

Kathy Swanson

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I am originally from St. Paul and currently reside in Bay City, WI. I live with my husband, Larry, and our Yorkie, Max. Larry and I have a blended family of five adult "children" and nine adorable grandchildren. We are a six-generation farm family. After 18 years on the farm, this "city girl" wouldn't live anywhere else!

I'm an elementary school teacher by trade, who is failing miserably at being retired. I love to paint with acrylics and watercolors. Although I've never had any formal art training, I believe that's what makes it fun! Every time I paint, I'm learning how to draw, mix colors, and shade through the fun of trial and error.

We were very surprised by my husband's cancer diagnosis this past September. While caretaking hasn't come naturally to me, when the love of my life needed my help, it became natural, because it grew out of love. As I always say, "Caretaking isn't for sissies!"

Lee Olson

Contact: 952-657-8405

Lee Olson won best in show at the 1994 MN State Fair for needlework and has been enjoying fiber crafts since. She loves the permanence of a completed piece and how it stays "done" unlike so many caretaking tasks.

Lee cared for her father-in-law in White Bear Lake through his last couple of years as he declined and passed away from dementia and other medical issues. Making things during her downtime created joy in all the sadness. It provided a gentle way to rage against the inability to stop his worsening health. Her love for this amiable, sweet man went into the stitches of her art.

About the Gallery

The purpose of the Stillwater Public Library Gallery is to provide education through exhibits and displays, to increase community involvement in the library, and to provide an enjoyable environment for the library's users.

For more information about the gallery, email us at: splinfo@ci.stillwater.mn.us

About the Artists

**In the Gallery
March-April 2023**

**Featuring the work of Aging
Adult & Caregiver Artists**

**CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT
SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT?**

Artist Reception

Wed. April 12, 6pm

Stillwater

Public Library

Laura Albertson

As my mother grew older, I began to become more involved in not just her care, but her life. We began to share daily events, stories, and emotions. One day, my mother reflected on her family around the time of her birth. Her parents were in their 40's. Her closest sibling was 8 years older than she. Her father was in poor health and there was an economic depression happening. She ended this story with the words, "Who would ever want a baby in that situation?"

I knew from other stories how much she had been loved as a child. So, I asked my mother's sister, in front of my mother, about my mother as a child. My auntie went on and on about how cute my mother was, how proud she was to be with her, and how she was so loved. The room was glowing from her stories. Shortly after, I found a photo of my mother as a child surrounded lovingly by family members. I was inspired by the photo to create "Adored" and it hangs in my mother's living room where she can see it every day.

My mother is still surrounded by those who love her: three daughters, two sons-in-law, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren-in-law. Perhaps it is time to re-create "Adored" many years later.

Cathy Fulton

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I am a mixed media artist and initially started painting by attending evening classes in my early 40's. I began using oil, then have pursued acrylic, pastel, mixed media collages and watercolor. I often create by intuition, without having an end result in mind, and have created many surprising pieces that spur the imagination. Landscapes and birds tend to be favorite subjects. I am retired and a care partner to my husband who has early onset Alzheimer's dementia.

Jean Caboth

Contact: 319-931-4902

My art is about my life experiences and nature. Most of the pieces are created by collagraph printing images on fabric with dyes and then embroidering the details on those images. I learned this technique in 2010 at the U of Minnesota in a summer school class. I am an older artist who was an art teacher for 40 years, mostly in Iowa. I moved here in October of 2022.

I have been a caregiver for my granddaughter, who is being raised by my son. I assist my husband in caring for his elderly father when he lives with us three times a year. I have been an artist all my life!

Carol Dittbenner

Contact: cdittbenner@gmail.com

I like to use a sense of humor to view life in general, especially when it comes to aging. I definitely got that from my mother. When we are younger, we don't know that people feel the same on the inside as they did when they were young. I am at the age when I am just starting to see more people my own age pass away and it is definitely sobering. We have to live life one day at a time, enjoy life in the time that we have left, and try to leave a mark in the world for good.

Art has always been my passion. I studied art in college (although I became an RN in my desire to use my life to help others), and I have continued to learn and paint throughout my life. I am now able to devote more time to art. I love to paint animals or other inspiring subjects (commissions accepted). My wish is to give joy to people through my art. My art is at Stillwater Art Guild Gallery.