

Visual Arts Club 2019 Year in Review

The Visual Arts Club ended 2019 with over 300 Members, including our first “junior” member at the ripe old age of 14! New residents, expansion of our offerings, as well as new artist instructors drew many new members.

We kicked off the year with our Annual Meeting in which 2019 Board Officers were elected; Marj Shymske, President, Kathy McShane, Vice-President, Bobby Weber, Treasurer, and Debby Sovern, Secretary. Our guest speaker was Clay Rice, silhouettist, storybook author, songwriter who entertained us with music and a demonstration of his art. In addition, Clay shared stories of the history of this unique art form, sang songs, and told stories of his life growing up in the Low Country.

Our clubs within the Club grew their own membership. The Photography Club, the Clay Club, the Card Club, and Mixed Media all offer an opportunity for those that have specific interests to share those interests while learning and growing. The Card Club added additional classes to their schedule to meet the needs of their members, now meeting six times a month.

Open Studio, which had softened over the last several years due to “retirement” of those leading this Monday morning artist share, returned thanks to the efforts of Ann Clements, who along with 3-6 artists each Monday meet and do anything from watch education videos to dabble in their own medium.

Our quarterly exhibits not only drew excellent attendances to view the masterpieces submitted, but our participation of artists entering their works in the exhibition grew. Tremendous job by Barb Carakostas and Bill Tremitiere in art in-take, hanging, labeling, and finding some excellent jurors did not go unnoticed by all that attended and to enjoy for the three months that followed. This year’s exhibits were:

Exhibits:

JAN - Ode To Imagination

APR - What Are You Looking At?

JUL - A Journey in Time: Celebrating 1969

OCT - Double Exposure

Holly O'Shea led a group off-island to see first-hand how artists make the most of their studio space and were amazed with Linda Banfalvi's studio which is on the back of her 30+ foot boat!

In addition, three families on Dataw opened their doors to VAC Members, sharing their art collections, which included the McShane, Manery, and Stackhouse homes.

With 30% of the Dataw population new to the Island, living here five years or less, we held a VAC Open house in March with each of the Club's showcasing their offering, as well as a number of our artist-teachers, demonstrating their craft.

Expanding our definition of "art," Bill and Laura Riski, along with Club Sommelier Bert, offered The Art of Wine Tasting event in which to a full house, we sipped various red wines and learned the components of a proper tasting!

Always something for everyone classes offering this year were pastels, acrylics, oil painting, watercolor intro to drawing, rug hooking, and two jewelry classes. And throw on top of that movie night (Georgia O'Keefe) and a book review of Rembrandt's Eyes with Bob Welborn.

In November, we closed out the year with our ever-popular and highly anticipated Holiday Boutique. Peggy Len and her team of elves hosted with The Spirit of Datha Village, which included two rooms that held 24 vendors, a village square in the Community Center reception area, and all the trimmings of a true old-fashioned holiday. Over 2 hours, about 300 people visited, shopped, snacked, and shared good cheer. A terrific time held by all and Peggy and her team were congratulated on putting together and executing a grand boutique.

This is my last "writing" duty as President for VAC as in January I will turn the reins over to Kathy McShane. I have thoroughly enjoyed my three years as President and thank, in particular, Dale Martin, for tackling me in the parking lot at the Club House 4 years ago asking me if I wanted to get involved with VAC. It has been an honor and a great joy.

Marj Shymske – VAC President – 12/26/2019