



## The President's Message

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Hello Fellow VAA Members:

“June is busting out all over.” Be sure to raise the flag on June 14 when we celebrate Flag Day and remember Father’s Day on Sunday, June 19. Summer Solstice, June 21 is the start of summer and the day with the most hours of daylight so enjoy!

I hope that you are enjoying a beautiful Spring and are looking forward to a happy and healthy Summer. Some of you may have plans to visit friends and family both here and away. Whenever we travel, I like to pack my watercolors and pencils so I can record the people and places we visit in my Journal. It’s quite easy and fun to do and I would encourage you to try it some time.

Our June Meeting is the last one before we recess for the summer months of July and August. ***Our VAA Meetings will resume in September so please continue to check our*** website for updates as well as details of upcoming venues including Exhibits, Shows and our first Art Auction this Fall. Don’t forget to read our intermittent email Notices which are sent directly to you. Please keep your contact information up-to-date by notifying our Membership Chair, Lisa Melcher, of any changes.

We have an exciting demo this month which will be presented by our own Julie McGlone, who will be demonstrating how to paint your home in watercolor using various techniques that will surprise and delight you. Julie will be displaying some of her students’ finished paintings and will distribute how-to handouts that you can refer to when you are working on your own painting projects.

I would like to thank our wonderful Chairs and volunteers who dedicate their personal time to our many venues throughout the year and a special thank you to you our members for your interest and participation in attending our meetings and supporting our mission and goals.

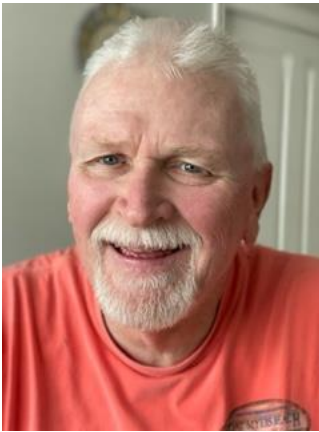
Hope to see you at our upcoming **Membership Meeting at Seabreeze Regional Recreation Center on Friday, June 3rd** which begins promptly at 1:00 pm. Come early at 12:30 pm for our Meet and Greet with light refreshment,s thanks to Lois Bixby and her Refreshment Committee, and say a friendly hello to our new members who will be introduced by our New Member Chair, Sally LaBaugh.

On behalf of our Executive Committee, Standing Chairs, and former VAA Presidents, I would like to wish you all a safe and beautiful Summer and until we meet again in September.

*All the Best,  
Catherine Sullivan, VAA President*

*“Everyone is gifted – but some people never open their package!”  
--Wolfgang Riebe*

## New Members



**Robert (Bob) Schutte**

Phone: 502-640-9099

Email: [RSCHUTTE100@gmail.com](mailto:RSCHUTTE100@gmail.com)



My wife Susan and I moved to The Villages in 2012 after my retirement. We currently live full time in the Village of Fernandina. Susan and I have two daughters who now reside in Texas and Illinois. I am now retired after thirty-seven years in law enforcement serving on the executive staff of the Jefferson County, Kentucky Police Department, the Louisville Police Department, and as Chief of the Shelbyville, KY Police Department.

I am a graduate of the University of Louisville, but did not include training in the arts. My interest in painting began in 2020 when Covid became an issue. A friend of over fifty years in Louisville, who is an accomplished artist, offered to teach me how to paint. We have been doing this via Face Time twice a week since. I am a member of the Oil Painters of America.

My painting experience is in oil. I prefer my work to be a bit impressionistic/realistic.

I have a lot to learn and look forward to the opportunities the Visual Art Association offer.





## New Members



**Vicki Wynne**  
Phone: 757-817-7465  
Email: [vicsnotes@yahoo.com](mailto:vicsnotes@yahoo.com)



My name is Vicki Wynne. I grew up loving all things artistic and from an early age enjoyed painting, drawing and photography. My mother was a teacher and did art with her students and I would help her at home prepare for each class. I attended college in the Midwest and was a florist for many years. It was a great way to express my artistic side while making a living doing something I loved.

One of the draws to The Villages for me was all the different clubs and art that happens by very diverse and talented people who live here. We have lived in Sunset Point full time 7 years now.

I belong to Creative Coilers, the photography club of Sunset Pointe and Lakeside Pottery Club. I have participated in shows for my clubs and enjoy attending all other club shows and art events here in The Villages. I love all forms of art and am not afraid to try a new medium.



## New Members

**Pat Polosky**

**Phone: 724-516-5314 Email: pat\_ashbaugh@yahoo.com**



I'm Pat Polosky and I live in The Village of Amelia. My husband and I moved here from Ligonier, PA., where I had a Beauty Shop for 30 years! But once I learned of The Villages and everything it had to offer, we decided to retire. We love every day here and have met so many creative people!

I worked with oil painting years ago but gave everything away when I moved here! Line dancing has been my love since moving here, but due to physical reasons, I had to cut back and turn my attention to less strenuous activities!

I took some classes in shell art using resin and really enjoyed making the pictures because everyone is different. I go to the different beaches to collect shells and friends give them to me from everywhere.

I was so happy when I was asked to join your art group and will do my best to contribute to the Association! Thank you.





## New Members



**Cindy Kitt:**

**Phone: 407-738-6958**

**Email: cindykitt123@yahoo.com**



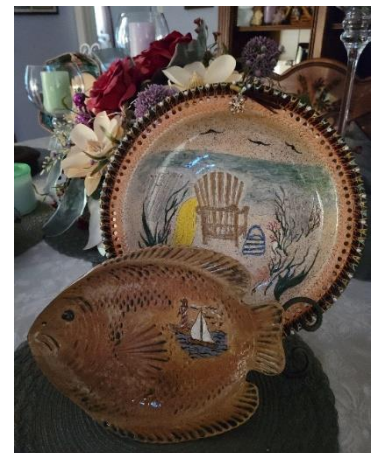
I am originally from Ohio, spending most of my life in Cleveland, Ohio. I am a mother of two and worked as a registered nurse for 38 years. I moved to Orlando, Florida in 2005, but did not care for it. So, in 2006, I moved to

The Villages. I reside in the Village of Mallory. When I moved to Florida, I continued to work as a nurse until 2 years ago. I am now enjoying retirement.

My nursing was a calling, but my art is a passion that has always been a part of my life. Through the years, I have developed numerous skills and completed many creations in various art media. I am presently a "clayer" at Colony Clay Artists, and serve as one of the kiln managers three days per week. I am also enjoy working with pine needles, playing billiards and participating on The Villages Honor Flight medical team.

My favorite multi-medium work is shaping my clay pieces, then drawing a picture on the clay, firing it, then painting the picture with glazes or oxides and firing it again. The last step is to use pine needles to weave a frame around the object. This process allows me to enjoy it all!

Art gives me great happiness and peace.



## New Members



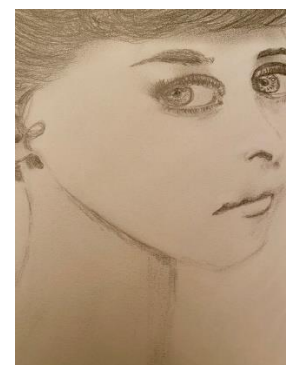
**Jesse Cross**  
Phone: 941-587-6789  
Email: jbcross007@gmail.com



Jessie Cross, has been a permanent resident in the Winifred Village for about 12 years. She moved from Sarasota, Florida.

Jessie had no special training in art, however, she has been drawing and painting for a long time and enjoys using acrylic paints. For a number of years, she has enjoyed line dancing in The Villages Squares.

"I love working with all different kinds of subject matter. Some of my favorites are Still Lifes and portraits.





## June Meeting Program



**Julie McGlone** will show you how to paint your homes in watercolor- from reflections in windows to various types of foliage in your yards. You will also learn how to create texture for stucco, bricks, or vinyl siding.

After the demo, instructions will be uploaded to the VAA website for you to try this project at home. This could easily become a holiday pic by placing a wreath on the door or you could paint a house you grew up in as a gift for your siblings. Or make cards for a friend who has moved with their new address.



Reference Photo



Finished Painting

Be sure to come to the June Membership Meeting at Sea Breeze Rec Center on June 3 to enjoy Julie's presentation. Meet and Greet is at 12:30 pm, with the meeting and program following at 1:00 pm.

**(NOTE:** *This will be the last meeting before we break over the following two summer months. The next meeting will be in September.*)



## Spotlight on You

### Meet Robert Rivkin



I am a self-taught realistic artist. I like to work in different mediums. I enjoy painting and sculpting, and occasionally making my own frames.

Growing up, we were poor. At the age of seven, I began drawing pictures on the backs of paper grocery bags my Mother gave me. After high school I joined the Navy. I painted murals of military scenes in the hanger bay of the U.S.S. Independence CVA62. One day Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier toured the ship. After seeing my murals, they asked to meet the artist.



After I left the Navy, I continued painting and sculpting. I've exhibited my work in galleries, museums, colleges, banks and private homes in New York City, the Hamptons and Florida. Several of my designs are in the Library of Congress.







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## **Scholarship News**



Our new VAA Art Scholarship winners for 2022, Lindsey McCellen and Reueleasah Jean-Francois were honored and again recognized for their Visual Arts Association awards during the Honors Night in their respective high schools. Their checks will be sent in late July to their colleges. Again, a very special thanks go out to the Scholarship Team and the members who have helped us raise both awareness and funds for this past season's awards. Your hard work and ideas deserve cheers and applause !

Summer is a time to travel, get together with family ....and create new art. It is also a time for working on ideas for VAA Fall Fundraising and Scholarship Projects. Some things are already in the planning stages, and we always appreciate your new ideas and input. Covid has been a challenge for all of us... and particularly for our local schools and art programs. As we get back to "the New Normal," our High School art students and teachers appreciate our continued support, and that we will be there to recognize the young artists of 2023 !

**Have a safe, creative and fun-filled summer!**

*Helen Poor and The VAA Scholarship Team*  
352-561-4474



## Conversations



Send your topic suggestions for Conversations to Martha Ayotte at [mayotte22@gmail.com](mailto:mayotte22@gmail.com)

## How to Find Your Own Art Style

by Kathy Leader

When it comes to your artwork, your style changes and develops as you grow as an artist. To find your own art style, learn the basics of whatever type of art you practice, such as painting, drawing, sculpture, or printmaking. Make lots and lots of artwork, and then take a step back and look for similarities present in all of them. Once you see which elements tends to pop up in all of your pieces, you've found your style.

### 1. Finding Your Art Niche

**Explore different artistic genres for style inspiration.** Begin looking through different examples of art to find styles that you're interested in replicating or learning from. You can do this by doing an online search, looking through art books, reading articles about up-and-coming artists, or visiting art museums.

**Study individual artists whose style you admire.** Once you've explored different kinds of art, pick out artists with unique styles that you really like to become your "style mentors." Research this artist to find out more about their work process, where they gather inspiration, and the methods and tools they use to create new pieces.

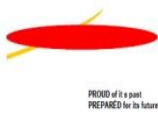
- Study a large collection of art from one specific artist to understand the similarities between each of their pieces.
- Look to see if the artist has a social media site where they upload videos or posts about their work or methods.

**Combine your favorite elements from other artists into your own art.** Once you find artwork that you're passionate about, start practicing replicating the work. You shouldn't copy the artist's work exactly but choose elements that you like the most and incorporate them into your art so you begin learning the techniques.

- For example, if you find another artist's nature drawings that you admire and want to create your own nature drawings, use the artist's work as a guide and practice drawing mountains, trees, or bodies of water similar to their work.
- Draw inspiration, but do not try to copy other artists.

**Hone your interest in a specific type of art.** Choose a medium that you truly love and focus your energy into delving deeply into all of its possibilities. While you can always play around with different





mediums, picking one type of art, whether it's painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, or another type, will help you develop a specific style more efficiently.

- Feel free to try out different types of art until you find one you love.
- For example, you can explore painting by studying color theory, creating work in black and white vs. in full color, and trying a wide range of subject matter such as still lifes, the human form, and abstraction.

## 2. Practicing Technical Skills

**Master the basic technical skills you need before worrying about style.** Before you dive into your own unique style, it's important to set the groundwork. Study things such as how colors combine to make intriguing works of art and how light works, as well as the basics of your intended type of art.

- If you're into drawing, practice drawing anatomy and still lifes.
- If you want to develop your own style of pottery, begin by making a simple bowl or vase.
- Try new materials, subject matter, colors, compositions. Experiment as much as possible!

**Challenge yourself by always trying new methods.** Try to step out of your comfort zone and test out new ways of creating your art. Use different materials, create on both a large and small scale, and study lots of different subject matter. This will help you figure out which methods you love most.

- For example, create sculptures out of clay, wire, metal, paper mache, and any other material you find.
- Practice drawing using a single stroke without taking your pencil off the page, and then practice using small, tight strokes.
- Paint on super tiny canvases as well as canvases stretching 3–4 feet (36–48 in).

**Embrace your mistakes.** If you're working on a piece of art and do something like make a wrong brushstroke or mess up your clay sculpture, see what you can create out of the mistake instead of casting it aside. Mistakes often lead to the discovery of new techniques or methods, and they might even help improve your style.

**Learn from constructive criticism.** It's helpful to show your artwork to others as you create it to see what they think. Ask a friend, family member, or even someone you don't know well to look at your art and give you helpful feedback. Listen to what they have to say and use it to help you improve your art.

- For example, if you show your illustrations to someone and they say they're a bit 2-dimensional, work on making your art more 3-dimensional.
- Ask the person questions like, "What does this piece of art remind you of?" or "Which elements of this artwork are working and which do you think need improvement?"



### 3. Developing Your Style

**Follow a passion in your artwork.** Find something you're curious about, want to explore, or wish to advocate for and use this interest as a basis for your artwork. This will help give your artwork a specific direction and focus, allowing you to use your voice as an artist to develop your own style.

- For example, if you love the ocean and are passionate about marine life, study the shapes and colors of the waves and mimic this movement in your artwork.

**Pay attention to which elements continuously appear in your own art.** Once you've created at least 10-15 pieces of artwork, take a step back and look for similarities between them. Which colors, textures, themes, and techniques tend to show up the most? These are things that indicate your specific style as an artist.

- For example, maybe all of your work tends to stay in the same color scheme, or you use very fluid brush strokes as opposed to straight, rigid ones.
- Perhaps you find yourself wanting to only draw realistic urban cityscapes or mostly create sculptures representing an issue in the environment.

**Explore the recurring elements more deeply to progress as an artist.** After you've recognized which things reappear in each of your pieces, practice developing those elements into more advanced pieces. You can do this by trying out different alterations of the elements, finding other renditions of your style that you also like.

- For example, if you've noticed that you create prints consisting of lots of simple shapes, try arranging the simple shapes in a pattern or obscuring them in some way.

**Practice developing your style every day by making lots of art.** The best way to develop your style is to make art every single day, or at least a few times a week. Finding your art style is a process, and the only way it will emerge is if you're constantly creating and trying new things.

- Try to put aside 30 minutes to an hour each day to create art, whether it's sketching right before bedtime or practicing mixing certain paint colors

**Avoid limiting yourself to one type of style.** Your style will likely change and evolve as you grow as an artist, so try not to box yourself into one idea or style. Don't think too much about making art that fits with your specific style and instead just let your art evolve naturally.

- For example, if you've developed a style of painting that mostly only uses bold colors, don't be afraid to incorporate small amounts of black and white into your artwork to see how it looks.



## Annex Exhibit Awards May 7, 2022



FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE
Cheri Ptacek, "Sibling Love" Watercolor	Susie Schreiber, "Star Burst" Watercolor	Darlene Hayes, "A Town in Tuscany" Watercolor
HONORABLE MENTION	HONORABLE MENTION	FIRST PLACE - PHOTOGRAPHY
Victoria Peterson, "More Tea?" Colored Pencil	Vera Kasberger, "Static Waves" Acrylic	Helen Poor "Hey Wait For Me"

## Online Art Challenge Winners

### March/April Challenge "Spring is Busting Out All Over"



**FIRST PLACE**  
Kathy Hansen  
"Blossoms on the Bay"  
Watercolor



**SECOND PLACE**  
Darlene Hayes  
"Spring Bling"  
Watercolor



**THIRD PLACE**  
Ray Martin  
"Spring Practice"  
Painted with Pixels

### Next Art Challenge Theme: "By The Sea"

May/June 2022 Deadline: **June 30**

Email your entry to Martha Ayotte at [mayotte22@gmail.com](mailto:mayotte22@gmail.com)

Be sure to READ the RULES on our Website!



## Events & Opportunities

### SUPER COOL SUMMER SCHOOL



Wanda Boyd  
Ultimate Beginner Watercolor  
Eight-week Class Starts June 3



Cindy Vener  
Loose Brushstrokes  
Acrylic Workshop  
June 14



Open Studio  
Come Paint with Friends  
Demos, Critiques, Tools & Tips  
June 9 and June 23



Mark Nichols  
Intermediate  
Watercolor Workshop  
June 7



Kathy Mantel  
Watercolor Batik Workshop  
June 21



Village Art Workshops  
Art in the Heart of Florida

***For more information about these and other classes & events, visit [www.villageartworkshops.com](http://www.villageartworkshops.com)***



## Bulletin Board



PO Box 964  
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655  
[visualartsassociation.com](http://visualartsassociation.com)

### CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

**Membership Mtg**  
**Friday, June 3, 1:00pm**  
Sea Breeze

**La Galleria Exhibit** \*  
June 11

**Online Art Challenge** \*  
Deadline: June 30  
Theme: "By the Sea"

**No membership meetings during  
July or August**

**Online Art Challenge** \*  
Deadline: August 31  
Theme: "Around The Villages"

**Membership Mtg**  
**Friday, Sept 2, 1:00pm**  
Sea Breeze  
(DUES ARE PAYABLE)

**Fall Festival of Art** \*  
October 8, 9-3 pm

\* indicates show or exhibit activity

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**VAA Fiscal Year:**

**Sept 1 – Aug 31**

Download form on our website

To mail in with \$15 dues

(Or bring to membership meeting)

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

### VAA Executive Board

President	Catherine Sullivan	<a href="mailto:cnjsullivan@aol.com">cnjsullivan@aol.com</a>
Vice Pres	Judy Nahmias	<a href="mailto:judynahmias@verizon.net">judynahmias@verizon.net</a>
Secretary	Nan Kohr	<a href="mailto:kohr240@gmail.com">kohr240@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Carol Reynolds	<a href="mailto:caroljr46@gmail.com">caroljr46@gmail.com</a>

#### Past Presidents

Lee Asta  
Marge McQueston  
Frank Zampardi  
Nan Kohr  
Barb Justice

#### Appointed Board Members

Helen Poor  
Sally LaBaugh  
Cheri Ptacek  
Lisa Melcher

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**Betty Eich, Photo Frame**  
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