

## Art and Love Win Again: Rosie Biskar Featured Artist of the Month at The Art Box

Rosie Biskar is 87 years old and her art has been the journey of her life. Growing up with the hardships of World War II, Rosie excelled in school - especially in her passion for art. Rosie would be dealt a hard blow to her love of art when she married at 18, which was dutiful and customary at that time, with the intensity of the war. Her art teachers in school had attempted to get her a full scholarship, but her father forbade it. Women were not to be educated, they were to be married! Needless to say, this did not lead to a fruitful and loving marriage. The thirty years of her marriage were the most difficult of Rosie's artistic life because she had no support from her husband, who made her feel incapable of producing anything of any value to anyone.

But art and love will win. As her first marriage passed, she found her true love, Arnold Biskar. He emboldened her and filled her with confidence, telling her to trust her

love of art again. He was filled with ambition of his own and they fueled each other's fires for life and travel. They left Washington DC, where they had spent their lives, and moved to Portland OR, where Rosie blossomed as an artist.

At the age of 50 Arnold said they had both passed up the first half of their lives afraid to live and chase their dreams, so Rosie applied to the Northwest College of Arts and was accepted as their oldest art student to date. School was hard and the teachers were harder. They were not gentle with Rosie, whom they viewed as a wealthy woman looking to pass the time. If it were not for the support of her husband and the other students she might not have been able to endure. Art and love win again.

When Rosie graduated with a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts at 54, she was greeted with open doors at some of the most prestigious art galleries in Portland such as Bitters Art Gallery, where

she showed her work for years. Rosie and Arnold had begun to find out how limitless they truly were, as he pursued a variety of careers including his own radio talk show, real estate investing for a large firm, and even politics. Rosie's art grew more inspired as she traveled the west coast for showings and events at galleries. Her art expanded and flourished from painting, to woven fabrics, to ceramics of all sorts.

Rosie and Arnold moved many times, finding life ever more fascinating with every move. One of their favorite places was the geodesic dome on the mountain top in Idyllwild, CA where they felt like time stood still as if in a dream. At one point they even moved to Israel for over 6 months and would have stayed longer if the firm hadn't pulled them back to Portland. Over their many years together Rosie and Arnold renewed their vows many times and were again planning another renewal when Arnold fell ill and passed away shortly after.

Rosie moved to the Florida Keys, where she has been for the last three years, to be near her son. She resides in a lovely home in Silver Shores. She speaks fondly of the two loves of her life: art and Arnold, and continues her art as she knows Arnold would encourage her to. Rosie is now ready to begin her new journey in art



in the Keys, as she begins seeking out new galleries to show her works. Art and love win again.

"The irony," Rosie says with a smile, "is that when my body was strong and willing, my mind limited my art. And now that my mind is fully open and my art is flowing like water, it is my aging body that limits my art."

Some of Rosie's art will be on display at The Art Box in Key Largo where she is the featured artist of the month for February. The Art Box, along with friends and volunteers are putting on a special event showing at Rosie's home, on February 23rd from 1-4pm. Silver Shores will be providing special guest parking accommodations at the clubhouse with golf cart valet service directly to Rosie's home. Rosie's life's work will be on display throughout every room of her home and working studio. Refreshments will be provided. All "Art and Love" appreciators are welcome.

Written by Jon Dreaver.





**ROSIE'S ART & LOVE  
OPEN HOUSE**

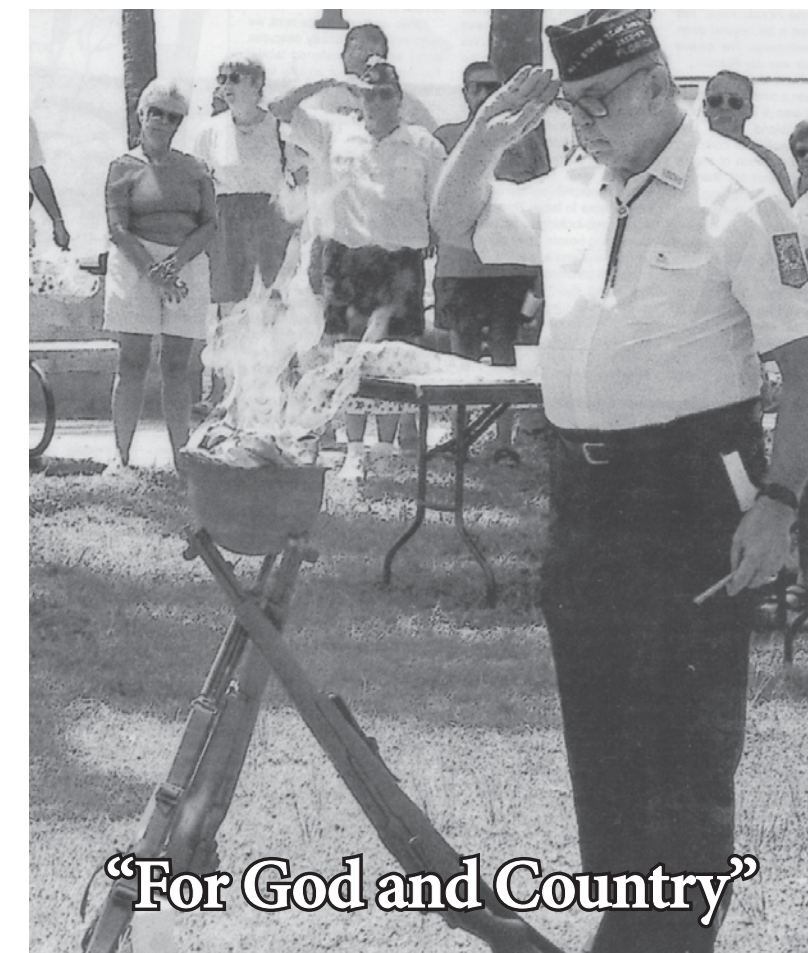
Sat., February 23, 2013  
from 1-4pm  
Silver Shores, MM 96 Key Largo  
Hosted by  
The Art Box, Friends & Volunteers

All "Art and Love"  
appreciators are welcome

Refreshments provided.  
Park at Clubhouse • Golf Cart Valet

Rosie's art is also display at  
The Art Box in Key Largo  
where she is February's  
featured Artist of the Month.

## Alexander Vito Paul Laskis



"For God and Country"

May 31, 1921 - Jan. 1, 2013

Alexander V.P. Laskis passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by love and his children. Alex was a resident of Key Largo for the past 35 years and left us on New Years Day.

Alex was born in Waukegan, IL to immigrants from Lithuania and was decorated World War II veteran with several service metals and ribbons. After his discharge from the United States Army he moved to Miami at the age of 25 and never looked back.

He is pre-deceased by his wife of 33 years, Gloria, his brothers John (Maureen), Walter (Geraldine); sisters Beatrice, Sally (Adam); son Donald; daughters Jackie and Laura (John); stepsister Denise and stepbrother George. His grandchildren Ian, Neil, Scott and Diane

(Chris) with a great-grandchild on the way. He is also survived by his beloved nieces Audrey (Jim) and Rita (John), Susie and Judith, nephews John Paul, Jr.,

"I fought for our Country for us all to be free and so there would be no World War III. So do not cry, weep or morn for me because it is I now who has been truly set free."

Walter, James and Kenneth. He leaves behind many dear friends and extended family members. A celebration of life was held at the Elks Lodge in Tavernier on January 20th. Special thanks to the American Legion Post 333, American Legion Color Guard Post #154, VFW Post 10211 and the Key Largo Moose Lodge.

Donations may be made in his name to the VNA/ Hospice of the Florida Keys. "Keep your loved ones, especially the elderly, close to you, for they are the children of the future."

## Bayside Blues Festival

February 6 thru March 16, 2013 • Showtime 6:30pm

Bayside Grille brings you the greatest music schedule ever presented in Key Largo this season! These are performers who are tied to great names in music and television, and who have gone on to win their own critical acclaim.

FEBRUARY  
WED&THU

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> **JW Jones Band**

A favorite of Dan Ackroyd, who's an avid promotor for them!

WED&THU

13 & 14 **Harper & Midwest Kind**

Didgeridoo, Harmonica, Fusion, Blues and more!

WED

20<sup>th</sup> **Biscuit Miller & The Mix**

Well respected and always a fun show.

SAT

23<sup>rd</sup> **Todd Wolfe Band**

As lead guitarist for Sheryl Crow and Carla Olson, Todd has no lack of credentials, but he and his band have created their own identity and a great sound.

Coming in March: SAT 2<sup>nd</sup> **Joel DaSilva & the Midnight Howl**

He has shared stages with BB King, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, The Black Crowes, Los Lobos, and more!



305-451-3380

www.keylargoblues.com

SAT 9<sup>th</sup> **"Braille Blues Daddy" Bryan Lee & The Blues Power Band**

New Orleans Guitar Legend playing Chicago Blues!

SAT 16 **Rockin Jake Band**

A dynamo performer from New Orleans, sharing stages with Guitar Shorty, The Neville Brothers, & Branford Marsalis. Five Time Award Winner for Best Harmonica.

MM 99.5 Bayside, behind Cafe Largo

## The Art Box

100650 Overseas

With

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