



Nan's Notes

Nan Kohr, President

Going My Way? Hop on the bus going to the September 4th meeting at **FISH HAWK** Recreation Center.

We're gearing up for the Fall Festival of Art on October 10th at Rohan Recreation Center. Creativity and purpose come together as we prepare faux pumpkins for the Pumpkin Patch to raise monies for the VAA Scholarship Fund. Get ideas for your own contribution to the Pumpkin Patch during the September meeting.

During the summer break, the VAA Bylaws were reviewed, and recommended changes will be seen in the October newsletter, then voted upon at the November Membership Meeting. Mostly, the changes are so the Bylaws are in line with the change of the VAA fiscal year to the first of January 2027.



Show dates for the Fall season of 2026:

September 5	Sheriff's Annex
September 12	La Galleria @ Hacienda (pick-up only)
October 10	Fall Festival of Art @ Rohan Recreation Center
December 5	Sheriff's Annex
December 12	La Galleria @ Hacienda (submit artwork)

We have an opportunity to be of great value to the VAA! We need a chair for Membership who will greet and assist members at meetings, while updating membership communication information. Collecting annual dues for the Treasurer in January 2027 will be a busy time! Consider being an important part of our team!

Your seat on the bus is reserved!!

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



Welcome New Members

Jo Magram, New Member Liaison



Ellen Kirwan

Joined in January 2026

Ellen moved to The Villages in March 2025 and set up an art studio in her home.

She plays pickleball, water volleyball, golf and cards.

She works in acrylic, collage, and mixed media (oil and cold wax).



Connie Chandler

Joined in January 2026

Connie moved to The Villages over 20 years ago. She was the original Secretary of the Colored Pencil Painters Guild in 2011 and remained a member until 2025.

She is the current VAA Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor.

She works in colored pencil and watercolor.



Suzy Burlock

Joined in May 2026

Suzy was a Financial Analyst for years at Dollar Tree and the Villages Health.

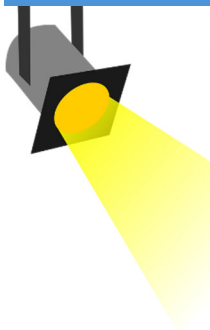
She is from New Hampshire and just recently retired.

She works in graphite, watercolor, and ink.



In the Spotlight

Jo Magram

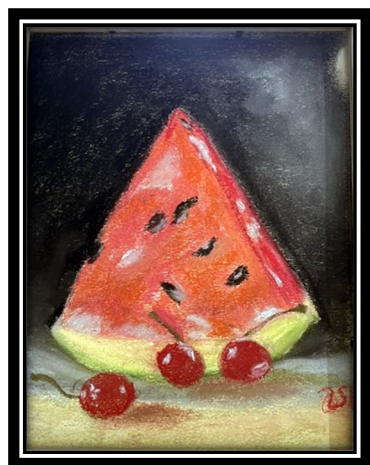


Virginia Rupy

I wanted to share a bit about my journey with art, which has truly become a passion of mine. I find myself in a meditative state within just a few minutes of picking up a brush.

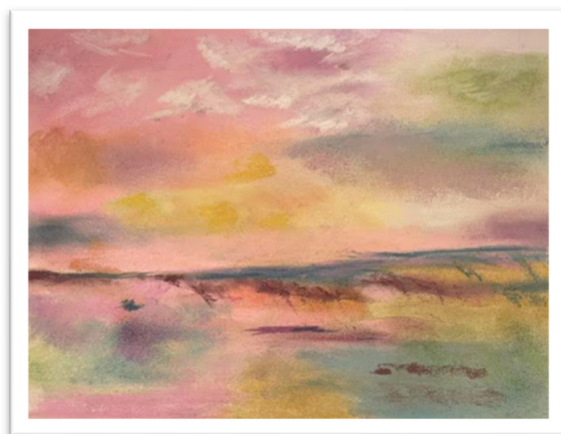
This all started in 1998 when my almost 90-year-old mother suggested that I was an artist and don't know it. At the time, I told her I could never paint because I couldn't draw, even though I had grown up surrounded by her love of art, books, and beautiful artwork. Despite my doubts, she made me promise to try.

Fast forward to 2010, when we moved to The Villages and I noticed an art class listing titled "Oil Painting for the Terrified." Remembering my promise to my mother, I decided to sign up. I absolutely loved it and went on to take lessons for six years.



Today, about a third of my paintings fill my home, another third have been gifted to family and friends, and the rest are stored in my closet, never to see the light of day! While I have sold a few, I usually prefer to gift them to people who show an interest.

I enjoy painting a wide variety of subjects in both oil and pastel, including flowers, seascapes, landscapes, fruit, foliage, and animals. Creating art has truly become a beautiful gift in my twilight years.

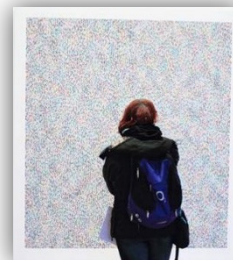




Conversations

Jane Furr Davis

Learning to See Again



Lately, I've been thinking a lot about seeing.

Not in the artistic sense, although that is certainly part of it. I've just had cataract surgery on my right eye, with the second eye still to come. It's a procedure that so many people have experienced and almost everyone I mention it to has a story to tell.

Most of those stories seem to include something about color.

"Just wait until you see the colors!"

Well ... now I'm beginning to understand what they meant. For the moment, I have the rather strange experience of being able to compare one eye with the other. And I'm quite startled by the difference. There's more light. Blues are brighter. In fact, the translucent colors I've been using in my paintings seem brighter. One painting I'd been questioning suddenly looks quite pleasing to me. Now isn't that interesting!

I've spent years learning to notice color. The subtle shifts between warm and cool. The way one color changes when it's placed beside another. The glow of transparent paint over silver. I know the colors I reach for almost without thinking. Or at least ... I thought I did.

I have about six recent paintings created with much the same palette, and now I find myself looking at them all again. Not changing them. Just looking. What am I seeing now, through my new eye, that perhaps I previously wasn't seeing? It's a peculiar thing for an artist to discover that the artwork hasn't changed at all. Instead, the eye looking at it has.

Artists spend so much time learning how to see. We notice light, shape, color, texture, edges, spaces. Whatever our medium, looking is such an ordinary part of what we do that perhaps we don't think very much about the eyes doing all that work. That is, until something changes.

My second surgery is still ahead, so this story isn't finished. I don't know what my paintings will look like when both eyes are seeing the same way again. I'm hopeful, certainly, but mostly I'm curious.

And perhaps that's the part I want to hold onto.

As artists, we spend our lives looking, but what we see isn't fixed. Our work changes. We change. Sometimes, apparently, our eyes change, too.

Maybe that's one of the quiet gifts of being an artist.

We never really stop learning how to see.



Photo Frame

Tony DeSantis

My Love of Painterly Photographic Images

By Eileen Sklon

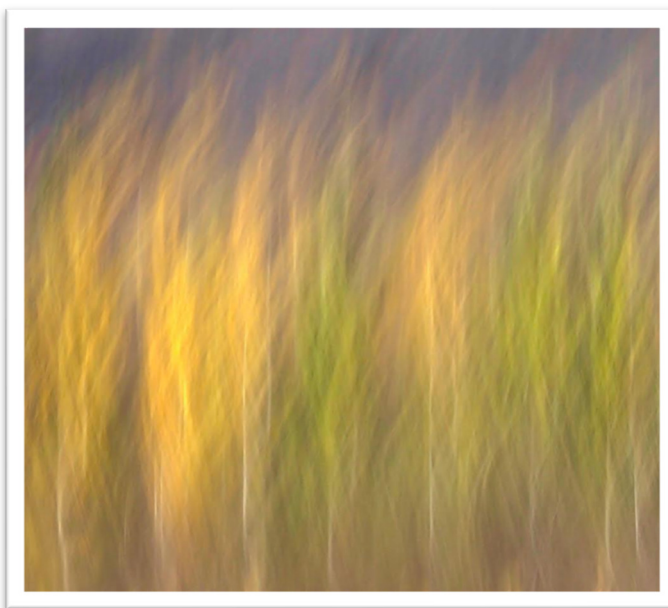
I have been a photographer for over 50 years. I enjoyed shooting with many different film types, which each gave different looks. I went from fast-speed/grainy film to tack-sharp slide film. I had a black-and-white darkroom and loved creating many different images in the darkroom.

I also loved doing Polaroid transfers and emulsion lifts. There were so many creative ways to produce images using different techniques.

After learning how to use a totally manual camera and creating perfect images, I became bored with that. I started searching for ways to make my images more creative/artsy. I was lucky to have had Freeman Patterson and Andre Galant as mentors early on. They introduced me to my love of ICM (Intentional Camera Movement). Once I perfected ICM, I never looked back. ICM has been my love for many years. I also teach it in workshops and presentations at photography clubs. I really enjoy sharing and teaching my love of Impressionistic Photography!

Using ICM, you need a slow shutter, a stopped-down aperture, and a neutral density filter. These settings give you the time to move the camera the way you want to get to create an impressionistic look. My favorite ICM topics are trees, flowers, and people walking.

I hope you enjoy my ICMs!





La Galleria Exhibit Winners

Kathy Karol and Doris Glapion

First Place
Marcella Martin
Watercolor



Second Place
Susie Schreiber
Watercolor



Third Place
Maureen Terrien
Photography



Honorable Mention
Kathleen Karol
Pastel



Honorable Mention
Victoria Peterson
Colored Pencil





Fall Arts Festival

Raymonde Winans and Carol O'Brien



Fall Festival of Art Show Special Announcement

As the days of August come to an end and we welcome the start of Fall, it's not too early to start thinking about the Fall Festival of Art Show, October 10th at Rohan Rec Center. This is a great opportunity to show your talents or support.

Registration forms and information are available on the Website. Priority registration begins September 8, 2026, and regular registration begins September 15, 2026.

Other ways to participate in the Fall Festival are to sign up as a show monitor, help with the scholarship café, or do-it-yourself table. We also need decorated faux pumpkins and donated art to sell to help support the scholarship fund. It takes many members to make it a successful show, so please think about being involved in some way. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting or you may contact Carol O'Brien or Raymonde Winans. Each and every one of you is an important member to the VAA. Thank you.





Opportunities

Wanda Boyd

Village Art Workshops – Continuing Your Artistic Journey

One of the best parts of being an artist is realizing there's always something new to learn. Whether you're exploring a new medium, refining your watercolor techniques, or simply looking for fresh inspiration, Village Art Workshops offers opportunities to continue growing alongside other artists who share your passion.

Our 2026–2027 season features nationally recognized instructors, including **Janet Rogers, Jane Slivka, Lynn Ferris, Jodi Ohl, Cynthia Knox and more**, along with outstanding local instructors teaching watercolor, pen and wash, acrylics, mixed media, alcohol ink, perspective drawing and other classes.

We believe in **serious art instruction for serious people—without ego**. Our classes are intentionally welcoming and supportive, with instructors who enjoy teaching and students who encourage one another. Whether you're taking your first workshop or your fiftieth, you'll find a place to challenge yourself, make new friends, and enjoy the creative process.

If you've been thinking about trying something new or taking your artwork to the next level, we'd love to welcome you.

For our complete schedule, visit **VillageArtWorkshops.com**.



Village Art Workshops

Serious instruction. Real progress. A community that gets it.



Annex Exhibit

Catherine Sullivan

Reminder ...

The VAA Annex Exhibit is September 5, 2026 – December 5, 2026

The deadline for receiving all Entry Forms is Friday, September 4.

To download the most current Annex Exhibit Registration Form and, most importantly, the current Rules for this Exhibit, go to the VAA Website (www.visualartsassociation.com) and click the Menu option "A Call to Artists."

Mail or deliver your entry form to Catherine Sullivan at 3081 Batally Court, The Villages, FL 32162. You can also email your signed form to cnjsullivan@aol.com.

I'll be happy to respond to any questions or concerns you may have regarding this Exhibit. **Get 'er Done!**

Catherine Sullivan
Annex Exhibit Chair



Members Gallery



"Sharon's Art Stage"
Susie Schreiber
Watercolor



"The Desert Rose"
Ralph Bischoff
Photography



"Observation"
Jo Magram
Oil



"Flamingos"
Jane Bowman
Colored Pencil



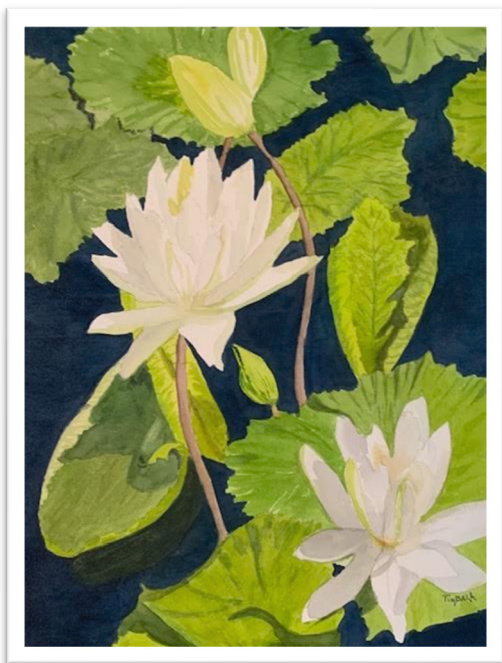
Members Gallery



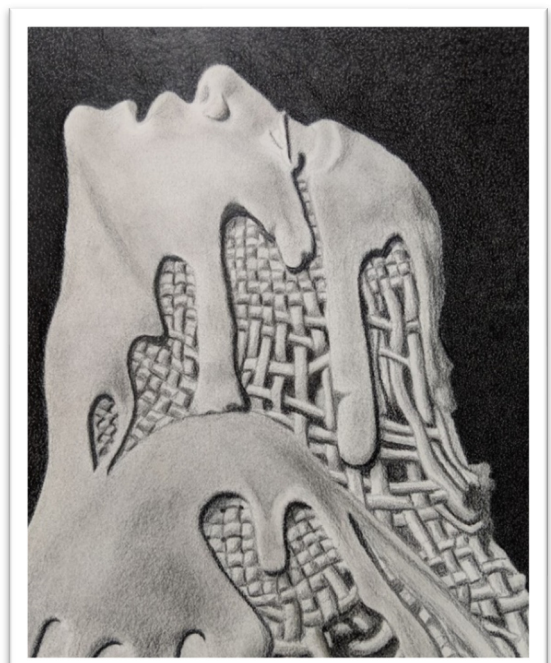
"American Pride"
Sevil Morris
Watercolor



"Happiness Is You"
Lisa Melcher
Acrylic



"Water Lily Serenity"
Janice Tindall
Watercolor



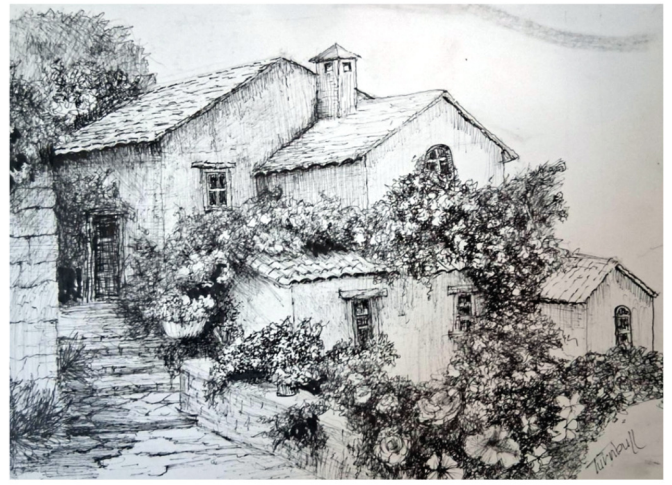
"Siesta Key Sandy"
Connie Chandler
Colored Pencil



Members Gallery



"Perfect Day"
Raymonde Winans
Acrylic



"Italian Villa"
Sandy Turnbull
Pen and Ink



"Makawao Store, Up Country Maui"
Nan Kohr
Watercolor



"Dream"
Doris Glapion
Oil



Members Gallery



"Low Tide"
Ellen Kirwan
Acrylic Multi-Media



"Autumn at Lake Sumter"
Leda Rabenold
Acrylic



"Marsh Sentinel"
Maria Flynn
Acrylic



Strut Your Stuff!

If you would like to include your art in next month's Members Gallery, please send a good photo (jpeg) of your art (unframed, if possible) before September 15 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!!



Bulletin Board

Calendar at a Glance

Welcome Back!

September 4, Friday **Board Meeting & General Meeting**
Fish Hawk Rec Center 3:00 – 4:00 1:00 - 3:00
2318 Buttonwood Run

October 2, Friday **Board Meeting & General Meeting**
Sea Breeze Rec Center 11:00 – 12:30 1:00 - 3:00
2384 Buena Vista Blvd

October 10, Saturday **Fall Festival of Art**
Rohan Rec Center 9:00 - 3:00
850 Kristine Way

November 6, Friday **Board Meeting & General Meeting**
Sea Breeze Rec Center 11:00 – 12:30 1:00 - 3:00
2384 Buena Vista Blvd

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

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

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

Past Presidents

Lee Asta	Nan Kohr
Marge McQueston	Catherine Sullivan
Frank Zampardi	

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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