

Nan's Notes

Nan Kohr, President

2026 lies before you like a blank canvas, just dare yourself to dream and discover new possibilities. Then get busy transforming what you dream into what you feel. As you stand back you might cry; I'll make the bet you will be amazed. Happy New Year!

The first exciting event in 2026 is the VAA Winter Fine Art Show which happens on February 14th so we can celebrate Valentine's Day while remembering to put a little love on that blank canvas.

The February 6th Membership Meeting program will have blank canvases set around the room on easels. Each canvas will have a suggestion for a theme. You are invited to use your imagination to create upon another artist's work then rotate from canvas to canvas. The last 5 minutes trinkets can be added to the canvases. The final masterpieces will be entered into the March 14th La Galleria Exhibit without the judge's knowledge. It will be interesting to find out the judge's opinion. (or scary).

As we get into 2026, plan your art for the Annex Showcase on March 7th. Catherine Sullivan will have more to say about this venue viewed by our neighbors who are surprised and delighted to see local artwork. Welcome George Freeman as a special guest artist for the January Membership Meeting on January 2nd at Seabreeze. This will be a marvelous introduction in forming glass art!

Nan Kohr, president
Eileen Sklon, vice-president
Raymonde Winans, secretary
Bob Schutte, treasurer



Spotlight on you

Carol O'Brien

Donna Kindel



"Presidential"

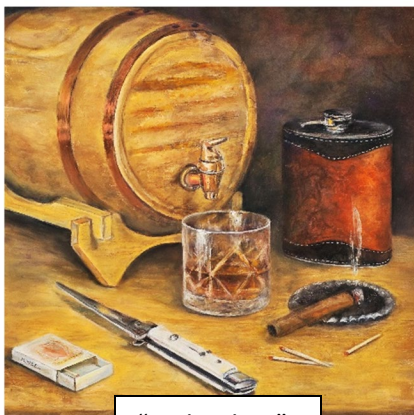
Art is where I get to tell a story that lets simple objects speak louder than words. I translate the world into color, shape, rhythm, and edges — into a drama of ordinary objects and the way light can turn a simple setup into a small universe.

I taught 7th and 8th grade Language Arts and Special Ed. Teaching taught me how to articulate what I see. I worked at Golf Digest and introduced the company to word processing and database management. Programming taught me how to break down a large problem into simple parts. But painting is where everything I've learned finally feels like it belongs.

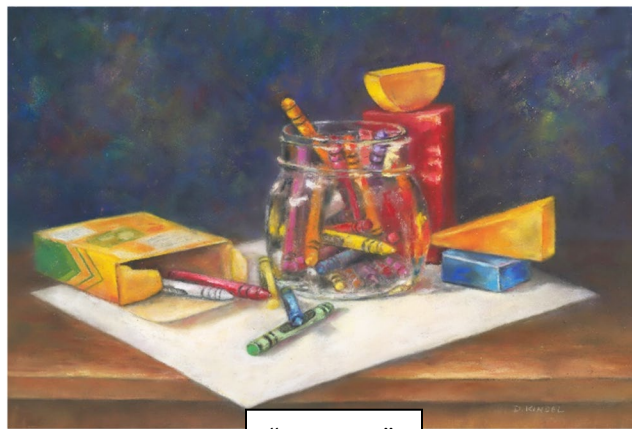
Still Life isn't static to me; it's a negotiation between control and surprise, patience and impulse, discipline and curiosity. I'm always chasing the same feeling: that electric "click" when a piece suddenly becomes alive — when the color harmony finally "sings," when the brushstroke lands exactly the way you meant it to, or better.

Painting gives me endless room to explore the quiet poetry of objects most people overlook. That's the thread running through my life — the part of me that never shuts off.

As an award-winning artist and current member of the Pastel Society of Central Florida, my paintings can be seen at Leesburg Center for the Arts. My paintings have been juried into several shows, and my work is in private collections nationwide from Connecticut and Florida to California.



"Bad Habits"



"First Day"



Conversations

Jane Furr Davis

Conversations: The Quiet Return Jane Furr Davis

After the holidays, there is often a moment when the house grows quieter, the decorations are put away, and the calendar looks suddenly spacious again. January arrives without much fanfare, and for many of us, that's exactly its gift. It's a time that doesn't ask us to rush, decide, or commit — only to return.

Returning to our creative spaces can feel surprisingly gentle. The table is just as we left it, the tools familiar in our hands. Brushes wait in their jars, pencils need sharpening, clay asks to be touched again, glass catches the light in a new way, and petals rest patiently until they are shaped once more. Nothing insists. Everything invites.

January isn't about starting over. It's about beginning again — and there's an important difference. We bring with us everything we learned, tried, and wondered about last year. Unfinished ideas don't disappear just because the calendar turns; they linger quietly, ready to be picked up when the time feels right. Sometimes the most honest way back into making is simply to sit, look around, and notice what still feels alive.

There can be comfort in small acts this month. Cleaning a work surface. Laying out materials. Touching a familiar medium without needing a plan. A few minutes of sketching, shaping, arranging, or experimenting can be enough to reopen the door. Creativity doesn't always announce itself with enthusiasm — often it returns softly, asking only for a little attention.

January also gives us permission to move slowly. Energy may come and go, and that's part of the season. Being an artist doesn't require constant productivity. It asks for presence, curiosity, and a willingness to listen. Sometimes the work ahead is still forming, not quite ready to speak, and that's okay.

As we settle into this new year, may your return to making be unhurried and kind. Whether you find yourself deeply engaged or simply preparing the ground for what comes next, trust that you are already on your way. The quiet return is still a beginning — and often, it's the one we need most.



MOREAN

ARTS CENTER

St. Petersburg, FL



\$99.00!

Wednesday March 11, 2026

- *A private, docent led tour of the Morean Arts Center !*
- *View the beautiful collection of Chihuly blown glass !*
- *Also included, a visit to the Morean glass studio !*
- *Enjoy a narrated, glass blowing demonstration !*
- *Visit the famous Mazzaro's Italian Market & Deli !*
- *Lunch: on your own - bring a cooler for take home treats !*
- *Deluxe, Ship & Shore motor coach transportation !*
- *Personalized V.I.P. service with onboard host/hostess !*

V.A.A.

For more information and reservations:

Mary Ann Delessio - 203-470-9881

mald2559@hotmail.com

Guest Speaker January 5 Meeting George Freeman Flamework



Flameworking is a specialized form of glassworking where artists use a torch to heat glass rods and tubes until they become soft and pliable. The process involves manipulating the molten glass with tools and hand movements to achieve the desired shape and design.

George retired from teaching physical education in 2002 from the town of Arlington, Massachusetts. Shortly before moving to the Villages in 2004, he took an introductory course in flameworking in Boston. The first few years he was making glass pendants and rings. In 2006 George met Dave Sandidge, a well-known artist in the glass community. At that time, Dave was doing glass demonstrations at Disney. After taking a few lessons for him, George started making glass sculptures. Growing up near the ocean and scuba diving, he mostly sculpts marine life. However, he has also been working on birds and flowers. After twenty plus years of flameworking, George says he is still learning and experimenting with glass.





In Loving Memory

Joan Picarelli



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of long-time member **Joan Picarelli** this past November. Joan was a vibrant and dedicated presence within the Visual Art Association, contributing her time and talents in ways that touched us all.

A Unique Artistic Vision

Joan was best known for her distinctive creative style. She drew deep inspiration from the works of **Itzchak Tarkay**, capturing elegant, contemplative figures with bold lines and a rich color palette. However, Joan made the style entirely her own by incorporating **mixed-media elements and assorted trinkets** into her pieces. These unique embellishments added texture and a whimsical, personal touch that made her artwork stand out at every showcase.

The Heart of Our Meetings

Beyond her art, Joan was a cornerstone of our community life. She was a constant, friendly face at our monthly meetings, where she:

- **Led the Refreshment Team:** Ensuring that our gatherings were warm and welcoming for everyone.
- **Managed the 50/50 Raffle:** Joan took pride in organizing the raffle and was always the one to share the excitement when handing out the winnings.

Joan's kindness, her creative spirit, and her willingness to serve will be deeply missed by her fellow artists and friends. Our thoughts are with her family during this difficult time.



Visual Arts Association Winter Fine Arts Show

**ARTISTS EXHIBITING TWO AND THREE DIMENSIONAL UNIQUE PIECES
FREE ADMISSION!**

**Saturday
Feb. 14th 2026
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Laurel Manor
Recreation
Center**

**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT
THE VAA ARTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Presented by the VAA and VCCDD

Member's Gallery



“Aussie’s 12 Apostles Beach”

Nan Kohr

Kohr23@gmail.com

If you would like to include your art
In the next month’s **Members Gallery**:

Send a good photo (jpeg) of your art (*one or two*)
Now or before January 23 to vaanewsletter@gmail.com

and include your **name, title of art, media**
(and your **email** if you would like feedback/critique)

Martha Ayotte at 508-215-6155
with questions



Bulletin Board



P. O. Box 964
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655

visualartsassociation.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

VAA Fiscal Year:

Sept 1 – Aug 31

Must complete form

on our website

Mail in with \$15 dues

(Or bring to a membership meeting)

***NOTE: Participation in VAA events
requires your dues are current**

VAA Board Members

President	Nan Kohr	kohr240@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Bob Schutte	rschutte100@gmail.com

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Marge McQueston
Frank Zampardi
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Catherine Sullivan

Appointed Board Members

Helen Poor, Scholarship
Martha Ayotte, Newsletter
Christine Roberts, Membership
Jo Magram, New Member Liaison
Carol O'Brien, Programs
Cheri Ptacek, Communications

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Membership Mtg

January 2nd, 1:00 pm

February 6th, 1:00 pm

Seabreeze Rec Center

★ February 14th 9am-3pm VAA Winter
Fine Arts Show Laurel Manor

★ indicates show or exhibit activity

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Sunshine Committee Ellen Cora