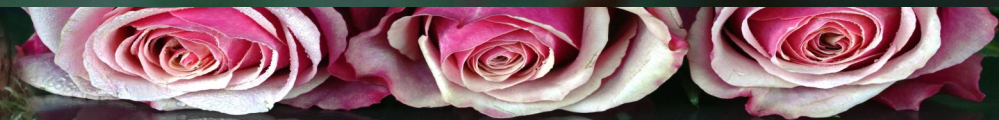




*Established* 1950

*May* 2022  
**Newsletter**

*Celebrating 71 Years*



# President's Message

I cannot believe how fast the time flew for my first year as the President of Ocala Art Group. I will share my "INNER THOUGHTS" with you here: To help refresh my memory, I went back and read some of our beautiful Newsletters and scanned thorough our informative Website and was so impressed by these presentations that I actually said to myself "*if I wasn't already a member I would actually join after seeing all that they depicted about our group, our members and their varied activities*". I encourage you all to go back and see what I am talking about!!! What an active, talented and fun-loving group we have! Be sure to thank our members Jan Kiszonak and Barbara Fife for their hard work and dedication all year in handling these important jobs.

Unfortunately, while these were good things to realize, I also had a possibly "negative" response to what I read and saw. As I read through our various events, I also read the members comments who attended them. The trip to the Equestrian Center, Lee commented: *she had a great time!*; the trip to Marion Theatre, Lee commented: *she had fun!*; On the Leesburg ARTventure, Lee commented: *it was really interesting and fun!!!*; At the Artists Intergenerational Mixer, Lee commented: *She had a real good time!!*; At the Luncheon, Lee Commented: *it was delish and fun!*: and so on ...it went!!! So what did I see here? I saw that I WAS HAVING A GREAT TIME!!! H-E-L-L-O! Am I the only one having a good time here? So my question to you all is: "AM I A SELFISH LEADER? Am I the only one having a good time here? ALWAYS DOING WHAT I WANT? I have been working this year to make OAG into something I thought it should be as a group for Artists, but is it now only the kind of group I want? What about you all? What do you want this group to be? HOLD YOUR ANSWERS FOR NOW: I am having Gail Bannock set up our June Luncheon at the Braised Onion on Wednesday, June 8th, so we can have another fun time but also do some BRAINSTORMING!!! Mark your calendars with this date and be sure to let Gail know if you are coming. Think about what you would like us to be doing, etc. and bring those ideas to share with us that day. Can't wait to hear from you all!!!

Also, please try to come to our May 9th meeting at the Brick at noon to learn about our new Board Members. We still have two openings that I am hoping we can fill: Recording Secretary, takes minutes at meetings....if you know how to take down phone messages, you can do this job. Joanie Ford will help set you up for this job! Also needed: First Veep, Works with me to set up new Art Show Venues .... Lynn King will show you the ropes for this job...working with Lee to set up new shows she learns about. Lynn has offered to support this job from the background. Members will be asked to vote for the new Board Members and you will hear about some new potential art show venues, as well as enjoy an interesting program at this next meeting.

Sincerely, Lee Asta, Your President

# MAY MEETING May 9 - 12:30 pm



## **May 9, 2022**

OAG Board Meeting at Brick City Center for the Arts 10:45

**Bring your lunch** and enjoy socializing conversation with OAG artists in the Brick's Courtyard before the Meeting and Program Brief Members' meeting at 12 PM followed by a **Demonstration by Justin Alsedeck, Ocala Award Winning Artist**

*Read about Justin on Page 4*

# Justin Alsedek

## Painting Portraits

**Monday, May 9, 2022 Members Meeting—12 PM**  
**Program—12:30 PM—2 PM**

**\$ Cost—free**  
**Location—Brick City Center**  
**for the Arts**  
**23 SW Broadway**  
**Ocala, FL**

### Justin's Bio

My journey began in Harrisburg Pennsylvania in a home which creativity and music was encouraged. I have had an eye for capturing scenes and personality in my work since before I can remember. My parents set me free with a camera and the world never looked the same again. This desire to create lead me on a path towards art school to fine tune my abilities, hone in on my talents and broaden my horizons. During my time as an art student I got a summer position drawing portraits for Kamans Art Shoppes in Hershey Park. There they trained me to use chalk pastels to draw quick lifelike portraits of park goers. I fell in love with the art of live portraiture, and continued to work for them for five years.



I graduated from Pennsylvania College of Art and Design in 2007 with a bachelors degree in fine art photography. It was during my fifth year with Kamans that I decided to take an adventurous chance. In 2008 I decided to quit my job, I told my boss that I needed to go on a spiritual journey to find myself. I had made a plan to tent camp thirty minutes from the Ocean City MD boardwalk, drive into town every evening to set up and draw live portraits for "generous donations" (at this point you were not allowed to set a price as a street artist.) Met with open arms and open wallets I soon was making enough money that I was able to rent a cabin not far from work. After two summers of this I decided to take another risky leap of faith.

I packed my car up for Key West to go draw portraits at Mallory Square's sunset celebration. In key West I met many traveling artists, musicians and found another place to call home. It's become a life practice for me to take off to new places spreading my art along the way. I have had the fortune of seeing many beautiful places in and out of our country. The exotic and the geologically astounding sites have inspired many pictures and paintings for me. It's been my preference and pleasure to meet new people and places as the Gypsea Artist

I am, doing business the old fashion way.

After 8 years of pretty steady travel I have landed now in Ocala Florida with my wife and son, where my art career has unexpectedly blossomed. After more then a decade of commissioned based portrait work, I am finally making a living with my own work. I travel to art festivals, show in Gallery's and create large public murals. I also recently have taken over managing and curating 8th Ave. Gallery in Ocala, where I showcase not just my own work but of Artists I have met during my travels.

# Thank You!

How can we thank you enough for your devotion and the time that you have contributed to our organization. Speaking from experience as a Board Member, because we know how valuable have been to our progress this past year and the year before , you will be missed.

BUT . . . we do know how we can thank them! We must continue to do the work that they have so efficiently performed for us. We could show our gratitude if we, as members, take a little time to reflect on ourselves and think about what we can do to help our group as we move forward into our new year at Ocala Art Group - *the longest operating art group in Ocala.*



Second Vice President of Programs - Gail Bannock

First Vice President of Exhibitions - Lynn King



Recording Secretary - Joannie Ford

The Slate of Officers for the 2022 - 2023 Ocala Art Group Year will be presented and voted on at the May 9, 2022 Members' Meeting

“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts”

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

# EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021-2022

*The New Slate for 2022-2023 will be presented at the May 9, 2022 Meeting*

<b>President</b>	Lee Asta
<b>1st Vice President of Exhibitions</b>	Lynn King
<b>2nd Vice President of Programs</b>	Gail Bannock
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Joanie Ford
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marcelle Schvimmer
<b>Membership</b>	Heather Doherty
<b>Publicity</b>	Iris Kaplan
<b>Newsletter</b>	Jan Kiszonak
<b>Website</b>	Barbara Fife
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Marion Savage
<b>Hospitality/Receptions</b>	
<b>Marion Theatre Exhibits</b>	Iris Kaplan
	Jan Tindall
<b>One Blood Exhibits</b>	
<b>Past President</b>	Sharon Harris
<b>MCA Liaison</b>	Lynn King
<b>Photographer</b>	
<b>Documentarian</b>	
<b>Grant Consultant</b>	

PLEASE CONSIDER A CALL FROM THE BOARD TO...fill last two vacancies: First Veep and Recording Secretary!

Will our membership grow from 69 to 71? SO CLOSE TO OUR GOAL!!!

BRING A FRIEND TO HELP US GET THERE!!!!

**YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS!!!!**

# A LOOK BACK AT OUR APRIL MEETING

We were pleased to welcome two New Members were Welcomed to Our Group - Deb Wellborn of Ocala and Lucy Pinkstaff of Summerfield

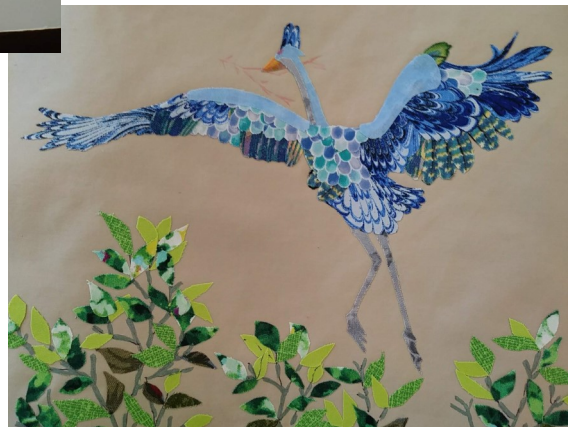


## Demonstration and Program by Vivian Drawneek



A fascinating presentation by Vivian explaining her technique of using fabrics to “paint” her beautiful floral and animal designs.

Thank You Vivian



Vivian is also an Award Winner in our recent “Stroke of Genius” Show



Classic movie art challenge:  
Create art inspired by the movies

## MONTHLY EXHIBIT: MARION THEATRE

APRIL 2022

LA LA LAND

WIZARD OF OZ

BLAZING SADDLES

MAMA MIA

Reservations were set for us to meet at 11:30 at the lovely Restaurant "Ivy on the Square" FOR A DELICIOUS LUNCH. We had a total of 6 interesting people MEET AND GET ACQUAINTED before entering the Marion Theatre to see the lovely OAG Art Show The Art SHOW was quite impressive. I could see why we had a sale there.....We then proceeded to the large Theatre to see the somewhat "classic" movie, "Princess Bride".

WELL..... You know me...i always have a fun time!!!!Not only did I get to know 3 of our members BETTER, but I was actually shocked to see that the movie was quite enjoyable. It was like a "MEL BROOKS" fairy tale...kind of satirical...which was a pleasant surprise for us!!!

I think I can speak for all of us, this was a delightful afternoon spent getting to make new friends!!!!...and so reasonable...only \$5.00 for the show!!!

Yours truly....Lee

Before entering the actual theatre to see the movie, we stopped in the historical LOBBY to see the OAG Fine Arts Show. It was very impressive!!! I can certainly see why we sold a painting there recently!!!



Heather

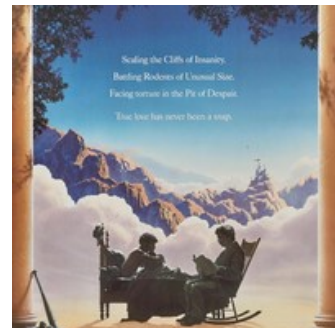
Jan

Lee

Dori

Mary and her sister Karen

Once again, our recent outing to see the OAG FINE ART SHOW and the "somewhat classic" movie, "Princess Bride" at the Marion Theatre in Ocala was a lovely fun ARTventure!!!!. Although we didn't wear our red shirts this time, we were able to easily spot one another as we only had 6 attending. As always, we had a lovely lunch at the Ivy on the Square restaurant and got to know one another better. We even had a chance to stop in at one of our favorite stores across from the restaurant and say HELLO to our friends there. BEFORE going to the show.





# Member SPOTLIGHT

## Mary Haley-Rocks



### Mary Haley-Rocks

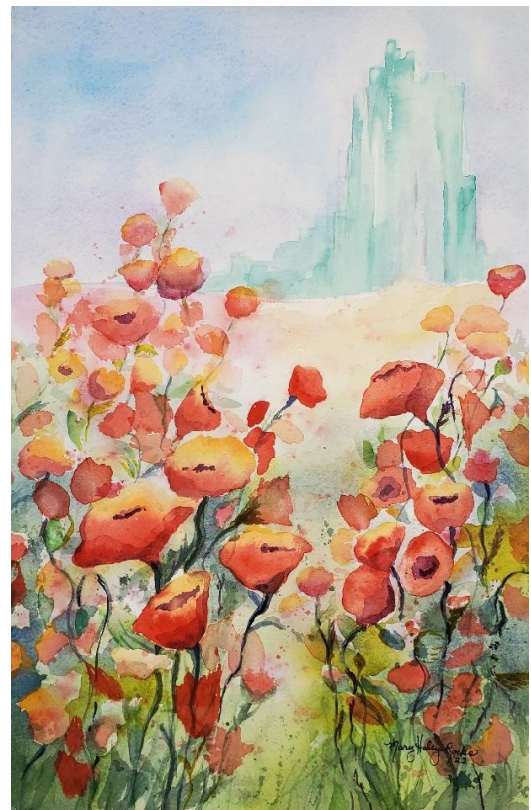
As a self taught artist from Kansas, I have painted a variety of subjects on assorted materials. My first time attending a workshop was in 1985 from Charles Rogers teaching opaque watercolor. A transparent watercolor workshop taught by Rose Edin in 1992 was a tremendous boost for me in learning the medium. These were held at a 4-H camp in Halsey Nebraska.

I worked with the medium easily and continued painting with watercolors. I traveled to Guatemala with Rose's group of artists to paint on location. Since then I've attended art shows, selling and receiving awards for my paintings.

Traveling in my motor home for 3 years and selling my art in many states was an adventure. When the setting up a canopy and hanging paintings became too strenuous for me, I sold everything.

Since moving to Stonecrest four years ago, I've attended classes held at the Art Association in Stonecrest and workshops at The Villages Art Center operated by Bev Hennessy and Wanda Boyd. Many of the workshops are taught by world renowned artists. I gain so much knowledge from each class.

Recently I joined The Ocala Art Group, the demonstrations and meetings are a valuable addition to my continual learning process.



# "ARTrageous ARTventure



**MAY 14, 2022**

Save the date: OAG members are invited to another day of fun being arranged as we speak for Saturday, May 14th for lunch followed by a lively AND lovely ARTSY event at **Reilly Art Center/Theatre!!!!** Don't miss this opportunity for a fun day!!! Details to follow as soon as set up!!

## **UPDATE YOUR CALENDAR:**

It has come to my attention recently that the Reilly Theatre is having an interesting show there on Saturday, May 14th at 3:00: "ARTrageous". Members will be responsible to purchase their own tickets, as I could not set up a **GROUP TICKET PURCHASE** for this event. I will gladly take names for those wishing to attend a luncheon **BEFORE** the show at noon at the Braised Onion which is in the area. Show tickets range from \$25 to \$35 and may be purchased online.

Contact Lee at [Dizasta3131@gmail.com](mailto:Dizasta3131@gmail.com) for her to make reservations for your lunch which will be ordered off the Menu and individually

# June 8, 2022 Meeting



**Reminder!**

## **OAG Spring Luncheon**

Wednesday, June 8, Noon

At the Braised Onion Restaurant

754 NE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala

Join us for our Annual Spring Luncheon to socialize and network with fellow OAG artists and enjoy brainstorming on the future possibilities for our organization. Bring either some art supplies or an art related gift that we will use as grab bag prizes if you chose.

Email Gail Bannock at [gailbannock@gmail.com](mailto:gailbannock@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

# AREA EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

**First Friday Art Walk - The Final Event of the Season** 6-9 p.m., Art Reception “The Landscape” at Brick City Center for the Arts 5-7PM

Will resume in September 2022 thru May 2023 and takes place in Ocala’s historic downtown.

**First Saturday at the Appleton Museum -  
FREE Admission**

**Blueberry Festival at World Equestrian Center**

Saturday, May 14 held at the Grand Plaza 8am to 5pm The festival will offer free entertainment with live music from three different blues bands, a Blues Brothers tribute act, pancake breakfast and much more

Happy  
Mother's  
Day!



*Sunday, May 8, 2022*

**Mother's Day** enjoy the Ocala Symphony Orchestra directed by Maestro Matthew Wardell. The Symphony Under The Stars is an outdoor concert held at The Ocala Golf Club. Gates open at 3pm where music-lovers can enjoy opening entertainment with the Ocala Symphony Orchestra concert beginning at 7pm. Fireworks start around 8:45pm.

**Call to Artists: June 2022 | “Music Moves Marion”**

*Celebrating Music, Art & the 2022 Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series!*

at The Brick City Center for the Arts (23 SW Broadway Street)

**Description of Exhibit:** Throughout history, MUSIC has been credited with the capacity to reflect and evokes our creativity in unpredictable ways.

In honor and celebration of this year’s [Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series](#), MCA invites artists working in all mediums to let MUSIC be your main inspiration for your creation. #MusicMovesMarion

**Ocala Calligraphy Guild (OCG)**

Meet 3rd Monday at Library Headquarters. To request the Zoom Link , email [info@ocalacalligraphy.org](mailto:info@ocalacalligraphy.org)

**The Villages Workshops** [villageartworkshops.com](http://villageartworkshops.com)

ACTIVE CLASSES NEW LOCATION Spruce Creek Professional Center , 10935 SE 177th Place - Ste 406, Summerfield, FL 34491 For questions or registration: Contact: Wanda Boyd [wboyd2009@yahoo.com](mailto:wboyd2009@yahoo.com) or (804) 536-1794 , Beverly Hennessy [bbaugh97@aol.com](mailto:bbaugh97@aol.com) or (352) 753-1383

**Citrus Watercolor Society (CWS)** Citrus Watercolor Society meets monthly on second Friday featuring Painting of the Month, Social with light refreshments,. For more information visit [citruswatercolorsociety.org](http://citruswatercolorsociety.org).

*Please send news items, awards and happenings to Jan Kiszonak by the 20th of the month.*  
[kiszonakjan@gmail.com](mailto:kiszonakjan@gmail.com)

*Send any changes of contact information to Heather Doherty at [jmdhld@aol.com](mailto:jmdhld@aol.com) and/or [kiszonakjan@gmail.com](mailto:kiszonakjan@gmail.com)*