

# 10 Questions

for ARLENE CASEY *by Shirley Belcher*

**You have been taking the “Painting with Purpose” art classes at Central Connections?**  
Yes, I have really enjoyed them. I like the group of artists in the class and instructor Sarah Hellmann.

**What does your painting mean to you?**

The spiritual connection inspires my personal meaning of my paintings. It could come from any natural source, such as an animal, person, or flowers, etc. I am skilled at perspective and scale in my paintings.

**What has been your biggest accomplishment in art or other areas in your life?**

My biggest accomplishment in art was the completion of 3 home correspondence art courses in one year: Fine Art, Master Art, and Cartooning. I worked as a dietary aid for one year in order to pay for my lessons. Thus, I started my life as an artist in 1993 in Eustis, FL, where my husband retired from the Army in 1969. I was his accountant for his motorcycle repair shop where we also had a franchise for personalized hovercrafts. I joined several art leagues in Florida where members competed for a blue ribbon and we would collectively hang our artwork locally in libraries, restaurants, banks, hospitals, and at Lake Sumter Community College. I won the Presidential Art award at that college. Also,



Member Arlene Casey enjoys “Painting with Purpose” classes on Wednesday mornings. She is an accomplished amateur artist skilled in the use of scale and perspective in her paintings.

*People* magazine published my work in an article in 1997.

**What are your art goals today?**

I would like to “show and sell” my artwork locally.

**Who is family to you?**

I have 2 sons: one, 54, lives in Colorado; the other, 56, lives with me. My husband of 54 years died in 2011. Also, I have an adopted brother, 81, an aunt, 99, and a brother-in-law, 73.

**What is your work experience?**

My work experience evolved from my completing 4 years of business training in high school in Chicago, my hometown. Our

teacher advised us to take a government service test in our junior year. After graduation, I was hired as a dental secretary with a GS-3 rating. After one year in that position, I married and traveled with my husband in the Army, and we had 4 children. We lost one child at birth and another at age 20 in an auto accident.

**What art project are you working on at Central Connections?**

I would love to “host” an art exhibit at Central Connections to showcase my work and that of other Central Connections’ members. I envision an opening reception and gallery-like showing of art pieces.

**What are your other hobbies and special interests?**

Reading, drawing, and being with my 4 cats and my dog. My pets are the “best,” and they keep me happy.

**If you had anything to do over again what would it be?**

I would not have moved from Florida where we lived for 20+ years. I liked the weather there.

**What is on your bucket list?**

To keep being thankful for what I have. 🍀

“Painting with Purpose” meets on Wednesdays in March and on Thurs., March 9, at 6:00 PM for anyone experiencing anxiety and/or depression, and on Fri., March 10, at 10:30 AM, for caregivers.