

## Member Interview

# Toni Charneco

By Patricia White

The Art Guild of Orange Park is grateful to Toni Charneco for her role as a founding member of the Guild, established in 1973. Without her efforts and seven other founding artists, we would not enjoy our present organization. Toni continues on the Board as your Historian. She was President from 1975-1977. She also is a founding member of the Jacksonville Watercolor Society, established in 1982; a founding member of the Society of Collage Artists; is a Signature Member of the Florida Watercolor Society; is a Signature member of the Southern Watercolor Society which covers five states; and is a member of the St. Augustine Art Association. She has won many prestigious honors and generously shares her skills whenever she is asked.

Toni has her studio in her home in Orange Park. She is married to a dermatologist and has three children and five granddaughters. She has a BA in Fine Arts from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

### Artist's Quote:

*"Painting is a journey for me with different steps and different pathways that lead to the place I want to be. I wonder, with eagerness and a little fear if I can accomplish another step of the journey. I love challenges. I see an object and say to myself that something can be created with this. I'm just in love with creating."*

### What is your recent work?

I work in abstract expressionism in the form of collage and mixed media. This excites me. There are no rules. I often work in series for an important reason. A series is a continuation of a thought or expression which would otherwise remain hidden and incomplete if expressed in only one artwork. One of my series was a Kitchen Series of twelve large watercolors based on abstract forms I found in my kitchen. Objects seen by peripheral vision can be part of the abstract design.

Also, for three years I have been making "Nichos". These are small metal Mexican boxes which I decorate in all manner of collage and



acrylic paint. They can be seen and purchased at the Village Gallery on Park Street.

### What is pivotal in changing your direction in art?

At times, when "burn out" happens where I feel I have exhausted that series and need to grow and change.

### Were there important art experiences as a child?

My mother gave me a box of oil paints when I was six. My favorite was to copy movie stars from magazines. Living in New York City, I spent winters painting, went to museums and the Greenwich Village area.

I took many awards in high school. An art teacher encouraged me to continue and gave me a good foundation. As a young woman I had an opportunity to visit family in Puerto Rico. While there I took summer art courses and eventually attended the Inter American University of Puerto Rico where I enjoyed painting the vibrant colors of the island.

### Which of the Masters was most influential in your art?

Definitely, Matisse. His work was so simple. I especially loved his huge "Cut Out Series" which he created when he was ill and could no longer paint. In fact, I use symbols of his paintings in my work.

### What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My proudest and most surprised moment was in 1990 when I won the Gold Award, the highest statewide award by the Florida Watercolor Society. The piece was an abstract called "Transition".

Also, I was invited to exhibit in a two person show at The Cummer in 1999 and I was one of 10 artists invited by the Jacksonville Symphony to decorate a violin for fund raisers in 2004 and 2005. I have had several one person shows.

### What are your goals?

I don't want to change a thing. I just want to enjoy my life as it is, my garden, my five granddaughters and to continue to find surfaces to paint.

## Congratulations to Beth Haizlip



JACKSONVILLE  
**JAZZ FESTIVAL**  
2007

for winning the **Jacksonville Jazz Festival Poster Contest**. The unveiling will be Tuesday Feb. 27th at 10:00am at city hall with the mayor. Beth will be promoting the poster at the First Wednesday ArtWalk in Jacksonville in March and April and has already signed 500 posters. The Village Gallery will be selling prints. She has been given a booth to sell her work at the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, which runs April 13th thru 15th.

**REGULAR MEETING LOCATION CHANGE...** the March, April and May General Meetings will be taking place in the Lions Club of Orange Park, 423 McIntosh Avenue in Orange Park beginning at 7pm. Our sincere thanks to the Lions Club for their generous offer of meeting space while the Orange Park Library undergoes renovations.

# Artists' Opportunities

Members who paid for their tickets to **Pirates of Penzance** will be able to pick them up at our March 6th General Meeting at 7PM in the Lions Club of Orange Park. The performance is March 30th at the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts. This should be a wonderful event for all!!!!

Members are asked to continue to bring craft supplies for the **Kids Net Program** that services at risk children in Clay County. We will want to refill our "craft boxes" with spring decoration items. Many thanks to member Lorna Jean who has volunteered to create handmade baskets for our donations!!!!

Donations will be accepted at our General Meetings.

The **Wehner School of the Arts**, 515 College Avenue, will be offering



art classes for children and adults starting in March. For more information about class schedules call 276-6105 or visit [www.wsota.com](http://www.wsota.com)

Our sincere thanks to Sister Diane Coutoure, SSJ for her wonderful presentation on Stained Glass Painting at our February Meeting. We will have a sign up sheet at our March Meeting for those that would be interested in visiting Sister Diane's studio in St. Augustine.

# President's Letter

Your Art Guild has been very busy preparing for an exciting season of art exhibits and events. Please be sure to visit your new website [www.artguildoforange.com](http://www.artguildoforange.com) where you may access up to date schedules and view photographs of our "art happenings." Our thanks to Board Members **Louise Cruz** and **Lynette Woodman** for the many hours they have donated organizing this wonderful new tool.

We are all looking forward to our special guest speaker at our March 6th meeting- **Ms. Kathleen Mulholland**. Kathleen will be presenting a watercolor demonstration to the membership. She will also be our March 10th Experimental Watercolor Workshop presenter. The workshop will take place in the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Parish Hall in Green Cove Springs. A supply list will be available at our meeting or you may contact me at 215-9177. Participants are reminded to bring a bag lunch!!!

Our Scholarship Committee headed by Chairperson **Judy Daly** is busy visiting Clay County High Schools talking to candidates and handing out Art Guild Scholarship Applications. The deadline for applications is April 1st. We will announce our \$500 Scholarship winner at our May Meeting. Interested students may also apply on line on our website!!!

Our Art Guild Nominating Committee chaired by **Beth Haizlip** and **Bob Williamson** have been busy offering members an opportunity to share a role in the plans for next year. When you are contacted please consider offering your services to the future of "your" Art Guild.

Our Annual Fundraising Campaign has begun with 250 letters being sent to our past Art Supporters and community professionals. To date we have raised \$1,850 for our programs. The Art Guild has also submitted an application for this years Reinhold Community Awards. The announcement of winners will take place at a breakfast on May 17th.

We added the **Wehner School of the Arts**, 515 College Avenue, to our rotating exhibit program. Our first installation displays 44 pieces of member artwork. It looks wonderful and the staff is very excited about the response from visitors...special thanks to all the members who stayed to help hang...especially **Bill Beverley**, **Wally** and **Pauline Dickson** and **Becky Hight**.

## Art Guild Activities:

February 1st—I was honored to be asked to speak at the Art Month Luncheon given by the Women's Club of Orange Park. Many of the club members displayed their judged artwork that will move onto the state level. I invited all the interested attendees to please join us for our next General Meeting.

February 7th-Pauline Dickson and I were invited to participate as judges for the **Clay County History Fair** for Junior High and Senior High students. We were asked to offer suggestions to the students on how they could improve their visual displays. 29 students were selected to move forward to the State competition in Tallahassee. We were very impressed with the level of research and the attention to detail these students exhibited. We wish them well as they continue forward. The students are in need of funds to produce tee-shirts for the competition...if you know of anyone who would like to help please give me a call 215-9177.

March 17th we will join the **Historical Society of Orange Park** at their **Annual Carrie Clarke Day** event in Clarke Park from 10-4pm. The Art Guild members will have a group display (sign up sheet will be available at our March 6th meeting) and we would like to continue our tradition of having painters work outside on easels. If you are interested please give me a call 215-9177...the visitors love watching the artists at work!!!!

March 29th the members of the Art Guild are invited to a reception at the **Real Estate Gallery**, 1929 Park Ave. from 5:30-7:30pm. Come and enjoy refreshments, meet new home buyers and chat up your artwork!!!!

April 5 to 14th the Art Guild members will be assisting in the Art Exhibition area of the **Clay County Agricultural Fair**. If you would be interested in volunteering for this wonderful event please call Mary Ellen Coen, 264-0891 for available time slots. Volunteers receive free entry and parking passes.

April 21st we have been invited to exhibit member artwork at the **Historic Hibernia Arts Festival at St. Margaret's Church** from 10 - 5pm (we will have a sign up sheet at our March 6th Meeting). Artists are asked to donate a silent auction item for their Church fundraising. Lots of activities, food, booths and fun for the whole family.

Our next **Juried Fine Art Exhibition** is titled "**Small Wonders**" sponsored by the **Great Hang Ups Gallery**. Guild members may enter 2 pieces for jurying at \$10 each. This is a small works event so the maximum frame size is 16" X 20" and the maximum image size is 80 square inches (8X10) or smaller. Artwork is to be delivered on April 17th from 4-7PM in the Gallery, 1560 Business Center Drive on Fleming Island 541-1555. The Opening Reception is planned for Sunday, April 22nd from 2-4pm. End of show pick up is scheduled for May 8th from 10-6pm. Special thanks to gallery owners **Dee Roberts** and **Julia Higbe** for hosting this event.

We are looking forward to making our presence known in our community!!!

# Upcoming Exhibits and Art Events

The **Orange Park Library Gallery** area will be closed for renovations through June.

The **Fleming Island Library** will feature the following exhibits:  
**March** - The Women's Club of Orange Park is sponsoring a display of children's art. **April** - the photography of Irma See  
**May** - available...call Teresa Gaskins 278-3720 if you are interested.

## The Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts

The Lee Adams Florida Artists Gallery will feature:

**Gail Fulton Ross**—Abstract Paintings currently on exhibit  
**Jackie Brice**—Landscape Paintings - to begin April 16th

The Jack Mitchell Gallery will feature:

**Visions of Florida:** The Photographic Art of Clyde Butcher-Currently on exhibit  
 Photography of **Chuck Marsh** beginning April 23rd.

**First Wednesday Artwalk Downtown Jacksonville.** This wonderful event showcases new artists each month in several venues around town. The Collage Society will have an Opening Reception in the Jacksonville Library for their new exhibit "A Woman's World" as part of the Artwalk experience. **Beth Haizlip** will be promoting her winning Jazz Festival poster in March and April. Free and runs from 5-9pm. Check in at the Headquarters at 100 N. Laura St. for maps. [www.downtownjacksonville.com](http://www.downtownjacksonville.com)

**Abbott-Tract Artists Gallery**, 31 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine will feature **Arla Crumlick Wible** an "All Abstract" showing of original paintings. April will feature Watercolors from member **Jan Koss**, May, watercolors by **Ivi Frick** and June, oils by **Jeanette Pegel-Reeves**. 904-829-2934

**Bungalow Artworks Gallery**, 2782 Park St. Riverside is featuring "New Works in Wood & Watermedia" by Lia and Dug Frederick through March 31. Gallery hours are Tues-Sat 11-6pm 981-9493.



First Hanging at our beautiful new exhibit venue, **Wehner School of the Arts** on College Drive in Orange Park



## Art Guild Rotating Exhibits

Exhibit Committees arrange change out every 3 months. These opportunities are open to all members!

Orange Park Town Hall—Sonja Cox 278-4342 April 13, 10am

Green Cove Springs City Hall- Becky Hight-284-8559 April 6, 10am

Clay County Council on Aging-Virginia McCampbell 278-0998 March 12, 1-2pm

Fleming Island Library - C. Day 215-9177 April 11, 1:30pm

Orange Park Cancer Center - Christy Leach 384-4904-April 5 4:30pm

Real Estate Gallery - Reception Event-March 29, 5:30-7:30pm

Wehner School of the Arts - C. Day 215-9177 TBD

**Clay County Fair Art Exhibition** entries are to be delivered on April 3 from 10am to 7pm. More complete entry information will be available at our March meeting.

The Art Guild has been invited to conduct a "Collage Day" at **Middleburg Elementary** on May 2. Virginia McCampbell, 278-0998 will be collecting your donations of buttons, ribbons, lace, cut or torn magazine pictures, etc., to be put to good use by 70 students. Bring your donations to our General Meetings.

# Member Accomplishments

**Patricia White** sold her painting "The Ortega Bridge" at the Real Estate Gallery!!!

Member **Susan Sims** had one of her landscape paintings purchased by UNF. It will be displayed in President Delany's office and note cards are to be made from the image for international correspondence. Another of her landscape paintings has been selected for display in the Broome Street Gallery in New York in March.



Members **Bob Williamson**, **Lynette Woodman** and **Carolyn Day** were juried into the Landscape show at the St. Augustine Art Association.



exhibit "My Favorite Destinations" was selected by the Jacksonville International Airport Arts Commission.

**Arlene Tabor** was honored by having three of her miniature paintings accepted into the "Miniature Art Society of Florida" International Show in the Leepa Ratner Museum of Art in Clearwater Florida.

**Dee Roberts** and **Carolyn Day** received Honorable Mention Awards in the February Small Works Exhibit in the St. Augustine Art Association.

**Reba Johnson** is displaying her pen and ink drawings of historic Orange Park Homes in the Orange Park Town Hall.

Pottery created by member **Jennelle Comiskey** is now being shown in the Village Gallery on Park St., the Basketique on Kingsley, the Bungalow Artworks Gallery in Riverside and Violet's in 5 Points.

## Congratulations to All!!!!

The Gallery area in the Cecil Field passenger Terminal continues to feature 10 handcolored photographs by **Carolyn Ann Day**. The

**Louise Cruz**, **Lynette Woodman** and **Sonja Cox** have joined the Art Center Gallery at 31 West Adam St., (The Carling Building) in Jacksonville. This new venue also features work from members **Rita Blum** and **Desiree Kantrim**. Please join with the artists for a reception event on March 7th during the First Wednesday Artwalk from 5-9pm.

"Mentors & Memories" is the title of the upcoming exhibit by member **Elaine Marie Austin** at the FCCJ North Campus Gallery, 4501 Capper Rd., Jacksonville. Elaine will be showing 14 of her pastel creations through May 9th. Please join her at her Opening Reception on April 3 from 6-9pm

OPEN GALLERY at 1838 Dewey St., in San Marco displayed the artwork and photography of members **Sonja Cox**, **Louise Cruz**, **Lynette Woodman**, **Barbee Cunningham**, **Becky Hight** and **Carolyn Day** through February.



**Art Guild of Orange Park**  
P.O. Box 2554  
Orange Park, Florida 32067

### OFFICERS

**President:**

Carolyn Ann Day 215-9177 mdayreston@aol.com

**Vice President:**

Rebecca Hight 284-8559 bhight5a@juno.com

**Treasurer:**

Connie Pratt 264-4578

**Recording Secretary**

Barbara Berlin 260-0562

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Barbee Cunningham 264-9266 doda36@clearwire.net

**Immediate Past President**

Mary Walker 215-9416 ed94@bellsouth.net

### COMMITTEE HEADS:

**Telephone Tree**

Mardie Crowe 269-7814

**Publicity**

Lynette Woodman lenek3@aol.com  
and Beth Haizlip haizart@comcast.net

**Mentor**

Debbie Derbonne artgal7@yahoo.com

**Newsletter**

Carron Wedlund wedlund1@bellsouth.net

**Webmaster**

Louise Cruz weeziejane@aol.com

**Grants**

Melissa Sciumbata melissance@bellsouth.com  
(Resource person)

**Scholarship**

Judy Daly 2xjd@bellsouth.net  
Reba Johnson rebapjohnson@bellsouth.net

**Hospitality**

Jennelle Comiskey jennellecomiskey@gmail.com

**Historian**

Toni Charneco dalec28726@aol.com

**Membership**

Louise Cruz weeziejane@aol.com

**Fund Raising**

Vacant

**Video Library**

Jan Koss and Arleen Jones jaxmoon@aol.com  
arleenjones@bellsouth.net

**Parliamentarian**

Bob Williamsom wllmsnrobv@bellsouth.net

**Workshops**

Vacant



**General Meetings** are held the first Tuesday of each month, September through May. March, April, May 2007 meetings will be held in the Lions Club, 423 McIntosh Ave. at 7PM.

**Board Meetings** are held the fourth Thursday of each month in the Fleming Island Public Library Meeting Room at 7PM.

## Art Associate Program 2007

**FOUNDER \$500**

Mrs. Mary Huntley

**BENEFACTOR \$200**

Publix Supermarket Charities, Inc.

**PATRONS \$100**

Mrs. Reginald Burns

Charles and Eleanor Cibula

Ms. Laurel New

John and Joy Myers

Ms. Lynda Lewis

Kerry V. Rifkin, MD

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Reed

**SPONSOR \$50**

Mr. & Mrs. Dayn C. Boitet, DDS

Mark and Lisa Dobbertien

The Mason Family

Mr. John H. Hansen

David and Dorothy Hayden

Patrick and Marge Hutton

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kissane

Ronald and Karen Raymond

Phyllis Renninger

**Art Guild programs are sponsored by TARGET  
at the Corporate Level.**

**The Art Guild of Orange Park, Inc. was a recipient of a  
\$500 Reinhold Foundation grant in 2005 and 2006.**

**Our sincere thanks to all our generous donors.  
Your continued support is greatly appreciated!!!!**

**ART GUILD BUILDING FUND**

Our current balance in CD's is \$4,433.34

**Our April General Meeting**

will feature artist/teacher **Susan Moxon** who will be demonstrating her unique Image Transfer Techniques that she incorporates into her paintings and collages.