

Farmer's Co-op - C. L. Thurmond Building

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Happy New Year everyone and I hope you had a blessed Christmas. We have had a really good 2016. We ended it with a successful Bazaar and we had one of our most successful Christmas parties ever and I love seeing our best gathering of members having fun in my 6 years as your President. Of course, having great food helps too! That is one of the main things I wanted to accomplish as your president; to get every member to participate in some way during the year.

Some of the big accomplishments this year were: remodeled the kitchen with new cabinets and paint, new roof on the pottery and classrooms, and expanding the teaching of children's and youth classes with Sierra Wilson as instructor and children's coordinator. We also had two successful art shows - our adult one in the fall and the youth one in the spring. We have lots of ideas and projects for the coming year,(see article).

An artist will be featured each week this year to highlight our 50 years as an Art League so look for an exciting year. Come by weekly to see who is featured and plug in to your Victoria Art League by exhibiting your work, gallery sitting and helping when needed. Here's to a great 2017!!

Demo Artist for January **Ingra Sparkman**

Our demo artist for January will be our 2nd Vice-President who has given our board a fresh look at many things such as fund raising and ideas for new exhibits. Ingra is a student of photography, having taken from Jim Feig, and expanding from his knowledge and her own. She is a contributing editor of the Victoria in Motion magazine, having written articles and taken photos for articles written.

She will be exhibiting her "365 Victoria" in our gallery on January 31-February 12th. This exhibit will be featured in an upcoming book also.

This demo will encompass things that Ingra has learned about photography and we encourage you to come and be surprised! In other words, I am not sure what she will be saying but Ingra is always entertaining.



Margo Thorn Artist of the Month



Margo Thorn has been an art educator since 1974. She received her Commercial Art degree from Texas State and a Masters degree in Art Education with a minor in printmaking from North Texas. Margo has taught pre-K through college students After retirement, she taught at a private school and then began teaching private art classes at the Port Lavaca Art Guild. Her favorite medium is printmaking, but she has delved in other mediums such as watercolor, drawing, pottery, jewelry and photography. She says "It has been a joy to impart my love of art to others through teaching, presenting workshops and judging art competitions." Some of Margo's art and students' artwork were published as a supplement called "Teachers Across Texas" which was an addition to the state adopted art textbook .

This exhibit spotlights tidbits of her artwork from her earlier years to the present and includes a wide variety of mediums. As an artist she is constantly exploring new mediums and also improving on media already learned. "Art is an expression of a person's soul and past experiences and should be encouraged in all ages of people."

Classes Being Offered this Month:

Michael Windberg - Oil Painting on Mondays from 6-9. Cost is \$30 a session.. Call him at 649-2833 or email him at mrwindberg@gmail.com to sign up. An afternoon class will still be possible if enough people sign up so contact if interested.

Jim Feig- Photography - Jim will offer a Beginning Digital Photography class starting January 10th from 7-9 running for 5 weeks. Advanced Digital Photography will start on January 12th and run the same times. Contact Jim at 576-0578 or 649-8738 for more information

Julia Atkinson - Drawing - Tuesday and Thursday 10-1 and Sunday 2-5 If interested contact her at 361-652-4005 for cost and for more Information.



Sierra Wilson is teaching art to children and youth here at the Art League.. She will be offering a Toddler class on Fridays once a month where the parent attends with the child. She will also be starting a new semester with Art Basics for ages 5-9, Art for Homeschoolers, ages 8-16 and Art Techniques and Concepts for ages 10-17.

Sierra has her own web page - victoriaartsforkids.weebly.com where she explains all the classes, the cost and the times offered. These classes are by semester but you can enroll anytime

A PLEA FOR HELP

Judy Feig, our Corresponding Secretary has been in charge of the gallery sitters the past 2 years. We realize everyone is busy but the only way our gallery can stay open is for volunteers to man the desk. At the present time, we are in need of someone for Gallery Sitter leaders. This is a person in charge who calls the people who have signed up to sit and asks what date they would like to sit this month. At most we need 5 people for each day for each month. This is a telephone job (you may also sit one of those days yourself!) When you have those 5 people committed for your day of the month, you call or email those names and dates to Judy Feig. Currently, we have Paula Kainer in charge of Tuesdays, and Bill Bauer in charge of Saturdays. We need leaders for Wed., Thurs. and Friday. Please help!!



Boy, will there be lots going on in the next few months here at your Art League! We have plans for restrooms to be built in the patio area - a much needed addition especially for our outdoor rentals. We will no longer have to keep the building open just for restroom availability. We are just waiting on bids from contractors then on with the build!

Also, there will be a kiln area built on the outside near the airconditioning units. This will house a gas kiln as well as have extra storage for our outdoor lawn equipment. Again, we are waiting on bids to get this done. Due to the many efforts of our own Marie Frankston, the monies are available for both projects from awarded grants from various sources. Lanell Mantey is also now researching possible grants for more financial help here at the Art League. There are always more projects including possibly extending our gallery capabilities.

Reminder that the VAL Board meeting will be January 3rd in the gallery at 2:00. This is a Wednesday rather than the usual Tuesday this month. Officers and any interested members are invited to attend.

New Members of the Art League

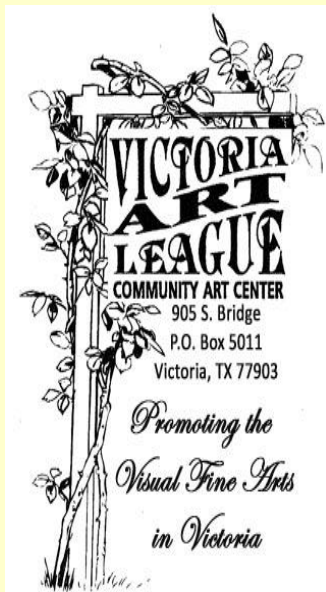
Cindy Zimmerman
Kathy Hamilton



PAINTING THE TOWN

Come have a great time with family and friends at our social painting class. Call Eunice Collins at 576-4043 for times and cost. Look up Painting the Town Victoria on her Facebook page

January Monthly Meeting will be in the classroom at 2:30, (social at 2:00 to honor Margo Thorn, Artist of the Month in the gallery) This will be on January 8th!!



RETURN Service Requested