

THE BRUSH STROKE

NEWSLETTER OF THE SEGUIN ART LEAGUE

Reflections

By Marika Bordes
President, Seguin Art League



Soon after arriving in Seguin eleven years ago, I met her, a stately woman with grit and determination. Solid as a rock she is in bearing, strength and constancy, but with the heart of an artist. A woman who dedicates much of her time and energy helping others through volunteering, who shares freely her wisdom with others, and kindly donates her art for worthy causes. Throughout her time in this community, she has spent countless hours promoting the arts through One Seguin and the Seguin Art

Art League's Golf Tournament Fundraiser in Full Swing

By Joe Saenz, Golf Committee Chair



A growing interest in team sponsorships has quickly emerged. Six teams pledged during our first week. This represents \$3,000 in revenue. An additional \$960 will likely be raised from the purchase of a special \$40 package by each of these players during our event. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by May 5, 2016.

A concerted effort by our committee and membership is critical to reach our goal of \$7,500 in pledges by mid-February. On a referral basis, business and private contacts have been sent a flyer announcement from the committee identifying the various levels of sponsorship available. These range from \$125 per individual player to \$10,000 for an exclusive Event Underwriter sponsorship. HEB was asked to become our \$10,000 Event Underwriter. Others have also been requested to sponsor at the \$1,000, \$2,500, or \$5,000 level.

It is so important that members convey the entitlements available for the different sponsorship levels. An announcement flyer containing this information was recently emailed to the membership. A second flyer was sent out that contained information on a foursome (\$500) and individual player (\$125) sponsorship only.

Business interests believe the Art League enriches the community. Members are encouraged to cultivate this positive relationship by engaging their support of our fundraiser golf tournament.

League. The Art League bestowed her with the rare distinction of honorary lifetime member. She volunteered 45 years at the Guadeloupe Regional Medical Center in every department except surgery.

A graduate of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, her dedication to others does go beyond the arts. The National Association for Family and Community Education recognized her as one of the extraordinary women of the organization for helping and inspiring others.

Her vision for the art league is that it will to be recognized throughout the county and state for excellence in programs and art education. So, I dedicate my tenure as president of the Seguin Art League to this pillar of inspiration, Mrs. Helen Stein.

OFFICERS of the SEGUIN ART LEAGUE

Marika Bordes, President
Jan Almon, Parliamentarian
Brenda Montague, Treasurer
Nancy Kissiar, Secretary
Prudy Kinsel, Vice President
Liz Romero, 2nd Vice Pres.

New Officers Installed at January Membership Meeting



Former Elected Officers:

Robin Roberts Walker, President, Jan Almon, Parliamentarian, Mary Styblo, Treasurer, Prudy Kinsel, 2nd Vice President, and Donna Maske, Vice President.



Newly Elected Officers:

Marika Bordes, President, Jan Almon, Parliamentarian, Brenda Montague, Treasurer, Nancy Kissiar, Secretary, Liz Romero, 2nd Vice President, and Prudy Kinsel, Vice President.



INCOMING PRESIDENT MARIKA BORDES DELIVERS “STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION” ADDRESS

In an impassioned speech delivered at the January 9th meeting for the induction ceremony and state of the organization address, newly elected president Marika Bordes set the tone for her new tenure. “Since 1982,” she began, through student scholarships, exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, along with participation in Seguin sponsored events like ArtsFest, Pecan Fest, and Trade Days, “the Art League has been...shaping the cultural landscape of Seguin.” Art League sponsored events in 2015 alone, Marika pointed out, included a series of open invitational shows for painters, photographers, and all-media artists, a members only exhibit, a “Super Heroes” Summer Art Camp—and to end the year—the Art League’s annual YuleFest fine crafts sale at Seguin’s City Coliseum.

New horizons now lay ahead, Marika continued. “To advance the arts... to expand [our] cultural horizons we [have] embarked on a fantastic journey.” “We needed a home...we bought a building...we started a new journey!”

“No longer the Art League of yesterday,” she stated, “we are [now] new parents” to a historic building complete with an opera house. During the past year while volunteers worked to clean up the site, three silent auction fundraisers were organized to raise funds for the new building. With the help of Seguin’s Main Street Program and local contractors the building received a facelift. An engineering firm was then hired to evaluate the structure and offer recommendations.

“This home of the arts is a promise for the future,” Marika proclaimed, “a blank canvas that will enable people to tell their story, to share their talents, and combine their passions.” To meet the needs of a growing Art League, refinements in organizational capacity are underway. Bylaws and Standing Rules have been revised, Marika noted, and a strategic plan for the organization is being prepared along with a masterplan for the new building. “Our building...is to be the locomotive that propels the Art League into its role as a cultural beacon in the community.” In a voice filled with emotion Marika concluded, “we must heed the clarion call, for work and nurturing.”

Upcoming Events

The next Art League **Membership Meeting** will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 13 at the Mosaic Community Room, 1201 West Court Street in Seguin.

From Roger Betschler:

Seguin Arts League's **8th Annual Elementary and Middle School Art Show** February 11-14, Mosaic Community Center, 1201 West Court Street, Seguin. A reception, open to the public, is scheduled for Sunday, February 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. All rules and entry forms can be found at www.seguinartleague.com. The show is sponsored by Alligator Dental. For questions, please contact Roger at 830.372.4479.

ARTSFEST 2016 —

"CELEBRATING SEGUIN'S WESTERN HERITAGE"

Seguin's annual celebration of the arts will take place on Saturday, March 12, from noon to midnight. The Artisan's Market will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Central Park. For more information please link to: http://www.seguintexas.gov/main_street/detail/SeguinArt/

ARTS & COMMUNITY



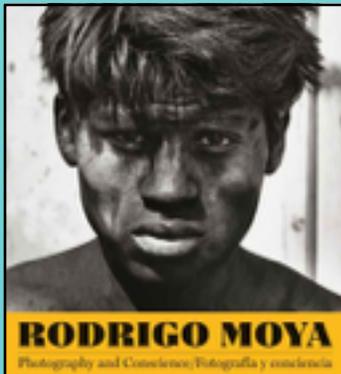
TERRIE LEYTON, PAINTER

It's really no surprise that Art League member Terrie Leyton, in her own time, would become an artist. Her journey began in earnest some 15 years ago, right here in Seguin, inspired by a Jerry Yarnell fine art painting lesson on television. "I think I could do this," Terrie remembers saying to herself. No sooner said, with her first canvass in hand, she began "painting like crazy." "I was hooked," Terrie laughed. From the outset she knew her talent for art needed to be developed. "I think we should all work on: no matter how good you are, you can still get better." Self (book) learning, instructional videos, and formal classes have helped Terrie grow her skills along the way, including a memorable painting workshop taught by John Pototschnik organized by the Seguin Art League. "I learned so much from that class, it was crazy," she confided. Thanks to Pototschnik's teachings, Terrie now renders a small thumbnail pencil sketch(es) before tackling the larger work, an approach she finds especially helpful on portraits. "It saves fiddling around for a long time with colors," she added.

Upcoming Events

From Liz Romero:

Our first **2016 Seguin Art League Field Trip** is planned for April 16th. We will meet first for an optional lunch at Palmer's Restaurant in San Marcos. After lunch we will visit the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University. Our host will be our own Katie Salzman. Katie is Lead Archivist for the collection so we will be led by an expert! Final details will be announced at our March membership meeting. Until then, please try to plan for carpooling. For more information about the Wittliff Collections follow this link:



www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/about/news/sept04-2015-rodrigomoya.html

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TERRIE LEYTON, PAINTER

The Early Years

Terrie's mother, the Art League's very own Alleen Donohoe, began her career working as a commercial artist for a department store in Akron, Ohio. Later she moved on to freelance work—portraits, signs, murals—she did it all.

Eventually wanderlust struck with a vengeance, however, sending the family threesome—mom, ten-year-old Terrie, and her younger brother—on an artistic/spiritual journey of sorts that had its beginnings in New Mexico. No worry, Alleen's skills as a freelance artist made it all possible. Remarkably, their travels together from state-to-state would continue until Terrie reached college age at eighteen.

A Gifted Artist at Work in Seguin

Settled for the past seventeen years in Seguin with husband Andy—her three children off on their own—Terrie is now able to devote more time to her art work. At the home place, up the stairs on the second floor, you'll find her painting away in a small alcove-turned-studio space at the end of the hallway, her beloved dog, Abby, faithfully alongside. Terrie's subject matter varies from portraits to landscapes to animals, on occasion, rendered in either acrylics or oils. "I'm not fast; I'm slow as heck," she admits. "It takes me awhile to get this stuff, but when I get it, it looks pretty decent." "And, of course," Terrie adds, "there's always room to grow...it's a new learning experience for each [painting]."

Seven years ago, after almost a decade working with acrylics, Terrie began to paint with oils. "I would get this 'snoot' factor," she explained, "every time I mentioned I worked in acrylics." After making the transition, Terrie soon found her work with oils made a difference in people's attitude. "It's unreal," she recounted, "some of these people... just want that traditional thing." The transition wasn't easy, however. Terrie had to reeducate herself with oils sorting

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TERRIE LEYTON, PAINTER



Cool Green Water
(Acrylic)

“At one point—this is a vivid memory—we had a big canvass stretched out all over the living room and my mom painted this giant ocean scene with three sailing ships. Oh my god, she was good...her work was amazing. It was the best art I had ever known.”

Terrie Leyton

ARTS & COMMUNITY

TERRIE LEYTON, PAINTER

out which colors to use behind one another when layering her paintings.

Terrie's paintings are now sold at art league galleries in San Antonio, New Braunfels, and in Seguin, when a venue is available. For her San Antonio clientele, Terrie paints mostly Riverwalk scenes, and the missions, on occasion. "The Riverwalk paintings sell like crazy," she beams. The paintings are kept small in scale so visitors to the city can pack them up to take home.

Despite the mounting cry for more culture and arts by Seguites, Terrie remains frustrated at the lack of support for resident artists. Her 18-painting show at a local restaurant one summer, resulted in no sales.

Ditto for a collaborative show with her mother at Seguin's Silver Center. Regardless, Terrie remains optimistic. "I see exciting

things for Seguin. I think what we

have to do is educate the public. First, to [let them] know what goes into creat[ing] a piece of work."

As for the new Art League building itself, Terrie sees nothing but potential. "This is going to be so cool. I see art classes coming in there. I see competitions that are not just local...the whole U.S...big art shows. By continuing to better the quality of locally made art," she emphasized, "we're going to make this Art League stand out... we're going to make it the best around..."

If Terrie's intuition is right, the "wow" effect of works by local Seguin artists—fueled in part by ongoing Art League workshops—will soon draw art buyers and enthusiasts from near and far to experience firsthand Seguin's talk-of-the-town center for the arts.



A Father and His Sons
(Oil)

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Photography Credits:

Page 1 — Daryl Styblo of Helen Stein; Joe Saenz of Joe Saenz.

Page 2 — Douglas Manger of the former officers.

Page 2 — Bil Sullivan of the newly elected officers.

Page 3 — Bil Sullivan of Marika Bordes.

Page 4, 6, 7 — Courtesy of the artist, Terrie Leyton.

Any and all suggestions are welcomed. This is your newsletter. *dm*