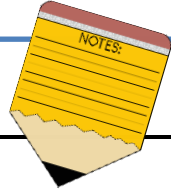




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## Nan's Notes



*Nan Kahr, President*

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We are into the second month of the new 2024 year with art creations being the best part so far. At least that's what the People's Choice winners discovered during Artists 'Round the Square. Having our neighbors choose their favorite artwork is so rewarding. And our neighbors will see some more super-duper art at the Sheriff's Annex Exhibit starting February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

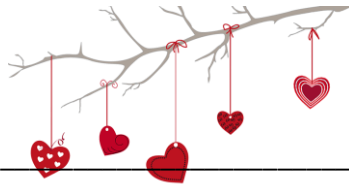
The VAA's largest winter art show is coming on February 10<sup>th</sup> at Laurel Manor Recreation Center, the VAA Winter Fine Art Show. Each room will have members' artwork on display. A lot of the art is for sale including some art donated to raise funds for the VAA Scholarship Fund (this art will be located in the craft room next to the traditional scholarship refreshment table).

We promote our members creativity with shows, exhibits even outdoor venues three times a year. Here is my challenge to you to come up with an additional event to sell, not just display, but sell artwork. Coming here to The Villages from many other places you may have experienced something you think will work. Please share your ideas by sending an email or writing a note to me.

Did you know we have added a new section to our website? At the top of the Home page of the VAA website ([www.visualartsassociation.com](http://www.visualartsassociation.com)) is a category to click on for **PROGRAMS**. This gives you the link for special programs presented at membership meeting especially for those who were unable to attend or for those who wish to review what was presented. It is not as good as being present but it will have good information. **Frank Zampardi** will be our "King for a Day" at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to share his Love of Art with us. Artists! You will not want to miss this!

*Nan Kahr, president*  
*Betty Eich, secretary*

*Carol Reynolds, vice-president*  
*Connie Giebels, treasurer*



## New Members

Debby Bloom

### MEET Terri Maddin-Miller

[terrimaddinmiller@gmail.com](mailto:terrimaddinmiller@gmail.com)

859-240-0360



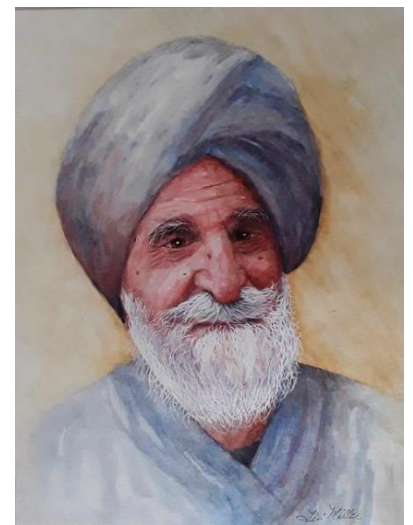
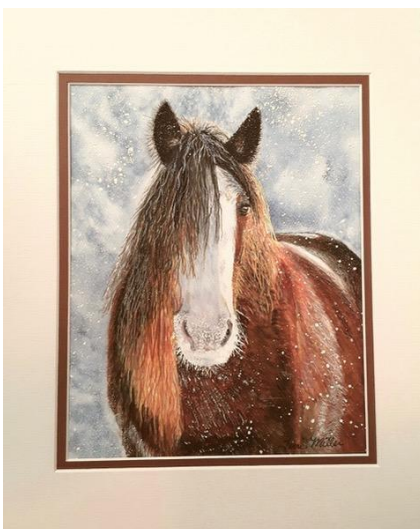
Hailing from northern Kentucky, Terri started to develop her artistry in her mid-40s. Then, painting became a passion and vehicle to explore and capture special moments from her life.

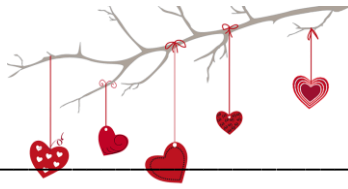
Comfortable mixing media, Terri has worked with oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastels, Chinese watercolor, graphite, pen/ink, and scratch art. She specializes in painting photo-realistic portraits of people, pets, and animals.

Terri is an acclaimed artist, having had her art displayed in the Kentucky State Governors

Office and the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort, KY. Her works are held by private collectors throughout the United States and Canada. Throughout the years and through many careers, Terri has also found time to design logos for several organizations and has donated her artwork to help raise funds for worthy charities.

Having wintered in The Villages for five years prior, Terri and her husband are now happy to call the Village of Mallory home.





## New Members

Debby Bloom

### MEET Michele Esselborn



Michele Esselborn  
516-244-7974  
[ShellArtGal@gmail.com](mailto:ShellArtGal@gmail.com)

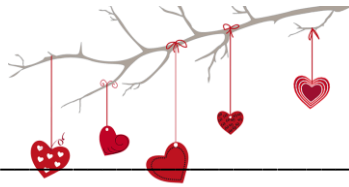


Having spent a lifetime in New York, Michele grew up a stone's throw from the masters at museums like the Guggenheim, MOMA and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Inspired by those frequent trips to Manhattan, Michele studied Interior Design at college, which included a hefty dose of fine arts. After graduating with her degree from NY Institute of Technology, she spent most of her career working for furniture / architectural design companies.

While art was ever-present in her career, it was later in life that Michele started to explore her own painting style in earnest. Drawn to coastal themes, Michele works with acrylics and experiments with color, texture and light to create movement on a canvas. On occasion, she will "wander" into the realms of collage and mixed media. Painting in groups and showing in local art events, she has sold works in New York, and been featured in local newspapers.

Michele brought her talents to The Villages in 2022. Upon arrival, she joined an art club and then started her own painting club, "Acrylics Anonymous." Her goal was to provide a welcoming setting where artists (of all levels) could gather to create, share techniques, and encourage individual artistic expression. Happy to have found a home in the Village of Richmond, Michele and her husband enjoy exploring in and around their new hometown.





**Spotlight on You**

*Darlene Hayes*

**Meet our VAA Board**

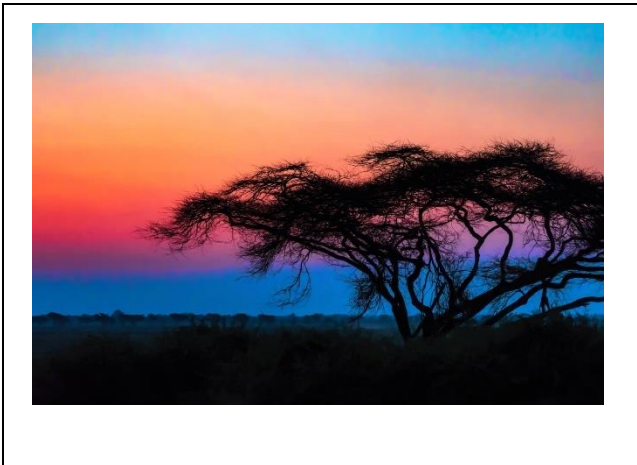
**Betty Eich**  
*Secretary*



After a lifetime in education as a teacher and administrator, I found photography in 2007 in retirement. And with this new interest came an entirely new way of looking at the world. My camera became my “third eye.”

What is my background? I grew up on a farm north of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the oldest of seven children. We had cows (Holsteins), an apple orchard, fields of corn and hay, and woodland at the back of the farm. I learned at an early age that our life was all about the land. That knowledge of the land was neither abstract nor theoretical. It was practical: The land provided our livelihood. It should then come as no surprise that, as a photographer, I love landscapes. Yes, landscape photography is about nature’s beauty, but it goes beyond that. Landscape photos are art: their goal is to show the “soul” of the land. That is, the photographer responds emotionally to the landscape and creates a photo that communicates that emotion to the viewer. I also enjoy “cityscapes,” photos that show the essence, or “soul,” of a city. Every city is different from every other. It has its own vibe, its own atmosphere, and its own culture. For me, the challenge is finding and presenting a city’s vibe in a photo so that I can share with you, the viewer, the feelings that I experienced there.

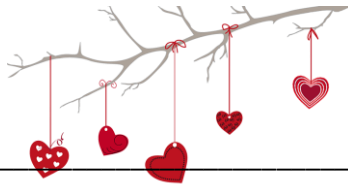
My husband Ed and I enjoy travel. In the last 22 years, we have spent time in 43 different countries, enjoying each one. We immersed ourselves in the culture of the people, the architecture of the cities, and the landscapes of each region, making each place our own. For the purposes of this article, I have chosen to focus on only six of my favorite landscape and cityscape photos. Can you see the “soul” in each?



Acacia Tree in the Sunset, Botswana



Storm over the Great Pyramids and Cairo, Giza, Egypt



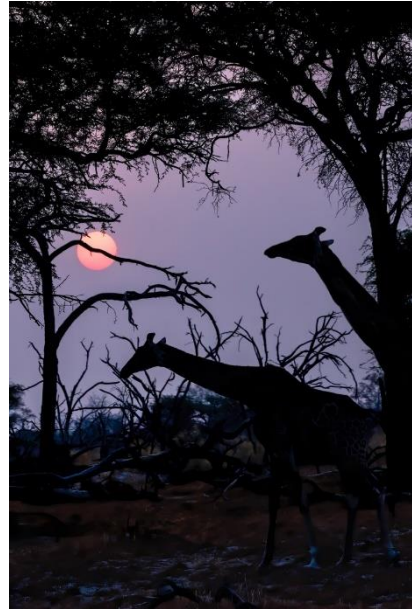
Waterfalls of Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia



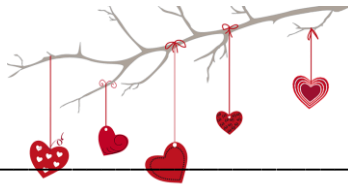
Aerial View of the Cliffs of the Na Pali Coast, Kauai, Hawaii  
(Yes! USA!)



Moorish Arches in Cordoba, Spain



Giraffes in the Setting Sun, Botswana




**Winter Fine Art Show**

*Jo Magram, Chair*

Visual Arts Association

**WINTER FINE ARTS SHOW**

Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2024, 9 AM - 3 PM  
Laurel Manor Recreation Center

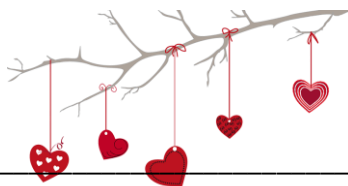


ARTISTS EXHIBITING TWO AND THREE DIMENSIONAL UNIQUE PIECES

**FREE ADMISSION!**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT  
THE VAA ARTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Presented by the VAA and VCCDD



## Scholarship Program



*Helen Poor, Chair*

Our Annual Scholarship Applications have been mailed and are headed to High School Art Departments in the three Counties surrounding The Villages. We include public and private schools in our mailings, as well as home-schooled students, if we can find them. Follow-up phone contacts with 12<sup>th</sup> grade art faculty are key. New faculty (and there are many) may not have worked with college admissions and scholarships before. What VAA can offer, and our submission dates are especially important! We are looking forward to more entries again in 2024 and will promote aggressively! If any of you have local grandchildren possibly going on in art, or have neighbors or friends that do, we are glad to make personal contact and will send materials.

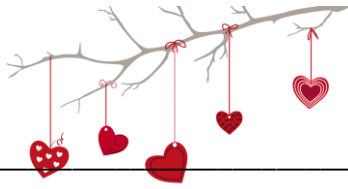
Coming Up...VAA Scholarship will have a presence at our Winter Art Show for sales of **donated art**, and **raffle opportunities** for theater tickets for "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels." It will be put on by our Scholarship Partners (KC Productions) in March. Both would make great Valentine gifts!

WE CONTINUE WITH OUR MEMBER RECRUITMENT SEARCH and are ASKING FOR YOUR TIME AND IDEAS FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIPS and OUTREACH. FUNDRAISING and EVENT HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED !!! Please consider coming onboard with energy, ideas and time to be a chair for projects and activities to benefit our cause! Our February Art Show at Laurel Manor does need Scholarship help and support. Jo Magram has already planned a great Valentine Scholarship Café for coffee and snacks that day. We thank her in advance for all her donations, work and support to benefit our cause !

AGAIN ..... THANK YOU for suggestions, time and ideas!  
We wish you and yours a Happy Valentines!

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





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## La Galleria Exhibit

*Meg Hay, Chair*

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### A Call to Artists – The VAA La Galleria Spring Fine Arts Exhibit – Ribbons and Monetary Awards

Our Spring 2024 La Galleria Show will hang Saturday, March 9, 2024 at La Hacienda Recreation Center. **The registration forms and instructions are now on the VAA website under FORMS.** The show ends Saturday, June 8.

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. Our judge for this show is noted artist Sally Evans, who works in a variety of media.

The **postmarked deadline** for registration forms is **March 2**, 2024.

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

Reminder: Pick up of your artwork from the Winter 2023 exhibit is at the same time.

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## Artists 'Round the Square

*Nan Kohr, Chair*

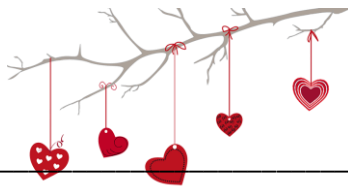
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**USING BIG BRUSH STROKES, WE WILL SHOW  
OUR 2024 ARTWORK!**

"Artists 'Round the Square" will be  
**Sunday, January 28th**  
at Spanish Springs  
1:00 to 4:00 pm.





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## Conversations



Martha Ayotte

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### FIVE INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ART

Taken in part from the Blue Thumb  
By Matilda Jenkins

#### Art used to be an Olympic event

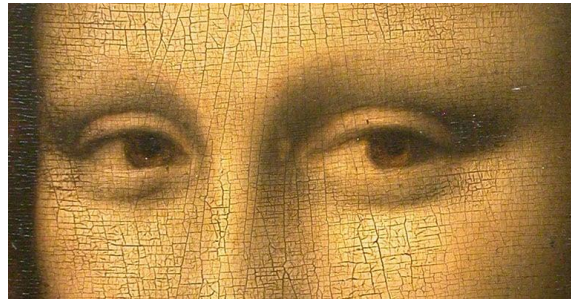
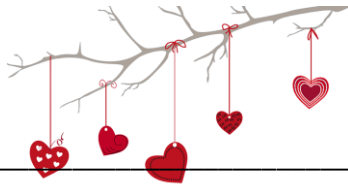
The Olympics wasn't always about abs and doping scandals. The founder of the modern Games, the Baron Pierre de Coubertin, was enamored with the idea of the true Olympian being a talented artist *and* sportsperson. Thanks to him, between 1912 and 1948 medals were given out for sporting-inspired masterpieces of architecture, music, painting, sculpture, and literature.



Medal winner Jean Jacoby's 'Corner,' left and 'Rugby,' right. via Smithsonian.com

#### The Mona Lisa has her own mailbox in the Louvre because of all the love letters she receives

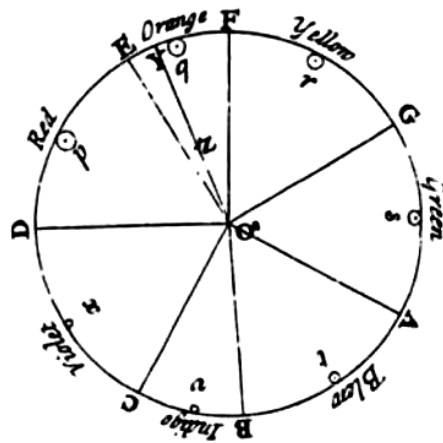
Over the years many have fallen prey to the portrait's 'limpid and burning eyes,' leaving her offerings of flowers, poems and, yes, love notes. Artist Luc Maspero allegedly took this fervor to a new high – and then low – in 1852, diving off a hotel balcony because "For years I have grappled desperately with her smile. I prefer to die." Who knew art appreciation could be so dark?



Eyes detail of 'Mona Lisa', via Wikimedia Commons

### The color wheel predates the United States

Considering the US is one of the oldest modern democracies, this is pretty amazing. Sir Isaac Newton invented the color wheel in 1706 by refracting white sunlight into its six colors. The realization that light alone was responsible for color was radical, and the wheel proved especially useful for artists, who could now easily observe the most effective color complementation.

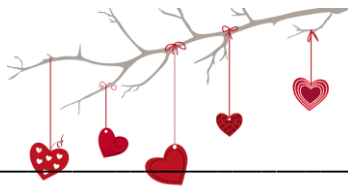


Newton's color wheel, via Wikimedia Commons

### Artist Willard Wigan once inhaled his own work

Dr. Willard Wigan MBE, a renowned micro-sculptor, is known for his astonishingly tiny sculptures that fit comfortably within the eye of a needle. In a recent video profile, Wigan shares a fascinating story about the time he was recreating the Mad Hatter's tea party from the beloved classic *Alice in Wonderland*.

Having meticulously attached the table, the White Rabbit, and the Mad Hatter to the needle's interior, Wigan was in the process of placing Alice in the scene when an unexpected interruption occurred. His mobile phone rang, causing him to inhale sharply. In that instant, Alice was inadvertently sucked into his respiratory system. "She's in my cavities somewhere," Wigan laments. "Gone."



*'Nine Camels' by Willard Wigan*

**In 2003 street artist Banksy stuck his own work to the wall in the Tate Modern Museum.**

The stunt was planned with precision and executed with aplomb. Disguised as a pensioner, Britain's favorite graffiti artist, Banksy, shuffled into [Tate Britain](#) and stuck one of his own creations on to a gallery wall.

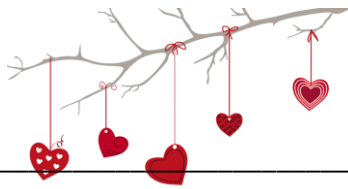
The picture - a small oil painting of a bucolic scene disfigured by blue and white tape to represent a police line - might have still been there had the glue not proven too weak.

After several hours hanging next to a 19th century landscape, Banksy's painting, entitled *Crimewatch UK Has Ruined the Countryside for All of Us*, crashed to the floor and the stunt was discovered.

Tate Britain has launched an inquiry. For his part, Banksy was pleased that his work had, albeit briefly, hung on the walls of one of the world's most famous museums.



*'Crimewatch UK Has Ruined the Countryside 'For All of Us', via Pinterest Sources*



## Events & Opportunities



Village Art Workshops  
Art in the Heart of Florida

### WORKSHOPS WITH NATIONAL KNOWN ARTISTS FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL

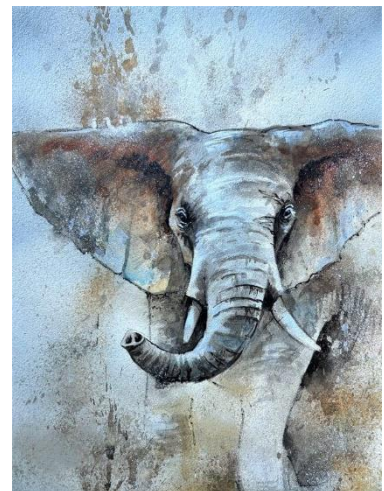
[February 5 – 7, Alicia Farris, Watercolor](#)  
[February 12 – 14, Dan Wiemer, Watercolor](#)  
[February 19 – 21, Jennifer Stone, Collage](#)  
[February 26 and 27, Sterling Edwards, Watercolor](#)  
[February 28, 29 and March 1, Sterling Edwards, Acrylic](#)  
[March 4 – 6, Jean Pederson, Acrylic](#)  
[March 11 – 13, Cole Wolford, Watercolor](#)  
[March 18 – 20, Kathleen Giles, Watercolor](#)  
[March 25 and 26, Gene Rizzo, Watercolor](#)  
[April 8 and 9, Tom Jones, Watercolor](#)  
[April 15 - 17, Janelle Johnson, Color Pencil](#)  
[April 19 – 21, Janet Rogers, Watercolor](#)

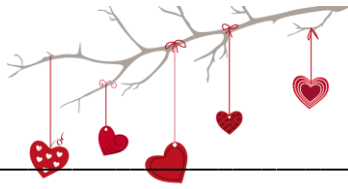
### OTHER FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES



February 1, 9 am to 2 pm  
Mark Polomchak  
Watercolor

February 15, 9 am to 2 pm  
Mark Polomchak  
Watercolor





Village Art Workshops  
Art in the Heart of Florida

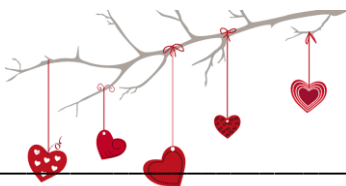
LOW-KEY CLASS FEBRUARY 8  
HIGH-KEY CLASS FEBRUARY 22

# Limited Palette Watercolor

**HIGH-KEY  
LOW-KEY  
PEN AND WASH**



**FEATURING ARTIST AND  
INSTRUCTOR LIONEL SANCHEZ**



## Bulletin Board



PO Box 964  
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655

[visualartsassociation.com](http://visualartsassociation.com)

### CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

#### Membership Mtg

Friday, Feb 2, 1:00pm  
Sea Breeze

#### Annex Exhibit \*

Saturday, Feb 3

#### Fine Art Show \*

Saturday, Feb 10, 9:00am – 3:00pm

#### Membership Mtg

Friday, Mar 1, 1:00pm  
Sea Breeze

#### La Galleria Exhibit \*

Saturday, Mar 9

\* *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 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](mailto:bgdbloom@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