



## ***The President's Message***

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Welcome to March which has been designated “National Irish American Heritage Month”. May the luck of the Irish be with you as we celebrate St Patrick’s Day on March 17th. It is also “Women’s History Month”.

Here’s hoping you’re getting out enjoying this Spring-like weather - perfect for Plein Air painting and capturing the beauty of nature with camera and brush.

Thanks to Jo Magram, VAA Show Chair, Carol Reynolds, Registration Chair and Helen Poor, Scholarship Committee Chair for their hard work in planning the beautiful VAA Winter Fine Arts Show which was held at Laurel Manor Saturday, February 11th. Congratulations to our participating artists and volunteers who helped make this Show a huge success. A beautiful array of Arts was represented as we all enjoyed a live orchestra playing Classical music and a sampling of musical routines from our Theater Partners, KC Productions and the cast from “Man of La Mancha”.

We are pleased to have acrylic artist and VAA member Sandy Turnbull demonstrating his acrylic skills at our March Membership Meeting. Check out his bio in our Newsletter

We look forward to our upcoming Spring ARTS Show in March at Lake Sumter Landing and our Spring Galleria Exhibit at La Galleria. This exhibit will hang for three months from March 11th thru June 10th. Be sure to download the Rules and Registration Forms for all our shows and exhibits on our website.

As always, we look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings. Don’t forget to check out our Monthly Newsletter and Website for additional details and venues and read our intermittent Notices sent directly to you. Please keep your dues current and 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.

Hope to see you at our next Membership Meeting at SeaBreeze Regional Recreation Center on Friday, March 3rd 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 Chair, Sally LaBaugh.

All the Best,  
Catherine Sullivan, VAA President

“Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate  
version of somebody else.”

..... JUDY GARLAND

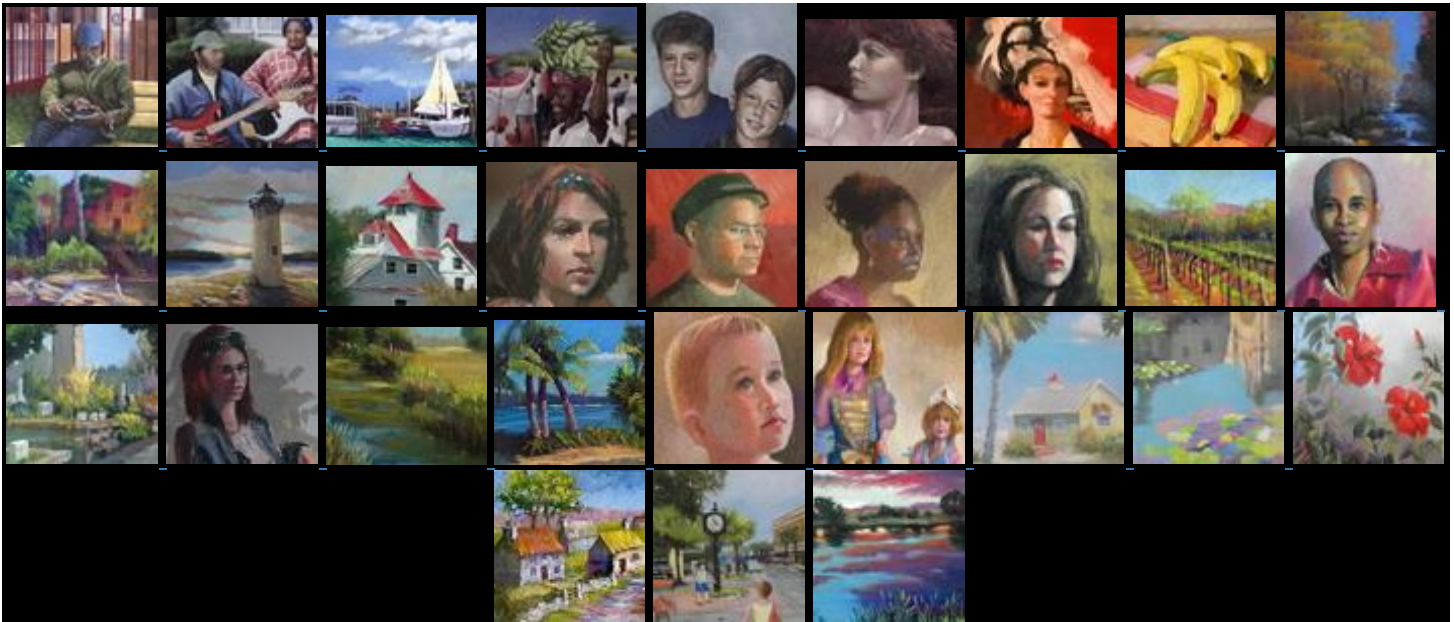


## Demo Artist – Program at March 3 Members Meeting



The program during our February 3<sup>rd</sup> membership meeting (on Friday, March 3 starting at 1:00) will be a demo by **Sandy Turnbull**.

[www.SandyArtWorks.com](http://www.SandyArtWorks.com)



Alexander “Sandy” Turnbull is a fine artist producing works which include portraits, landscapes, still life paintings, etc. He is a retired mechanical engineer living in The Villages, Florida, and is active in the art community. Alexander served in the U.S. Air Force. Throughout his 40 plus working years, he honed his artistic skills in classroom studios, personal studies, and numerous workshops. He has taught art for a retail commercial art supply company and has given painting demonstrations. He has received a number of awards locally for his work, most recently “Best-In-Show” with the Ocala (Florida) Art Group. He practices what is known as a painterly style which incorporates loose, expressive strokes, emphasis on composition, and simplified values. Email: [sturnbull007@yahoo.com](mailto:sturnbull007@yahoo.com)



## New Members

Sally LaBaugh, Chair



**Debra Botman**  
**Phone: 905-938-0549**  
**Email:**  
**dbotman01@gmail.com**



I reside six months of the year in the historic community of Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario, one of Canada's finest

Wine Regions. The remainder of the year I live in The Village of Fenney with my golf-loving husband, Gene.

Nature and my love of florals would be my primary focus, using watercolors. I have taken many classes from Julie Snider, a fellow Canadian watercolor artist. Additional workshops include week-long sessions at Fleming College, The Haliburton School of Art and Design. And like many of us during this time I am grateful for the many YouTube and on-line courses to further my education in art.

Some of my most recent creations have been inspired by the passion of golf seen in The Villages. Using a sketch of a vintage golf bag, enhanced with watercolors and fine line pen, I have created a series of images made into humorous greeting cards and prints.





## Spotlight on You

Darlene Hayes, Chair

### Leda Rabenold

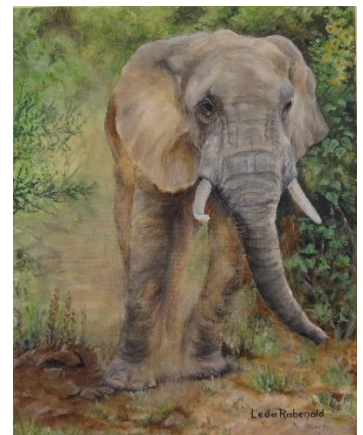


Originally from Allentown, PA, in 2008 Leda moved with her husband to The Villages from St. Cloud, FL. She and Paul served 18 years as missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators, first in NC, then TX and last in Florida, retiring in 2014. Never especially wanting to live in Florida, she is so grateful that the Lord brought them here. Leda was a secretary except during the years of raising their five children. This helps with managing the websites for VAA and VAL as well as several others.



She enjoys having lots of time for artwork. It was a huge honor to be chosen in 2015 to paint a mural for the Rohan Rec Center. Never having painted a canvas of that size, it was quite a challenge. Above is Leda with the mural before it left her house.

She's done more than 150 pet portraits since her daughter asked her to paint their 3 dogs in 2010, but it's not often that she receives a photo of the painting with the live pet. Orli was painted as a donation to a charity auction in PA in 2018. "Living here is a real blessing with so much interesting scenery and wildlife to paint! And so many talented individuals who are willing to share their knowledge with me."





## Photo Frame



### Diane Pattie



Diane is from The Village of Sunset Pointe, originally from Toledo, Ohio. She was always interested in art and took four years of art in high school. But she was the oldest of six children with no money to go to art school.

Her first job out of high school coincidentally was at a high-end camera store where she purchased her first 35 mm camera. With no school but a camera in hand, her art urges turned to photography. She took her eye for

creativity and the elements of art and applied it to photographic images.



Photos shown are from her Flamingo phase, all shot at Gatorland. They are, of course, captive. She goes there yearly in the spring to also photograph all the nesting birds (non-captive). Digital photography has opened other opportunities in her art (like learning pastels if you have always done oils). Sometimes she displays a straight-up photography and sometimes she takes it a step or two further with the options available in her computer. There always seems to be a new technique for her to try.





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## Scholarship Program

Helen Poor, Chair



Before we update you on our busy month ahead, VAA Scholarship wants to send out a huge **thank you** to all our Volunteers who helped with the February Art Show and fundraising. Besides running a terrific show, Jo Magram supports and helps us with a Scholarship Café and great promotion for our raffles and sales. Nan Kohr again stored, organized and handled art work donations for scholarship sales. Our Artistic Partners, KC Productions, performed songs from *Man of La Mancha* beautifully and brought in crowds and buyers! Because of all these efforts, we were able to raise enough for a full scholarship to be given in April.

March 4<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for our scholarship forms to come in from high school students in our three-county area. Applications were sent out in early January to regional, public and private high schools, We want the seniors to have plenty of time to finish pieces and organize their art work and write-ups. At this point, they usually have made some decisions about where they are applying for admission. Now they are looking for financial help. Tuitions are higher every year. We are here not only to help with that, but to support them in other ways as well. Our calls to admission departments and scholarship offices can make a difference ...and result in additional funding, or get someone off a waitlist. It is another part of what the VAA can do to help with the challenge of becoming a college student and future artist.

By our next Newsletter we will know who our Art Scholars are for 2023, and you will get to meet them, hear their stories and see their Art in April at our VAA meeting.

Thank you for supporting our students and program!

**Helen Poor and The VAA Scholarship Team**



## Conversations



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

### Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Art

AI in art has the potential to open up a world of creative opportunities for the artist. By embracing the opportunity of AI, we're given the opportunity to explore the unknowns and to sculpt unique works of art that could not be created without its help. AI allows us to push the boundaries of traditional art forms and explore new ways of expressing ourselves in the artistic realm.

What is AI? AI is the branch of computer science devoted to creating intelligent machines using algorithms that is inspired by the natural intelligence of humans and animals. AI is used in a variety of fields, including autonomous vehicles, robotics, speech recognition, data mining, and more. AI is also relevant to art because it can be used to craft interpretations of the artist's work, composition, or conception of a painting. Simply put, AI allows us to take what we already have and elevate our work to a more advanced level.

The great thing about AI and art is that it gives us the freedom to craft new, never-before-seen pieces. AI allows artists to get creative and explore new ways of expression. For example, we can use AI to generate unique images by combining multiple textures and disparate objects with an artist's brush strokes. We can also use AI to animate our artwork and design complex displays that dance and move in vivid ways. We can, likewise, use AI to generate patterns and textures that capture the complexity of the world around us. Last, but certainly not least, AI can also be used to generate interactive art pieces that respond to inputs from the viewers' interactions.

No matter the medium, AI allows for an ever-expanding range of possibilities for artistic expression and exploration. AI can also help us bridge the gap between physical and digital art by allowing us to generate works of art that occupy both realms. For instance, we can use AI to translate images from the physical world into 3D models and vice versa. This is great for artists who are looking to explore the interface between physical and digital art.



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## ***Conversations*** ***(continued)***

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In addition to allowing us to more effectively explore our artistic expressions, AI can also help us convey complex messages and emotions. By infusing our artwork with AI, we're able to generate pieces that are more meaningful and portray more sophisticated topics. This can be particularly useful when it comes to art forms like sculpture, painting, and photography. AI can also be used to help us tell stories through our artwork by allowing us to craft visual narratives that we otherwise would not be able to craft.

AI has enabled us to enter a new era of art production. It has given us the opportunity to explore the unknowns, to push the boundaries of what can be achieved, and to create works of art that could not be created using traditional art styles and techniques. It is with AI that we can create unique pieces that express our unique perspectives and experiences. AI has become an essential tool for the modern artist, and its capabilities are only expanding as new and innovative tools are developed.

To conclude, AI has become a powerful force in the realm of art. It has allowed us to craft pieces that convey complexity and emotion, to explore new realms of artistic expression, and to bridge the gap between physical and digital art. AI is an invaluable tool for the modern artist, and there is no limit to what can be achieved when it is combined with creativity and a passion for exploration.

***NOTE:*** *This article was written with AI (Artificial Intelligence) report writer "Write For Me"*





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## ***Events & Opportunities***

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### **A Call to Artists – The La Galleria SPRING 2023 Fine Arts Exhibit – Winds of Change Ribbons and Monetary Awards**

Winds of Change are blowing! Our **Spring 2023 La Galleria Show** will hang March 11, 2023 at La Hacienda. The registration forms and instructions are now on the VAA website under FORMS.

The following awards will be given: 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$75.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$50.00.

Deadline for registration forms is Saturday, March 4, 2023.

Don't delay, get your registration forms in the mail and let's make this another incredible exhibit for the VAA.

■ *Respectfully submitted by Meg Hay, Chair*

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### **Online Art Challenge**

**March/April Theme: "Spring to Life"**

**Deadline: April 30**

**(Please read the Rules on our Website carefully)**




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



## Events & Opportunities

### ARTS (Art 'Round The Square) Winners!

The recent ARTS event on January 29 at Spanish Springs found first-time winners among our participants! Voting is done by the audience. Congratulations!!

First Place	Second Place	Third Place
		
<p>"Poolside Retreat" Judi Roach Acrylic</p>	<p>"Aquarium" Sandra Walver glass sculpture</p>	<p>"Caroline #3 at Mallory" Diana Crow oil</p>

**NOTE:** The next ARTS Exhibit will be held in Lake Sumter Landing on Sunday, March 26.



## Events & Opportunities



### Village Art Workshops

Art in the Heart of Florida

## WORKSHOPS WITH NATIONALLY KNOWN ARTISTS MARCH OF 2023



David Lobenberg  
"California Vibe"  
Watercolor Portraiture  
3/6 – 3/8

Sally Evans  
"Color Makes Me  
Happy"  
Acrylic/Oil Workshop  
3/11 – 3/12



Kathleen Giles  
"Realistic Watercolor  
Techniques"  
3/20 – 3/21

Mary Beth Downs  
"Playing with Watercolor  
and Ink"  
March 27 - 29





## Village Art Workshops

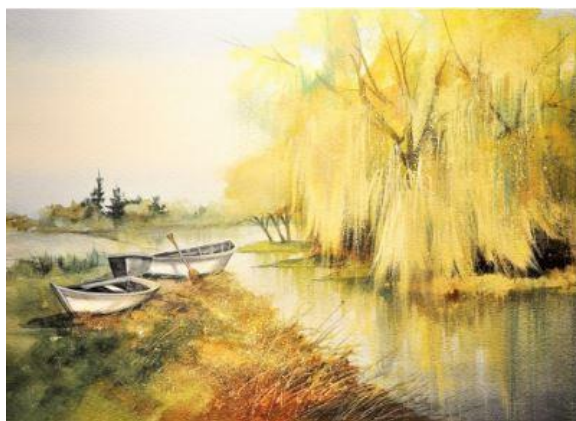
Art in the Heart of Florida

## OTHER WORKSHOPS & CLASSES MARCH OF 2023



Wanda Boyd "Ultimate Beginner Watercolor"  
8-week Series  
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5 and 5/12  
12:30 – 3:30

Mark Polomchak  
One-day Watercolor Workshop  
3/9, 9:00 – 3:00



Mark Polomchak  
One-day Watercolor Workshop  
3/23, 9:00 – 3:00

For more information, to register & for payment, visit  
[villageartworkshops.com](http://villageartworkshops.com)



## Bulletin Board



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

### CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

**Jan/Feb Online Art Challenge** \*  
**Voting** Deadline: March 15  
Theme: "Still Life"

**Mar/Apr Online Art Challenge** \*  
Deadline: April 30  
Theme: "Spring to Life"

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

**ARTS Exhibit** \*  
Sunday, March 26  
Lake Sumter Landing

**Membership Mtg**  
Friday, April 7, 1:00pm  
Sea Breeze

**Annex Exhibit** \*  
Saturday, May 6

\* *indicates show or exhibit activity*

### VAA Executive Board

President	Catherine Sullivan	<a href="mailto:cnjsullivan@aol.com">cnjsullivan@aol.com</a>
Vice Pres	Judy Nahmias	<a href="mailto:judy Nahmias@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 (*inactive*)

### Appointed Board Members

Helen Poor  
Sally LaBaugh  
Cheri Ptacek  
Lisa Melcher

### Newsletter Staff

**Sally LaBaugh**, New Members  
[sallylabaugh@gmail.com](mailto:sallylabaugh@gmail.com)

**Helen Poor**, Scholarship  
[helenpoor@comcast.net](mailto:helenpoor@comcast.net)

**Betty Eich**, Photo Frame  
[bettybrock@comcast.net](mailto:bettybrock@comcast.net)

**Darlene Hayes**, Spotlight Artist  
[dgh@comcast.net](mailto:dgh@comcast.net)

**Martha Ayotte**, Conversations  
[mayotte22@gmail.com](mailto:mayotte22@gmail.com)

**Cheri Ptacek**, Editor  
[vaanews@yahoo.com](mailto:vaanews@yahoo.com)

### 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*