A Message from WPAG President, Valerie Brandau

I think we’d all agree that COVID-19 has had quite an impact on our personal lives as well as the health and well-being of the guild. Many of you have shared with me how much you miss the face-to-face opportunities to make art that the guild had provided. I know we will all be glad to get back to some semblance of normal with studio time, workshops, classes, and membership meetings.

In the past five months, a team of WPAG members and officers have taken advantage of our empty building to create new ways of serving and connecting members through social media - Zoom meetings and workshops, a “members only” Facebook group, the WPAG YouTube channel, on-line shows and a collaborative project to name a few. In addition, a group of 'guilders' worked tirelessly to clean and reallocate workspace at the guild. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for all the time and hard work you’ve put in to helping us stay connected and for making our guild shine. And to those who weren’t able to join us physically, I thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. WPAG rocks!

The big question is “So, when will we open?” We are gradually phasing in small group gatherings. Tuesday watercolor group will resume next week and a schedule for clay classes will be published shortly. Wednesday and Thursday classes, as well as our Young Artists program which usually begins in October, have been postponed until we see a sustained drop in COVID numbers.

See you soon - I hope!

Valerie
2021 Membership Drive

WPAG membership runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, during which time members enjoy the following benefits:

- Member rates for on-line and in-person workshops and classes in watercolor, acrylic, oil, ceramics and more.
- Member rates for studio time to create and connect with other artists.
- Member rates to exhibit and compete for awards in WPAG art shows.
- Free tips and tutorials on the WPAG YouTube channel.
- Access to books and DVDs in the WPAG Library.
- Opportunity to show and sell art work in the WPAG Gift Shop and in the WPAG Gallery.
- *Art-i-facts* newsletter published five times a year.
- Opportunity to join the WPAG Members Only Facebook group.
- Watercolor paper, mat board, clay and more for sale.
- Tools to use - mat cutter, kiln, framing tools - and instructions on how.
- Opportunities to test out art supplies before buying.
- Interactions and collaboration with many very talented and generous artists via Zoom, social media, and in-person at the guild.

With 2020 guild memberships expiring on December 31st, the **2021 Membership Drive** will begin on Oct. 1. Current members will receive a renewal request from WPAG Treasurer, Helen Hanley and may use the included invoice to renew online via credit or debit card in the amount of $37.00 ($35.00 annual dues plus $2 processing fee). If you prefer, you can mail your check made payable to West Pasco Art Guild in the amount of $35.00 to Helen Hanley, 7513 Turkey Roost, Hudson FL 34667. You may also pay via the website at westpascoartguild.org in the amount of $37.00.
Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Marilyn Wescott on having her painting *Lefty and Pancho* accepted to the Florida Watercolor Society’s 49th Annual Exhibit. Marilyn had this to say, when asked about her painting:

“This past year I decided to shift from painting something for FWS to just painting a lot, with the hope that something would stand out as worthy of entering. One of my projects last winter was a series of six sandhill crane paintings. I was really just playing with shapes and trying to see what range of values I could get from two colors - Phthalo Green and Alizarin Crimson. Of the six, *Lefty and Pancho* seemed to best capture what I was trying to convey. I’m honored that judge Michael Reardon chose it to be in this year’s show.”

Marilyn has been a member of the guild since 2010. She serves on the board as a director and chairs the membership committee. In addition, she coordinates the guild’s Young Artists program. You can see more of her work on her website www.marilynwescottart.com and on her YouTube channel - Marilyn Wescott Art https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeYo8bfmDEqNT0F6WpxM1dw.

Collaborative Art Project

Thanks to Lyn Rodger for pulling together all the artwork from over 25 artists into two beautiful videos. You can check these out on the West Pasco Art Guild Facebook page or on the West Pasco Art Guild YouTube Channel https://youtu.be/-F1oLPST0tI
Join the **Inktober** Challenge!

Inktober was started in 2009 by Jake Parker as a way to develop a positive drawing habit. Since then, it has grown into a worldwide endeavor with thousands of artists taking on the challenge every year. It’s basically a drawing-a-day (or every-other-day or once-a-week) in the ink of your choice - ball point pen, fountain pen, marker. The bonus to building a drawing habit is sharing your work with other artists who are doing the same thing.

**Inktober Rules:**

1. Make a drawing in ink in the size of your choice - PostIt Note, index card, 8 ½ x 11 copy paper, sketchbook, whatever you have on hand! You can do a pencil under-drawing if you want. This is about having fun making art.

2. Take a photo of your work and post it on the WPAG Facebook page and/or the WPAG Members Only Facebook group page. If you have an Instagram account or a personal Facebook page, post there as well. Post it on any social media account you want or just post it on your refrigerator. The point is to share your art with someone.

3. Hashtag your post with #inktober and #inktober2020.

4. Repeat the next day. You can draw and post daily for 31 days or post every other day or post once a week. Whatever you decide, just be consistent. Inktober is about growing, improving and forming positive habits.

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**October Fun with Kris**

WPAG member Kris Belkola will hold a resin art workshop on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 am to 1 pm. Members pay $43; guests $48. Space is limited!

Registration by email (only) to: helen@westpascoartguild.org - include the following in your email: name, phone, preferred email, workshop OCT-RESIN.
Show Your Work!

The City of New Port Richey is offering members of the West Pasco Art Guild the opportunity to exhibit original artwork at City Hall in October and again in December. Spaces are limited! If you are interested in showing your artwork in one or both exhibits, please contact Marilyn Wescott at marilyn@westpascoartguild.org or call 727-403-5744.

Guidelines for New Port Richey City Hall exhibits include:

- The opportunity to exhibit in October and/or December is open to WPAG members only.
- Artwork for the October exhibit must be taken to the guild on Tuesday, Sept. 29 or Wednesday, Sept. 30 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- Artwork for the December exhibit must be taken to the guild on Tuesday, Nov. 29 or Wednesday, Nov. 30 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- Artists will be asked to sign a form releasing West Pasco Art Guild and City Hall from any responsibility for loss, theft, and/or damages that may occur from the time the artwork is dropped off at the guild to when it is picked up from the guild by the artist.
- Artists will be asked to complete a label indicating artist’s name, phone number, title of the work, medium, and price.
- All artwork must be properly framed and securely wired for hanging. Saw-tooth hangers will not be accepted.
- Any sales of artwork are to be handled between the artist and the purchaser. Neither City Hall or WPAG will handle sales.
- City Hall has COVID restrictions in place, and all visitors must agree to wear a mask and have their temperature taken prior to entry.

Make A Difference

Volunteer

Bring food, join a committee, run for office, help clean-up, write an article, teach a class. WPAG NEEDS YOU! To find out how you can help, contact Valerie Brandeau at valerie@westpascoartguild.org
WPAG member Sally Hanlon's watercolor painting "Hibiscus" was voted first place by viewers of the August "Art Heals" Virtual Showcase. Debbie Johnson created this online art show for artists all over the world, of all levels, to display their work to the public during Covid-19 restrictions. Sally has had many responses about her painting as a result of the show's visibility on Instagram and the internet. She was encouraged to enter the show by her son and his friend.

"As we emerge from the shadow of this pandemic, we are reminded that life goes on, hope springs eternal and the beauty of art heals".
Debbie Johnson, www.healingpowerofart.com

Staying Connected and Informed

The guild is more than just a building. In other words, you don’t have to be in the building to enjoy connect and learn with friends.

Our website www.westpascoartguildandgallery.org keeps members and the community informed and up-to-date on activities, events, and news of note.

The West Pasco Art Guild Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/pascoartguild is another great place to learn about what’s happening at the guild.
Also on Facebook is the West Pasco Art Guild Members Only private group https://www.facebook.com/groups/pascoart. This is a place for members to share their art, experiences, ideas and offer encouragement.

And if you’re a visual learner, check out the WPAG YouTube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-0pzVsQTwwIO_U1Zi6mk6Q. As of September 1, there are 46 videos ranging from demonstrations and tips to shows and workshops. Don’t forget to “Like” and “Subscribe” so you’ll be notified when new videos are published.
Florida Rural Landscapes with Lionel

It's not too late to sign up!

Sundays.

**Five Thursdays, Oct. 22 — Nov. 19**

7 — 9 pm.

Fee: $53 Members, $63 Non-Members

Registration by email only by Oct. 15

to: helen@westpascoartguild.org - include the following in your email: name, phone, preferred email, workshop RURAL.

WPAG member and award-winning watercolorist Lionel Sanchez will work with artists over the five weeks to learn how to create thumbnail sketches to establish contrast - values, lights and darks; use an initial watercolor wash to prepare the paper for a landscape; build up pigment-rich watercolor washes for greater contrast; and how to complete your painting with calligraphy and final touches.

The General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 5:00 pm via ZOOM followed by a demonstration on artists' brushes by Sarah Hanson, WPAG member and owner of Hanson Art & Design. You can also call in by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID and Passcode below. Hope to see you online!

**Meeting Link**  [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83557200887](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83557200887)

Meeting ID  835 5720 0887

Passcode  964750

Need a little help with Zoom? Contact marilyn@westpascoartguild.org for tech support!