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## Nan's Notes (from our President)

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Friends,

The summer heat is lingering, but our enthusiasm is not dampened. There is so much good art to appreciate. So get ready!

The art starts with The Villages Art League's "Inspired by the Masters" exhibit on September 9th at La Galleria in the Hacienda Recreation Center. A special thank you to Catherine Sullivan for inspiring us (for the last ten years) to show our 2023 art.

On October 7th we have an exhibit at The Sheriff's Annex. Then we have "Artists 'Round the Square" held October 15th at Brownwood's Paddock Square.

On November 18th scheduled is the "Fall Festival of Art" at Colony Recreation Center with 50 artists able to display their artwork from 9 am. to 2 pm.

In December we party! Then in 2024 we will show off more art.

REMINDER: Your dues for the new fiscal year are payable on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please download the renewal form on our website and either mail with your check or bring to the membership meeting. You are eligible to participate in our exhibits and shows if your dues are current.

Please join us on Friday (September 1<sup>st</sup>) at 1:00, SeaBreeze Rec Center, for our first meeting of the fiscal year 2023-24. Come early at 12:30 to enjoy snacks and connecting with other artsy friends. See you then!

Here is a thought shared with us from Julie McGlone.

*"Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks,  
breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun."*

Nan Kohr, President  
Carol Reynolds, Vice-president  
Betty Eich, Secretary  
Connie Giebels, Treasurer





## Program at Friday, September 1st Membership Meeting



**Julie McGlone** is an artist, author, and avid cook. It all depends on what day it is and how much of a mess she wants to make. She has travelled to five continents and continues to seek new destinations and experiences.

Julie is the author of *And Now, It's January*, *Life Takes Detours*, *Erasing Maddie* and *The Key to Your Life*.

"Splash with Us" watercolor class started in February 2009 and continues each week at Colony Cottage on Mondays from 1:00-3:00 and 3:00-5:00. The Wednesday class is 9:30-12:00.

Julie's focus has always been to find the best way for each student to understand and practice watercolor techniques.

Teaching motivates her to bring new subject matter and techniques into the classroom.

Painting on black watercolor paper is a popular one. Her demo at the September meeting will include suggestions for subject matter and supplies necessary to make the most of value contrasts in each painting.

For more information, please contact her at [artleague08@gmail.com](mailto:artleague08@gmail.com)

Her favorite quote is from Erma Bombeck:

*"When I stand before God at the end of my life,  
I would hope that I would not have a single  
bit of talent left and could say,  
"I used everything you gave me."*



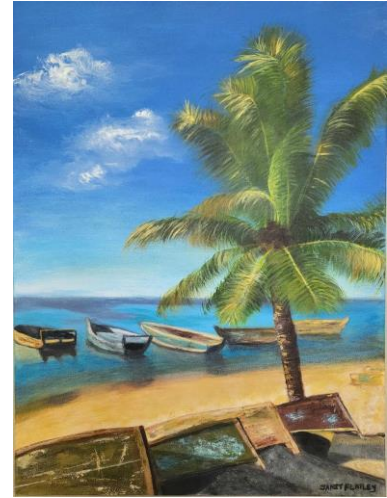


## New Members

*Sally LaBaugh, Chair*

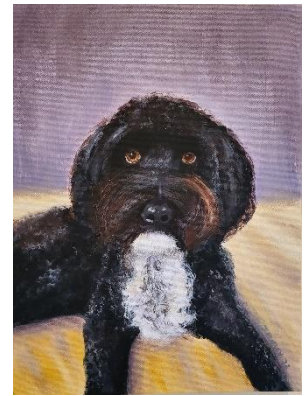
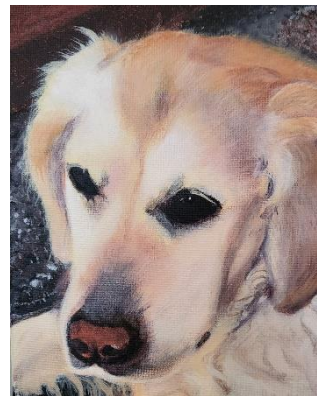


**Janet Flatley**  
Phone: 908-328-5339  
Email:  
[janetflatley@yahoo.com](mailto:janetflatley@yahoo.com)



I have been married for 32 years to my husband Steve. We lived in the small town of Milford, NJ, before moving to the Village of Fernandina in 2015. I had a massage therapy business in Milford for 25 years.

I went to a "Paint and Sip" in 2019 with a friend and found that I loved to paint!! I had never done any art before that, but immediately took to it. I have taken lessons from Carol Basso since then. I also love to golf, do pottery, play cards and travel.





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## Spotlight on You

*Darlene Hayes, Chair*

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### Meet Rhonda Waters.



Rhonda is from Atlanta, GA. She and her husband Jan have lived in the Villages for 8 years. They now live in the Village of Chitty Chatty.

She has been a metal artist for over 50 years. Graduating from Stephens College in Columbia, Mo. With a degree in fine art. That is also where she learned to weld. Since then she has worked in clay, painting silk, copper enamel and fused glass. She used to do 30 shows a year in Atlanta but is happy to be in the Villages where she has fewer shows and shorter hours.

Three years ago she met Annie Dotzauer and started to collaborate with her. It's been a major blessing to combine their works. It really has increased both of our creative ideas. Rhonda works mainly with Copper, Brass and stainless steel. They have done some custom transoms and many wall pieces. Rhonda also makes copper fountains, wall sculptures and jewelry that are the primary pieces that Rhonda sells at the villages shows.

Pictured is one of their metal and glass collaborations, one of Rhonda's fountains, a collaborative piece with wood, glass and metal and a copper tree (about 4 ft in width).





## Scholarship Program



*Helen Poor, Chair*

To our members of past years, and to our new artists coming on board, welcome to VAA Scholarship Fall 2023! This is the 18<sup>th</sup> year that we will look for and support art graduates of our regional high schools who are planning a college major and career in art. As of this writing we have given out \$155,000 to 80 graduates from our region, and we hope to find more in the class of 2024!

As many of you know, it has been a very challenging time for Central Florida high school art departments and art teachers over the last three years. This has been obvious in our lower number of applicants, and in the art faculty and program changes shared with us last Spring. We are optimistic that this new semester will hold positive beginnings with talented art majors we can help.

Our last seasons winner, Ms. Lauren Deal, made a summer switch from Ringling College of Art. For financial reasons, she is now starting at one of our excellent state art schools, Santa Fe College in Gainesville. We wish her the best, and a great first semester!

Now begins the task of raising funds and connecting with teachers and art students this fall. After faculty and 12<sup>th</sup> graders have settled in, information about our Scholarships will go out to the high school art programs, especially to the schools that have frequently sent us candidates in the past. In January, both private and public high schools will get information packets and copies of our application forms. We will also call new teachers to answer questions and encourage entries. All this takes money, and we hope by January we are well on the way to raising the needed funds for the winners of 2024.

**THIS YEAR FUNDRAISING HELP IS TRULY NEEDED !!! PLEASE CONSIDER COMING ONBOARD WITH ENERGY, IDEAS AND TIME TO BE A CHAIR FOR PROJECTS AND EVENTS TO BENEFIT OUR CAUSE !**

Our first event, The VAA **FALL PUMPKIN SALE**, is already planned. It will be a part of Arts 'Round the Square In October. Last years' sell-out sale showed us that Villagers love artistically painted and decorated pumpkins and are ready to buy them for our scholarship cause . Members purchased artificial "pumps" early, painted and decorated them in most unique ways, and brought them to our October VAA event. This year that event will be at Brownwood Paddock Square on October 15<sup>th</sup>. More information on this project will follow so stay tuned, and consider being a Pumpkin Picasso !!!

Our own Jo Magram has created the pumpkin piece here. What a great imagination she has!





## **Scholarship** (cont'd)

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IF you are interested in leading /chairing funding events for Scholarship, please let us know.

Former art teachers are especially welcome, but all our artists can help with this unique cause.

Thank You for your SUPPORT!

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

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## **LaGalleria Exhibit**

*Meg Hay, Chair*

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### **Attention current LaGalleria artists:**

Plan to *pick up your painting* on **Saturday, September 9, between 8:30 and 9:30 am.**

Note that is a different time than given during registration and it is to accommodate VAL painting drop off. If you can't pick up your painting, please make arrangements for someone to do it for you. Use the side entrance for the Julio Iglesias room at LaHacienda Recreation Center.

The next show at LaGalleria is organized by the VAL and runs through December 9, when the VAA will again take over.



## Conversations



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

### The Myth of Talent

By Christopher Volpe

*“With almost any creative endeavor,  
we mistakenly think that we know what translates into success.”  
– Susan J. Langer*

Most people look at paintings in galleries and museums and think that artists are special people, endowed with extraordinary talent – as if there were only one way to make good art.

But the more you look and learn about the many kinds of paintings there are, the many ways of painting, and the many skills that go into it, the more you discover that there are multiple types and varieties of “good” art. So, it follows that there isn’t just one but a multitude of possible ways of being “good” and multiple definitions of “talent” as well.

What people often mean when they say, “I have zero talent,” is that they tried an artform once, lacked the skill (the *skill*, not the “talent”) to make an excellent likeness of something, and then ran away. The problem is thinking we’re *supposed* to be good out of the gate. But why? You wouldn’t expect a future guitar hero to be able to play like Hendrix the first time they pick up a guitar. Heck, the first few times you try painting, you don’t even know *what skills* artists require to make art – and the reason is that this is *something only continued firsthand experience can reveal!*

We’re looking at end results without realizing *there’s a process*. “Our admiration of the result – the great painting, the inspiring performance, the perfect approach shot,” says Harvard creative psychology professor Susan J. Langer, “ignores the process – the struggles, uncertainties, and false starts that even ‘the talented’ confront.” Langer, in her (highly recommended) book, *On Becoming an Artist* (Random House, 2005), illustrates the mistaken ideas we tend to have about so-called talent. Say I decide to paint a flower, Langer says, but the result doesn’t look very much like a flower – what should I conclude? Most people will say, “see, I told you I don’t have any talent” and get out of it that way. But as Langer points out, that’s a totally wrong conclusion. “It’s not that I don’t have the talent,” she says, “it’s that I don’t yet know the subtleties of flowers.”

Think about that for a minute.



It's not that I don't have enough *talent* to paint a good flower (or tractor, for that matter). Rather, it's that "I haven't yet learned enough about flowers (or tractors) to capture them in a painting." The truth is, if I'm willing to invest enough time and effort into learning about flowers or tractors, observing how they're put together, how they're shaped and proportioned to perform their respective jobs, etc. – then it comes down to learning the skills that the thousands of other artists who've painted flowers and tractors have learned already. Taking it step by step, I can actually look for the differences in my results vs. other paintings of flowers and tractors and learn as I go.

At this point, the question of whether I'm "talented at painting flowers" or anything else, is essentially beside the point. It's the wrong question!

The key is knowing that there are steps to learning anything, Langer says, especially creative endeavors such as painting, playing an instrument, writing well, engineering an innovative design for a new bridge, arranging flowers, or writing code.

Don't let the myth of talent – the mistaken idea that, "you either have it or you don't" keep you from being creative. Take note not just of where you fall short but of how you're progressing and improving. Artists aren't people blissfully endowed with superhuman, God-given abilities to make near-perfect paintings from the get-go. Everybody works step by step.

Can't draw a straight line, you say? When people tell me that, I say, neither can I! Luckily, that's not a requirement for making art. And anyway, pretty much anyone can learn to draw.

Instead of asking yourself, "Can I do it?" flip the question: "*How* do I do it"? Painting, like anything else (and probably more-so!), is an acquired skill, something that you must learn by doing.

What is talent? What even is art? How can people say, "I'm not creative enough, I can't make art," when we can't even agree on what art is? Besides, isn't what we really want *to live creatively*, to feel alive and to perhaps even enliven others? Some people complain, "Anything can be art!" To which I say, "and?"

Because "if we allowed ourselves to see the art in everything, it would be that much easier to see how we may all be artists," Langer says. "And how much simpler it would be to live the artful life."





## Events & Opportunities



### Village Art Workshops

Art in the Heart of Florida

#### 2023/2024 Season Nationally Known Artists



Village Art Workshops  
Art in the Heart of Florida

October 2 and 3, Gene Rizzo, Watercolor  
October 9 and 10, Kevin Tobin, Acrylic  
October 16 and 17, Jane Slivka, Acrylic  
October 23 and 25, Janelle Johnson, Color Pencil  
November 6 and 7, Linda Wokoun, Watercolor  
November 13 and 14, Lynn Ferris, Watercolor  
January 15 – 17, Anne Abgott, Watercolor  
January 21, David Becker, Acrylic Paint Party  
January 22 and 23, David R. Becker, Watercolor  
January 24 and 25, David R. Becker, Gouache  
January 29 – 31, Carol Carter, Watercolor  
February 5 – 7, Alicia Farris, Watercolor  
February 12 – 14, Dan Wiemer, Watercolor  
February 19 – 21, Jennifer Stone, Collage  
February 26 and 27, Sterling Edwards, Watercolor  
February 28 and 29, Sterling Edwards, Acrylic  
March 4 – 6, Jean Pederson, Acrylic  
March 11 – 13, Cole Wolford, Watercolor  
March 18 – 20, Kathleen Giles, Watercolor  
April 8 and 9, Tom Jones, Watercolor  
April 19 – 21, Janet Rogers, Watercolor

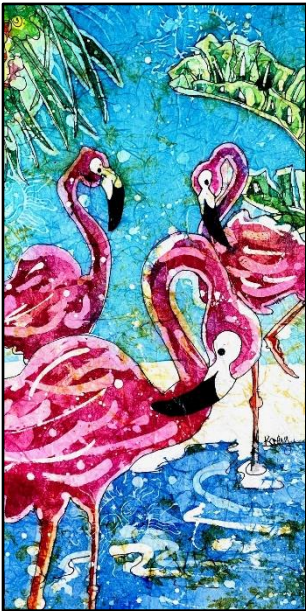
*Registration begins August 1, 2023*

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



**Village Art Workshops**  
Art in the Heart of Florida

**SEPTEMBER EVENTS**



Kathy Mantel, Watercolor Batik  
September 12, 9 am – 3 pm



Cindy Vener, Acrylic  
September 19, 9 am – 3 pm




Korinne Karpino, Alcohol Ink  
September 26, 9 am – 12 pm

For more information and to register,  
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, Sept 1, 1:00pm  
Sea Breeze

**Membership Mtg**

Friday, Oct 6, 1:00pm  
Sea Breeze

**Annex Exhibit** \*

Saturday, Oct 7 8:30am

**ARTS (Arts 'Round the Square)** \*

October 15. 1:00pm  
Brownwood

**Membership Mtg**

Friday, Nov 3, 1:00pm  
Sea Breeze

**Fall Festival of Art** \*

Saturday, Nov 18  
Colony Rec Center  
9am – 2pm

\* *indicates show or exhibit activity*

### VAA Executive Board

President	Nan Kohr	<a href="mailto:kohr240@gmail.com">kohr240@gmail.com</a>
Vice Pres	Carol Reynolds	<a href="mailto:caroljr46@gmail.com">caroljr46@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Betty Eich	<a href="mailto:bettybrock@comcast.net">bettybrock@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Connie Giebels	<a href="mailto:cgiebels43@gmail.com">cgiebels43@gmail.com</a>

### Past Presidents

Lee Asta  
Marge McQuestion  
Frank Zampardi  
Nan Kohr  
Barb Justice (*inactive*)  
Catherine Sullivan

### Appointed Board Members

Helen Poor  
Sally LaBaugh  
Cheri Ptacek  
Lisa Melcher  
Karyn Zais  
Eileen Sklon

### 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