

## SIP PAINT REPEAT

### Colorful Sips offers creative relaxation

By **BRIAN WIERIMA**

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When walking into a Colorful Sips painting class session inside the Sanibel Community House, the ambience of the environment is perfectly suited to let one's inner-creativity flow right out on the canvas.

Students of Sissi Janku can expect relaxation turning into art every first and third Wednesday of each month, as the world traveled artist adds a calm atmosphere by flooding each sense with enjoyment.

A would-be artist can expect soft crooning music to soften the mood audibly, while healthy fruit snacks are

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Sanibel painters Pat Macchia, Suzanne Baker, Toni Boie, Bob and Candy Schaeffer are hard at work March 9. **BRIAN WIERIMA**



## 'Captains for Clean Water' want support at March 22 meeting

By **BRIAN WIERIMA**

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With the discharges from Lake Okeechobee still very fresh in everyone's minds in the Southwest Florida region, environmental action group "Captains for Clean Water" is taking that momentum and wanting to ride it all the way to Tallahassee and Washington D.C.

It will all start with an organizational meeting Tuesday, March 22, at the Sanibel Community House from 7-9 p.m. as leaders from the Captains for Clean Water will talk about the group's goals and mission statement.

"We want to let people know what we are doing to help resolve this issue and what they can do to help," said Captains

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## ISLANDERINSIDE



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## Second Chance Cell Dog Program is a two-way street

By **BRIAN WIERIMA**

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*(This will be a two-part series on the Gulf Coast Humane Society's successful Second Chance Pal Cell Dog Program, ran in conjunction with the Florida Department of Corrections. The first part will focus on the first week of training the FDC inmates had in the last week of November, 2015. The second part re-visits the inmates and their K9 students and update on how far each party has come and finally graduation.)*

When one needs a second or third chance in life, sometimes it's better to learn from someone who has walked in their shoes.

Or as regarding the K9 type of Gulf Coast



**FDC Officer Adela Davis**

Humane Society - paws.

As is the case with many dogs which are brought into the GCHS, obedience is lacking due to neglect, abuse or just a tough life the pooch has endured through its life. What results is unruly behavior which makes it tough for the dog to be adopted.

But several years ago, the GCHS paired up with the Florida Department of Corrections in Fort Myers and set up the Second Chance Pals Cell Dog Program,

which places homeless shelter dogs in an obedience training program with carefully selected inmates.

Once in the program, the intensive dog training last from eight to 16 weeks, which has a 100-percent graduation and adopted rate once the session has ended.

"Failure is not an option for these dogs," said FDC Officer Adela Davis, who runs the program from the inside of the Corrections facility in Fort Myers.

Since GCHS is a no-kill shelter, dogs who don't get adopted can stay with the shelter for an undetermined amount of time. But those dogs who have went through the

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**BRIAN WIERIMA**  
Kathy Emmering sketches an owl on her canvas during the Colorful Sips class Wednesday, March 9, inside the Sanibel Community House.



The Colorful Sips painting class, which is run by Sissi Janku, draws a good crowd every first and third Wednesday of each month. The classes are held inside the Sanibel Community House.

## Colorful Sips

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available throughout the two-hour class. Students can also bring their own spirits, such as wine or beer to sip on while visually picturing their soon to be painting on the canvas.

“That’s why it’s called ‘Colorful Sips’, because people can take sips of their wine or beer while painting,” Janku said. “I keep it in a fun format.”

Janku shares her vast wealth of

artistry knowledge with her students, which range from seven to 30 per class. Individuals can come to one class and paint their work, or join in on as many as they like.

“We can have 30 people max in classes and all the materials will be provided,” Janku said. “We use acrylic paint, because it’s more versatile and you can use it on canvas better. You can

paint in many different effects.”

Janku is a native of Germany, where she attended the Academy of Arts in Munich.

“As a child, people kept telling me I was a talented painter,” Janku said. “I was lucky enough to get started early.”

From Munich, Janku moved to Hawaii, where she met her mentor John Young. That’s where Janku developed

her love for painting tropical scenes, which guided her throughout the globe.

She and her husband lived in many areas, including California, the east coast, China, Egypt and eventually finding their way to their home of 20 years on Sanibel.

Colorful Sips is in its fourth season at the Community House and she also

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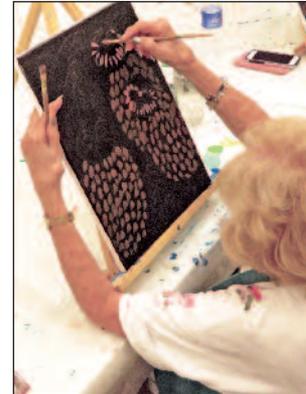
**ABOVE:** Suzanne Baker paints her owls during the Colorful Sips painting class March 9, inside the Sanibel Community House. **LEFT:** Joan Brush concentrates on her canvas as she starts her owl.



**Candy and Bob Schaeffer work on their paintings March 9.**



**Sissi Janku points out some of the features of last week's painting project.**



**Ann Walter starts adding the owls heads to her painting.**



**Linda Humphrey focuses into her canvas.**

## Colorful Sips From page 54

holds classes at South Seas Resort on Captiva every Tuesday and Thursday from 2-4 p.m.

Her students range from every level of skill, from novice to expert, as well.

"They will know there are no mistakes, because you can always fix about anything," Janku said. "The goal is to have fun and not be afraid."

One of Janku's first-time students

during a Colorful Sips class March 9, was Shelagh Talbot, who had never painted before. That evening's painting challenge was of three owls, with darker shades of color.

The experience left Talbot wanting to come back, as she was pretty proud of her painting debut.

"It was so much fun," Talbot said. "(Sissi) had everything laid out for you

and it was simple to do, even for people who have never painted before. There was no pressure, but nothing but encouragement."

There are different tropical scenes with a strong Florida undertone in each painting for each class, just to keep up the variety.

"I like bright colored paintings," Janku said. "But my main goal is to give

them the insight of what art is all about."

As far as where the paintings created by the students go, it depends.

"Right now, it's hanging on my wall, but I think I will give it away as a present sometime," Talbot said.

To learn more about Colorful Sips, call the Community House at 239-472-2155 or visit their website at [www.sanibelcommunityhouse.net](http://www.sanibelcommunityhouse.net).