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## **Darlyne Hayes Bio**

Born and raised in Upstate New York, Darlyne's decades long professional career encompassed multi-media advertising sales, owning and running her own ad agency, media buying, graphic design, and creating an in-house agency as a marketing director for a luxury automotive dealership representing six franchises for 13 years. In the mid-2000's she entered non-profit work as Director of Marketing and Special Events at a K-12 Christian school, retiring from Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County after 7 years as the Development Director in 2014, her last "rodeo." In 2015, she and her husband decided to retire to Hendersonville after a previous year's vacation there. They were very impressed with the beauty of the mountains, milder weather than the Northeast, and friendly locals. Everything seemed very appealing, including lower taxes than NYS.

Darlyne grew up drawing and painting in tempera paints, taking after and being encouraged by an artistic mother. She painted her first oil painting at 15 of the family cat. Working for a living side tracked her until the 1990's when she painted once a week during a 4 year stint in a structured class and joined the Colonie (NY) Art League. She entered shows and won an Honorable Mention for an oil painting of one of her favorite felines. There was dabbling in acrylics along the way, as well as pastel painting, but neither shined in her heart like watercolor and oil painting, her favorite methods of expression.

After retiring and moving from NYS to Hendersonville in July of 2015, Darlyne desired to reinvent herself. She began to research outlets for her artistic desires to paint and mingle with a vibrant art community. She found the ALHC online and paid a visit, joining in October 2015. She volunteered to become the ALHC newsletter editor in June 2016. She thoroughly enjoys the vibrant membership and demos at the meetings. Darlyne hopes to be an integral part in growing and promoting the league's many assets to attract new members and help in growing its presence in the community at large.

She enrolled in a Blue Ridge Community College Adult Extension watercolor class led by local artist Miriam Hughes in June 2016. Inspired by the instructor and other students, many of whom possess much talent, Darlyne now paints primarily in watercolor and alcohol ink. She is beginning to venture into painting silk scarves as well. Painting has given her a new sense of purpose and rekindled a desire to create artistically in ways she believes she was born to do. She's discovered that "reinvention of self" is proving to be very exciting and well worth the wait.