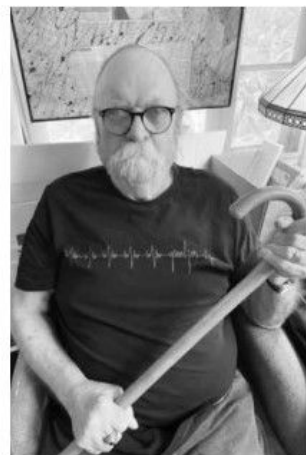


# Oviedo's Artistic Hand Gallery Owner, Del Seaman recovers with the Help of the Community



Top photos left & right: & bottom left: Del Seaman  
Center & middle right: Renovations done.  
Bottom right: Studio sign.

Photos contributed by Kim Sager

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What Oviedo legend and owner of Artistic Hand Gallery Del Seaman plainly calls nothing more than an “intervention” was in reality a roller coaster journey that started with a perforated gallbladder and eventually led to 21 days on a ventilator.

Just as spring began, 76-year-old Seaman was brought to the hospital for what he thought was an old hernia flare up. Instead, doctors found a problem in Seaman’s gallbladder and rushed him into surgery the next morning. Following the surgery, Seaman was sent to the ICU with a perforated gallbladder and underwent three back-to-back surgeries leaving him tied to a ventilator with months of recovery and rehab ahead of him.

While Seaman spent months in the hospital recovering, his support staff was hard at work making sure everything would be in tip top shape for him to return home. He had made such a great impact on the community that Oviedo rallied together as soon as they caught wind of what Seaman was going through.

Artistic Hand staff member Kim Sager praised Seaman because “he has a collective consciousness and always tries to ‘pay it forward’... Del has spent his whole life giving... He deserves all of the love and kindness that is being shown to him and more.”

Artistic Hand’s long standing bookkeeper Cari Brown jumped into action in search of a way to repay Seaman for everything he had given back to the community over the past three decades as a swim coach, art teacher, mentor, and friend. Her number one goal was to take any extra stress off of Seaman’s shoulders and make sure he was solely focused on getting better. Brown immediately thought of the one thing Seaman cherishes the most: his home.

Seaman’s house is more than just a place to live for him. His home carries on the legacy of his late wife Barbara Seaman who passed away 16 years ago and shared his dream of living in a historic house. Now, Seaman does everything to preserve the grounds in his wife’s honor.

“Our total goal in life was to move into an old house on the main street of town... and be able to offer classes and the gallery. Those were things that were our mutual goal and even though she didn’t make it she left me a

to-do list. I’ve worked on that to-do list and finished it off,” Seaman said.

To thank him for his contributions to Oviedo, Brown decided to give Seaman’s 100-year-old house a much-needed makeover.

“I knew I had to do something to get [his house] ready for him to come home,” Brown said. “Del is elderly and lives alone and needed help to get his home back on track to be safe and livable for him to come back.”

As motivation for Seaman to continue fighting to recover, Brown and Sager documented the renovation process and gave Seaman sneak peaks of his newly updated home while he was in the hospital.

“It was really exciting! It gave me a goal, a huge goal, and desire to get well and learn to walk again,” Seaman said.

Updating the bathroom, bedroom, air conditioning, and flooring allowed Seaman to comfortably adjust to living at home after he was released from the hospital. Brown even bought Seaman a new bed, electric chair, and television for his bedroom.

Now that Seaman has settled back at home all stitched up and walking with a cane, he is beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel of his long and arduous start to the year. His end goal is to get back into the studio and begin teaching art classes again.

Despite the challenges, Seaman still manages to see the good in everything as he strives to be the “lemonade to combat all the negativity... I’ve had some of the worst things that could happen to a person happen to me and I’m still happy and I’m still going forward and I’m still looking on the bright side of life.”

In awe of Seaman’s ability to stay strong-hearted throughout every battle life has thrown his way, Brown said “[Seaman] truly is proof that a positive attitude and being a kind, loving person can do wonders to help in the healing process.”

While Brown has made a lot of progress on the renovations, she still has ambitious plans for the house. To contribute to the cause visit <https://gofund.me/603ff7ba>. Right now, Brown’s goal is \$15,000 and she is nearly halfway there thanks to the support of the community and the hearts Seaman has touched.

When Seaman looks back at all that his team has done for him, he recalled the Pearl Jam song “Just Breathe” saying “I’m a lucky man to count on both hands the ones I love, some folks just have one, others they got none and I look at it that I am that lucky man.”