



PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

October 2026 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 67 / Issue 10

BLFA has been serving the needs of the Greater Brandon, Florida area art community since 1959.

Frankenpaint

Unleash your inner mad scientist at the October meeting by transforming ordinary thrift store art into extraordinary, one-of-a-kind seasonal art! We'll blend cozy or haunting Halloween and Fall additions, like ghosts or pumpkins, right into the original artwork.



We'll provide paper prints to paint on but feel free to bring your own art or thrift store find!

October Membership Meeting

Guests of all abilities are always welcome!

Join us on

Monday, Oct. 19, 2026

6:30 pm

St. Andrews United Methodist Church, Room 304

3315 South Bryan Road
in Brandon

President's Corner

For centuries, artists have gathered to share ideas, pool resources, explore exhibit opportunities and create side by side. Some, like the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood or the Impressionists, gathered in rebellion against rigid academic standards.

Others were bound by a shared subject, like the artists of the Ashcan School who captured the gritty realities of everyday NYC life. Later, London's Independent Group laid the groundwork for Pop Art by meeting to challenge mass culture and rethink objects as art.

For many, the simple social connection was the strongest draw. The Bloomsbury Group of the early 1900s shared ideas spanning art, literature, and philosophy, relying on one another for both personal support and creative inspiration. Decades later in New York, proximity brought SoHo artists and musicians together to build collaborative spaces and host events that fueled their collective work.

Today, over 100,000 arts organizations exist across the United States. While most won't make the history textbooks, they offer something vital to every artist's life: fellowship.



I mentioned in a previous message that fellowship was the primary reason I joined the BLFA, and I know I'm not alone. As one member recently shared with me, the combination of tech and post-pandemic isolation has caused many artists to "cocoon" too much. We need direct interaction with fellow creatives.

We've navigated significant changes over the past year, and more lie ahead. Yet through it all, our fellowship endures. We may not be starting a rebellion or launching a new art movement, but we are building a vibrant community... and that matters just as much.

Charlotte DeMolay | BLFA President



BRANDON LEAGUE OF FINE ARTS

Current Board Members & Chairs

Directors

Charlotte DeMolay..... President
 Carol Stebbins..... Secretary
 Michele Young..... Treasurer

Key Chairpersons

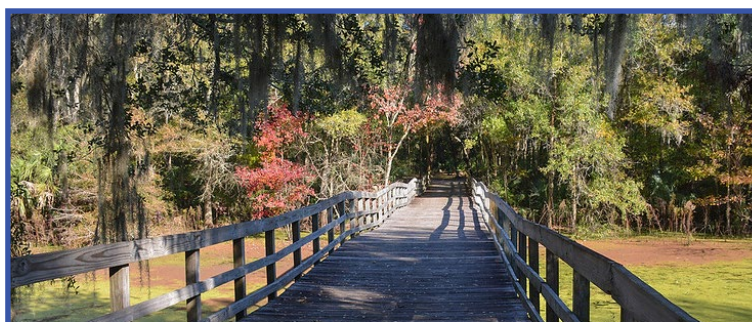
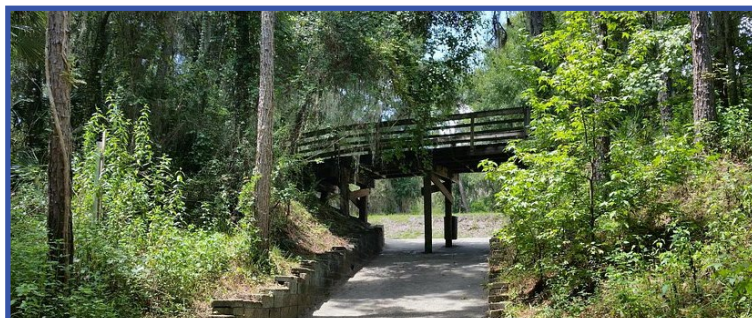
Photography..... Guy Learn
 Membership..... Charlotte DeMolay
 Community Outreach
 and Art Outings..... Michele Young
 Website and Newsletter David Bahm
 Refreshments..... Carol Stebbins
 BLFA Shows..... Carol Stebbins
 Historian..... Roxanne Tobaison

**A call to any members for your magical talents
 in helping the League!**

Love talking to people? We need **Community
 Outreach** volunteers for regular advertising on
 social media, website and in-person promotions.

Have ideas and want to help BLFA grow?
 We need your help!

Please contact the board members for info.
[BLFABrandon@gmail.com!](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com)



UPCOMING ART OUTINGS

The BLFA November Art Outing will be at **Alderman's
 Ford Conservation Park**, located at **100 Alderman's
 Ford Park Dr. in Lithia** on **Saturday, November 7th
 at 10am**. There is a network of trails that weave
 along the Alafia River, including a paved loop, natural
 pathways, and boardwalks. There is plenty of nature
 to sketch or photograph, or you can simply enjoy
 the outdoors and fresh air. The park is handicap-
 accessible, has public restrooms, and costs \$2 per
 vehicle to park. We will meet at the historical sign/
 marker. Be on the lookout for BLFA T-shirts, and don't
 forget to wear one if you have one!

Please note: According to reports, the mosquito-
 borne virus (dengue) peaks between August and
 October. Due to cooler and dryer temperatures in
 November the risk of transmission is lower; however,
 the Florida Health Department advises to continue
 to take precautions: Don't get near standing water,
 cover up and wear repellent. If the virus is still surging
 as it gets closer to November, we will change our art
 outing location.

Looking ahead...

December - Manatee Viewing Station in Apollo Beach

January - Riverwalk in Tampa

All locations subject to change.

Please contact Michele Young at
micheleyoungart@gmail.com
 if you have any questions.

Special Invitation

After our successful May 2026 exhibit at Center Place, BLFA has received their invitation to display ***winter-themed** art works to enhance this popular event destination's many parties, meetings — and TWO plays (!) during the busy holiday season, beginning November 4, 2026 and on display through January 7, 2027.

The Board has decided to invite submissions from BLFA members ONLY with no submission charge. Your art can include reproductions, early works, multiple submissions; and any paintings that sell can be removed at the time of sale.

***Winter-themed art includes a broad range of subjects that invite one's reflections at the years' end.**

Board of Directors Election

November is the annual election month for BLFA Board of Directors. The current Board members are Charlotte DeMolay, President; Michele Young, Treasurer; Carol Stebbins, Secretary. The responsibilities of this volunteer Board of Directors includes coordinating events and activities, planning, and acting as stewards of BLFA resources to ensure League continuity.

Please respond with your interest by email to BLFABrandon@gmail.com by **Sunday, November 8th at 5 pm** if you would like to be considered for any of these positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three Directors at Large positions. The vote will be held for in-person BLFA members at the November 16th Membership Meeting at 6:30 pm.

PROPOSED STANDING RULES VOTE IN PERSON

at our upcoming membership meeting. **Additional items added will be included in the updated document to be emailed to members for review** prior to the meeting on October 19, 6:30 pm.

Members Corner

ANNOUNCING "MEMBERS CORNER"

Submit your announcements (including items for sale) to be featured in the next BLFA Perspectives newsletter via BLFABrandon@gmail.com with a brief entry verbiage.

This month's "MEMBERS CORNER" entries are:

Marsha Nelson is selling two wooden frames - \$20 - Black frame 24¾" x 30½" with glass and white cut mat; \$10 - Brown frame with gold trim. Call her at (813) 654-8116.

Stephen Champlin will be exhibiting his paintings for sale in the Art Fair Tampa, 10/15th - 10/18th at the Tampa beginning October 15, - 18, 2026 - <https://artfairsouth.com/>

\$50 - Round canvas - 46" x 1½" still wrapped in shipping plastic, email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with interest.

Michele Young's art will be on display at the Temple Terrace City Hall sponsored by the Temple Terrace Arts Council for their revolving exhibit from October through December.

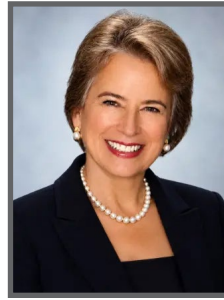


Antonio Padilla Paez visited during the September membership meeting and shared this digital painting, called Mercury Souls. He said it will be published in a magazine next month

Farväl Gunni

By Guy Learn

After being with our league since the early 1980s, the brushes and palette of Gunhild “Gunny” Price will now sadly be forever still. Our friend and fellow artist passed away on September 11th. For decades she had been a mainstay of the league’s talent and will surely be missed.



Gunni was born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1935 and found her way to the United States in 1958 as the wife of U.S. Army aviator Robert “Bob” Price. Her art interest was strictly in oils; a choice she had made decades ago, but one that she certainly mastered. Her introduction to the medium was through a European-born instructor that was holding classes at Fort Meade when her husband was assigned to that installation. And as it turns out, that instruction was the extent of her art training. She avoided further instruction as she didn’t want to be steered away from painting in her own preferred style. Likewise, she avoided commissions, enabling her to concentrate on subjects of her own choosing.



Seen here is Gunni (center), with artist friends: Roxanne Tobaison (left) and Deborah Biasetti (right).

While the league benefited from her art expertise, it benefited in another manner that, ironically, was also linked to her association with military life. Gunni was an officer’s wife in an era when the wives were expected to be supporting members of the military social community; a responsibility she took to heart. She developed excellent culinary

skills that didn’t go unnoticed. And as a result, she was frequently requested to cook for generals and sometimes their foreign dignitaries. Then in time with our league, void of any requests, Gunni unselfishly, and without fanfare, prepared special plates for almost every meeting she attended.

Back to her art, it would be an understatement to say that Gunni was highly accomplished. Her finely detailed oil paintings ranged in size from several feet across to only a few square inches. Some highlights of her many achievements include:

- Best of Show at the 2011 biennial conference of the Florida State Association of the National League of American Pen Women.
- Selected for the Tampa Bay Lightning’s Celebration of the Arts at Amalie Arena in 2015.
- Recognized by the Cider Painters of America and the MonDak Heritage Center for her miniature paintings.
- Awarded first place in Adult Miniature Art at the Florida Strawberry Festival Fine Art Show in 2024.
- Selected to display her work in the “Thunderdome” and at our Tampa International Airport.

In addition to her participation in the Brandon League of Fine Arts, she was associated with and encouraged fellow artists with several other entities in the bay area, including the Paint Box Studio.

While we now mourn Gunni’s passing, we should also find comfort in the fact that she has finally been reunited with her soulmate, Bob “Lieutenant Colonel Price, U.S. Army Retired”, who after 58 years of marriage, passed

(continued on next page)



Above are examples of Gunni’s oil paintings, large and small.

Farvöl Gunni

(continued)

away back in 2021. As mentioned above, he was a flyer, and that said, I don't know of a military aviator nor their wife that wasn't familiar with the poem "High Flight" by John Gillespie Magee, Jr. So, with their mortal journeys now complete, I can't think of a more fitting closing than the first and final lines of what I'm guessing was a familiar poem to this couple:

"Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth...

put out my hand, and touched the face of God."

Gunni's Donation

Even as Gunni's loved ones gathered to be with her, thoughts of BLFA never left her mind. She bequeathed a painting from her collection to the League with the hope it would fetch a price, and the proceeds to benefit League activities.

In what can only be considered 'perfect timing,' a request was received from Brandon Roots (a 501c3 charity of volunteers devoted to feeding the hungry) for an original painting donation to their online auction that started on October 1.

I met with Robert Goins recently to present him with her painting. He asked for information about her to post with her gift, along with his grateful thanks.

For more information, see their Facebook page "Brandon Roots Community Organization" or email brandonrootsfl@gmail.com.

We are grateful for the years of her membership, support and generous donations. Thank you Gunni, we will miss you!

Carol Stebbins

October Art Outing Photos

Keel Farms in Plant City

Join us for the fun!

See page 2



September Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2026

Charlotte DeMolay (CD) opened the meeting at 6:35 pm, began with a discussion of the responses from a recent survey sent out to gauge members' interests with planning future BLFA workshops, events. Among the responses were requests for demonstrations, workshops with open group discussions, lectures on business and marketing art, and suggestions for future art outings. Suggestions and volunteer offers can be emailed to BLFABrandon@gmail.com.

CD announced the League has acquired liability insurance in the event of slip-and-fall accident, or other events that might expose League assets to civil suit. The annual policy cost \$363 for general coverage and does not cover liability for Directors' actions. Steve Champlin (SC) suggested incorporating a specific policy regarding members under 18 years old, since there are concerns that liability insurance cost would likely increase. CD agreed to revise the Standing Rules to include same.

CD advised the evening's meeting includes members present will vote to accept Standing Rules as part of the League's acquiring a 501c3 status. CD advised she emailed the proposed Standing Rules document a week prior to this meeting to provide members a chance to review and ask questions. CD reviewed members inquiries about items listed in the current Standing Rules, and Jennifer Milone's (JM) inquiry/complaint that the League continues to charge membership dues after moving meetings to St. Andrews church, which reduced League operating costs. CD reviewed investigation into membership dues at various local art groups, which are in line with BLFA's; and a review of previous years' expenditures for use in planning the 2027 budget. After discussion, CD asked for a show of hands of members ready to vote on the existing Standing Rules. Two members opposed, JM and David Bodo (DB). CD agreed to review JM's documentation supporting free membership, tabled the Standing Rules vote for October 19 members meeting.

CD advised the League has lost a long-standing and beloved member this month, Gunni Price, and asked for a moment of silence to remember her. CD advised the October newsletter will have a remembrance of her life.

CD announced the four guests present at the meeting, asked each to stand and give a brief introduction and what medium they preferred. Antonio Padilla Paez (AP) brought a recent digital art piece, and a notebook of some of his earlier art for members' enjoyment. SC brought two of his paintings, brilliant day-glow and stylized images which he will offer for sale as a pair.

CD reminded members of the "Spread the Art" bookmark project, which will include members' art works reduced to 8 ½" x 2 ¼" bookmark size, artist' attribution and BLFA information on the other side. She displayed tassels which will be attached to these bookmarks, professionally printed and distributed for free at local libraries in an effort to share member art, and attract interest and members in BLFA activities. CD announced the bookmark project final acceptance date is extended to October 5, email a digital copy to BLFABrandon@gmail.com.

CD advised the League will increase efforts to include members' classes and their art-related activities in the newsletter, facebook and website. She asked for members to send their information to BLFABrandon@gmail.com for inclusion. SC provided information about activities he is involved in locally, The Arts Fair next month in Tampa, in which he will have his paintings for sale - <https://artfairtampa.com/> . Also SC mentioned The PropCon in Daytona Beach, also next month - <https://thepropcon.com/> ; as well as a printing service that offers multiple copies at a very reasonable price – Catprint - <https://www.catprint.com/art-prints>. Member Karen Koseck of Creative Junk Therapy is looking for volunteers to assist with CJT's entry in the annual Brandon Parade of Lights event Saturday, December 12. For more information or to volunteer, please email creativejunktherapyshop@gmail.com.

Michele Young (MY) advised she has just finished giving an art class for the Tampa Realist/Regional Art club, <https://www.tamparegionalartists.com/>.

Roxanne Tobaison (RT) advised her one-woman show at the Temple Terrace City Council has been extended. Visitors can view her paintings during business hours, <https://www.templeterrace.gov/108/City-Council-Mayor>.

CD advised the evening's workshop included supplies and materials to produce a bookmark, and MY will demonstrate Zines, and invited members and guests to enjoy the refreshments donated by generous BLFA members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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SILVER SPONSORS



Jennifer's Studio



BRONZE SPONSORS

Book Corner Tampa Bay



Elite Occasions

Membership Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Medium(s): _____

How did you find BLFA? _____

Membership Type: ☐ Individual \$40 ☐ Family \$50

Cash or Check only please. Make checks payable to BLFA. Please contact BLFA if you would like information about volunteer opportunities. Email us at: BLFABrandon@gmail.com

Your Donations Support BLFA!

Please email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with your support - (suggested donation \$20) to receive a thank-you T-shirt that our members and friends of BLFA wear to meetings and events! You can pay via Zelle to BLFABrandon@gmail.com (put T-shirt SIZE: M, L or XL in memo line) or send a check payable to **BLFA** to Brandon League of Fine Arts, 8820 Oak Street #1115, Riverview, FL 33578.

FRONT

AMOUNT & SIZES

☐

ADULT M

☐

ADULT L

☐

ADULT XL



BACK



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



Jennifer's Studio



Watercolors by
Roxanne Johnson

SouthState

BRONZE SPONSORS

Book Corner Tampa Bay



Elite
Occasions



Classes at Creative Junk Therapy

Each is led by a BLFA member!

For dates and times, visit: creativejunktherapy.org/our-events

Colored Pencils, Pastels and More

Colored Pencil Basics
or Open Studio

4th Saturday 10:30 - 1:00

\$20 Beginner includes supplies OR

\$12 Open Studio BYO Supplies

Instructed by Michele Young



© Creative Junk Therapy

Drawing Beginners and Beyond

1st & 3rd Saturday 1:30 - 3:30pm

\$25 per session or 4 for \$80

Explore different drawing
mediums with new
subjects each class

Hosted by Chris Klein



© Creative Junk Therapy

Watercolors

Instructed by Roxanne Tobason



@ Creative Junk Therapy

\$25 per person BYO Supplies

+ \$5 supplies included

Hands on instruction, new project each month.



Oil Painting Open Studio

Wednesdays 10:30am - 1:00pm

\$15 per session or \$56 for 4

Learn, share and develop
oil painting techniques

Instructed by Chris Klein



© Creative Junk Therapy

Kids Drawing Develop Your Vision

1st & 3rd Wednesday 5-6pm

\$10 per session or 4 for \$35

Kids learn basic drawing
techniques and develop
their skill and style

Hosted by Chris Klein



Ages 9-14



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