



LEESBURG ART ASSOCIATION

May 2008

www.leesburgart.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Donna McDaniel

The Ken Austin Watercolor Workshop was more than a success. First, he's a great teacher, but beyond that, he has a built-in enthusiasm and easy way about him that spills over into the classroom. All attendees were able to take some good "quick studies" home and lots of mental ammunition to use as they paint.

As for pursuing your art, I hope you are taking advantage of the lengthening daylight hours to do something creative every day! Ignore that inner voice that tells you to clean the house or weed the garden! Even if you still have a job, you can find time on your lunch hour. I took my lunch to work for the many years I worked, which gave me 40 minutes to do something else. Sometimes I sketched out of a magazine or something on my desk. Sometimes, I wrote poetry - or a letter to my sister with silly poems in it. One summer, we wrote back and forth a dozen times with poetry!

I call this my own form of meditation and relaxation - an escape from the heavy, sometimes sad, sometimes scary things that prey on our minds. Just paint for yourself, and if someone else likes your work, it's an added bonus.

To you snowbirds who are leaving before the May meeting, I say, "Adieux, adieux, to you and you and you....." have safe travels, a sweet summer, and we'll see you in September.

Donna

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's program features Mr. Dennis Kaminski. Dennis' talents are multi-faceted. He is the owner and operator of DK Art Supply in Leesburg. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, he is a recognized and awarded graphic designer, custom framer, entrepreneur and soccer coach. In addition to owning several businesses including the Europa Gallery in Mount Dora (1998-2003) and DK Art Supply and Custom Framing, Dennis worked as a graphic artist for The Daily Commercial. He will inform us about new products and answer our technical questions and give some insight into framing art work.

So, think about all those things you always wanted to know about matting and framing and come prepared to ask questions.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LAA EVENTS

May 24 – 1:00 PM	Membership Meeting – Demo by Dennis Kaminski
July 17 - 2:30 PM	Painting exchange at the Thomas Langley Medical Center. Contact Deanna Johnson for info.
Sept. 2 – 10:00 AM	Board Meeting
Sept. 27 – 1:00 PM	Membership Meeting
October 7 – 10:00 AM	Board Meeting
October 25 – 1:00 PM	Membership Meeting
November 4 – 10:00 AM	Board Meeting (Election Day)
November 7	Fall Show Setup (AM) Judging (PM)
November 9	Fall Show Reception and Awards
November 22 – 1:00 PM	Membership Meeting
December 2 – 10:00 AM	Board Meeting
December 13	Holiday Luncheon

ART COMMUNITY EVENTS

May 17 – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Clermont Sidewalk Art Festival
July 11 – 6:00 – 8:00 PM	Mount Dora Art Stroll
October 10 – 6:00 – 8:00 PM	Mount Dora Art Stroll

MOUNT DORA ART STROLL

This is a special opportunity for those of us who remain in Florida during the summer. Provided that it has not been rented to a retail concern, our space will continue to be at the corner of 4th and Baker Streets (formerly Dickens-Reed Bookstore). Each artist is responsible for his or her own display and must bring easels, tables, business cards, cash for change, etc.

The next Art Stroll is set for July 11th. Set ups are to be done between 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Parking spaces will be roped off for unloading on 4th Street at the main entrance. Each work should be marked with: Title, Medium and Price. Each artist is responsible for his/her own sales and sales tax.

Past Art Strolls have been very successful with artwork sold at every venue. In fact, the January event was so successful, additional independent artists and groups participated in the April Art Stroll.

Mount Dora is going all-out to make this event a success. There will be live music, a wine bar and snacks at our location. There will be advance advertising in chART Magazine and Lake Magazine, as well as internet and newspaper coverage.

Should you have any questions, please call Letitia Thompson 735-3917 or Susan Guch 735-4259.

WEBSITE HELP NEEDED

Due to illness, Vinnie Bianchini has sent out an SOS regarding the website. We request that any members having website design and/or maintenance experience contact Sharon Yutzy 728-3054, sharonyutzy@comcast.net. Thank you.

LAA BOARD NEWS

Please be aware that all members are welcome at our Board of Directors meetings. Unless there is a conflict with the schedule, they are held at 10:00 AM on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Leesburg Cultural Arts Center (the site of our membership meetings). You are invited to submit issues for discussion to Yvonne Feavearyear, yfeavearyear@embarqmail.com or 728-3054 at least three days prior to the meetings. In addition, there will be a "suggestion box" near the refreshment table during our meetings.

Topics discussed at the March 4th Board meeting included: establishing a "message board" for members' announcements of all kinds, seating the officers in the front of the meeting room so their faces will become familiar to the members, repair of our overhead demonstration mirror, next year's schedule, LAA's sponsorship of community activities, ways to reduce costs for Show programs and publicity, offering workshops by local artists as well as by those recognized nationally or regionally, expanding corporate sponsorship to support our activities.

The membership meeting will begin PROMPTLY at 1:00 PM, so you need to be seated by that time. In order to keep business meetings shorter, please deposit items for consideration by the Board into the "Suggestion Box" in the reception area. Unfortunately, time does not permit discussion of all the exciting creative activities for all of our members. But there is plenty of opportunity to tell your colleagues in our newsletter! Please send Member News items and Yearbook corrections and additions to Sharon Yutzy 728-3054 laanewsletter@comcast.net. The newsletter is usually completed within a few days of the Board meeting. Thank you for your cooperation

"MINI" WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

The Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Lake County's Dept. of Economic Growth & Redevelopment present their 2nd Quarterly Business Boutique Event Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 11:30 am at Lake-Sumter Community College, Magnolia Room. Featured speakers are business owners/entrepreneurs who will recount their experiences involved with starting, growing and maintaining a business. Cost is \$15.00. R.S.V.P. Leesburg Chamber of Commerce 787-2131 or admin@leesburgchamber.com. Remember, if you sell your work (or want to), you are an entrepreneur.

LIBRARY

PLEASE RETURN ALL LIBRARY MATERIALS NO LATER THAN THE MAY MEETING.

Our books and videos need to spend summer at home so we can look after them and fix any problems.

We accept donations of appropriate art books and videos/DVD's that are in good condition. We will inscribe the donors' names in the books or on the videos/DVD's.

If you wish LAA to purchase a certain book, video or series for the library, please write or call me with the title, author, publisher and price. If you have any questions, please call 352-429-0519. Thank you, Judi Mattison.

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Donna Thompson

Fred Thompson

www.framemakersgallery.com

MEMBER NEWS

Marilyn B. Cisek participated in Focus on Fiber '08, a symposium (April 1-8) for national fiber-artists. It was sponsored by Harris House at the Atlantic Center for the Arts. The weeklong residency included lectures, panel discussions, and independent studio work.

Jennifer Myers Kirton has an interview on the Gallery Direct website, www.gallerydir.com/art-web/ARTIST/data/ID/110. Jennifer will be their "Artist of the Month" next month.

Linda Shemensi reports that she won the 2008 Lake County Fair Creative Arts "Best in Show" ribbon and cash award for her hand built pottery titled "Whimsical Acorn with Lid".

Jim Street's website, www.jimstreet.com reports that he and Ginnie recently visited Peru. They will continue to study Spanish in Costa Rica. In addition to their studies, they are working one day a week at the Rahab Foundation, a ministry dedicated to helping women break away from lives of prostitution. They will help with the foundation's computer work and do building repairs and maintenance. Jim also will be teaching art. (Isn't it wonderful how God has directed Jim's life experiences to prepare him for this work?)

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time again! Time to start to think about next year's dues. If you want to be included in the 2008-2009 Membership Yearbook, you must pay your dues on or before May 31, 2008. Dues are \$20 per year for singles and \$30 per year for couples. **After May 31st, dues will be \$25 for singles and \$40 for couples.** Please make your checks out to Leesburg Art Association and give or mail them to Sharon Yutzy 1825 Myrtle Lake Avenue; Fruitland Park, FL 34731.

Please let me know if you want to have your newsletter emailed to you. Those who are in Florida only part of the year may want to elect this option. Thank you, Sharon Yutzy

NEW VENUE FOR DISPLAYING & SELLING YOUR WORK

Brad Gardner has recently opened Gardner's Fresh Produce at 717 West Main Street in historic, downtown Leesburg. He has a number of paintings by Connie Kelly but he also has more space and invites interested artists to contact him Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. 352-326-3267.

ART SHOW COMMITTEE NEEDS HELP

Dotty Zavodsky and Mary Morse are the Show Chairpersons for next year. They have already given a great deal of thought toward making our shows successful. They have created an organization chart but they still need someone to organize, recruit and persuade sponsors that their money will be well spent.

Dotty and Mary also request that we submit black and white illustrations that will be suitable for use as the Show Program cover. These should be 8" x 10" originals. Remember to plan space for the lettering.

For more information, please contact Dotty 315-0908, dwz125400@hotmail.com or Mary 435-4612, rduemore@earthlink.net. They will also be available at our next meeting. Thank you.

2008-2009 Officers

President	Yvonne Feavearyear
First Vice President	Shawn Gray
Second Vice President	Sharon Yutzy
Recording Secretary	Deanna Johnson
Corresponding Secretary	Joal Litavsky
Past President	Donna McDaniel

Artists' News from the Leesburg Center for the Arts

Gallery Exhibits - If you are interested in participating in the gallery exhibits as a featured artist, please call for an appointment. Our staff will review your work and discuss how it may fit into one of our upcoming shows.

Instructors are needed – for several children's programs. Please call 352-365-0232 for more information.

Remember, artists' memberships at the Center are only \$25 for the year. As you can see, the Center offers working, educational and volunteer opportunities for all of us. Please support this worthwhile organization as it supports our community. If you have never volunteered before, you will be surprised to learn that you receive much, much more than you give. Try it, you'll like it!

NOW SHOWING

Members of the Leesburg Art Association participating in this quarter's Art in Public Places showings in Lake County are as follows:

Leesburg City Hall – Bonnie Anderson, Pepper Asberry, Leona Gardiner and Helene Murray

Leesburg Library – Pending

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone wishing to hang work (no larger than 22" x 28") in City Hall, please contact Leona Gardiner (352) 324-4087, retiredlg@aol.com.

Anyone wishing to hang work at the Leesburg Library, please contact Dorothy Zavodsky (352) 315-0908, or dwz125400@hotmail.com.

Committees and Chairpersons for 2008-2009

Programs	Shawn Gray	728-1477
Membership	Sharon Yutzzy	728-3054
Year Book	Leona Gardiner	324-4087
Workshops	Marylee Voegele	728-4306
Art Shows	Dotty Zavodsky Mary Morse	315-0908 435-4612
Newsletter	Sharon Yutzzy	728-3054
Publicity	Terry Bitting	314-0767
Social	Ramona Birdsell Diane Stern	365-2881 315-1467
Hostess	Pepper Asberry	326-8202
Historian	Eiko Magner	326-5057
Library	Judi Mattison	429-0519
Fall/Spring Trip		
Website	Vinnie Bianchini	326-9972
Art Display Hanging		
Leesburg City Hall	Leona Gardiner	324-4087
Leesburg Library	Dotty Zavodsky	315-0908

AN EASY WAY TO BENEFIT LAA

Please remember that each time you purchase matting and/or framing materials from American Frame (www.americanframe.com), LAA receives a donation equal to 5% of the amount of your purchase. Please let them know that you are a member of LAA.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Please think about corporations you consider prospects to become sponsors of LAA's activities. Please provide their names to a Board member, email laanewsletter@comcast.net, or deposit in the "Suggestion Box." Thanks!

FUNDRAISING - SPECIAL LAA GIFTS

LAA is selling aprons and tote bags that are ideal gifts for all of the artists on your list. This is a fundraiser for our organization. Each year, LAA makes a substantial donation to the Leesburg Center for the Arts for its summer program for young artists. Last year, we provided an opportunity for eight students. This is a great way to support our community!

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP BOOK

While we try to keep our Membership Book accurate and current, we admit that it is difficult and we apologize for any inconvenience experienced due to errors or omissions. Please record the following information in your Membership Book, aka "The Yearbook:"

Corrections

Wilt Nelson's correct email address: wiltonnelson@mac.com

Linda Pearson's new address is: 5516 Rosewall Circle; Leesburg, FL 34748; 352-787-4139

New Members

Barbara Johnson – 26740 Cash Ct.; Leesburg, FL 34748; 365-2473; bcjohnson11@aol.com

Betty Kopp – 932 Belle Oak Dr.; Leesburg, FL 34748; 435-0382; bdkopp1@aol.com

Cathy & Ron Miller – 2602 Carpenter Pl.; Leesburg, FL 34748; 728-2620; rc633@juno.com

Missy Murphy – 21712 Royal St. George's La.; Leesburg, FL 34748; 326-9858; missymurphy2000@aol.com

Suzanne Pelcha – 2304 Mahoney Ave.; Leesburg, FL 34748; 978-3462; suzanne23@embarqmail.com

Sally Phillips – 24518 Bocage Way; Leesburg, FL 34748; 787-9754

Alta Sandusky – 25651 Belle Alliance; Leesburg, FL 34748; 314-0859; old4cold@embarqmail.com

J. T. Smalley – 2501 W. Main St.; Leesburg, FL 34748; 326-8334; laserssharp@embarqmail.com

Kathleen Watters – 2513 Tecumseh Ave.; Leesburg, FL 34748; 728-4329; rdwlfsumn@aol.com

PLEIN AIR GROUP

We have several members who meet and create works of art at Venetian Gardens prior to our Membership Meetings. Plan to come out between 9:00 AM and Noon for some inspired creativity prior to the meeting. Contact Joan Litivasky 352-259-0459; jowar43@cs.com for information.

CONFESSIONS OF A RELUCTANT VOLUNTEER

(Please bear with me, I have some space to fill and I can't resist.)

When I moved to the Leesburg area almost four years ago, I became immersed in a total "blue funk." It was the first time I had lived away from Maryland during my entire 56 years. I missed many people, places and things. I felt that I had lost my purpose in life. (Yes, I had been a work-a-holic.) I was dismayed that retirement was a huge disappointment.

Finally, I looked for art classes and found the Leesburg Center for the Arts. I participated in a workshop given by Marylee Voegele who introduced me to LAA. At first, I was intimidated because I knew only Marylee and I knew she was very busy. I came to the meetings and enjoyed them but I felt very shy and it was only one day per month. Being a retired housewife simply didn't cut it – I was bored and lonely.

I was able to take some of the workshops and became acquainted with more fellow members and began to enjoy LAA a lot more but I still felt empty. Then at one meeting, I overheard Jim Street telling someone that he still did not have anyone to take over the newsletter when he left. My background as an English Major (about a million years ago) gave me enough confidence to give it a try. I actually enjoy writing most of the time.

Jim was able to give me a brief indoctrination and he changed the format from MS Publisher to MS Word since I didn't have Publisher on my computer. I must confess, the first two newsletters were pretty scary – I had never worked with text boxes or printing to pdf and I didn't have any kids to ask. So it was trial and error and error and retry and error.

After a few months, I realized that something wonderful had happened in my life: I had a feeling of purpose. I was beginning to connect faces and names and remember details about their lives. Becoming friends with the wonderful artists in LAA has brought a great deal of joy into my life.

I hope that those of you who are new members will not feel shy about getting involved with our activities. We are not set in our ways; you do not have to worry about "upsetting the apple cart!" We're creative – always looking for new ideas. Trust me: you will reap much, much more than you sow when you volunteer your time and efforts with LAA.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"Keep in touch with your soul by developing your technique. There are no mistakes, so... just work. The more you work the more you'll figure out if that's your bliss." Fernando Araujo

"I have forced myself to contradict myself in order to avoid conforming to my own taste." Marcel Duchamp

"There's no retirement for an artist, it's your way of living so there's no end to it." Henry Moore

"Sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." Lewis Carroll

"If I knew what the picture was going to be like I wouldn't make it...the challenge is more about trying to make what you can't think of." Cindy Sherman

NEWSLETTER INPUTS should be sent to Sharon Yutzy either via e-mail – laanewsletter@comcast.net (preferred method) or via snail mail – 1825 Myrtle Lake Ave., Fruitland Park FL, 34731. **E-NEWSLETTER** - Anyone who wishes to receive the monthly LAA Newsletter via e-mail (instead of through the mail) can do so by sending an e-mail to Sharon Yutzy at laanewsletter@comcast.net. While this option is being offered to help keep costs down wherever possible, it is by no means mandatory, and we will continue to mail newsletters to anyone interested.



LEESBURG ART ASSOCIATION

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