

# Mount Dora Art League News

## Fall/Winter Edition



### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



Good afternoon,

As this year comes to an end and a new one begins let us hope we get a handle on this virus. It is our responsibility, no one else, to be responsible adults and take the guidelines to heart. This definitely will be a year for the record books. I remember my grandfather saying at the beginning of 1961, this was going to be an upside down year and it really was (look up the history). I believe that all of us would have liked this year to have been completely different, but that was not in the cards. Many of our members have been and still are very sick; we all have felt the change in our world because of the pandemic. We need to keep all our members in our thoughts and prayers.

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see you in the New Year and get back to the new normal.

Stay Safe and stay Healthy,

Kathy



CHECK OUT THE MDAL WEBSITE - [CINIki.COM/MDAL](http://CINIki.COM/MDAL)  
SHARE YOUR ARTWORK WITH OTHERS Send a jpeg. of your artwork to Peter Smith at [pasmith43@earthlink.net](mailto:pasmith43@earthlink.net) for placement on the website



#### EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020-2021

President  
*Kathy Sacks*

Vice President  
*Jane Moody*

Treasurer  
*Esther Dirlam*

Recording Secretary  
*Claire Fairclough*

Corresponding Secretary  
*Marie Hammerling*

#### Board Members

Esther Dirlam · Claire Fairclough  
Jon Glass · Maria Hammerling  
Scott Hatcher · Marilyn McEwen  
Jane Moody · Kathy Sacks  
Bonnie Vanzant

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Directory – Esther Dirlam  
Greeter – Molly Horton  
Hospitality – Marilyn McEwen & Jane Moody  
Local School Liaison – Jane Moody  
Membership – Jon Glass  
Newsletter Editor – Dawn Sacks-Duke  
Photographer – Peter Dunaway  
Programs – Kathy Sacks  
Rotating Displays – Esther Dirlam  
Shows – Esther Dirlam & Board of Directors  
Website – Peter Smith  
Facebook/Publicity – Dawn Sacks-Duke



## Esther's Bookshelf

Well, it appears that we are still far from congregating for meetings. Do not worry, however. You will be notified of any possible changes or scheduling regarding MDAL. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy this respite for painting, reading, doing the kinds of activities you desire.

This first book published in 2010, *THE ATHENA PROJECT*, is a thriller by Brad Thor who wrote *BLOWBACK*, which is recognized by NPR as one of the "100 Best Thrillers of All Time" and Thor is heralded by *Chicago Tribune* as "quite possibly the next coming of Robert Ludlum." James Rollins of *New York Times* states this book is "a thriller both men and women will love." Brad Thor claims that every weapon, advanced technology, espionage and covert operation strategies mentioned in this book are in actual use today in the military and the government. This information alone is an eye-opener, to say nothing of the intricacies of the plot involved or the secrets kept by the U. S. government!

In summary of the book, Delta Force, the world's most elite counterterrorism unit has a new top-secret, all-female program codenamed The Athena Project to take on one of the nation's deadliest assignments, following a grisly discovery in the jungles of South America.

Read this book. You may think this has to be science fiction, especially given the date of this writing/publication, or maybe I have been sequestered too long and not aware of what is out there in our world. Technology by now must have surpassed even what is described in this book! Is pretty scary to think about us having this kind of technology, let alone opposing forces throughout the world!



### Rotating Art Displays

Please let us know if you have any artwork that will be on display in the area.

### PROGRAMS FOR DECEMBER 2020 – MAY 2021 10 A.M. UNTIL NOON

All meetings & shows to be held at Congregational Church in Mount Dora unless noted otherwise. (Corner of Donnelly Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street across from First National Bank)

Next Monthly Meeting  
TBA

#### PLEASE LIFT THESE LOVED ONES AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS

Terry Bitting – Nike Bolte – Ron Colgrove – Susan Jones - Sue Kautenburger – Fred Lantz – Abby McKay – Jane Moody – Carol Platt – Shirley Sojourner - Esther Dirlam - Phyllis Levee -  
Shana Spooner – Bonnie Vanzant – Phyllis Whitehead - Everyone affected by COVID - Molly Horton - Claire Fairclough - Scott Hatcher -  
Our members who are sick

## Esther's Bookshelf Cont...

**THE ART FORGER** by B. A. Shapiro is a gripping fiction based on the real-life yet unsolved mysterious robbery March 18, 1990 at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Thirteen works, including Rembrandts, a Vermeer and five Degas drawings were taken and never seen in public since. Shapiro's exciting novel raises timeless questions about authenticity and the true value of art, and includes key plot twists that are genuinely unexpected. Forgery techniques, museum politics, and the contemporary art world are all explored and heavily researched with access to the actual correspondence between Isabella Gardner and her art historian/agent Bernard Berenson, dozens of interviews with artists, gallery owners, museum experts and lawyers to get true facts. This book is a compelling literary thriller weaving together three stories: Artist Claire Roth's present-day adventures, her disastrous love affair in the recent past with a prominent artist and the strange actual life events at the Gardner Museum back in the 19th Century.

**F (1997). THE VIRGIN BLUE**, debut novel by Tracy Chevalier, author of *GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING*. Two women born centuries apart are tied together by a haunting family legacy. Ella is propelled on a quest to uncover her family's French ancestry in this part detective story, part historical fiction that reveals such mystery, passion and intrigue that one is compelled to read straight through. *London Times* says it is "a beautifully crafted story shot with vivid colors."

**Historical Fiction (2007). LUNCHEON OF THE BOATING PARTY** by Susan Vreeland, another favorite author of mine. *USA TODAY* states "A vivid novel that brings to life Renoir's masterpiece . . . done with a flourish worthy of Renoir himself." Four pages of praise for this novel attest to its literary quality, imagination and the amazing artistic achievement of the author. Is highly recommended by *Historical Novels Review* as a "beautiful, lyrical, fascinating portrait of painting, personalities, and a particular moment in the river of time." *Boston Globe*: "A fascinating glimpse into a lively era, into the Impressionist movement, and into the creative processes of [one of] history's most revered artists."



## Upcoming Events

ALL UPCOMING EVENTS ARE  
PENDING

Sat, Nov 28 - Tue, Feb 2

Holiday Lights



46th Annual Mount Dora Arts  
Festival

February 6th and 7th, 2021



**We want you! Come and join us!**



### **Want to become more involved in the Mount Dora Art League?**

We are looking for a minimum of two individuals who are interested in being liaisons with local schools (elementary, middle and high school). We need individuals who want to go out and talk with the art programs at the schools about the art league and form a strong partnership between us and the schools. (P.S. The groundwork for the Mount Dora High School has already begun so part of the work is already done). Please reach out to Kathy Sacks for more information (731.225.8993 or [mtdoraartleague@gmail.com](mailto:mtdoraartleague@gmail.com))

### **CONDOLENCES**

The members of the Mount Dora Art League would like to extend their sympathy to Phyllis Levee and her family during their loss of David.



David M. Levee of Eustis, Florida passed away on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at the age of 88 years. David was born in Syracuse, New York. He is preceded in death by his parents Myron "Sparky" and Audrey Levee of Fayetteville, NY. He proudly served his country in the US Army for four years and was stationed in Germany as a Staff Sergeant. He began his teaching career at Fayetteville Manlius School district, earning his Bachelor's degree at Syracuse University and became a teacher of English literature at Broome Community College in Binghamton, New York, where he taught for 28 years. As part of his teaching, David ran the Lively Arts Club, where he took student on tours of art museums. He loved to sing and was an early member of the Madrigal Choir in Binghamton. He was a tenor and had a beautiful voice. He moved to central Florida from Greene, New York in 1996. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Mount Dora. He was also a member of the Mount Dora Library Book Club and member and past President of the Mount Dora Art League.

David is remembered and will be dearly missed by his wife Phyllis of 57 years, daughter, Darcy Levee (Rick) Oshiro of San Jose, California, daughter, Micheen Levee (Bill) Schrier of Marina and son, Robert "Sparky" Levee of San Francisco, California; and two athletic and brilliant granddaughters, Alex and Aiden.

David loved classical music, room temperature lager and submarine movies.

David, we will miss your gentle spirit, your wonderful dry wit and the sight of you, sunning yourself in a beach chair with a favorite book in hand.

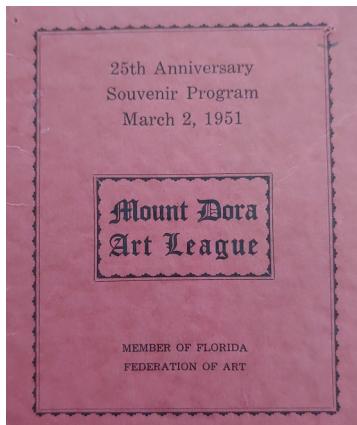
Memorial Gifts may be sent to Broome Community College Foundation or to a local food bank.

## A Little Bit of Mount Dora Art League History

**Don't Forget!**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING  
TBA  
Congregational Church  
10 A.M.**

**programs@lessburgarts.com  
for information about up-  
coming programs in the  
Leesburg Art League**



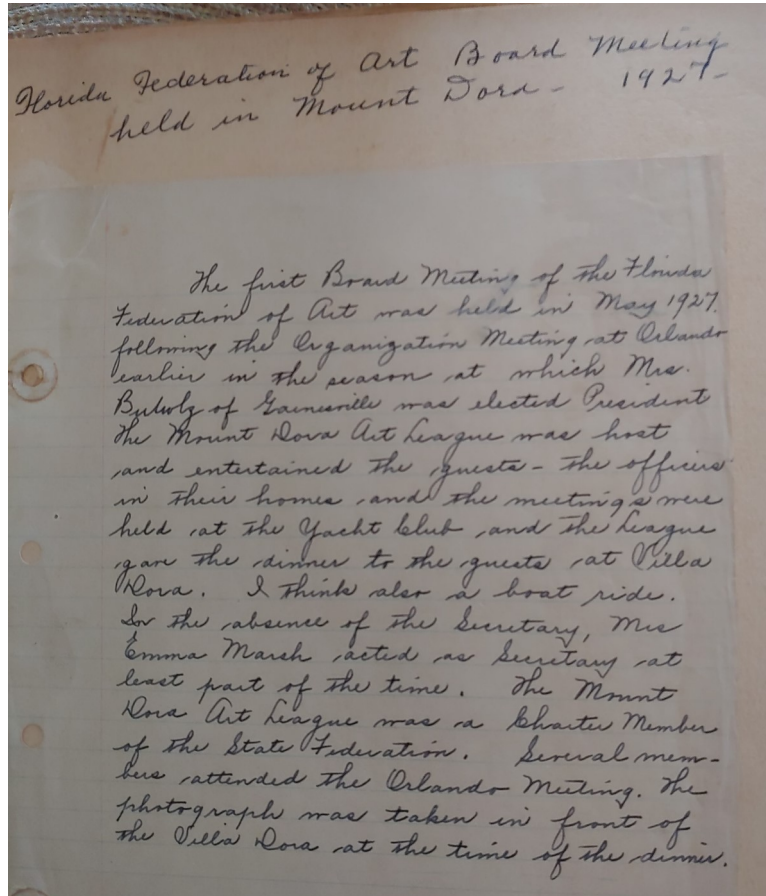
**Art League Is Florida's Oldest**  
*Orlando Sentinel, 6/27/68*



**Gives Advice**

Mrs. Margaret Tietjen, president and art teacher gives advice to artist, Mrs. Edna Clark, on painting she is doing at Whittington's home during Monday morning session. (Photos by Martha Overhiser)

Recently, we were blessed to receive some of the archives of the Mount Dora Art League History that we have thought to have been lost forever. We are including a tidbit of some of the information that has been recovered for you to enjoy!



# Mount Dora Art League History Cont..



Artists Entertain . . .

Story on Page 3

Pictured at the banquet of the Mount Dora Art League to celebrate its 25th anniversary are some of the honored guests and speakers. Seated, left to right, are Hugh McKean, president of the Florida Federation of Art and head of the Morse Galleries, Winter Park, the principal speaker; Mrs. Mildred Craycraft, president of the Mount Dora League; Dr. Robert Carson, University of Florida, toastmaster, and Mrs. Emma Sears Marsh, first president of the Mount Dora League. Standing, left to right, Mrs. Eugene Simpson, past president, Dr. Mildred Marsh, charter member, and Edith Fairfax Davenport, first vice president of the Florida Federation.

## SHORT HISTORY OF MOUNT DORA-EUSTIS ART LEAGUE

(By Emma S. Marsh)

The Mount Dora Art League was founded February 26, 1926. Among those instrumental in its inception were Mrs. Myra Houghton, Mrs. Margaret Spencer Davidson, Miss Mildred Marsh and Mr. Gordon, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Much interest was shown. Twenty-four members were present at the second meeting.

The avowed object of the League was the promotion of art study among its members and the encouragement of art interest in the community.

The monthly craft or work meetings have included sketching, drawing from still life and model, clay molding pottery, tie and dye, bastik, block printing, book binding, soap carving, directed chiefly by Mrs. Davidson until her untimely death in 1932. Later we were fortunate in having Mr. Gallie as teacher.

One year the work period was devoted to making tied and dyed curtains for the social room of the Community Building. At present Mr. Charles Shaw, of Eustis, is leader of a sketch class on Tuesday afternoons and meetings are held evenings for drawing from model and still life.

Successful exhibitions have been held each year (with one exception) and we have had a few traveling exhibits.

In the effort to stimulate interest among the school children, exhibits of their work have been included in some of our exhibitions. One year a prize was offered the school children for the best poster advertising our exhibition.

The League has observed National Art Week for several years by placing paintings by members in store windows. In 1938, through Mr. Gallie's efforts, National Art Week received county-wide observance, thereby winning for the League an Award for Distinguished Participation from the American Artists Professional League. The same year Mr. Gallie secured space at the Lake County Fair for an Art League Exhibit.

Unfortunately pressure of work forced Mr. Gallie to resign in 1940 and Mr. Walter J. Patton, former student at the Chicago Art Institute, became president and is an active leader. He has recently instituted a competition in the schools of Lake County for a patriotic poster. Mr. Patton is a sculptor.

### 1950-51 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### OFFICERS

President ..... Mrs. Mildred Craycraft  
 Vice-President ..... Miss Elmira Lodor  
 Recording Secretary ..... Mrs. Melvin White  
 Corresponding Secretary ..... Mrs. C. G. Wile  
 Treasurer ..... Mr. John G. Trudinger

#### DIRECTORS

Mrs. Isabel H. Gassett ..... Mr. Chas. E. Shaw  
 Mrs. Geo. Keller ..... Mrs. Harriet Smith  
 Mrs. Clarence Estey

#### PAST PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Emma S. Marsh ..... 1926-28—1932-38  
 Mrs. Betty Andrews Marsh ..... 1928-30  
 Mrs. Margaret S. Davidson ..... 1932  
 Mr. H. Norman Gallie ..... 1938-40  
 Mr. W. A. Patton ..... 1940  
 Mrs. A. P. Bigelow ..... 1941-47  
 Mrs. Eugene Simpson ..... 1947-49

#### CHARTER MEMBERS

Mrs. Emma S. Marsh  
 Dr. Mildred Marsh

### FOUNDED FEBRUARY 26, 1926

6:00 P.M. Preview of paintings by members of the Mount Dora Art League.

6:30 P.M. Dinner—Community Building.

#### PROGRAM

Welcome by Mrs. Mildred Craycraft, President.

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Robert E. Carson.

Introduction of special guests.

Address by Mr. Hugh McKean, Director of the Morse Galleries of Winter Park, and President of the Florida Federation of Art.

Violin solos by Dr. Robert E. Carson, accompanied by Mrs. Edith Shaw Brown.

Colored Movies by Mr. H. M. Duyckinck.

#### MENU

Fruit cup  
 Baked ham with raisin sauce  
 Candied yams  
 Peas-carrots and turnips  
 Lettuce and tomato salad  
 Home made rolls  
 Coffee  
 Ice cream  
 Home made cookies

Caterer: Mrs. Mary Peterson



ART LEAGUE SHOW WINNERS—First place ribbons went to Warren Reeves in oil and acrylic and to Mary Brethauer in watercolor, at last Saturday's annual Outdoor Show of the Mount Dora Art League. Also shown is the painting by Shirley Kephart that won her a first place in pastel and graphics; Ms. Kephart was not available for the photo. Other ribbon winners in the show, held on Baker Street in front of city hall, are listed in the column, "Mount Dora Art League" on Page 3.

## Congrats to Mary Miller

Below are a couple pictures from Jane Moody's trip to Chickamauga battlefield earlier this year.



Mary Miller's 'scanner photography' has won two awards from the Mt Dora Art League exhibits and a first place in its category at the Mt Dora Photography Club show. Mary is proud to have been accepted to participate in this exciting exhibit. Please grab your mask and come visit. Look for Mary's "Neon Crayons."

Lake County Museum of Art's members are participating in our first annual juried exhibit. Cash awards will be presented to First Place 2-dimensional, First Place 3-dimensional and People's Choice.

DECEMBER 4, 2020 - JANUARY 23, 2021

OPENING RECEPTION DEC 4TH, 3PM - 7PM

Enjoy the varied artwork from Shara Abel, Kelley Batson, Lee Bianco, George Buigas, Charlene Edwards, Catherine Four, Steve Fritz, Susan Grogan, Gale Harvey, Linda Hastings, Lynn Herrick, Laura Howell, Corrina Leidy, Emily Lewis, Mary Miller, Linda Mingay, Jackii Molsick, Sharon Repple, Bonnie Shapiro, Donna Tweedle, Kathleen Twenter, Fal Wing, and DJ Winn.



213 W Ruby Street, Tavares, FL 32778 | 352.483.2900 | www.LakeArtMuseum.com | Museum hours: 12 noon - 4pm Thursday-Saturday



## A Note from Sylvia Paisley-Gee

Sylvia Paisley-Gee <paisleystudio44@gmail.com>  
To: Kathy Sacks <sacksk@bethelu.edu>

Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 9:23 AM

To fellow league members....first I hope everyone is doing well. As Kathy so kindly let you know, I am dealing with a mass on my brain although I have to say I was very fortunate to have an outstanding surgeon who was able to remove 98% of the mass. Now I begin treatment on the 30th of chemo by pill and radiation. Fortunately the reality of cost is slipping me in the face because Medicare does not cover the cost of the chemo because it is considered a prescription not treatment. Supplement does not go into effect until January. Not being a woman means I need to sell many of my antiques to pay for the pills. Good news is I have found a home for my oldest sweet cat. Still have three others in need of homes. Think about all of this please. SOME OF THE ANTIQUES ARE FROM SCOTLAND....A NICE CARVED TWBLE FROM SPAIN. ILL Be very fair in cost. Take good care everyone. Have a nice safe Thanksgiving.