Annette Jaret is a visual artist based in the Hudson Valley, New York, and The Villages, Florida. Primarily focusing on abstract and impressionist painting, Jaret considers her work to be part of the intuitive art genre. While Jaret was classically trained, she is now more focused on approaching her work with the gestural feeling of color, form and line. Through this process, she feels less restricted in her creative practice.

Studying under Anthony Trujillo at the age of 14, Jaret learned how to draw and paint traditionally. In her teen years, she took figure drawing classes at Parsons School of Design, then attending Pratt Institute, majoring in painting and minoring in jewelry making.

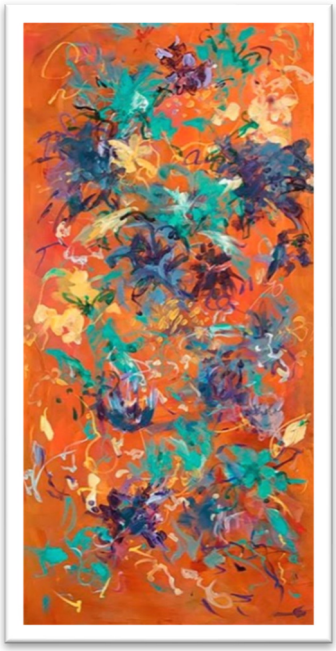
After graduating, Jaret traveled to London for a year before returning to NYC, and building a career as a costume jewelry designer. She resumed her art practice, moving from oil painting to watercolors and multimedia collage. Always interested in photography, Jaret honed her photoshop skills, and through this medium created another type of one dimensional collage.

For over a decade, she collaged leftover prints into a series of treescapes. When the pandemic hit, Jaret experienced a supply chain issue securing Asian papers, and this ultimately led her back to painting, her first love. Today, Jaret focuses on creating depth through layers of light and color in her work.

Jaret has been represented by HV Finds Gallery, Gallery @ Rhinebeck, Riverwinds in Beacon, NY, Artisans of Lake Avenue in FL. She has exhibited with various art groups as NAWA, WAAM, BWAC, Arts society of Kingston and WITVA in Florida and exhibited extensively in the Hudson Valley.







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Conversations

Jane Furr Davis

Oh, I Could Make That!

There is something about the festive holiday season that seems to bring out a rather peculiar habit in artists.

We see something lovely in a shop window, a beautifully decorated package, an unusual ornament, or perhaps a particularly interesting greeting card. Most people would admire it, perhaps buy it, and go happily on their way.

But artists? Well, we have a slightly different reaction.

“Oh, I could make that!”

And then comes the really dangerous thought.

“Actually, I could make it a little differently…”

And off we go!

Suddenly we're buying supplies, clearing off a work surface, looking up techniques we haven't tried before, and spending six hours creating something we could have purchased for $12.95.

And we're quite pleased with ourselves!

I have to admit that I've done this more than once. About five years ago, after taking a drawing class, I decided I could make little paintings for my brothers, children, and friends scattered around the country. That first year, everyone received a red cardinal in a snowy garden scene. The next year it was a garden squirrel, followed by a garden fairy. Then I turned, mercifully, to abstraction!

(continued)

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Conversations

Jane Furr Davis

And now it's become something of a tradition. This year I'm making fourteen little abstract paintings using ink and acrylic. I've even increased their size from four inches square to six because the compositions seem to need a little more breathing room. They need to be in the mail in early December, and at the moment, I'm considerably behind schedule.

Fourteen paintings! Whatever possessed me? Well, I know exactly what possessed me. It's that same impulse that started the whole thing. The pleasure of imagining something and then making it, especially when it's intended for someone else.

We don't just see things as they are. We see what they might ***become***. A ribbon isn't simply a ribbon. It might suggest a line in a painting. The colors in a holiday display might become an entirely new combination to explore. Even the lights reflected in a shop window can send our thoughts off in unexpected directions.

Of course, this isn't limited to painters. Those who work with clay, glass, fabric, paper, flowers, or any number of materials probably recognize the same impulse. We see possibilities everywhere, sometimes in the most unlikely places. And during the holidays, when there is already so much to do, those possibilities can become rather ambitious!

Still, there is something especially satisfying about making something for another person. Perhaps it isn't quite perfect. Perhaps it takes far longer than we expected. But along the way, we've put a little of ourselves into it, along with the pleasure of creating it.

And I know what will happen the next time I see something particularly appealing in a shop. I'll look at it, admire it, and think … "Oh, I could make that!"

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Fall Festival of Art Results

Carol O'Brien / Raymonde Winans

The Fall Festival Co-chairs, Raymonde Winans and Carol O'Brien, would like to thank all the volunteers and participants in this year's successful show.

Just days before the show, heavy rain caused roof leaks at Rohan Rec Center, requiring the closing of the large stage room. The rec center scrambled to reposition space in the remaining rooms. Crisis averted for the 42 participating artists!

The annual VAA shows serve two purposes. One, they are a venue for art sales. But they are also critical fund-raising events for the Scholarship Fund. This year there were over 30 extremely clever donated faux pumpkins and more than a dozen pieces of original art for visitors to choose from. Purchases generated a final tally of $1,015 for scholarships.

This year we were very short on volunteers for the day of the show. In the future, we ask you to consider donating a half or full day of your time as show monitor, at the donated items tables, or at the scholarship café table. The Winter show is on Saturday, February 13th.

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Photo Frame

Tony DeSantis

Nan Kohr

Once upon a time when snorkeling and viewing the splendor of underwater sea life, I wondered if I could play a god and make improvements to my photo of green coral.



Using gel with acrylic paint, I brushed over my original photo with color and brush strokes to enhance it. Now take a bite of a "Green Apple." It will not taste as good as what the gods might offer! But it is not a poisoned apple!



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Opportunities

Wanda Boyd

FINISH THE YEAR CREATIVELY AT VILLAGE ART WORKSHOPS!

Two December workshops and an exciting lineup of nationally recognized artists coming in 2027!

There's still time to squeeze a little more painting into 2026! Whether you'd like to explore a new technique or strengthen your watercolor fundamentals, we've got two terrific opportunities coming up.

December 3–4 | Pen & Wash with Lionel Sanchez

Discover how expressive ink lines and transparent watercolor washes work together to create paintings full of character. Learn to simplify your subjects, establish structure with pen, and bring scenes to life with color and atmosphere.

December 10–12 | Watercolor Boot Camp with Wanda Boyd

Ready to get serious about learning watercolor? This three-day workshop covers washes, brushwork, color mixing, water control, and planning a painting from start to finish. Designed especially for beginners, with **all painting supplies included!**

Coming in January!

January 18–20 | Lynn D. Pratt — Box of Dreams



Learn to create striking realism in watercolor as you paint colorful crayons nestled in worn cardboard boxes. Explore dramatic dark backgrounds, luminous highlights, convincing textures, and the careful layering that gives Lynn's paintings their remarkable depth.

January 25–26 | Laurie Goldstein-Warren, AWS — Textures



Break away from traditional watercolor and explore exciting abstract compositions, rich surfaces, and unexpected textures. A wonderful opportunity to experiment and discover new creative possibilities!

Make 2027 the year you try something new! Explore workshop descriptions, view project paintings, and register at www.villageartworkshops.com.

Village Art Workshops —
Serious art instruction for serious people, without ego.



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Members Gallery



"Mikey and the Bears"
Mike Daley
Oil on Masonite



"Christmas in Florida"
Nan Kohr
Watercolor



"Irises"
Virginia Rupy
Oil on Canvas



"Party with Old Friends"
Janine Motto
Watercolor

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Members Gallery



"Graceful Beauty"
Sevil Morris
Watercolor



"Yellow Roses"
Carol O'Brien
Paper



"Spoonbill on a Stump"
Maria Flynn
Colored Pencil



"Ephemeral Blossom"
Sevil Morris
Watercolor

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Members Gallery



"Big Belgians"
Cheryl Abelson
Watercolor



"Cherished Memories"
Cheri Ptacek
Watercolor



"Grandpa's Hat"
Connie Chandler
Colored Pencil



Strut Your Stuff!

To include your art in next month's Members Gallery, please send a good photo (jpeg) of your art (unframed, if possible) before **December 20th** to Connie Chandler, VAA Newsletter Editor, at connie.chandler@gmail.com.

Please include your name, title of the artwork, and art medium.

This is a chance to show us the art you've been working on!

No judging ... just showing off!!

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Bulletin Board





Calendar at a Glance

December 4, Friday — **Board Meeting & Holiday Party!**
Sea Breeze Rec Center
2384 Buena Vista Blvd
11:00 – 12:30 1:00 - 3:00

December 5, Saturday — **Pick up artwork at Sheriff's Annex**
8033 E County Rd 466
(and Morse Blvd)
8:00 – 10:30

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 8, Friday — **Board Meeting & General Meeting**
Sea Breeze Rec Center
2384 Buena Vista Blvd
11:00 – 12:30 1:00 - 3:00

VAA Board Members

President	Nan Kohr	kohr240@gmail.com
Vice Pres	Eileen Sklon	eyesklon@icloud.com
Secretary	Raymonde Winans	rp.winans@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Schutte	rschutte100@gmail.com

Appointed Board Members
Communications - Cheri Ptacek
Membership – Suzy Burlock
New Member Liaison – Jo Magram
Newsletter Editor - Connie Chandler
Programs - Carol O'Brien
Scholarship - Helen Poor
Webmaster - Christine Roberts

Past Presidents
Lee Asta
Marge McQueston
Frank Zampardi
Nan Kohr
Catherine Sullivan

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

VAA Fiscal Year:
January 1 through December 31

ANNUAL DUES ARE $15 AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP FORM!

Membership forms are available on the VAA website (www.visualartsassociation.com) or at the Membership table during a monthly meeting.

NOTE: Participation in VAA events requires that your dues are current.

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