



The President's Message

*The month of October has been designated as “Breast Cancer Awareness” Month.
The two greatest risk factors of breast cancer are being female and getting older.*

Judith Nahmias, VAA Vice President, will be chairing the October Meeting in my absence as we celebrate our grandson's wedding. Family is everything! Thank you, Judy. The Holidays are fast approaching, and the VAA is in lock step with the upcoming venues. Our VAA Show and Exhibit Committee Chairs are ready to go so think about registering or volunteering for 2022-2023. **Please remember to pay your dues so that you can participate in all our venues.**

Where will you be when we hold our VAA Fall Festival of Art? I hope you will be at the Rohan Recreation Center participating or supporting your fellow artists. We are looking forward to our first Live Art Auction on Saturday, October 29th at SeaBreeze Recreation Center featuring our Painted Piano which was graciously gifted to the VAA by the Entertainment Department. Come and meet a few of the artists whose work is represented on this one-of-a-kind piano. A big thank you to all who have donated their art for this auction. All proceeds will go to our Scholarship Fund.

The VAA Online Art Challenge held every two months, featured in our VAA Newsletter, and judged by our members is always free to enter so why not give it a go! There is also a full schedule of Shows and Exhibits on our 2022-2023 Calendar which can be viewed on our VAA website www.visualartsassociation.com.

This month's guest speaker will be Hollis Mutch, Education Director at the Appleton Museum in Ocala. She will be speaking and answering questions about Fine Art and will be introduced by Frank Zampardi, our Fine Art Jury Committee Chair. Be ready with your questions.

As always, there is so much going on with the VAA, so come to our meetings, check out our Monthly Newsletter and Website for additional 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. Please don't forget to visit our Free Lending Library located at the back of the room where you can sign out any books you choose to borrow or return.

Come to our Membership Meeting at SeaBreeze Regional Recreation Center on Friday, October 7th which begins promptly at 1pm. Come early at 12:30pm 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 Liaison, Sally LaBaugh.

*All the Best,
Catherine Sullivan, VAA President*

“If you want to change the world, go home and love your family”

– Mother Teresa

New Members



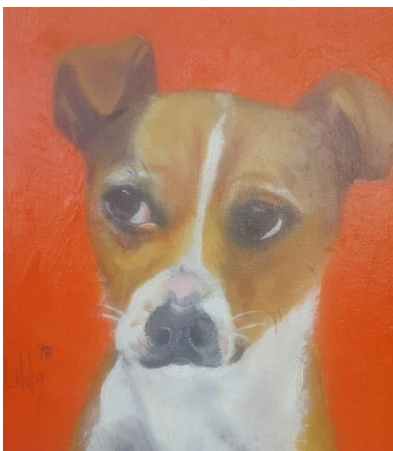
Libby Sheridan
Phone: 843-476-5801
Email: libbysartis@gmail.com



Despite having grown up around an artist (my father was a commercial artist and also taught the subject at Baylor University in Waco, Texas) I never even drew a stick figure until after my father's passing in 2012.

Upon my retirement, I decided to put together a little studio in my home and take up painting. I studied the old masters with Renoir as my favorite. Eventually I learned how to make my own gesso with glue and baby powder. I also began making my own paints with egg yolk and ground up pigments. These pigments included everything from dried flowers to rust off pieces of metal. My work has been in all mediums from watercolors to wax. However, I can usually be found with a palette full of freshly squeezed oils and the fragrance of linseed oil dancing in my studio. While I have sold works in a few galleries, I only do commission works at present. These are mostly portraiture in oils although I have fun with an occasional mural.

I have lived in Europe and Africa and feel blessed by the inspirations these experiences have brought into my art world.



New Members



Ann Scheiblin

Phone: 352-633-025:

mad1891house@gmail.com

Art should be something that liberates your soul, provokes the imagination and encourages people to go further. – Keith Haring.

I love creating art, challenging myself with new ideas and techniques, "thinking outside the box",

and exploring new concepts and mediums. Think I have always been an artist; drawing my Dad in his chair when I was 3 years old. As I grew, I took numerous art classes in high school and college and was greatly encouraged by my parents and teachers. I tried several media; pottery, sculpture, drawing and painting. As a teen, I was thrilled to win awards, be featured in the local newspaper, and have my work shown in a gallery.

As an elementary teacher in Bloomfield, NJ, I found that I had little time to continue doing my art work, but still pursued an evening watercolor class. I also kept busy being involved in my two sons' education and sports activities as they grew. In 2011, husband and I decided purchase our home in the Village of Buttonwood to enjoy the great lifestyle. We moved permanently in 2013.

I slowly found my way back to my true love...painting. Since my arrival in The Villages, I have taken numerous classes both in watercolor and acrylic painting with the many accomplished teachers. Also, I have taken classes outside The Villages. One time, I delved back into a pottery/sculpture class with a guest artist from The Disney Fanatics Club! It was an unusual and great experience!

I am always striving to be "better", but know that "perfection" is something a true artist rarely reaches. My "stuffed" closets and extra bedrooms reveal my passion! Thank you to all of my teachers for their inspiration and guidance. Thanks to the art leagues and associations that monthly offer new ideas and views as well as the support of so many other fellow artists that have helped me to achieve who I am today.



New Members



Suzanne Crolley

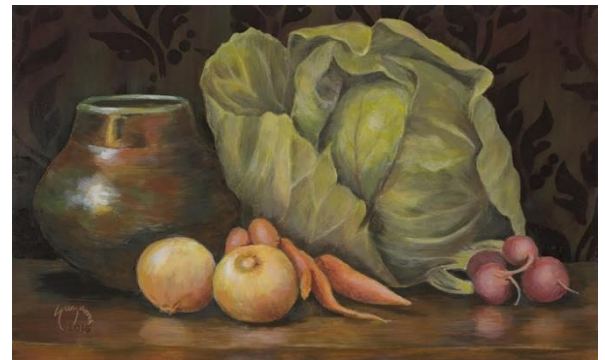
Phone: 828-301-081

suzanne@designsbysuzanne.com



My husband Charles and I moved here in May 2020. We live in the Village of Marsh Bend. Currently, I work as a freelance graphic designer with companies around the world. I find that working uses both my left and right brain in the process of producing a great design.

We moved here from Asheville, North Carolina. While in Asheville I studied under J.P. Sullivan; where I learned the renaissance master way of painting and drawing: charcoal, egg tempera, oils, silverpoint, plein air, life figure drawing and more. Under his guidance I learned: to tone and tint drawing paper to get the perfect color and tooth; make drawing charcoal; make my own paints for watercolor, oils and egg tempera by grinding raw pigments and much more. I began extensive training in egg tempera (the oldest form of painting) because of my love for watercolor. It takes planning, patience, time, and skill to complete an egg tempera, primarily because each of the hundreds of color layer are transparent. The colors can't be blended and must be built up one on the other to achieve the luminous effect. It is a slow, rich, and ultimately fulfilling process; one I enjoy very much. Even when "finished," the work continues to reveal itself over the two years it takes the medium to completely cure. Today I work mostly in oils. In contrast, I love its fast process — it fits the freer (and more distracted) side of me. I can do a painting in an afternoon with oils versus painting for months on an egg tempera. I enjoy working in egg tempera and being very precise and then switching to oils where I can let loose. I let what inspires me at the time decide the medium to use. Each has its place and satisfies in its own way. My favorite things to paint/draw in any medium are portraits and landscapes.



New Members



Linda Dailey

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When we moved to the Villages 7 years ago, I had recently retired from an interior design business in St Pete Beach, Florida and was feeling lonely without my daily intervention with clients helping them make decisions about major remodels, decor etc. It was so rewarding working with people pouring their hearts into their home and being part of their team to do so.

So.....our new Villages home became an extension of the design business and we became ECLECTIC, doing just what felt good and not caring about convention, FUN!! Next step was finding activities among the 100s offered. I was fortunate enough to find wonderful art classes in acrylics and watercolor. Thanks so much to my first teachers: Judi Adams and Julie McGlone, I fell in love, again and have new meaning in my life.

It's now 5 years later and I am still enthralled with our art community and the endless opportunities to explore our inner creativity. Thanks to all who donate time and talent to make these art groups, classes and exhibits/shows available for Villagers.





Scholarship News



The Scholarship team would like to invite you to help us kick off fall fundraising, and liven up our October 8th Art Show. VAA Artists and team members have been busy creating unique pumpkins for a special display.... the **"Scholarship Pumpkin Patch."** It will be in the main lobby at Rohan Center the day of our fall art show. These creations will be displayed and sold to benefit our cause. There is still a wee bit of time, if you would like to add a Halloween creation to help our cause. *In addition*, our tables will feature show tickets to be raffled for the KC Production of "West Side Story" coming at the end of October. Some terrific art books will also be available for purchase. These editions would make great Holiday gifts or a treasure for your own collection at home.

Our second major event in October will be on the 29th and take place at Sea Breeze Rec. Center. It will be an authentic **ART AUCTION** (with official auctioneer).... and will feature the donated works of some of the finest artists and photographers in the Villages. The beautiful painted piano of Villages scenes and wild life (long at Seabreeze) will also be a featured auction item. This is a unique opportunity for a music lover, piano teacher or interested musicianto bid on a one-of-a-kind treasure. We are so grateful to the artists who created it and the Villages for this amazing donation.

Nan Kohr and the members of the auction team have had such great ideas. They have already spent so many hours to make this a memorable event, on behalf of the Scholarship cause. More details and information about the auction will be shared by the VAA through send-outs in October. Circle your calendars now, and join us for a fun time and a personal and gift opportunity.

Thank You for supporting our Scholarship efforts!

Helen Poor and The VAA Scholarship Team
352 561 4474





In Support of our Scholarship Program

IKC Productions **PRO-AM** **Present**
Alex Santorello and Dawn Williams
WEST SIDE STORY
October 29, 30, 31 | Savannah Center



Spotlight on You

Linda Yeck



I grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and after I married in 1970, my family and I traveled extensively. We had the good fortune to reside in several states within the United States and experience various cultures while living in Europe and Asia. We are permanent residents in the Village of Pine Ridge and have enjoyed our life here in Florida for the past five years.

I have always been interested in many art forms. I've worked with watercolors and charcoals. I learned to sew while in high school and then later learned pattern making in Okinawa. I continue to utilize these skills today. For several years I enjoyed ceramics and flower arranging.



In June 2018, I decided that I wanted to learn Glass Fusion and began with functional art later progressing into non-functional including wall art. The following year I decided to take up clay. I enjoy handbuilding and the majority of my work also ends up as wall art. These mediums are currently my passion and I find that the opportunity to experiment with various techniques fascinating.

I have been an active member of both The Visual Arts Association and The Villages Art League. I have participated in several art shows and I am very pleased and thankful to be among the many talented artists living here in The Villages.



Online Art Challenge Winners – July/August

First Place



Susie Schreiber
"Parker Bridge, Lake Sumter"
Watercolor

Second Place



Robert Schutte, "Morning Coffee"
Oil on Panel

Third Place



Betty Henderson,
"Morning has Broken"
Oil

Sept/Oct Challenge Theme: "What I Love"

Read the Rules on our website, pay your dues, submit good photo (no signature) to Martha Ayotte at mayotte22@gmail.com by October 31

VAA Artsy Art Auction

Original artwork plus nautical-themed painted piano to include specialty raffle baskets

Saturday, October 29th

Auction Preview 9:00 a.m. Live Auction 10:00 a.m.

SeaBreeze Recreation Center

Free and open to the public

ARTS (Artists 'Round the Square)

Coming up in November is our first "Artists 'Round the Square" of the season:

Sunday, November 13, 2022

Brownwood Paddock Square

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Artists may start setting up at noon; Parking will be available near the artists' 12ft. side-walk space

Sign up deadline is November 5th

Forms available on the VAA website



VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION FALL FESTIVAL OF ART

Saturday, October 8th, 2022

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Rohan Regional Recreation Center
850 Kristine Way**

Over 70 Artists, 2-D and 3-D

Public Invited, Free Admission

For more information
call Carol Reynolds 352-753-4908

Presented by VAA & VCCDD

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR OPEN POSITION

Due to family member health issues I will need to step down from chairing the La Galleria Exhibit at the Hacienda Recreation Center and am looking for someone to step up.



The committee is in place and runs smoothly, but we do need a chairperson to ensure all steps are handled and there is some simple computer work involved. The exhibit is only 3 times per year so it is not very time-consuming. The next exhibit will be in December.

I have thoroughly enjoyed chairing the La Galleria Exhibit and am sad to be stepping down. It's a great position that I hope someone will step up to. **If you think this might be of interest to you, please call me at 704-881-4026.** Thank you.

Kathy Karol
VAA La Galleria Chair

Time to pay your annual dues!

Download the form from our website and mail along with your \$15 so that you can participate in our upcoming shows and exhibits!



Conversations



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

How to Buy Watercolor Paint By Martha Ayotte

There are many various qualities to consider when buying watercolor paint. First, I will go over seven different things you should consider: type, color, permanence, quality, transparency, staining, and granulation. Then I will list a few different brands and the pros and cons of each.

Watercolor paints consist of four different ingredients:

- Pigment is the finely ground color
- Gum arabic fixes the paint to the paper
- Additives and preservatives (usually glycerin or honey) change the consistency and durability of the paint
- Solvent (usually water) evaporates as the paint dries or hardens

Types

Pans are small rectangular trays that contain solid blocks of paint that are re-awakened by water. They come in two sizes: full pan and half pan and are often sold in sets. Set-up is faster, just rewet the pans and start painting; they are great for travel or Plein-air painting. The disadvantage of pans is they are unsuitable for large washes and mixes and are harder to use with large brushes. Often it is challenging to distinguish some of the darker colors in the set.

Tubes contain moist, paste-like paint, which can be used wet or dry. Tubes usually come in small and large sizes and are more economical. Tube paint is preferred for larger paintings but setting up your palette is slower. You can also add tube paint to your pans when you run out of a color, and you always know what color you are using because the color name is on the tube. Many artists use pan paints and keep some tube paints for larger areas, such as sky, water, etc.

Liquid watercolors come in bottles filled with very concentrated pigment in liquid form. One of the best benefits of liquid watercolors is their intense vibrancy. In addition, setup is easier than the tubes. However, one of the disadvantages of liquid watercolors is that they don't have the best lightfastness and can fade.

Watercolor pencils are unique because they combine the best qualities of painting and drawing. These watercolors are shaped like pencils but contain water-soluble pigment. That means you can use them in both a dry and wet format. You can use them like regular colored pencils, or activate the pigment with a damp paintbrush to create beautiful, loose watercolor effects. Due to their light and portable nature, these pencils are very convenient when painting outside, but watercolor pencils will dry less vibrant than tube paint.



Watercolor markers are shaped just like regular felt-tip markers but contain watercolor and can be applied directly on the paper, or you can add water to dilute the pigment and create a looser effect. The brush tips glide smoothly over the paper, mimicking a paintbrush to give it a painterly effect. The tips are made of nylon and are

pliable, so you can easily switch between drawing and painting. A disadvantage of markers is they are not as vibrant and lack lightfastness.

Watercolor sheets are in a booklet, and the sheets have dry watercolor pigment on them. The advantage of watercolor sheets is that they are lightweight and portable. You simply wet a paintbrush and then drag it across the watercolor sheet to load the brush with pigment. Then, you can paint directly onto your paper.

Color

Different brands may have the same name, but the colors can differ. You should check the pigment content if you have a favorite color and want to try a different manufacturer. Typically there is a code name on each tube of paint (PR108). This pigment numbering system will always have a “P” (for pigment), at least one additional letter (such as Y for yellow, Br for Brown, O for orange, R for red, V for violet, B for blue, G for green) and a number. Each pigment in a color category gets a unique number, only used for that pigment.

When starting out, you don’t have to buy a lot of colors. Instead, you can produce every color by mixing primary colors (red, yellow and blue) to produce all other colors, even black. Still, some artists say single pigment colors are much more vibrant and intense.

Permanence

This refers to the ability of the paint to withstand exposure to light or humidity without fading, darkening, or shifting color. It is also called lightfastness. Look for the ASTM rating on the packaging and accept nothing less than “excellent” to “very good” lightfastness.

Quality

Watercolor comes in two different qualities: artists’ grade and students’ grade. Artists’ grade watercolors have a high concentration of finely ground pigment with higher permanence ratings. It also has better intensity and transparency, but it is more expensive. Students’ grade may contain cheaper pigments and more fillers and extenders.

Transparency

Watercolor paint is valued for its transparency, or the ability of light to pass through the paint and reflect the white surface of the paper to create a remarkable luminescent effect. (something opaque colors do not)

Transparent Watercolors:

You can see through transparent colors. Manufacturers will usually tell you on the tube if the color is transparent, but every manufacturer is different. Transparent colors are more suitable for glazing and creating a “glow” of light. Some typical transparent colors are Aureolin, Hooker’s Green, Viridian, Cobalt Blue, Permanent Rose, Rose Madder Genuine, along with Phtalos, Hansas and Quinacridones.



Opaque Watercolors:

Opaque paint is much easier to lift than transparent paint, but it covers the paint underneath, so it is not practical for layering or glazing. Opaque paints often don't mix well with other paints and can create a chalky or muddy look. Most "purists" do not believe opaque or white is genuine watercolor paint.

Staining

Non-staining paints dry on the surface, so it is easier to lift them off the paper with a wet brush or sponge, but you should be careful with non-staining colors when you are layering. The undercoat may lift off and mix with the layering color to create a muddy effect.

Some examples of (Windsor Newton) non-staining colors are:

(all) Cadmium-Free colors, Turner's Yellow, New Gamboge, Winsor Yellow Deep, Indian Yellow, Cadmium Orange, Winsor Orange, Quinacridone Red, Opera Rose, Quinacridone Magenta, Indanthrene Blue, Ultramarine Green Shade, Antwerp Blue, Prussian Blue, Cobalt Turquoise, Green Gold, Naples Yellow, Naples Yellow Deep, Yellow Ochre Light, Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna, Light Red, Burnt Umber, Sepia, Smalt, Quinacridone Violet, Transparent Orange, Titanium White, Chinese White, Davy's Grey, and Lamp Black.

Staining colors:

Staining colors penetrate the fibers of the paper. As a result, these paints are better for layering and glazing techniques because the paints don't tend to become muddy. However, lifting paint is not as easy, so leaving the white of the paper is achieved by using masking fluid. Here are some examples of staining colors: Prussian Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Indigo, Hooker's Green, Sap Green, Viridian Green, Dioxazine Violet, Quinacridone Rose, Alizarin Crimson, and Indian Yellow.

Granulation

Granulated paints have more texture and can be helpful in some instances. Some of the pigments used in granulated paint separate from the binder and settle in the valleys of the paper. As it dries, the valleys leave a grainy texture which can be used for different textures. In addition, these granules separate when mixed with other colors and create some amazing creations.

A few of the more frequently used granulating colors would be Cerulean Ultramarine blue, Raw Sienna, Burnt Sienna, and Burnt Umber.

Here are some Brands of Watercolor Paints listed in alphabetical order with some of their characteristics.

TUBES

Da Vinci Artists' Permanent Watercolors

PROS: Affordable, high pigment content, smooth consistency, flow and diffuse well, mix well with other colors and brands. Paint lasts longer in the tube than in other brands.

CONS: Some colors can be muddy, defective tubes



Daler-Rowney Artists' Watercolors

PROS: Mix well, high pigment, re-wets easily, affordable, mixes well with other colors and brands, wide range of colors, good for glazing

CONS: Consistency is sticky

Daniel Smith Watercolors

PROS: Wide color selection, high pigment, mixes well

CONS: Expensive, some separation in the tube, graininess

Daniel Smith Extra Fine Watercolors: comes in 235 pigments

Daniel Smith Luminescent Watercolors has other titanium-coated mica particles to give them extra luster and shine

Grumbacher Finest Artists' Watercolors

PROS: Affordable, re-wets easily, vibrant colors

CONS: Poor consistency, dries unevenly, separation in the tube, not suitable for glazing or washes

Holbein Watercolors

PROS: It does not dry out in the tubes, mixes well, and has a good selection of colors, smooth and not granular

CONS: Holbein recently changed the color names, and some pigments are not very lightfast

Holbein Artists watercolor Tubes offer a standard range of European pigments.

Holbein Irodori Antique Artists Watercolors are highly saturated and opaque colors

M. Graham Artists' Watercolors

PROS: Affordable, high pigment content, does not dry out in the tube

CONS: It does not mix well, and the paints have a somewhat sticky texture because M. Graham uses pure honey as an additive. Also, the paint may not mix well with other brands of watercolor

Maimeri Blu Artist Watercolors

PROS: Affordable, re-wets easily, vibrant colors

CONS: Limited selection of colors, and can only be purchased online in many areas, does not flow well on the palette

Mijello Mission Gold Watercolors

PROS: Very reactive to water, mixes well, high pigment content

CONS: Confusing color names, expensive, a limited selection of colors

Old Holland Classic Artist Watercolors

PROS: Good transparency, high pigment content, blends well

CONS: Not available in larger size tubes, expensive, sticky consistency



QoR Modern Watercolors (*pronounced "core"*)

PROS: Silky flow, vibrant and unique colors, re-wets easily

CONS: Expensive, not available in larger size tubes

Schmincke Horadam Aquarell Artist Watercolours

PROS: **Intense** color, mixes well, nice translucency. Most colors are made with pure pigment. Suitable for making pan colors and left to harden. Good for glazing and washes. Nice translucency.

CONS: It can only be purchased online in some areas with packaging defects and is expensive.

Sennelier French Artists' Watercolour Tubes

PROS: Vibrant colors, larger tube sizes, good to fill pans, good translucency, and suitable for glazes and washes.

CONS: Expensive, some colors crack, lower pigment content.

ShinHan Premium Artist Watercolours

PROS: Affordable, vibrant, and unique colors.

CONS: Offers fewer single pigment paints, not very lightfast

Winsor & Newton Professional Watercolour Tubes

PROS: High pigment content, smooth consistency, larger size tubes available, mixes well

CONS: Poor labeling, expensive

PANS

Grumbacher Watercolour Pan Sets

PROS: Vibrant colors that do not muddy when mixed, large pans

CONS: No refill pans available, slow to react to water, expensive

Pelikan Watercolour and Gouache Pan Sets

PROS: Affordable, compact size, durable packaging

CONS: It does not mix well, gouache pans can be somewhat chalky in consistency

Raphaël Watercolour Travel Pan Set

PROS: Vibrant colors, good flow, includes a color chart, suitable for traveling

CONS: The included brush is relatively small, not a lot of room for mixing colors

Rembrandt Watercolour Pan Sets

PROS: Smooth texture, includes high-quality sable brush, good selection of colors, set of 12, 24, or 48 colors, suitable for layers and washes

CONS: Colors are weak

Sakura Koi Watercolour Sketch Box Travel Pan Sets

PROS: Affordable, convenient size, nicely opaque color

CONS: Color pans are very close to each other and can dirty easily, sponges are not very absorbent

Schmincke Horadam Aquarell Watercolour Pan Sets

PROS: Multiple size options, high pigment load, good for Plein air, has finger ring for holding the palette

CONS: Expensive, flimsy packaging

Sennelier French Artists' Watercolour Half Pans

PROS: Mixes well, re-wets easily, intense color, colors can be purchased individually to create a customized set

CONS: Colors are sometimes sold out

Winsor & Newton Watercolour Pans

PROS: Affordable, wide range of colors, mixes well

CONS: Complicated packaging

Yarka St. Petersburg Professional Watercolour Pans

PROS: Creamy consistency, vibrant colors, mixes well

CONS: Pans do not fit well in the case, and some colors do not react well to water

I hope this helps you with your watercolor shopping!

Welcome Fall and Cooler Weather Soon!



Events & Opportunities



Village Art Workshops
Art in the Heart of Florida

October of 2022 Classes & Workshops



Jane Slivka
"Freedom of Acrylic"
October 3 & 4

Oil painters! You asked for it, we got it! We brought in acclaimed oil artist Tom Sadler just for you. (Acrylic artists are welcome, too!)



Gene Rizzo
"Basking in the Sun"
Watercolor
October 17 & 18

Tom Sadler
"Creating Dramatic Florida Light"
Oil and/or Acrylic
October 10 & 11



Janelle Johnson
"Gracing My Garden"
Color Pencil
October 24 & 25



Mark Nichols
8-week class
Beginner to Intermediate Watercolor
Starts 10/13, 9:30-12:30

Lionel Sanchez
8-week class
Intermediate to Advanced Watercolor
Starts 10/14, 12:30-3:30

For more information, visit www.villageartworkshops.com



Bulletin Board



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

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- Membership Mtg**
Friday, Oct. 7, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze
- Festival of Arts Show** *
Saturday, October 8, 9a-3p
Rohan Rec Center
- Artsy Art Auction** *
October 29, 9 am
SeaBreeze
- Online Art Challenge** *
Deadline: October 31
Theme: "What I Love"
- Membership Mtg**
Friday, Nov 4, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze
- ARTS at Brownwood** *
Sunday, Nov. 13, 1:00-4:00
- LaGalleria Exhibit** *
Saturday, December 10
8:30-9:30

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- Cheri Ptacek, Editor**
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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**