



The Glenridge

Charitable Foundation

JANUARY 2021
NEWS

By Marny Stuart, Executive Director

GIFT TO FOUNDATION CREATES NEW ARTS FUND

Al Pezzillo Honors Late Wife with a \$250,000 Donation

Life at The Glenridge was everything Al and Kay Pezzillo expected when they moved from The Oaks Club in Osprey to The Glenridge in 2006. For 14 years, the Pezzillos' flourished at The Glenridge, making countless friends and participating in the vibrancy of activities the community has to offer.

When Kay unexpectedly passed away this past September, she left behind a family and friends in despair. That was when her husband of 69 years, decided he wanted to honor her in a very special way. Al began working with Marny Stuart, Executive Director of The Glenridge Charitable Foundation, to develop a plan in which a loving legacy could be established to honor his wife's life-long passion for the arts.

According to Al, "My wife was a very special person – beautiful inside and out, and her artwork is an expression of the beauty she saw in the world. I want her passion for art to be instilled and explored by Glenridge

Members and staff alike and I believe my gift of \$250,000 to create the **Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund** is just the beginning of a long and rewarding legacy in her memory."

Kay first expressed an interest in art after she married Al in Philadelphia in 1951. She started putting her talent on canvas with oils after taking art classes in New York City and in New Jersey. Her love for painting continued after moving to Mexico City in 1970. There she was influenced by all of the brilliant colors in her

new environment and started painting in watercolors. It wasn't until 2006, when she and Al moved to The Glenridge, that Kay took an interest in painting with acrylics. This new dimension to her artwork was inspired after taking acrylic art classes offered through The Glenridge Academy.

Kay, a talented, community-recognized artist, entered The Glenridge annual art shows, sponsored by the Art & Décor Committee, eagerly wanting to share her



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oil, watercolor and acrylic paintings with Glenridge Members. Those Members who have been at The Glenridge can recognize her artwork hanging in prominent places throughout the campus, such as in the Carroll Center, administrative area, hallways



*Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund Advisory Committee
(L to R): Nancy Maher, Mary Brummett,
Bill Cutler, and Dodie Sorensen.
Seated: Bunny Nesbit, Academy Dean.*

in the apartment buildings, and in the mezzanine. Approximately 15 pieces of her artwork have been donated by the family to remain as a permanent part of the art collection at The Glenridge.

Kay never stopped learning. For over six decades, she produced a vast number of glorious oil and watercolor paintings. A couple of years after moving to The Glenridge, Kay's artwork was honored and featured in a one-person art show. She was the recipient of numerous awards for excellence for her art work and she often donated her paintings in support of charitable organizations. Her love for the arts is what prompted her husband and their two daughters to make this gift to The Foundation.

The Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund will ensure Kay's legacy will live on. In addition to honoring Kay Pezzillo's memory, this inspirational fund will support a wide array of art activities at The Glenridge. Bunny Nesbit, Dean of the Glenridge Academy will

work with an advisory committee to ensure the fund supports a wide array of activities. Thanks to Mary Brummett, Dr. William Cutler, Nancy Maher and Dodie Sorensen for their assistance in bringing Kay's love of art to The Glenridge community.

Keeping in mind the safety of our Members and staff, the initial offerings will follow COVID protocols. These will include:

- Offering free on-line painting classes for children and adults;
- Free paint by number kits for children and adults;
- Provide free on-line Art History classes, like Renaissance to 20th Century Art.

We look forward to providing greater connectivity and community with future offerings. Some ideas for post-COVID include:

- Free, hands on art classes for Independent Members and for Members in Assisted Living, including providing the instructor and all of the art supplies for these classes;
- Provide scholarships to employees who qualify to the Ringling College of Art & Design or other schools of choice;
- Recruit and pay for local art experts to lecture at The Glenridge at no cost to Members;
- Free trips to Art Galleries in Sarasota, Tampa, St. Petersburg, and other area galleries;
- Free classes on framing of art;
- Offer classes for those Members interested in sculpting; and
- Update, refurbishment or enhancement of The Glenridge Art Room now or any time in the future to meet current and/or future art educational needs.

Another suggestion supported by the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund, currently under consideration, is to promote The Glenridge Annual Art Show as a major event for the organization by creating an invitation list that includes prospects.

- This event could be held in the evening with music, drinks and free hors

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d'oeuvre offered.

- Members, staff and prospects and their families would all be welcomed to attend. For those unable to attend the evening event, the art show would continue the next day.
- To bring everything into perspective, prior to the Annual Art Show, a series of movies featuring famous artists (i.e. Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Rembrandt, Renoir, Michelangelo, etc.) could be featured in the Glenridge Performing Arts Theatre.
- Some of the same ideas listed here could be applied to the annual Photography Show as well.

The Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund will provide the entire Glenridge community, and those interested in becoming a part of The Glenridge family, with the opportunity to explore their untapped potential and to enhance talents they may already have.

The Glenridge community is fortunate to be located within the greater Sarasota community where the arts are abundant.



"In Full Bloom."



caption

Whether you enjoy the Sarasota Ballet, the Sarasota Orchestra, the Sarasota Opera, the Choral Artists of Sarasota, the theatre, museums, or art galleries, we have it all in Sarasota and add to that the almost perfect place in the world to live with year-round wonderful weather, the beautiful beaches, convenient shopping, and exceptional medical care.

The Pezzillo family wants to encourage the Glenridge Members and the staff and their families with new and exciting opportunities to participate and enjoy "*art*" in many forms at no cost to them.

Believing that the programs and services offered through the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund will be successfully implemented and utilized by the entire Glenridge family, the Pezzillo family has committed to continue to financially support this Fund to honor and memorialize their wife and mother for years to come.

The Glenridge community was so fortunate to have known Kay and her passion for the arts. Her paintings were loved and enjoyed by so many. She understood the power of art to heal and to engage, and The Glenridge Charitable Foundation is honored to provide this opportunity to celebrate Kay's love for the arts and to foster the arts for our Glenridge community.

