



October Art Challenge Winners!

Art Challenge WINNERS
revealed inside

The President's Message

Good Morning to all,

This is going to be a very different holiday season for most of us, but it will give us more time to remember the important things we have to be thankful for: family, friends, neighbors, and this beautiful environment we share.

I know the turmoil of this year has been trying on everyone and to be sure I'm looking forward to 2021 and praying it will be a better year. I'd love to see my kids.

The November Challenge is due on the 8th of December. Hope you all have found something you really think was a blessing, I'm struggling. I've torn up this piece twice. Just don't seem to have the skills anymore, But I will try again. December's challenge is "Best Gift Ever". That could be most anything, a special person in your life, a great place that gave you joy. Whatever you dream up.

Our membership meeting in December is on the 4th. Again, **you will need to email me for a reservation at grannieb43@gmail.com** I know Lois Kamp is preparing a program for you. She is a very talented artist and works in so many mediums. I am anxious to see what she decides to share with us. I wish I could say we were going to have a great lunch for you this year. We passed a motion last year to provide ham and turkey BUT the virus has changed everything. Maybe next year.

I truly want to wish all of you a great holiday, health and happiness to all. Be safe, smile a lot, even with a mask your goodness and kindness shows in your eyes.

Barb Justice
president

New Members



Keith Barron

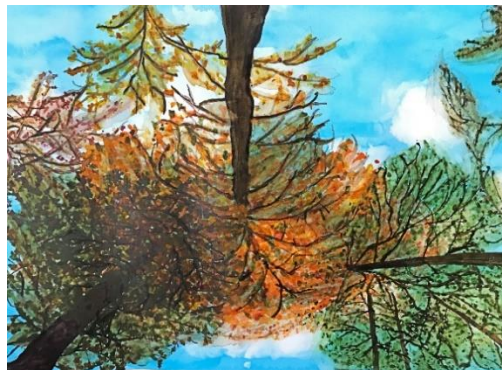
Email: barron.keith@gmail.com

Phone: 202-826-9994

I moved from Washington DC a little less than two years ago to the village of Briar Meadow as a permanent resident. I started painting this October after taking a watercolor class taught by Suzanne Svejcar and fell in love with expressing myself in my own mixed colors. I plan to focus on portraits this year after purchasing a couple of used watercolor books at All Booked Up in Colony Plaza last weekend. I'm looking forward to learning from the experienced artists in the VAA.



Looking Up



Arriving



Departing

****A Call to VAA Artists! – Cash Prizes for the La Galleria Winter 2021 Fine Arts Show**

As members of the Visual Arts Association, three times a year you can hang your work in a gallery setting that is judged by experienced, educated artists from around the country and receive cash prizes as well!

Our next *La Galleria Show* will hang **December 12, 2020**. The registration forms and **instructions** are now on the VAA website under "Forms." Entry forms must be received by Billie Edwards **by Friday, December 4**. Monetary awards will be given. Photography entries will be judged along with other entries. Call with questions.

In order to award prize money and employ a Judge, it is necessary to increase the registration fee to \$15.00.

Spotlight on You



Meet Lydia Falletti.

My artistic talent developed at an early age, but as fate would have it I was pointed in a different direction. However, my love of art has never diminished and over the years, in-between working and raising family, I painted on and off for many years.

Once I became a resident of The Villages, I truly immersed myself and let loose to paint whatever at the moment inspired me, whether it's a Portrait, Animals, Landscape, Seascape, Whimsical, Abstract-- you name it, I will do it. My preferred media is watercolor and acrylics. My preferred subjects are people, different cultures. facial expressions.



CONGRATULATIONS !!

Banner Artists - Winners of October Art Challenge

First Place Painting 1	"Afternoon Walk" Pastel	Harriet Dobbins
Second Place Painting 2	"Last Catch" Watercolor	Susie Schreiber
Third Place Painting 3	"My New Fall Scarf!" Pastel	Vera Kasberger

Online Art Challenge

The **November theme** is "Count your Blessings," to be submitted **by December 8.**
The **December theme** is "Best Gift Ever" (due by Jan. 8)

All themes are your interpretation, so think outside the box. It's about art, new art. We are challenging you to keep making **NEW art every month!**

Please read the [RULES on the VAA website](#). Be sure to vote as soon as possible after submissions are posted on the 9th of the month so that your opinion is counted! Votes will be tallied on the 15th of each month, with first place votes given 3 points, second place votes given 2 points, and third place given 1 point. Ribbons will be given at the following VAA meeting. All submissions (with artist names) will be published once winners are determined. Winners' creations will be posted in the following newsletter as Banner Art.

Membership Meeting - Program Presentation

Lois Kamp will be making a presentation about her art at the December membership meeting on Friday, December 4. Lois recently won an Award of Merit ribbon and monetary award for her pastel painting titled "Psychedelic Reflections" in the Living Waters exhibit in Traveres, FL through the Pastel Society of Central Florida. Only three ribbons were awarded, all equal awards of merit.

Lois works in many different types of media. Her presentation should be insightful to those of us who mainly concentrate in one medium. Please plan to join us!

*****Remember to email Barb Justice at grannieb43@gmail.com to reserve your spot!**

A Little About Lois (our December meeting presenter)

Growing up in West Virginia, Lois Kamp had very little exposure to art. Instead Lois had a long career as a OB-GYN nurse practitioner with over 30 years in private practice all over the country. She considers herself a pioneer in the field. It wasn't until 1990 Lois took her first basic watercolor lessons from Dale Boatman, a retired University of Arizona art teacher. She credits Mr. Boatman for sparking her interest in art and helping her change the way she looks at the world. Lois moved and did not take up painting again until moving to Florida in 2003, where she found a Terry Madden instructor and started painting in watercolor. But life interfered with her art when her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and passed away 7 years later.

In 2014 Lois remarried, retired from work and moved to The Villages with her husband Gene. Together they have a cat Chessie and are planning to live happily ever after. In the Villages Lois started making art again. She joined many art clubs and started working in all mediums including pastels, alcohol ink, acrylic, wood block printing, and encaustic bees' wax. She took advantage of the local workshops and classes available. Recently Lois' concentration has been in fiber arts or painting with wool.

In 2018 Lois was diagnosed with inoperable stage 4 metastatic lung cancer. Lois' art has helped her navigate through her journey of living with cancer. Art is her therapy and something she must do daily. Lois started a blog on the Caring Bridge to share her positive attitude and to show people you can live to your fullest and be happy, despite a horrible diagnosis.

Photo Frame



Photo by Dave Boege

Marilyn Wright moved from Maryland to the Village of Bonnybrook in 2005 while still working full time for IBM. After retiring from IBM two years later, she decided to pursue art but quickly realized that she needed good reference pictures to inspire her art projects. Thus came her first meeting at the Villages Photography Club and the purchase of one very big and heavy Digital camera. She then joined the Intermediate Camera Club to gain

more expertise. She started doing as many photo shoots and taking as many classes and workshops as possible. Next came a smaller, mirrorless camera with many lenses that served her for years. Finally, she now uses a very small, pocket-size camera with all the bells and whistles of the bigger camera, Sony RX100-VII. You may ask, "Why not just use the latest smartphone to take the



pictures?" This pocket-sized camera is far superior to any smartphone on the market but the best camera is the one you happen to have with you at the time. One of her favorite subjects to photograph is flowers shot in macro mode....very close up. If a butterfly or bee happens to be on the flower, all the better! And, yes, she likes to paint the same images in watercolor.

(Editor's Note: Marilyn has been a long-term VAA volunteer)



VAA TV EXHIBIT:

The Villages television station, Channel 2, has sent word that they are in the process of working on our next VAA TV Exhibit. As soon as show dates and times are available, we will let our entry artists and members know when they can view it.



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ARTISTS 'ROUND THE SQUARE

All artists interested in the January 10, 2021 "Artists 'Round the Square", it is time for your indication to me that you wish to participate in the show. This outdoor, sidewalk show will be at Spanish Springs with the opportunity to show more than three works of art. The new rules will be posted in December. What I need is that you send me an email with your desire to show.

Nan Kohr kohr240@gmail.com

Conversations

With Martha Ayotte



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

Have Your Own Art Website?

Do you want a website to show off your artwork, but you are afraid because you have no technical skills or programming knowledge? Fortunately, nowadays, it is effortless to create your own website with a website builder.

Why would you want a personal website? Maybe you would just like relatives and friends to be able to see your new artwork. You can list your website on your business card and hand it out to friends. Or maybe you might like to sell your work right from your website. A website is like a studio or a gallery. Still, it is open day and night and visible to everyone worldwide.

Most website builders you can use right from the internet, and you don't have to download anything to your computer. At the end of this article, I have created a list of "easy-to-learn" website builders with drag and drop editors. You can see your webpages as you create them, and they have customizable templates.

Most of these websites are free, to begin with, but they will display irritating ads. After you create your website, you can always upgrade it and, for a small monthly fee, your site can be ad-free. Also, you can have more storage space for your photos, selling options and get a unique domain name.

The websites I have listed below I selected as having professional-looking templates for artists. They are easy to learn, and all have visitor stats to let you know how many people are seeing your work. If you decide to sell your work, Wix, Squarespace, and Weebly are exceptional for E-commerce.

Some things to keep in mind when creating your website:



- Put your actual name in the website URL. Doing this will make it easier to find you when someone does an internet search.
- The Home page: Do not go overboard. Keep it simple with your name, a few examples of your work, and a good menu or map of your site.
- Divide your pages by medium, style, year, series, or theme.
- Make an "About Me" page to let viewers know a little about you as an artist.
- Don't forget a contact page, in case viewers have questions or want to buy something.

Good Luck, and share with us when you finish!

Website Builder	Free	Starting costs per month	Storage Space	Easy to use	Misc.
Wix	Yes	14.00	500MB+	Easy	Gallery Templates
Squarespace	No	12.00	Unlimited	Moderate	Beautiful Templates
GoDaddy	Yes	10.00	Unlimited	Easy	Quick and Easy
Wordpress	Yes	4.00	3 GB+	Moderate	No phone support
Strikingly	Yes	10.00	500MB	Easy	Excellent help and support
Weebly	Yes	6.00	Unlimited	Easy	Image Editor

Scholarship News

Over the last month VAA Scholarship has been reaching out with phone and E Mail contacts to public and private high school art faculty in our three county area. Their response indicates delivering senior Honors and AP Art Programs has never been more challenging. However, instructors are adapting schedules and being creative. They feel they will have talented art graduates this spring, and are hoping the VAA will again be offering scholarship applications and awards. So we are moving ahead and plan to send out 2021 guidelines and forms in Jan. If you know of a local/regional senior art student who might be home schooled or tutored during these unusual times, please let us know. We will place them on our send out list and get in touch.

This has been the most challenging fund raising season in Art Scholarship history. Almost all our regular events and partnerships have been canceled or shut down. We are hoping for things to turn around soon, but are realistic given the current situation. One positive and upcoming activity that can still take place is our.....



HOLIDAY SCHOLARSHIP STOCKING STUFFER 2020

For new members..... this is an opportunity to donate and stuff our stocking either (in person) at our Dec. meeting or through the mail.....with a check /donation made out to the **VAA Scholarship Fund**. All donations go directly to help students, are tax deductible, and are greatly appreciated. If you have questions, ideas or support concerning this outreach please note the phone number and address below. Also..... **remember we can make a difference..... creative event ideas, financial gifts and artistic donations help make the VAA Art Scholarships possible.** We know we can we count on you!

As announced last month, the VAA was invited to do a 2nd TV Art Show for **Villages Channel 2**. Dave Boege again accepted and carefully organized 40 very special two & three dimensional art works submitted by members. **THANK YOU DAVE** for your time and expertise! Channel 2 is working with the entries currently, and putting that next program together for viewing soon. **Watch for our announcements on viewing dates.**

Our artistic partners, **The Villages Movie Entertainment Group** and KC Productions hope to join with us very soon for new collaborations and new shows. At this writing still no stage or movie venues or calendars have been finalized. As soon as things open and programs are in place, we will put out notices and times .

The Dec. Holidays are fast approaching..... and they will be different than any we remember. Near or far..... we are especially grateful this year for family, friends and the blessing of health.....in a year so ravaged by illness. May the VAA, and our Art and Scholarship outreach continue to be bonds that unite us, and showcase the good and talent in our community.

Be patient, stay well.....and HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS & HANUKKAH

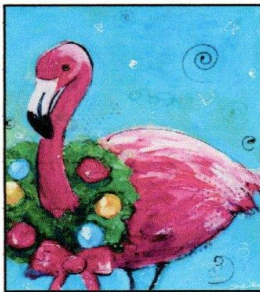
Helen Poor & The VAA Scholarship Team
1308 Carolina Court
The Villages FL 32162 352 561 4474



Events & Opportunities

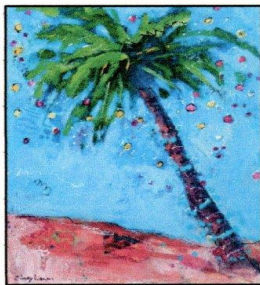


VILLAGE ART WORKSHOPS PRESENTS OUR 2020 ANNUAL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF WORKSHOPS



Saturday, December 5, 2 pm – 5 pm
Paint Party with Cindy Vener
Holiday Flamingo
Fee: \$49

Sunday, December 6, 9 am to noon
OR 1 pm – 4 pm
Navaho Wire Wrap Pendants with Annie Dotzauer
Fee: \$79
All Supplies Included for Two Necklaces



Monday, December 7, 10 am – 1 pm
Paint Party with Cindy Vener
Festive Palm Tree
Fee: \$49

Tuesday, December 8, 9 am – 3 pm
Holiday Marker Magic Notecards and Gifts
with Sue Primeau
Fee: \$49



Wednesday, December 9, 9 am – 3 pm
Bold and Beautiful Batik Poinsettias with Kathy Mantel
Fee: \$79 Plus \$6 Supply Fee

Visit www.villageartworkshops.com for more information or call Wanda Boyd at (804) 536-1794

Bulletin Board



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

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Friday, December 4, 1:00
General Meeting

December 8 Deadline *
November Online Art Challenge

2021

January 8, 2021 Deadline *
December Online Art Challenge

Sunday, January 10, 2021 *
ARTS at Spanish Springs

Saturday, February 6, 2021 *
Winter Show

* indicates show or exhibit activity

VAA Executive Board

President	Barb Justice	grannieb43@gmail.com
Vice Pres	Catherine Sullivan	cnjsullivan@aol.com
Secretary	Nan Kohr	kohr240@gmail.com
Treasurer	Billie Edwards	billieedwards@gmail.com

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Cheri Ptacek, Editor
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Next Meeting
December 4th
1:00 pm
Arrive early, with mask!