Visual Arts Association
The Villages Florida

Newsletter
VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION OF THE VILLAGES
May 2026

Nan's Notes

Nan Kohr, President

May the month of May inspire you to start a Masterpiece! Now finish it within the month of May! (Sorry I can't help silly).

Still there is no silliness in honoring three well deserved, dedicated VAA members into the Forever More Honorary Membership.

Mike Daley knows his colors!
Bev Hennessey has invited us into valuable workshops.
Lisa Woodward always has a designed scarf for us.

Each one has inspired us to learn and create something we may not have known we could do. Thank you for sharing!

Now come meet the 2026 Scholarship candidates on the May 1st.

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

Spotlight on you

Carol O'Brien

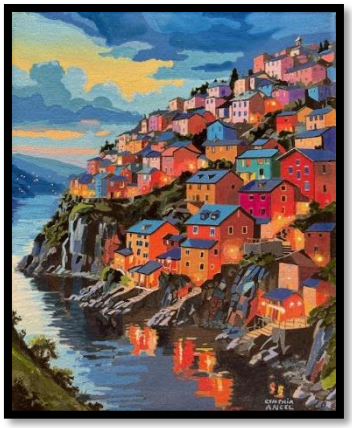
Cynthia Ancel

Cynthia Ancel is a Florida artist based in the Villages exhibiting in Ocala, Orlando, Daytona, Sarasota, Winter Garden and beyond.

She specializes in oil and acrylic paintings, decorative wall art, portraits, land and seascapes and symbolic imagery. Her award – winning work is available as original art and fine art prints.

Oil is her favorite medium, and she also works in acrylic, colored pencil, graphite, and photography.

Guided by the belief that God is the ultimate creator, she seeks to interpret His works with art that invites reflection and emotional connection. Her work is held in private collections throughout the United States.



Conversations

Jane Furr Davis

Exhibiting Something New

By Jane Furr Davis

There's a particular feeling that comes with exhibiting something new.

Not just a new effort but work that's different from what you've done before. Something that doesn't quite fit into your earlier way of working. You know it when you carry it into the room. I found myself there recently.

What struck me wasn't what was said. It was what wasn't. A comment here or there, a brief acknowledgment that the work had changed, and then not much more. The room moved on. It's an odd moment. There's a kind of vulnerability in it, even if you're used to doing things your own way. Maybe especially then.

There can be a touch of disappointment, if I'm honest. Not surprise, just that quiet sense of, "I thought there might be more of a response." And at the same time, it helps to remember where everyone else is.

Most people are bringing in work they've been developing for a while. They're looking at details, comparing notes, thinking about what to adjust before the next show. There's a shared language in the room, and it makes sense that attention goes there.

New work, especially when it shifts direction, doesn't always speak that language right away. It may take a little longer to be seen.

Actually, I'm beginning to think that's part of the process. When something changes in our work, we see it first. We've lived with it. We know what it took to get there. Others are just encountering it for the first time, without that history. And sometimes, all they can do at first is notice that it's different. That may be enough for now.

There's also something to be said for letting the work stand on its own without too much explanation. That can be hard. The urge to point things out, to say "look at this" or "this is what I was trying to do." And yet, there's a kind of strength in simply letting it be what it is. Even in a quiet room.

So perhaps showing something new isn't really about the response it gets right away. Perhaps it's about the willingness to bring it forward in the first place. To set it down, let it be seen, or not fully seen yet, and trust that it will find its way over time.

Bulletin Board

VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION OF THE VILLAGES
P. O. Box 964
Lady Lake, FL 32158-16551655
visualarttsassociation.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

VAA Fiscal Year:
Jan 1 thru Dec 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
Vice Pres	Eileen Sklon	eyesklon@icloud.com
Secretary	Raymonde Winans	rpwinans@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Schutte	rschutte100@gmail.com

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Catherine Sullivan

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

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Membership Mtg

May 1st 1:00 pm Seabreeze
June 5th 1:00 pm Seabreeze

✸June 6th Annex Showcase
✸June 13th La Galleria Exhibit

July and August No meetings

✸ *indicates show or exhibit activity*

Sunshine Committee Ellen Cora

Newsletter Staff

***Martha Ayotte**, Editor*
VAAnewsletter@gmail.com

***Helen Poor**, Scholarship*
helenpoor@comcast.net

***Betty Eich**, Photo Frame*
bettybrock@comcast.net

***Jane Davis**, Conversations*
figdavis@yahoo.com

***Jo Magram**, Spotlight*
jomagram8955@gmail.com