



2017 How I See It Photography Show

by Nancy Kissiar

The Seguin Art League's 2017 HOW I SEE IT Photography Show looked like it was going to get off to a rocky start due to circumstances outside the league's control, but great teamwork led by President Liz Romero and show coordinator Donna Maske resulted in not one, but two successful receptions and a surprise outstanding venue.



The original venue for the show had to be changed at the last minute due to a remodel that did not get completed in time. Former SAL president, Pat Schultz, graciously allowed the art league to hold the show in her vacant building on Court Street, not just for a weekend, but for the entire month of September. Members worked overtime to get the venue ready in time. Thank you, each and every one of you who swept and dusted and cleaned the building.

The exhibit featured some 60 photographs with subject matter from around the globe. Matthew Chase judged the show and also spoke at the second reception about his African cinematography experiences. He showed a trailer for a National Geographic special in production featuring giraffes.

Donna Maske chaired the show, and she had lots of help from members, with special thanks going out to Joe Saenz, Roger Betschler, Debbie Zengerle, Liz Romero, Kathy Elbel and a whole roster of docents who deserve their own special gold stars. There were awards given in four different categories.



Photographs featured at this year's 7th annual art league photography show.



Oct. 28-29
Painting in the Park & Wet Paint Sale

Nov. 11 - Dec. 9
"Our Best To You" Members' Show

Nov. 30
Holiday Stroll Parade

Dec. 3 - First Sunday in December
YuleFest in Coliseum



Visit SeguinArtLeague.com
for more information.

Featured Artist

Cherryl Pritts
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President's Comments: Valuable Volunteerism

by Liz Romero



We are members of a “volunteer only” organization. That means we have no paid staff; all our activities are planned and staffed by volunteers. We have no payroll expense because all our “labor” is donated by volunteers. That includes members, spouses, grandchildren, friends, and pro bono professional services.

You may be surprised by the fact that the national value of volunteer time is \$24.14 per hour. In effect, each hour you work for the Seguin Art League is an “in kind” donation (not tax deductible)! Each of you is valuable as a person and as a member. Your time and unique talents are of great value to the Seguin Art League as a whole, and to me personally as your president.

Why is that important? Because each hour of volunteer time can be reported as income to our organization. The value of those hours can be counted as “matching contributions” when we apply for grants. I was introduced to this fact when Mary and Daryl Styblo brought the GVEC grant information to our attention in 2016. The Guadalupe County Master

Gardeners were successful in obtaining a grant from GVEC partly by using their records of volunteer hours for their Community Garden project. Remember when Mike Bednarski and Roger Betschler were clearing lumber, trash and old fixtures out of our building? They worked hundreds of hours: multiply that by \$24.14 and you will see the true benefit. Unfortunately those hours were not recorded, but we can correct that situation going forward.

In the near future, you will be receiving an email or letter from me asking you to use our new volunteer hours reporting form. You will be able to report using email (preferred) or a paper form. Kathy Lehmann will be transferring these hours to a spreadsheet so that they will be available for our fundraising efforts. Please be mindful, by serving as a volunteer you are helping to broaden our circle of members dedicated to hands-on support of the Art League’s mission and purpose.

In 1988, President George H. W. Bush said:

“We’re a nation of community; of thousands and tens of thousands of ethnic, religious, social, business, labor union, neighborhood, regional and other organizations, all of them varied, voluntary and unique.”

Bush went on to establish his “Points of Life” volunteer recognition program during his presidency.

Looking Forward

by Joe Saenz

Our time spent working toward the build-out of a permanent gallery space continues to bring remarkable benefits to the Art League. Committed to quickly finding ways to stabilize our building, I thought to ask a former associate for help who heads an architectural firm based in San Antonio. His interest in the arts, and in our success, soon became obvious. He immediately began to engage his company’s resources at substantial savings to the Art League. This remarkable relationship continues to this day. It has evolved into a process leading to City of Seguin acceptance of practical solutions to many structural challenges. Several space use alternatives have been developed, and a preferred layout has been selected with a gallery on the first floor and a multi-use space on the second floor.



1st Floor Concept Design of 104 S. Austin Street

For the short term, we are planning a public reveal of this concept design to gather ideas from the community on what they would like to happen. Once the architect provides an opinion of probable cost for the construction, the Art League will then issue a Request For Qualifications to the three highly qualified

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Volunteerism in Action: A Remembrance

By Debbie Zengerle

The Seguin Oakwood Art League needed to move from the Silver Center where we had been meeting for several years. I remember the day so clearly. A group of us drove over to 109 North River Street where we had been offered the use of an office space—4,400 square feet, to be exact, at a rental cost of an unbelievable \$150 per month (plus insurance). We took a tour of the location. The air conditioning wasn't working, so we didn't stay long. When we moved to the parking lot in the back, I said that we needed to vote to take it or not. With only two no votes, we accepted the offer.

Before making the move, we had to thoroughly clean the space: nine offices of varying sizes, a small kitchen (missing both the stove and refrigerator), and three restrooms. Then it was on to touch-up on the walls. Once the prep was over we acquired several pieces of furniture for the front area. A small counter was fashioned so our visitors could sign in on a guest book. The old curtains and blinds on the front windows were removed to allow for a display window. All the offices were repurposed for use as galleries, except for one that was set aside for the gift shop.



The Seguin Oakwood Art League celebrated the grand opening of their art gallery on River Street in November 2011.

Before we could open to the public, there were routine inspections to be had and sign-age for the outside to be made. Kay Sopher and her husband were very active and helpful. Kay wrote and put together a fine notebook of procedures, with every task to be done spelled out. Her experiences as an antique shop owner, among other small businesses, proved invaluable. Docent work schedules were then planned around our operating hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, with two docents in the morning and two in the afternoon.

It was so amazing to see the walls filled with art. We had 4 or 5 shows each year for two years. We held receptions with mostly donated food and decorations. We had no budget; can you imagine? I remained president for a year after we opened. In addition I served as the gallery manager. None of us knew what we were doing; we just plunged in and did it. No one got paid, nor was it ever brought up.

Roger Betschler, John Leithead, Scottie Cunningham, and Michael Bednarski spent hours repairing, replacing light bulbs, tracking down fans, hanging art. Other members also volunteered their time working to make the gallery what it was. Then in May of 2013, the new owner walked in and told me we had to pay \$2,000 per month for rent. Take it or leave it. That was a sad day. We had 30 days to vacate. In June of 2013, the Seguin Art League left their can-do, heartfelt gallery behind.

That was it, but, oh my, what we had learned about the power of volunteerism(!), and what can be accomplished when our Art League members pull together to fulfill a dream.

Looking Forward (cont'd.)

construction management firms who have expressed interest in managing the project. These three companies understand that the build-out will be phased given the availability of funding. They are vying for this role because of their history of carrying out renovation projects with our architectural design team.

In the long term, we expect the construction manager's participation during the design phase will result in cost savings due to how the project is phased and sequenced in the field. A quality facility is assured. How fortunate we are indeed.

Featured Artist, Cherryl Pritts

by Douglas Manger

It's been said, "Artists can do anything; anything they put their minds to." Seguin Art League member, Cherryl Pritts, owns that spirit. A career ESL/Spanish teacher in San Antonio, author of 15 "How to Teach" books, a globe trotter with her students visiting art museums across Europe—now semi-retired, Cherryl has come into her own as an artist with her paintings currently featured in Luling, San Antonio, Seguin, and Wimberley.

Betty Ritchie, the acclaimed landscape painter from San Marcos, has inspired Cherryl's artistic endeavors. In a teaching/mentoring relationship that continues to this day, Betty has taught Cherryl the essentials of landscape painting including color tones and the appropriate light keys. "[Betty] helps me with Texas; I don't get Texas like I should," Cherryl admits. "She always brings me back to reality when it comes to that landscape."

A brush painter from the outset, Cherryl later switched to the palette knife which she finds more freeing. With a healthy swatch of paint she whips across the canvas. Using a straight upward motion, her "notes" become tall grasses, her squiggly lines a wire fence, and a dab with the tip of her palette knife, a barb on a fence. Cherryl layers with copious amounts of paint. The layers create the impressions; "make it what your mind sees...make it the way it feels," is one of her guiding principles. Always amazed at the results, the mix and vibrancy of colors is what continues to give Cherryl the most joy.

Cherryl's segue into palette painting was inspired by Lois Griffel. After absorbing her books and videos, she called her up. From Griffel's teachings, Cherryl learned to block out her paintings, working each shape and form individually to create the whole. Instead of blending and mixing colors, she keeps them vibrant and pure.

Continued growth as an artist is an absolute for Cherryl. Ongoing lessons with Betty Ritchie, along with workshops, help fill the bill. Averse to doing the same thing over and over, Cherryl keeps trying different methods to see what works. The real satisfaction, however, comes when someone likes one of her paintings well enough to take it home. For this ever growing artist, that's the bottom line.



Summer Dream



The Old Barn



Enchantment



Beach of Shadows

Seguin Art League at United Way Event

By Robin Walker

The Seguin Art League was again privileged to participate in a United Way event at Seguin's Caterpillar factory on August 15, 2017. A recipient of United Way funds in 2017, SAL joined other agencies in showing the hundreds of employees where their United Way funds were spent. Located on the floor of the assembly plant, each receiving agency was allowed to create a display highlighting what they do for our community and county.



SAL's crew—Terrie Leyton, Robin Roberts Walker, Roger Betschler, Liz Romero, Jim Elliot, and Joe Saenz—set up a display including information about renovation efforts at our building, art classes, and how to join the art league. In addition, Terrie, Robin, Liz, and Roger gave away signed prints of their artwork to lucky employees who visited the booth. A popular stop at last year's event, some employees said how they loved the art they received the year before and recommended to co-workers to be sure and visit our booth.

It was interesting that most of the employees do not live in Seguin, and many have never visited downtown. In a way, Seguin Art League became an ambassador for the arts and the downtown business district as well as encouraging workers from the industry to enjoy the arts and possibly take classes. The event exposes a large group of future potential donors and students for our organization that would otherwise never see us. The biggest payoff for me is the happy smile of someone who, perhaps, just collected their first local work of art.

Connecting the arts and our community.

SAL Elected Officers:

President: Liz Romero

Vice President: Joe Saenz

Secretary: Nancy Kissiar

Treasurer: Brenda Montague

Governance: Jan Almon

Member Support

Continue to tell your friends and family how they can become involved with SAL.

- Become a Seguin Art League member.
- Donate to the building renovation.
- Join an art class.
- Become a volunteer.
- Visit seguinartleague.com

Contact:

Seguin Art League

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Sincere appreciation to all who have contributed to the SAL Newsletter.

Douglas Manger, Editor

Carmen Davila, Graphic Designer

Special thanks to our presenter

Carl Scarbrough, Ph.D. Ed., provided a demonstration on his pen and ink drawings.



HOLIDAY PARTY

December 9 at 10 a.m.

Mosaic Community Center

In the spirit of giving, donations of art supplies for Briesemeister Middle School would be greatly appreciated.

