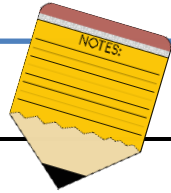




Nan's Notes



Nan Kohr, President

There is not enough time to paint everything around me as I really see it, yet by starting in a small way my world is becoming full of vibrant colors. Or is that the successful cataract surgery? Luminous!

We will be meeting the student candidates that money has been raised to fund their scholarships. Thank you to all our friends who have helped and given so generously of their time as well as their own donated artwork. It is something not to make light of....

Coming soon will be our very own **Member's Salon** at the May 3rd membership meeting when we share TWO pieces of artwork. One piece of art that is finished and then one piece that you want other members to give their advice for improvement. We tend to be our own worst critics so another's viewpoint may be welcomed (the second option is only if you wish feedback). Enjoy being an artist!



Nan Kohr, president
Carol Reynolds, vice-president
Betty Eich, secretary
Connie Giebels, treasurer

New Members

Debby Bloom

MEET Jo-Ann Rosa



Jo-Ann Rosa - Painter
jo-ann@jrosa-art.com
760-200-7002

At a young age, Jo-Ann had a passion for art. Originally from New York, she studied Art in college. Later, she joined the Air Force to continue her education, ultimately serving six years in the military. She went on to study at U.C. Santa Barbara, majoring in Business Economics. After running her own business for 14 years, Jo-Ann rededicated her life to her passion—art.



Working with Acrylics and mixing different additives, she strives for her paintings to evoke a feeling of movement. For bolder colors, she adds resin to give a glass-like sheen. “Abstract Realism,” is a style that defines the many facets of Jo-Ann's work. Those facets include art where the subject stands out, abstract because it is done with color, and brush strokes conveying emotion. Winning numerous awards, Jo-Ann has had her work commissioned and displayed in California, Philadelphia, and New York.

Having formerly lived in Santa Barbara and Palm Desert, California, Jo-Ann and her husband came to The Villages to check out the lifestyle and are now full-time residents in Tamarind Grove! With close family nearby, they are settling in well and enjoying all the activities— and plenty of golf. In California, Jo-Ann volunteered with a handful of non-profits including: Zoofari Santa Barbara, The Girlfriend Factor, Breast Cancer - Susan B. Komen, and Military Day at Ironwood Country Club in Palm Desert, CA.



New Members

Debby Bloom

MEET Carol Savacchio



Carol Savacchio
csavacchio@aol.com
631-384-7025
Facebook: Carol's Creations@carolscreationsandmasks

Glass has always been a passion for artist, Carol Savacchio. Born and raised in New York (Long Island), she grew up loving the beach. As an adult, she found a new joy and excitement at the shore in collecting sea glass and beautiful shells. It was that glass that inspired her to pursue making her art in later life.



As a young girl, Carol watched her mother create silk flower arrangements, so an awareness of form and color was ever present. With her mother as her first example, Carol always admired those who had a special artistic talent— drawing, writing, painting, etc.

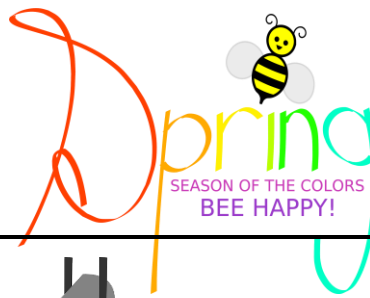
After her three daughters were well launched, Carol had more time for her own artistic expression. While dabbling in scrapbooking, photography, and making cards, she wanted to make something more permanent with her photographs. The answer was a process called “Sublimation.” Also known as heat transfer printing, Carol was able to transfer photographs onto tempered glass cutting boards, pillows, face masks, and more.



Selling her work to friends and online through a Facebook business page, Carol welcomes commissions as well as opportunities to show and sell her creations at art fairs and community events.



After 40 years in the same Long Island home, Carol and Robert searched far and wide for the perfect place to retire. They found The Villages, and settled in Tamarind Grove in September of 2023.



Spotlight on You

Darlene Hayes

Meet our VAA Board

Karyn Zais
Membership Chair



Other than elementary school, I am self-taught up until I started visiting The Villages. Through the tutelage of Julie McGlone, Frank Z, Wanda Boyd, Susie Schreiber and many fellow students and village artists (too numerable to mention) I have gained much insight into the art of art.

I like all forms and mediums of painting but, my joy seems to lie in acrylic abstracts. I especially like to paint fairly large as it gives me more space to interact with a canvas. I feel abstracts, in particular, are a conversation between me, the canvas, and the observer. The conversation is never the same. I enjoy it the most when my intentions are not obvious and people try to make sense out of my nonsense.



I appreciate the opportunities provided through the clubs, rec centers, and workshops offered in The Villages to enjoy my artistic pursuits. I never planned or expected to be doing so much art, in my life. It's the main reason I moved here. I'm hoping to expand my understanding and knowledge through the future here. Maybe I'll even follow "the rules" more consistently as time goes on. LOL.





Scholarship Program

Helen Poor, Chair

April is almost here, and we are in the final phase of our student selection process. By the time we see you all again, we will have our scholarship winners for 2024!!! More students from our area high schools have applied this year than in recent times, and our finalists will be interviewed in person shortly with their art work and college plans. Our fundraising has gone well this year (thanks to many of you) but art school and college tuitions have soared, even at our state schools offering art majors.

Please join us on April 5th (Membership Meeting) to meet the young artists that the VAA will honor and support for 2024. It is an interesting and fun time.

We would like to remind you that seats are still available for tickets to “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.” It will be put on by our Scholarship Partners (KC Productions) March 26th through 28th at Savannah CenterDon’t miss it !

We continue with our member recruitment search and are **asking for your time and ideas** for our continued scholarships and outreach. **Fundraising ideas and event help are always needed!!! Please consider coming onboard with energy, suggestions and time to be a chair for projects and activities to benefit our cause.**

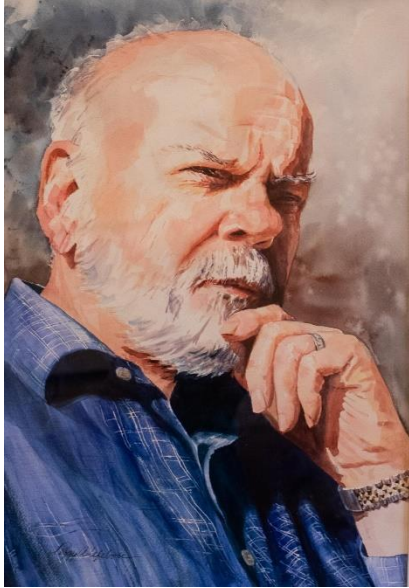
We will soon be at the time that we work for all year, and a time when the VAA shines in its support and commitment to future generations of artists!!!

Thank you for being there for them and for us.

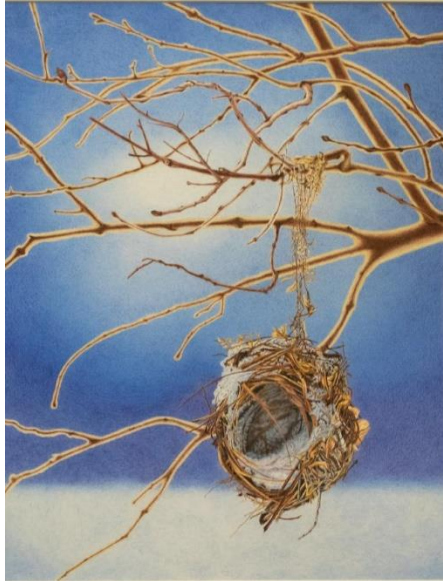
Helen Poor for the VAA Scholarship Team
352-561-4474

La Galleria Exhibit

Meg Hay, Chair



First Place: Peg Lefebvre
"Pensive" (watercolor)



Second Place: Victoria Peterson
"Winter's Remnant" (colored pencil)



Third Place: Kathleen Karol
"By the Light" (pastel)



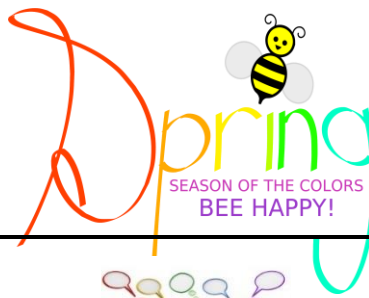
Hon Mention: Janine Motto
"Under the Key of Sea" (acrylic/WC)



Hon Mention: Lois Kamp
"51 Cats & 4 Rabbits" (mixed)



Hon Mention: Helen Lynne Watson
Untitled (ink)



Conversations



Martha Ayotte

Can Creativity Make You a Better Person?

By Christopher Volpe

There's plenty of evidence that creativity can improve and even prolong your life. Taking up an art like painting keeps your mind limber and your emotions alive, helps you stay curious and adventurous, and it also relieves stress (when you're not pulling your hair out over how to paint a tree!).

Researchers studying links between health and five major personality traits found that only creativity — not intelligence, extroversion, openness, or agreeableness — improves one's chances of staying healthy longer. It's because creative expression enhances neural networks, keeping the brain healthy even into old age.

Being creative is also good practice for keeping an open mind. Creative thinking is about problem-solving as opposed to hand-wringing. It's about making new connections, not cultivating doubt and division, and it's about considering and integrating new information rather than closing it off or shutting it out.

Psychologists are discovering that these are the kind of traits that translate well to social situations. Creative thinkers — simply meaning ordinary people who are developing their ability to think and act creatively — score better when it comes to empathizing with others and understanding alternate points of view. And goodness knows these days we can do with more of that.

"I believe that creative expression helps us leverage our better angels and be better versions of ourselves," Veronica Keiffer-Lewis, Ed.D wrote in article published online by *Psychology Today*. "It can also help us develop and embody cultural humility, the lifelong commitment to understanding and respecting different points of view, ... and see others in new ways."

Artistry involves self-development. And that allows us to expand our understanding of ourselves and each other.

Attitude matters. Painting becomes a lot more fun if you can stay open and mostly uncritical while working. In other words, it helps when navigating the processes within painting if you can keep yourself in a state of suspended judgment, avoiding jumping to conclusions too quickly. It gives you a better chance of solving problems creatively as they arise rather than giving up the ship at every tenth wave. You also stand a better chance at being surprised by whatever comes next (or challenged to fix what unexpectedly goes wrong with that tree!). In other words, painting, like life, is less frustrating if you reframe perceived missteps and obstacles as opportunities for creative problem-solving.

Equivalently, creative expression "can also help reframe (social) conflict as creative potential," Keiffer-Lewis says, "or as an opportunity for understanding new social realities."

Keiffer-Lewis tells an interesting story about a student at a college where she was presenting her research: "One day, a student at the college where we would be presenting came in and stared at a self-portrait my brother had painted entitled *Colored*. After studying the painting for a long time, he turned to us and said, 'I really wish I knew what the artist was thinking and feeling when he created this.'

"My brother, in his wisdom replied, '*Can you imagine a world where we all take as much time, care, and curiosity to understand another human being?*' That is the world I long for, and I dedicate my work to a world in which we see each human being as an amazing piece of art to be curious about, love, care for, and respect."

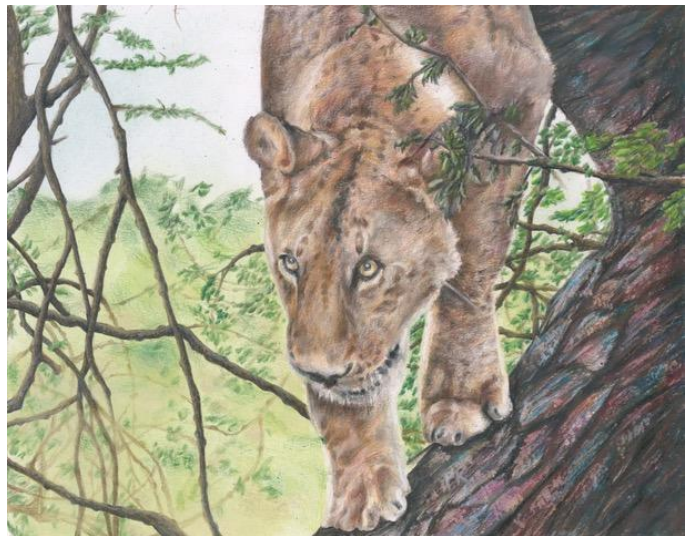
Members Gallery

Send good photo of your latest art (one) to VAAnews@yahoo.com
If you want a critique from members, include your email.

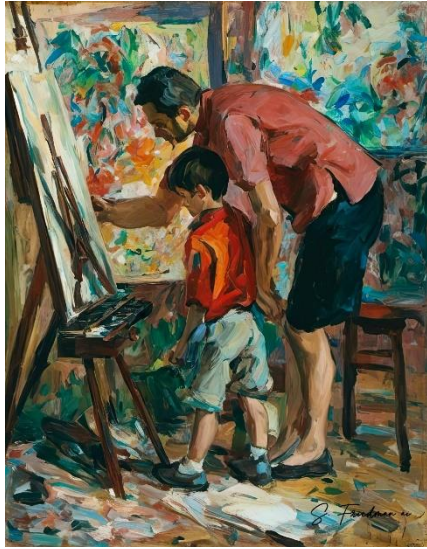
PLEASE provide feedback for each artist's photo below that includes an email



George Freeman, "Octopus" (glass)
freemangeo@comcast.net



Peter Kushner, "I didn't know lionesses could climb trees"
(Colored Pencils)
peterkushner@me.com



Steven Friedman, "The Master teaches his young apprentice" (Digital Art from photo)
sfriedman39@comcast.net



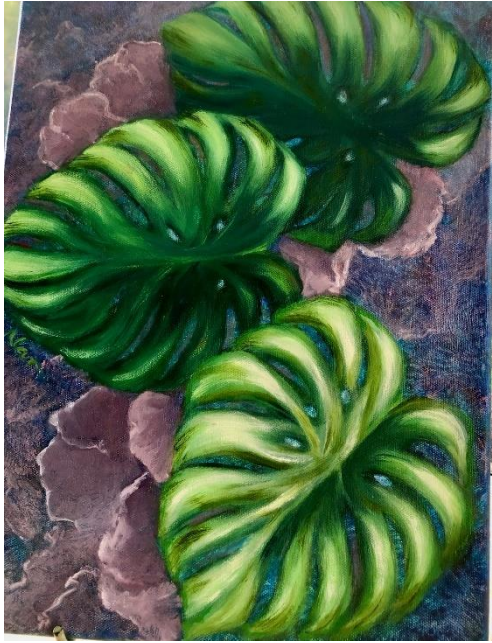
Alexander "Sandy" Turnbull, "Coastal Italy" (Acrylic)
sturnbull007@yahoo.com



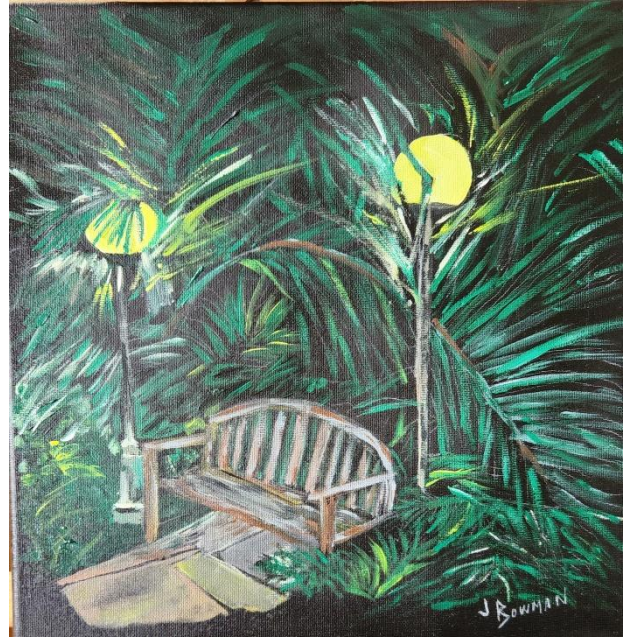
Lois Burton, "Still Water" (Oil on Canvas)
Lbpainter44@gmail.com



Judi Roach, "Wind Beneath Our Wings"
(Watercolor)
billjudiroach@comcast.net



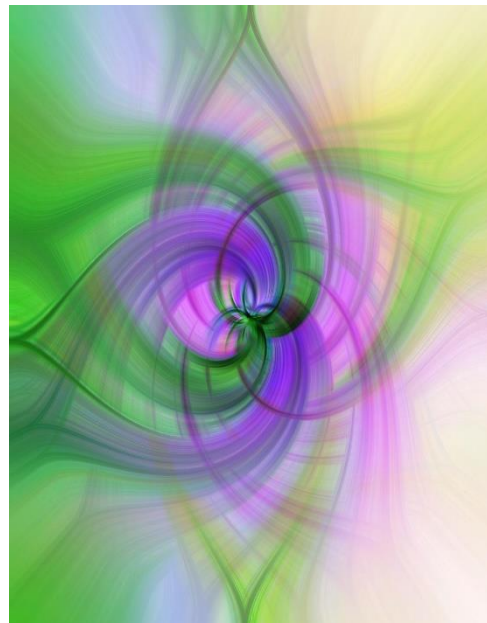
Nan Kohr, "Monstera Mania" (oil)
Kohr240@gmail.com



Jane Bowman, "Como Park" (Acrylics)
Blj4445@hotmail.com



Doris Glapion, "Delicate Forms" (acrylics)
dorissells@yahoo.com



Betty Eich, "Phlox Transformed"
(Photograph/Photoshop)
Bettybrock@comcast.net

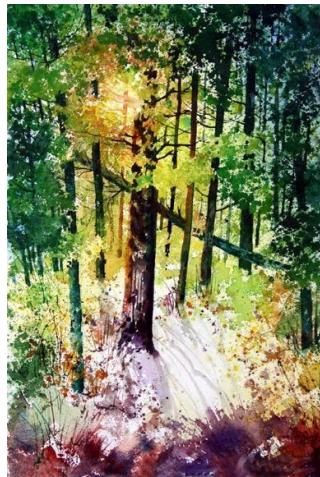
Events & Opportunities



Village Art Workshops
Art in the Heart of Florida

WORKSHOPS WITH NATIONALLY KNOWN ARTISTS THROUGH APRIL

April 8 and 9, Tom Jones
"How to Build a Watercolor in Four
Steps"



Easy



April 19 – 21, Janet Rogers
"Expressive Watercolors –
Loose Florals, Landscapes and Figures"

OTHER APRIL ACTIVITIES

April 2 and 3, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Lionel Sanchez
"Perspective Drawing"



April 4, 9 am to 2 pm
Mark Polomchak
Watercolor

April 18, 9 am to 2 pm
Mark Polomchak
Watercolor



Eight-week class starting April 26
Wanda Boyd
Beginner Watercolor

Bulletin Board



PO Box 964
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655

visualartsassociation.com

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Membership Mtg

Friday, Apr 5, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

Membership Mtg

Friday, May 3, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

Membership Mtg

Friday, June 1, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

La Galleria Exhibit *

Saturday, June 8.
8:30-9:30 am hanging
Register by June 1st

Annex Exhibit *

June 15, 8:30 – 9:30 am
(pick up- drop off)
Register by June 1st

July – August Summer Break

* indicates show or exhibit activity

VAA Executive Board

President	Nan Kohr	kohr240@gmail.com
Vice Pres	Carol Reynolds	caroljr46@gmail.com
Secretary	Betty Eich	bettybrock@comcast.net
Treasurer	Connie Giebels	cgiebels43@gmail.com

Past Presidents

Lee Asta
Marge McQueston
Frank Zampardi
Nan Kohr
Catherine Sullivan

Appointed Board Members

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

Newsletter Staff

Debby Bloom, New Members
bgdbloom@gmail.com

Helen Poor, Scholarship
helenpoor@comcast.net

Betty Eich, Photo Frame
bettybrock@comcast.net

Darlene Hayes, Spotlight Artist
dgh@comcast.net

Martha Ayotte, Conversations
mayotte22@gmail.com

Cheri Ptacek, Editor
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