



The President's Message

May has been designated "Mental Health Awareness Month." It is a time to raise awareness of those living with mental or behavioral health issues and to help reduce the stigma so many experience.

In lieu of presenting a live demo at our May 6th meeting, we will be focusing on you and your art. A notice was sent to all members with information about how you can display your art so contact Judy Nahmias at judynahmias@verizon.net, who will be chairing this free event, for the details.

We have one more meeting in June before we recess for the summer months of July and August, and we plan to have a live demo at that last meeting. I'm keeping it a surprise. The only hint I will give you now is "There's No Place Like Home." No, it's not "Oz," but keep guessing.

As always, there is so much going on with the VAA, so come to our meetings, check out our Monthly Newsletter and Website for other details and venues and read our intermittent Notices sent directly to you. Please keep your contact information up to date by notifying our Membership Chair, Lisa Melcher of any changes. Don't forget to visit our Free Lending Library at the entrance and see our VAA Library Chair, Julie McGlone, where you can sign out any books you choose to borrow or return. We also accept gently used books to lend to members.

Hope to see you at our next Membership Meeting at Sea Breeze Regional Recreation Center on Friday, May 6th which begins promptly at 1 pm. Come early at 12:30 pm for our Meet and Greet with light refreshments, 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.

All the Best,
Catherine Sullivan, VAA President

"Kindness and understanding are acquired attributes that we can all learn together"

- Catherine Sullivan



New Members

By Sally LaBaugh



Betty Henderson
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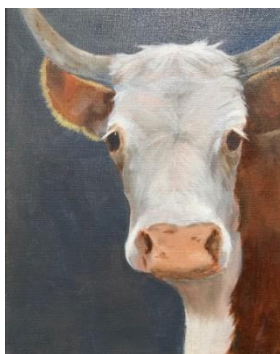


Like I am sure many members of the Visual Arts Association, I am enjoying the free time I now have since finishing my career, which included working as a Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and

Economic Developer in Hannibal, Missouri; Sand Springs, Oklahoma and Long Boat Key, Florida. I also owned and Brokered a RE/MAX Office in North Carolina before retiring to Sunset Beach, NC. And now I have found my way to the Village of Cason Hammock.

I belong to the Oil Painters of America, Waterway Artists Association and the Associated Artists of Southport, NC. I have studied at the Ringling School of Art and Design with many knowledgeable and skillful instructors. One of my favorite workshops is the Susan K Black Foundation workshop in Dubois, WY with world famous wildlife artists as instructors. I have recently begun challenging myself to painting plein air.

In my studio, I crank up music (from Willie Nelson, to the Beatles and from John Hartford to Leon Redbone), and I paint away. By combining the past with the present, putting things together that don't necessarily appear together (but they could), and by adding touches of humor, nostalgia, and sometimes sentimentality, I hope viewers enjoy the finished product. Please check out my latest paintings at www.BettyHenderson.com



New Members

By Sally LaBaugh

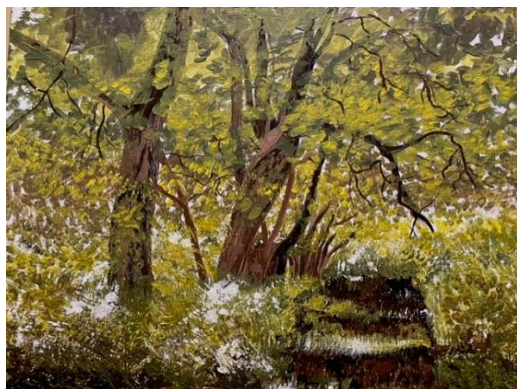


Susan Benjamin
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I was born and raised in Queens, NY. I always had an interest in art. As a child I loved to draw. I enjoyed making my own Christmas cards for my family every year. When I was older, I took some art studio classes in college. I didn't pursue a career in art, but I continued my studies in business so that I could find work in an office. While I was in college and working, I met my husband. We got married and started a family together. Later while our two sons were growing up, I worked as a substitute school aide. Then I worked as a legal administrative assistant.

In 2013 my husband and I decided to have a house built for us in The Villages. We were able to retire in 2015 and move permanently to our house in the Village of Fernandina. It was then that I was able to rediscover my interest in art. I took classes at Colony Recreation Center in watercolor and acrylic painting. I am so happy that I have had this wonderful opportunity to learn and development my painting techniques.



Spotlight on You

By Darlene Hayes

Meet Kathy Canter



I have always loved painting and have dabbled in art as long as I can remember. With four very small children - ceramics served as my 'get-away' one night a week.

I then found acrylics and loved the details and shading techniques. Up north I taught acrylic classes in West Virginia & Pennsylvania. After moving to The Villages I let loose and joined a various range of classes. I started water colors with my friend Julie McGlone. I make note cards of all my paintings. I paint with Colored

Pencils and love this technique. It is time-consuming but we'll worth the effort! I also quilt, cross stitch, make pine needle baskets and paint basket bottoms as well. I love Iris Paper Folding cards. In my spare time I sell my art at various Art Shows here in the Villages. I guess you can say art is a big part of my retired lifestyle.



Scholarship News



This is the 17th year that the Visual Arts Association of the Villages has sponsored scholarships for graduating local art students. Again, it was a most challenging year due to the continuing impact of Covid on the programs and students in our local high schools across central Florida.

Our application response was down considerably from three counties. Art teachers shared with us the challenges art programs and students have faced over these last 24 months. AP Portfolio Programs and classes were reduced, and senior art majors were way behind. Also, hours of computer instruction and quarantine did not motivate or inspire creativity like the studio experience for advanced and portfolio art classes.



Despite the times and circumstances, the VAA Scholarship Program was fortunate to interview two wonderful applicants from Marion County Schools and the studio of private teacher Nina Lovill. **Lindsey McCellen** (Ocala Christian Academy) and **Reueleasah Jean-Francois** from (West Port Magnet High School) were not only excellent academic students, but were school leaders and exceptional visual artists. They showed us wonderful portfolios at their interviews and were excited to share their hopes and plans for college art programs. Lindsey wants to be an illustrator for books and film, and Reueleasah plans to major in Art History followed by a law degree, so she can work for the FBI Art Squad or in Museum Investigation and Authentication. Both are highly motivated and a pleasure to get to know.

Some of their portfolio pieces were on view for our members who attended the meeting to enjoy, and other images were shown on screen. We also had a look back over multiple years of winning scholarship art put together by Dave Boege and Eileen Sklon. Leasah received the Freddie Venturoni Life Achievement Scholarship, and Lindsey received the Sheilaugh Devilbiss Memorial Art Scholarship. A total of \$5,000 was given out to our winners. **This brings awards given to date to \$148,000. VAA BE PROUD !!!!**

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to the Scholarship team members for their support, fund raising and interview/help with our students. You are the BEST !!!!

Co-Chair Marge McQueston, Sally LaBaugh, Frank Zampardi, Fran Naughton, Brian Dickson, Kathy Greco, Jeanne Willette, Joan Beeman, Judy Nahmias.

Photographers / Designers Dave Boege and Eileen Sklon, and **Support Team & Donors**, Jo Magram & Ralph Bischoff

Helen Poor

Chair for The VAA Scholarship Fund



Conversations



Send your topic suggestions for
Conversations to mayotte22@gmail.com

Don't Use Black! By Martha Ayotte

That is what my 8th-grade art teacher always told us. She would actually take the black cake out of our paint trays! Most teachers would agree that black can ruin your painting and make your colors look muddy, depressing, and dull if you don't use it correctly.

The impressionists never used black but used complimentary colors to tone down a hue. Impressionists declared there is no black in nature! I tend to question this when I look at Obsidian rocks.

One day, John Singer Sargent had left his paints behind and asked Monet if he would lend him some paints to work with.

"Where's the black?" asked Sargent.

"I don't allow myself to use black," replied Monet. "It's against the impressionist theory! In nature, all colors are made by mixing!"

Sargent could not understand how anyone could paint without black!

Sargent was a portrait artist, and portrait artists often used black to tone down reds in complexions.

Artists today use ready-to-use tube blacks to tone down colors simply because it is easier and faster than mixing their own color black.

Here are some different blacks and their characteristics:

Mars Black is named for the alchemical name of iron and is made from a black iron oxide. It is a matte, very opaque black with a warm, brown undertone. It is not as "black" as some others below but a super-strong tinter.

Ivory Black is named for the traditional method of roasting elephant tusks and is related to its out-of-date cousin, Bone Black. It is a semi-transparent black with slightly warm, brown undertones. It is blacker than Mars Black but is about three times weaker.

Lamp Black is named for its traditional processing method, collecting the residual soot of burnt oil lamps. It is made of pure carbon and is one of the oldest pigments. It is semi-opaque with a cool, blue undertone. Other names are Carbon Black, Vine Black, and Charcoal Black.



Payne's Gray is named after the 18th-century watercolorist William Payne. It is a mixture of Ultramarine Blue, Mars Black, and sometimes Crimson. It is semi-opaque with strong, cool blue undertones. It is the coolest black on this list and has a moderate tinting strength. Landscape artists like to mix it with different yellows to create varying tones of deep green.

Most artists like to mix their own blacks, so they can make them warm or cool. These are called chromatic blacks.

Here are a few recipes for mixing your own black. Colors can vary some. To find their color bias, add a little white or plain water to a small sample.

- Red + Blue + Yellow
- Blue + Orange
- Yellow + Purple
- Red + Green
- Green + Purple
- Brown + Blue
- Burnt Umber + Blue

My main concern with black is it usually has a blue base so when using it with yellow, it turns green, which may work in some circumstances. I also feel it does muddy your painting when used too much, but many painters cannot survive without it.

Some paint manufacturers make their own Neutral Tints. These are gray hues that don't carry any dominant color. A blue-grey or a pink-grey would not be classified as neutral. I have seen these neutral paints tested on Youtube, and most will turn yellow paint to green. I think you get a better yellow by tinting it with its complementary color, purple. Summing up, I think the use of black in painting is a personal choice. If you do so, just use it sparingly.

ANNEX EXHIBIT

The Annex Show hangs on Saturday May 7.

This is the last show until October.

If you are signed up for the show, please bring your art between 8 am and 9:30 am. Anything after that time cannot be hung.

All the volunteers, please be there by 8 AM.

Bill Skieczius, Chair

Events & Opportunities

SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE HERE AT VILLAGE ART WORKSHOPS!



Visiting Artist Anne Abgott



May 1, 2 pm – 3 pm, Anne Abgott, Demo, **this is a free demo**, signup link is

<https://www.villageartworkshops.com/na-may2-3-2022-abgott.html>

May 2, 9 am – 3 pm, Anne Abgott one-day watercolor workshop, “Poppies”

May 3, 9 am – 3 pm, Anne Abgott one-day watercolor workshop, “Teacup”

May 4, 9 am or 1 pm, Anne Abgott group critiques. See how a nationally known award-winning artists interprets a painting and get valuable input on improving your paintings.



Teaching Tuesdays



May 17, Kathy Mantel,
Watercolor Batik,
some supplies included

May 24, Cindy Vener,
Oil and Cold Wax,
all supplies included



May 31, Annie Dotzhauer,
Fused Glass Plant Stakes
and Twisted Glass Pendants,
all supplies included



Open Studio

May 12 and May 26, 9 am – 4 pm, our open studio days provide participants the freedom to come and go according to their own needs, a large space for individual work and group interaction, no pressure for artistic talent, a comfortable and inviting space, and a sense of community. Start a new project or bring a current project that needs completing.

Rent Our Room!

Our room is available for rent to those who would like to teach in a bright, clean, open classroom with state-of-the-art equipment that helps make teaching a richly rewarding experience for the instructor and a joy for the registrants. Call Wanda at (804) 536-1794 for more information.

Visit www.villageartworkshops.com for more information regarding classes and workshops.



Bulletin Board



PO Box 964
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655
visualartsassociation.com

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Membership Meeting
SeaBreeze Rec Center
Friday, May 6

Annex Exhibit *

Saturday, May 7

Membership Meeting
SeaBreeze Rec Center
Friday, June 3

La Galleria Exhibit *

Saturday, June 11

Art Challenge (May-June) *

Theme: "By The Sea"
Deadline June 30

NO MEETINGS IN JULY or AUGUST

Membership Meeting
SeaBreeze Rec Center
Friday, September 2

Fall Festival of Art *

Saturday, October 8
Rohan Rec Center

* indicates show or exhibit activity

VAA Executive Board

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Marge McQueston
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Cheri Ptacek
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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