



WPAG President's Message

Hi there!

The weather we've been experiencing recently makes me so grateful to live in Florida! I hope you've been enjoying it as well, and maybe you've even taken the opportunity to take your art-making tools outside.



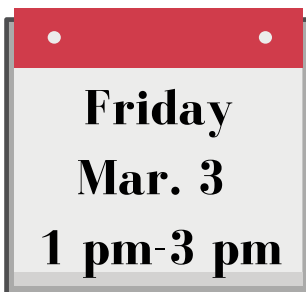
The first annual Art Market was a big success! Thanks to all the members who donated gently used art supplies and art books. We made over \$450 which will go towards building maintenance. All the supplies and books that didn't sell were donated to charitable organizations in the area.

Our March General Membership Meeting is an important one as that is when we elect officers and directors to lead our organization. This year, all candidates are running unopposed so the election process is simple. The secretary casts a vote for the slate, and we as members vote to approve the slate.

Thanks to those of you who completed the recent survey sent to 148 members via email and those who took advantage of the hard copies that were available at the guild. The input provided by the 29 members who responded will be considered at the annual planning meeting to be held on Tues., April 25, 12:30pm-3:30pm. All members are invited to attend.

I hope to see you at open studio or one of the classes or workshops on the spring calendar.

Happy art making!
Marilyn



Our Next Membership Meeting

Please plan to attend the March General Membership Meeting on Friday, Mar. 3. After a brief business meeting and election of officers, guest speaker Rhonda Koning will give a demo on modern quilting. Hope to see you there!

Member Spotlight

This month the member spotlight is on Carol O'Connor-Eisenberg. Carol is originally from Michigan and had a long career as a human resource executive. "All of the left brain duties that went with that required that I find creative activities for balance. While I didn't paint at that time, I did do other things such as scale miniatures, ceramics, cake decorating (I gave wedding cakes to my nieces and nephews as wedding gifts), refinishing/repurposing old furniture, etc.



I married at age 63 and moved to Long Island where I discovered decorative painting. I became a certified instructor for *One Stroke* and *Grumbacher*, and taught both in Michaels stores.

Thirteen years later after my husband passed, I followed my friend, Pamela Varricchio to Florida. We joined a decorative painting group in Spring Hill as there were none in the immediate area. Then Pam found the guild and brought me along with her. I have enjoyed many of the painting classes, but my true love remains making things. As a result, the guild's gift shop was the big draw for me. Like painters could "show" their art in the guild shows, I have been able to "show" the results of my artistic talents in the gift shop.

I took over the job of membership chair a couple of years ago and was then elected to the board, giving me a much better understanding of the needs of the organization. I'd love to see the guild grow and become focal point for the arts in the New Port Richey area. Assisting with the management of the gift shop, I have some ideas that I hope we can implement that might to draw more public attention to the gift shop, and therefore to the guild as well."

Critique Club with Louanne

Saturday, March 4 and April 1 - 1 pm-3pm

WPAG member and FWS Signature Artist, Louanne Headrick will lead the next Critique Club meetings on March 4 and April 1 from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm.



Artists are invited to bring work in progress or finished pieces - all mediums welcome. If you have nothing to share at this point in time, come and learn from the conversation. Open Studio fees apply - \$5 for WPAG members and \$6 for guests. Questions? Email marilyn@westpascoartguild.org or call 727-403-5744.

Celebrating the Arts!

Invitational Art Show and Reception

Join artists from around the area in celebrating the arts. Intake of art work is Monday, March 13 from 10am - 1pm. The entry fees for WPAG members and members of reciprocal organizations are \$10 for the first piece and \$5 for each additional piece. Non-member entry fees are \$15 for the first piece and \$5 for each additional piece. Entering artists are expected to make a \$5 donation toward the purchase of food and wine for the reception.

The reception and awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2:30pm-4:30pm. Prizes include the Mayor's Choice Award and art supplies from Blick Art Materials.

All artists are responsible for reviewing the WPAG Show Rules and Regulations which are available on the guild website - www.westpascoartguildandgallery.org.



Wheel Throwing & Hand-Building with Kathleen Clarke



A 6-week series of wheel throwing classes begins Wednesday, March 1 from 6pm - 10pm - \$220 for WPAG members; \$240 for guests. A 6-week series of hand-building classes begins Thursday, March 2 from 6pm - 10pm - \$200 for WPAG members; \$220 for guests. Friday classes are also available for both wheel throwing and hand-building. For details on how to register, email kathleenc@westpascoartguild.org.

Calling All Oil Painters!



WPAG Member Keith Blanton has volunteered to lead an oil painters' group on Wednesdays from 10 am - 1 pm. Bring your supplies and paint along with Keith. Open Studio fees apply - \$5 for WPAG members; \$6 for guests. Questions? Email oilpaintings@keithblanton.com.

Congratulations!

Kudos to Helen Hanley, who was awarded five ribbons at the Florida State Fair - three 1st place, one 2nd place and one honorable mention. Well done, Helen!



Monday Mixed Media Group



WPAG Instructor Kathleen Clarke has volunteered to lead a mixed media group on Mondays from 10 am - 1 pm beginning March 6. Bring what you have on hand, swap with others, and mix it up with Kath! There will be collage materials, scissors, glue, etc. available. Open Studio fees apply - \$5 for WPAG members; \$6 for guests. Questions? Email kathleenc@westpascoartguild.org.

More *Art FUNDamentals* with Helen Hanley

Beginners who want to learn how to become a successful artist and intermediate artists who want a refresher of how to be effective in any medium are invited to join WPAG Member Instructor Helen Hanley on the following Saturdays: April 15, July 15, and Oct. 21 from



9:00am-3:30pm. Each workshop is \$40 for WPAG members and \$45 guests. Handouts and basic supplies will be provided. To register, contact helen@westpascoartguild.org. The deadline for payment for the April 15 session is April 1.

Watercolor Abstracts with Marilyn Wescott

This 4-week series of classes is designed to tap into the creativity of all levels of watercolor artists. No experience required! Bring your own supplies - paper, brushes, and paint - and experiment with a variety of techniques that can also be applied to non-abstract work as you learn new and fun ways of working with watercolor - \$10 per class for WPAG members; \$15 per class for guests; April 27, May 4, 11, and 18; 10am-1pm. To register, email marilyn@westpascoartguild.org. Space is limited so sign-up today!



Colorful Pet Portraits with Darla Nolan



Join Darla on Saturday, April 29, 9:30-3:30 to learn techniques for painting pets in a charming, colorful style. \$40 for WPAG members; \$45 for guests - all mediums welcome! To register and request a supply list, email helen@westpascoartguild.org. Space is limited so sign-up today!

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Thank you **Blick Art Materials** for the generous donation of two \$100 gift coupons that will be used as prizes at guild events. Consider visiting their website at www.dickblick.com for your art supply needs.

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WPAG Board of Directors

Questions? Concerns? Kudos? Ideas for events, classes and/or workshops?

Your board members are just an email or phone call away!

- Marilyn Wescott, Pres. - marilyn@westpascoartguild.org - 727-403-5744
- Pamela Varricchio, Vice Pres. - pamelav@westpascoartguild.org - 631-413-4248
- Cindy Corey, Interim Sec. - cindyc@westpascoartguild.org - 727-364-4710
- Helen Hanley, Treas. - helen@westpascoartguild.org - 727-809-1299
- Kathleen Clarke, Director - kathleenc@westpascoartguild.org - 970-393-0199
- Christine Cooke, Interim Director - turtlepath55@gmail.com - 727-858-1940
- Darla Nolan, Director - darla@westpascoartguild.org - 727-457-2682
- Carol O'Connor-Eisenberg, Director - carolo@westpascoartguild.org - 989-780-2720
- Valerie Brandau, Past Pres./Director - valerie@westpascoartguild.org - 727-686-8585

"Make YOUR art, do the stuff that only you can do...the one thing you have that nobody else has, is you. Your voice, your mind, your story, your vision - so write and draw and build and play and dance and live as only you can."

Neil Gaiman - *Art Matters*