



LCAL.org | 501c3 | lakecoartleague@gmail.com

Sketches

March 2024

**“Feeding Coi”
Pastels
John Plishka**



**“Screech Squint”
Pastels
John Plishka**



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Inside This Issue

Front Cover; John Plishka

LCAL Spring Membership Show
Pg 2,3

LCAL March Member Meeting
Pg 4

LCAL April Member Meeting
Pg 5

LCAL Feb Meeting Recap
Pg 6

LCAL Scholarships
Pg 7

LCAL Elections
Pg 8

LCAL 90th Anniversary Update
Pg 9-11

LCAL 2024 Event Calendar
Pg 12

Membership Forms
Pg 13, 14

Digital Library Overview
Pg 15

LCAL Meetings/Staff
Pg 16

Back Cover; Susan Ploughe

Sketches

Official Newsletter of Your Lake County Art League

March 2024

LCAL Spring Membership Show

The Lake County Art League (LCAL) has been doing a Spring Membership Show for 90 years, so we've gotten pretty good at it!

This year, the show is special because it will be the first of 6 shows that promise a nuanced view of what we in the LCAL do. This show is also special because:

- It will be hosted by the College of Lake County (CLC). Their Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art is well-known and widely respected.
- CLC students will be able to participate in the show and its concluding critique by becoming LCAL new members at the 1934 dues rate of \$2.50.
- CLC has already helped design posters for LCAL and has offered to publicize the show through their Facebook network. All 6 shows will use some variation of host publicity.
- This show will be a test of our ability to otherwise publicize our art opportunities through news articles, posters, handouts and networking.

(continued on next page)

Questions: Contact Jeff Harold at jeffharoldphotography@gmail.com



Sketches
2024

March 2024

LCAL Spring Membership Show, cont.

2023 Spring Show; 1st-3rd Place



1st place; Mary Haas



2nd place;
Clarese Orstein



3rd place;
Marshall Philyaw

Art will hang in the lower-level of the gallery. This is a popular student reading area, with comfortable tables and chairs, plus a bank of windows that look out to a patio. The gallery will provide coffee, cold tea, water and refreshments, and we will provide our usual finger food.

A piano can be provided if a member can give us an hour of music!

See more about the CLC gallery at their [webpage](#) and their Facebook page.

Dates and Times:

Check-in: the Thursday-Saturday weekend of April 25-27. **

Closing critique: Monday, May 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

(**NOTE: This date differs from previous years when check-in took place the first Saturday in April.)

Entries:

- Must be framed and wired
- Must have been produced in the last 3 years
- Must be tasteful and appropriate to the circumstance.
- Edge-wrapped canvases are acceptable.

More details will be provided in an April 6 email notice, including how to find the gallery within the CLC campus, and the mechanics of the check-in process.



Sketches
2K6rcUG2

March 2024

LCAL 18 March Membership Meeting & Demonstration

This in-person meeting will be held at State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake

John Plishka will be providing a demonstration of pastel techniques.

John is a National award winning artist and a Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists, a member of the Masters Circle of the International Association of Pastel Societies, as well a Juried Member of the American Academy of Equine Art.

His paintings ([website](#)) have appeared in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Equus magazine, The Chronicle of the Horse, and the Pastel Journal.

He has exhibited throughout the United States and his paintings are in private collections throughout the country.



John Plishka

John's painting, "Coil" (right), received the incredible honor of being chosen as the cover art for the 58th Annual Exhibition of the Society of Animal Artists!

"I want to portray animals in a way that is hopefully unique. I enjoy the challenge of trying to get the viewer to see a particular animal in a totally different way. "



"Coil"
11"x14" Pastels SOLD

Also at this meeting:

Handouts of the LCAL 90th Anniversary booklet describing LCAL's history, and the trifold brochure that explains what the LCAL is all about, will be available for all members. See page 10 for updates about these documents.

[Click here to see a YouTube conversation with Jeff Harold and John](#)



Sketches
2K6rcUG2

March 2024



Susan

LCAL 16 April Membership Meeting & Demonstration

This in-person meeting will be held at State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake

Susan Ploughe will be providing an oil painting demonstration.

"Ploughe rhymes with blue (and glue and hullabaloo)!"

"People often comment on the variety of subject matter that I choose to paint. I never want to paint any one thing so often that I am tempted to do so in a formulaic way. I love the process of discovery, of figuring out how paint applied to a flat surface can come to life and evoke an emotional response. I like painting in situations where I am not quite sure how to get what I am seeing onto the canvas. There's a bit of a thrill that comes with the not-knowing, which is followed by delight when the subject miraculously begins to take shape!" - Susan

Susan holds a BFA in Painting from Carnegie Mellon University. A native of Pennsylvania, she has lived in Lake Zurich, IL, for 24 years. After many years of working as an illustrator and graphic designer, she turned to oil painting full time in 2002. Since then, her work has been juried into many respected shows, including the Oil Painters of America National Exhibition, and she has won awards in the OPA Eastern Regional, Salon International, the American Impressionist Society, Plein Air Easton and other exhibits.

Susan's work has appeared in articles in Southwest Art, American Art Collector, Fine Art Connoisseur, International Artist and American Artist magazines. Her paintings are in private and corporate collections around the world, and she paints portraits on commission.

Additional details about Susan's background can be found on her [website](#).
See examples of her work on the back page of Sketches

Questions: Contact Jeff Harold at jeffharoldphotography@gmail.com



Recap of LCAL 19 February Membership Meeting Demonstration



Michael Latala gave us a great demonstration at the LCAL February Membership meeting, of his charcoal portrait technique.

If you didn't get a chance to attend, or if you want to see the demo again, here is a [YouTube link](#) to the recorded demo. His finished portrait image is copied to the left.

You can see more of Michael's work in oil, pastel, and charcoal, along with his live-wedding paintings, at his [website](#).

Jeff Harold has also provided a YouTube link to an [interview](#) that he had with Michael.

We hope that Michael will do another workshop for us later in the year!



2024 Phoebe Boyd and LCAL Scholarships

Below are the two 2023 scholarships recipients



Ava Buttelmann received the Phoebe Boyd scholarship for her chalk pastel: "Captain Daniel Wright Woods Forest Preserve #2"



Rachel Jacobsen received the LCAL scholarship for her charcoal drawing: "Walk this Way."

Each year the art league awards two scholarships to Collage of Lake County (CLC) students.

1. The Phoebe Boyd scholarship is funded by the Boyd family in memory of Phoebe Boyd who was a long time member of the art league and passed away November 22, 1997.
2. The other scholarship is funded annually by our art league with funds from our member dues.

The recipient students are selected from art work they entered and were juried into the CLC Student Show in April of each year.

For the 2024 year, LCAL members Oliver Merriam, Mary Neely, and Clarese Ornstein will be choosing the recipients.

We will provide the dates and times for the show, which will be held in the Wright Gallery at the CLC in Grayslake and encourage all members to stop by and see the work of these talented artists.



Upcoming LCAL 2024 Officer Elections

At our April membership meeting, the nominating committee will present a recommended slate of officers for the following year (1 July 2024 to 1 July 2025).

We still need a member to volunteer to be nominated for Corresponding Secretary (a one-year post).

Chris Tanner and Val Brandner each have served in this office for 10 or more years and are more than willing to talk to anyone interested in this office.

What are the Duties of the Corresponding Secretary (CS)?

- Serves as editor of the LCAL's two newsletters.
- Sends out League correspondence including notices of meetings and upcoming exhibits.
- Performs other duties that the Board of Directors may assign.
- Selects an assistant to aid in performing these duties.

This office represents an important continuity within our art league and is vital to the league's operation. The CS keeps informed of internal and external communications, which leads to a valuable understanding of art-league mechanics and the skills and needs of almost every member.

Creating the newsletters is a combined effort: the CS works with the board and members to create the content, and an assistant puts the content together in newsletter format. Jody Bennett has been the assistant this past year and has agreed to continue in that roll.

Applicants

If you're interested in serving in any one of these positions, please talk to a member who previously held that office, to get a true feel for the duties.

Please convey your interest to Val Brandner or any current board member.

See list of officers and board members on page 16).

Val Brandner
email: isketchit@yahoo.com
cell phone: 847-445-2788



The poster will also need a title; here are some options:

Join Lake County Art League Celebration of 90 years. Art leagues have artistic journeys, just like you.

Lake County Art League 90th Anniversary
Return to the past, develop a future.

Art evolves; it captures our hearts and colors our lives, past and present.



Our **90-year logo** will adorn our signature poster and **anniversary booklet**.

LCAL 90th Anniversary 2024: Update

Plans for Mary Haas' winning painting

We have selected Mary's painting that carries a viewer back to 1934. Some plans on how to most effectively use it include:

- Ann Rintz, curator of the CLC gallery, will work with her students to develop the poster design built around Mary's painting. The design will also include some words and phrases related to LCAL. As an example, the anniversary committee has written some free-verse poems that tell the LCAL story.
- Mary's painting will be displayed on an easel at all indoor events.
- As an homage to the 1950s, when Waukegan Harbor was home to a major fishery, the LCAL used to display its art on fishnets drying in the sun. The art displays during our 90th anniversary will incorporate that same fish-netting theme, uniting our story and history.

Publicizing anniversary events

It's important that our anniversary events draw the attention of the general public, especially the artistic community. Publicizing our events is one way to get the word out.

- We can bookend our celebration with articles about our anniversary.
- Announcements and articles can be submitted to the Daily Herald, which has lately been featuring half-page art articles written and submitted by art organizations.
- We can utilize the strong publicity programs available in some of our event venues.
- Our show and critique at the Carnegie Library will piggy back on regional interest.
- Forwarding our announcements of upcoming events, may lead to long-term networking patterns. Many of our announcements will end up forwarded as Facebook entries that complement our own Facebook announcement.

Questions about the Anniversary? Contact a committee member; see page 16.



LCAL 90th Anniversary 2024: Update, cont.

Booklet and Trifold Brochure

A booklet about the history of the LCAL and a trifold brochure that explains what the LCAL is all about will be distributed at the 2024 March and April membership meetings, and will also be available at the Spring Membership Show at CLC. If you are unable to get a copy at those events, contact Deb Edmunds (edmundsdl@gmail.com).

90th Anniversary Poster

Smaller 11x17 posters will be distributed around the area to promote our 90th Anniversary events and encourage membership. They will include a QR code for easy access to our website. The poster content will be tailored for each event. **Anyone who would like to help place the posters in coffee shops, stores, train stations, etc., can arrange to get the posters from Jeff Harold.**

Many thanks to the following people for their assistance and their dedication to the LCAL!

- Chris Tanner for taking on the task of writing the contents of the booklet.
- Mary Neely for help in editing the booklet.
- Claresse Ornstein for her input regarding the printing details of the booklet.
- Linda Kollacks for creating drawings of the Davies for the cover of the booklet, which turned out great.
- Jeff Harold for all the help with the poster and everything else that he does!
- Val Brandner for printing and paying for the trifold brochures.

Tom Trausch Workshop April 20th & 21st

Preparations for this 90th Anniversary event are underway. Details about this event and how to register can be found in the February MNews. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Jim Brooksher.

There will be plenty of 90th-anniversary-related tasks to volunteer for during the year. We appreciate everyone's help and dedication to the LCAL!



LCAL 90th Anniversary 2024: Update, cont.

Our anniversary will be a rhythm of well publicized events

April-October	Plein air events at interesting locations
May	Brief show and critique in the CLC windowed lower level gallery
June	“Fourth Friday” competition and show at Starline Factory
August	Art Show in half of the AFAF gallery in downtown Antioch
September	A show at Adler with brief presentations by each exhibitor
October	“Fourth Friday” competition and show at Starline Factory
November	Brief show and critique on the main floor of the Carnegie Library

Posters, handouts and more!

- QR code and standard logo on big and small posters
- Updated LCAL handout with standard and “90 Art” logos
- Commemorative bookmark handout 1934-2024
- Attractive newsletters for browsing
- Annotated list of planned plein air locations for 2024
- Updated and interesting history
- A digital slide show of 1934-2024 photos
- \$2.50 dues for new members



LCAL 2024 Calendar Year

Scheduled 2024 LCAL Events (not including 90 th Anniversary events)	
Mon. 18 Mar	General meeting (in person); demo State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake
Thur. - Sat. 25-28 Apr	Spring Membership Show check-in
Tue. 16 Apr	General Meeting (in person); demo; Election of president for next term or two
20, 21 Apr	Tom Trausch Workshop, Antioch Township Center
Mon. 20 May	General Meeting (in person); Spring Membership Show critique (CLC Wright Gallery)
Jun	LCAL Starline Show
Mon. 27 Jun	Annual Meeting (in person); Demo with Sandra Bacon
(Date TBD)	Summer picnic (location TBD)
Aug	Antioch Fine Arts Foundation Show

Questions? Contact Chris Tanner; chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net



Membership Forms: "Interests" Explained

Did you know that your Membership Form is a means of communicating with your board of directors? When filling out your form, we would like to know the medium(s)/techniques you work with in your art, and your interests in different aspects of the organization.

Interests

When you indicate your interests from the list provided on the membership form, we also want to know if you'd like to be one of our many volunteers. If you skip that part of the form, we have no idea what your interests are. Your interests help identify how you may benefit from being a member and what areas of the organization you may want to volunteer for. After all, our league can't function without you and fellow members helping with the various tasks of the organization.

In addition to volunteers, our league is always in need of members who would like to chair a committee or serve on the board.

Benefits of Getting Involved

- Support in our shared interest
- Pick up the group's rhythms, history, purpose and energy
- Experience the excitement of members' mutual interests, growing your skills, learning interesting information, learning from league events, and awarding the growth of others.

We look forward to you sharing your time and talent with us as we strive to share our experiences with you. Your active involvement in the many activities of the art league will help you grow as an artist and will help us grow as an organization.

Below is a list of ways you can help:

- Spring/Fall Membership Shows
- Art workshops
- Tours
- Plein air sessions
- Social media
- LCAL website
- LCAL newsletters (Sketches and Member News)
- Display of member art
- Zoom hosting

We thank all members who have volunteered their help -- whether with refreshments, writing for the newsletter, finding volunteers to help with workshops, and many other parts of the organization -- that makes your experience with the LCAL fulfilling and exciting.



Membership Forms: “Interests” Explained, cont.

Mediums/Techniques Here’s what we have learned this year about our 63 members:

Medium/Technique	Number of Members	Medium/Technique	Number of Members
Watercolor	20	Painting, no medium mentioned	2
Oil	20	Jewelry	1
Pastels	10	Graphite	1
Acrylics	9	Scratch art	1
Pen and Ink	5	Printing	1
Photography	5	Collage	1
Mixed media	4	Alcohol inks	1
Colored pencil	4	Children’s book illustrator	1
		None mentioned	4

If you would like to learn who is working in a specific medium, please ask Fran Isaac and she will ask if they would like to get in touch with you by email or phone.

Email Fran at fmisaac@aol.com with “LCAL-media” in the subject line.



LCAL Digital Library Overview

Please enjoy our Digital Library, which is emailed to you along with Sketches as a separate attachment (pdf file).

The library covers many different topics organized under 9 different categories (see inset below).

Many are video presentations accessed from various services such as YouTube, Amazon Prime, Hulu, and Netflix. To view, click on the link and it will take you directly to that video. *(NOTE: These services sometimes discontinue a show; we will update the lists as we become aware of any changes.)*

We encourage you to contribute to our library by sending us links to your favorite art shows and web sites. In that way, it will become a true reflection of the LCAL, and it will accomplish our mission to promote art in Lake County.

Digital Library's Current Categories:

- Oil Painting
- Watercolors
- Acrylics
- Documentaries / Art-related
- Galleries and Museums
- Websites to Explore
- Netflix Art Shows
- Hulu Art Shows
- Amazon Prime Art Videos

Questions? Contact Val Brandner;
isketchit@yahoo.com



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March 2024

LCAL Meetings and Staff

The Lake County Art League Year:

Meets Sep through Jun, generally 7-9pm; 3rd Mon., as follows:

Jan, Feb, sometimes Mar	Virtual
Sep, Oct, Jan-Jun	presentations, usually a demonstration
Nov, May	Closing critiques for membership shows
Dec	Holiday break

Newsletters: After Nov, newsletters are sent only occasionally to members who have not paid their dues

Be on the Lookout! If you see a new way to bring fine art to Lake County, or how to improve the advantages of membership, please share by contacting a member listed to the right.

90th Anniversary Committee

Chair	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Co-Chair	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
	Gail Gudgeon	Gaile.gudgeon@gmail.com
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Clarese Ornstein	socoro@comcast.net
	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
	Mary Neely	mmbn@yahoo.com

Elected Officer	Name	email
President	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
Vice President	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Recording Sec	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com
Directors	Name	email
Art Festivals	(vacant)	
Historian	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	Gail Gudgeon	gaile.gudgeon@gmail.com
Librarian	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Membership	(vacant)	
	Bobby Swisher	bobby_swisher@outlook.com
On-The-Wall	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
Programs	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Publicity	(vacant)	
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Newsletters	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Jody Bennett	jorbenn1@yahoo.com
Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Workshops	Jim Brooksher	jimbrooksher@gmail.com
	Samantha McDonald	clintandsam@gmail.com
Connection to the Greater Art Community		
Social Media	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
lakecoartleague@gmail.com		



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Paintings by
Susan Ploughe

Sketches

March 2024

Still Lifes



Portraits

Landscapes

