CONTINUE TO STAY HOME
IF YOU CAN, IT'S WORKING!!!
Monthly Newsletter for Members of

ART LEAGUE OF FORT BEND & FORT BEND ART CENTER

Fort Bend Art Center:
2012 Avenue G
Rosenberg, Texas 77471

Hours:
Tues-Sat 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 PM
Monday Closed

Teaching Center:
2012 Ave G and 2205 Ave I
Rosenberg, Texas 77471

Phone: 832.945.2882
Email: artleaguefortbend@gmail.com

The Art League of Fort Bend is funded in part through generous contributions from Gary Gatesco and Butler Enterprises, City of Rosenberg, Texas Main Street Program, O’I Railroad Café, OCuSOFT, The Gingerbread House, Doris and Joe Gurecky, Mayor Bill Benton, Marcia and Bob Vogelsang, and Another Time Soda Fountain.

Please support the Arts by donating to the Art League of Fort Bend. Your contribution is sincerely appreciated.

Here’s a reminder on how this works:

On the next page you will find a Table of Contents. Just click on the event you are interested in and you will be taken to the first page of the event. Some events will have more than one page so you may have to scroll through the entire event to find the information you are looking for. To get back to the Table of Contents all you need to do is click on the month (May) at the top of the page and you will be taken right back to the Table of Contents.

Deadline for submission to the Newsletter is the 25th of each month. Anything submitted after the 25th will be put in the next Newsletter.
**UPDATE ON COVID-19 Gallery Closure**

Pursuant to state, county, and local officials, the Gallery will continue to remain closed until it is safe for all. We will notify all League Members when it is safe to reopen and advise you as to what procedures are being set into place to protect our artists and the public at large.

In the meantime, check out Fresh Arts Virtual Workshops, “25 More Fun Things to Do” and see if you can solve the puzzle while we continue to “shelter in place.”

All events have been cancelled through May.

Thank you all for your support and stay safe in these trying times.

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**Message from the President**

“Getting to Know You”
Melissa “Missy” and Gary Gates

“Glorious Mess” Zoom Demo

Demo/Workshop Instructors Wanted

Fresh Arts Presents - “Virtual Workshops”

“Hot Off the Press”

Be the Sunshine

Our Gallery - See What We’ve Been Up To

30 Day Art Challenge

25 More Fun Things to Do

Art Center Information
Board Members
Prayer Corner

Miscellaneous
How we respond to life events can be both challenging and rewarding. Just as we have learned to navigate a new normal, there is a “new” new normal on the horizon. How do we respond? How quickly do we act, or not act? How do we protect those we love, and still offer our creativity as testament of our talent and our desire to share it with others in our community?

This worldwide pandemic has been the impetus for lots of creative decision making, for new creative work, for people to come together in the spirit of helping and for appreciating and being grateful in ways that we all know deep down, but rarely truly experience at such a level as we have in the past few weeks. What have we learned? I believe that what we have learned will become the story that survives the pandemic.

I have learned the importance of this amazing organization to so many of you. The Art League of Fort Bend was born in 1957 by 10 creative and caring artisans. As they came together, they wanted to promote educational programs for the membership and to establish and promote public interest and awareness of fine arts in their community. They wished to stimulate and enrich interest and encourage appreciation of the achievements of local artists. Many of you will realize and appreciate how deeply this still holds true today. When the heart of the mission of an organization is at the forefront, it always survives.

As we learn to navigate the new normal once again, we will likely see changes in the way we do business as the Art League of Fort Bend and at the Fort Bend Art Center. We may be masked and sanitized, or offer our art in new and creative ways. We may experience workshops and demos or “be” in our community differently for a while, but we will survive!
I have learned that like the 10 original creative artists who started the ALFB, you have a very caring, dedicated team working behind the scenes with a heart for this organization and the community we serve. Their “can do” spirit has been solidly evident in the past couple of months as we learned to both navigate a new normal and continue the work that could be done while we were distanced from one another. Work that was already in progress has come to fruition. Difficult decisions have been made to put some things on hold for now in the financial interest of the organization. New ways of doing things were learned, as were new ways to move into the future. Always, we have held the best interest of our organization at heart.

I have learned that many of you have done the same! You have stepped up to the challenge and offered help to students who wanted to continue their classes, or critiques to those who were creating at home. You have served your communities making masks and sharing your creative talents in other caring ways. You have stepped up to lend assistance at the FBAC watering plants or picking up mail. You have financially supported local business when they needed us most. You have even stayed home in the interest of protecting each other and our area healthcare systems.
Perhaps now is the time to take a huge, collective breath and applaud each other for challenges met and the rewards we have experienced so far as we begin to navigate this next phase before us. The mission is no less daunting, but the heart of this organization is intact, and the heart is YOU.

At this time we would like to say THANK YOU to Portia Bell for serving as 2nd Vice President – Programs. Portia has resigned her position effective May 1, 2020 to provide her expertise to another organization. We appreciate all the programs, demos and workshops she organized while serving in her role on the Board of Directors.

We would also like to welcome Debbie Rodriguez who has volunteered to serve in this capacity for the remainder of the term (12/31/20). Debbie is already hard at work pulling demos and programs together for summer and fall, 2020.

Finally, we would like to thank all of YOU for all you have done. Gratitude runs deep these days. Our mission is solid and on firm ground. Our story will survive the pandemic.

Stay safe out there!

Brenda
“GETTING TO KNOW YOU”

Melissa “Missy” and Gary Gates
By Debbie Rodriguez
When Missy and Gary Gates got married in 1981, they dreamed of having a large family. That dream started in 1983. But after having only two children, they found out that they would not be able to have any more kids. Missy and Gary did not accept that fate, so in 1986 they moved to Texas and bought a farm and over the next 10 years, Missy and Gary went on to adopt 11 children. Yes, you read that right. Missy and Gary Gates have a total of 13 children - 5 girls, and 8 boys and now 2 grandchildren. At first, they adopted 3 infants within a month of each other, then a few sibling groups that were a little older. They were not considering that their family would ever be that large but once it started, they could not stop themselves. Together Missy and Gary raised all 13 children on their farm. These children were given a wonderful opportunity and have had a good life on that farm which always included horses, dogs, cats, chickens, and cows.
When the children were grown, Missy decided she wanted to pursue her life as an artist, so in 2008, Missy joined the Art League Fort Bend. Coming from a graphic artist for a newspaper and agricultural magazine background, you can see her love for horses which blossomed in her Equine art. Her main medium is pastels, oils and drawing.

When Morton Street Gallery closed its doors in 2012, Gary Gates gave Missy and ALFB a new home. That space is now known as the Teaching Center on 5th Street and Avenue I. The space had a large room that we used for our meetings, workshops and Tuesday Open Paint Day. There were two smaller rooms adjacent to the large room that were also given to ALFB to use as an office and storage. Gary gave us the space we needed and supported ALFB by not charging rent. Gary and Missy Gates continue to support ALFB in the same generous fashion and have given us even more space to grow.
Missy and Gary Gates - Continued

In 2017, Missy and Gary Gates, along with one of their sons, opened a café in Crested Butte, Colorado called the Painted Pony Café and Gallery. Missy displayed and sold her art in the Gallery, and her son did the cooking.

Unfortunately, the Gates found it hard to have a seasonal café in another state and the Painted Pony closed its doors in 2019.
But the story doesn’t end there. What happens when all the children are all grown up. Is it time to relax? Not for the Gates. Gary took the skills he learned from raising a large family to the next logical level. He became a politician. Really? Gary Gates is currently serving as State Representative for District 28. Gary took his “family” approach and applied it to his constituents in a big way. For the past several weeks, Gary and his family have reached out to the community and have donated face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, disinfectant spray, and toilet paper to more than 5,000 homes with a commitment to provide more. When I asked Missy why Gary would donate his time, money, and energy to provide these preventative supplies to the community, Emergency Medical Service workers, Daycares, Fire Department, Police Stations, and Sheriff’s Department, Missy said that Gary wanted to show his constituents that he cares about them. Wow! What a guy.
Missy and Gary Gates

- Continued -

What a family!

When describing what a family represents or what it should look like, we would be well advised to take a look at Missy and Gary Gates and their 13 children.

When describing how a politician should act or what a politician should do in these uncertain times when family and community should be most important, these are people to look up to and emulate.
I will be doing a live demo on ZOOM showing a method I use that includes my "GLORIOUS MESS" approach where the painting almost paints itself using my VALUE MAPPING technique. This is how I have been creating my contemporary landscapes for the past few years! I will be explaining the steps I take to finish a painting from color mixing, design, choosing the best method to express the light source, and much more. I will be using acrylics, textured gels, and some drawing materials.

You will be able to see me clearly on the screen of your choice, computer, tablet, or phone. I have been teaching all of my classes online since mid-March while we have been isolating and it has been quite successful. It’s pretty easy so don’t be intimidated. If I can do it, anyone can. You will find directions to ZOOM on the following page. I am looking forward to seeing everyone!

Just email artleaguefortbend@gmail.com by May 15th and put “Glorious Mess” in the subject line to receive a link to the demo. Remember, you must be a member of the Art League Fort Bend to receive the link and you must request the link to attend the demo by May 15, 2020.

My website is: www.HollyHunterBerry.com; Facebook: Facebook.com/HollyHunterBerryStudio; Instagram: Instagram.com/HollyHunterBerryArtist; Cell: 832-418-0591
How do you sign into a Zoom meeting through Email?

Step 1: Open the Zoom meeting invitation in your mailbox. You'll receive an email invitation when you're invited to a Zoom meeting.

Step 2: Click the invitation link in the email. If you have already downloaded Zoom to your computer, this will automatically connect you.

Step 3: Click on "download here" if a download doesn't start automatically.
DEMOS/WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS WANTED

If you are interested in doing a demo or workshop for our members, please contact Debbie Rodriguez at artleaguefortbend@gmail.com and put “Demo/Workshop Instructor” in the subject line.

If you can provide a ZOOM demo, the Gallery will provide the ZOOM platform for your use. Please let Debbie know and we will schedule you first. If you are not set up for ZOOM, we will put you on our list for when the Gallery opens up and we resume our regular meetings.

The Gallery will be giving the Instructor a stipend for the demo and this will be a great way to advertise your class and get students.
Check out some fun workshops you may be interested in. Below is the link to the event page on Facebook – just copy into your browser:

https://www.facebook.com/events/237013801014933/?acontext=%7B%22source%22%3A5%2C%22action_history%22%3A%7B%22%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22main_list%22%2C%22extra_data%22%3A%22%7D%22%7D%2C%22has_source%22%3Atrue%7D
2020 LSAG Annual Convention Cancelled

It was decided at the April LSAG Executive Board Meeting of April 1, 2020 that due to concerns about the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 2020 LSAG Annual Convention will be cancelled. The 2021 LSAG Annual Convention is scheduled for May 21 and 22, 2021 at Lone Star Convention Center with qualified art from 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 being eligible to show in 2021.

Linda Teague
President
Brenham Fine Arts League
As of April 8th, Joan Mitchell Foundation increased and reallocated our 2020 Emergency Grants budget to Artist Relief, a new, rapid relief initiative for artists, established by a consortium of artist support organizations and funded by over 25 foundations. This fund is distributing relief grants of $5,000 to artists of any discipline facing dire circumstances due to COVID-19, in cycles from now until September.

Having redirected our entire budget to Artist Relief and closed our Emergency Grants application, we request that you please remove any listing of our grant and direct artists to the Artist Relief website: www.artistrelief.org.

In addition, Artist Relief has partnered with Americans for the Arts for the Arts to create a survey for individual artists to evaluate the pandemic's impact on artists and creative workers. We invite you to spread the word to your community so they can be counted and contribute to future policy by completing the survey: COVID - 19 Impact Survey for Artists and Creative Workers.
Anne Perez donated some masks to the City of Sugar Land and is still making masks for neighbors, friends and family. The attached photo shows, from the left, Brittany Wright, the COVID-19 Donations Manager for the City of Sugar Land holding some of Anne’s masks and Anne.
Well, I haven’t pushed a paintbrush around with the exception of a 6 x 6 of a monarch butterfly that I painted alongside my granddaughter when my son brought the kids to visit from Colorado in mid-March. After that I got sick with a respiratory and sinus infection thanks to the generosity of my husband. Good news is that we are both well now and I’ve watched three webinars by painters I admire.

I spent one whole week sewing masks to share with family and friends and sent a bunch to Fredericksburg where my daughter is an RN at Hill Country Memorial Hospital. They like the ones with ties because elastic makes their ears sore after a full day in the mask.

The design I finally settled on takes at least 30 minutes to make, not 5 like YouTube claims.

Of course, as you can see by the picture, mine are a bit more complicated than JoAnns’ kits!
During this time of social distancing

See what some Members have been up to

Let us know what YOU’VE been up to!
KAREN GEHSE

On Fridays Karen Gehse has Art Text with her grandkids. One child chooses the art subject for the week, all mediums encouraged, everyone texts a picture of their creation to the group. They’ve had Taco Art, Mickey Mouse Art, and Dog Art. The blooming Artists are Kaden, Alex, Sophia, Zach, Rylee, Sarah.
PATRICIA MILLER

A couple paintings she finished while home. One is from a trip to Columbia and the other is a little stand in Brenham, Texas, the other is Pick up sticks.”
GEORGE COVINGTON

This is a work in progress oil painting of the Chaffee Brothers Dairy Farm that George’s wife Marilyn was raised in until they got married in 1967. The Reception was held in the main house. It is a very important place to Marilyn because it is full of many memories. Marilyn’s Dad and his two brothers owned and operated the farm after her grandfather died. The main farmhouse is on the left and the barns and outbuildings with farm equipment and hay, lots of hay and silage.
ELVIN AND NITA LEWIS

Some new fun art and a rework of the head on the “Ranch Hand” finished now, and have started 2 new sculptures. Nita and Ed have kept busy, Nita with her writing and Elvin with art. Great Job!
ED MEANLEY

"Vineyard Town - Lot Valley Fr." Is based on a photo Ed took during a 2016 painting workshop in France while traveling in the van. One out of ten of those quick photos out the window of a moving vehicle results in an image worth painting. This was one such worthy image.
JIM FUCHS

To see his commentary about these paintings and others he has worked on during quarantine, please see his FaceBook page at https://www.facebook.com/jim.fuchs.16
ELISE RUSSELL

Elise made several sun catchers including: Flip Flops, Promise of Peace and made her Grand Piano into just a piano. She also made a new candle holder "Joy"
Sick of being in quarantine? Let’s do something fun!

Challenge yourself. Go beyond your boundaries. Any medium will do.

Just send a picture of your finished portrait by May 25, 2020 to debbiesuerod@gmail.com and it will be posted in the June 2020 Newsletter.
25 MORE FUN THINGS TO DO WHILE STAYING HOME

1. Crochet something but be careful of this
2. Take an Instagram baking class
3. Join a virtual choir
4. Clear your closets out and give to charity
5. Hit the gym in your living room
6. Bake a quarantine cake
7. Coloring books: They’re not just for kids.
8. Play Pictionary online with family and friends
9. Learn to play the guitar
10. Start a blog
11. Look at pictures of puppies
12. Write poetry
13. Write actual letters to family and friends.
14. Learn calligraphy
15. Interview a loved one and create an audio storybook
16. Fold a square piece of paper into a fortune teller you put your thumbs and pointer fingers into and tell fortunes
17. Learn how to braid hair
18. Rearrange your sock drawer
19. Memorize the periodic table (you never know when that will come in handy – LOL)
20. Do things with your non-dominant hand – prepare to be frustrated
21. Learn ways to wear a scarf
22. Practice shuffling cards like a poker dealer
23. Organize your spice rack in alphabetical order
24. Learn to speak pig Latin. Or, “ig-pay, atin-Lay.”
25. Do your income tax early for once.
2020-2021 BOARD

Be sure to thank the following members for serving. They put in many hours to make our league a great place to create and sell art.

President - Brenda Bowman
1st Vice President - Kathy Golden (Publicity & Marketing)
2nd Vice President - Debbie Rodriguez (Programs/Workshops/Classes/Newsletter)
Secretary - Sue Zelko
Treasurer - Karen Gehse
At Large 1 - Anne Hallman-Perez (Website and Membership)
At Large 2 – Mary Lynch (Gallery / Gift Shop)

ART CENTER INFO

DUE TO COVID-19
THE ART CENTER HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY CLOSED
CONTINUED BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS FOR ALL FAMILIES NEAR AND FAR WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID-19

CONTINUED BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS, MEDICAL DOCTORS, HEALTHCARE WORKERS, GROCERS, AND ANYONE PROVIDINGS SERVICES AND/OR GOODS TO OUR COMMUNITY

CONTINUED BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS FOR OUR GALLERY MEMBERS AND CARETAKERS OF OUR GALLERY MEMBERS

CONTINUED BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE SUFFERING THAT ARE NOT MENTIONED
Did You Know? - Suggestion Box
If you don't tell me, I don't know

We want to know if you win awards or are recognized at some event. We would also like to tell our members about events around town and in the general Houston area. So, if you want me to put something in the newsletter, email me before the 25th of the month at: debbiesuerod@gmail.com. Any submission after the 25th will be placed in the next newsletter.

There is a suggestion box at the gallery desk. All members are welcome to place suggestions in the box. If you would like the board to respond to your request be sure to put your name on your submission. We received a request for lectures on art history through periods of history. If you would like to participate or know of someone who could present an art history lectures please contact one of the board members.