



Lemont Artists Guild March Newsletter

Building Appreciation for the Arts

Upcoming Meeting/Program

Wednesday, Mar. 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm

Metal Sculpture with Steve Kost

Our meetings are co-sponsored with and take place at Homer Township Public Library

14320 W 151st St, Homer Glen, IL

www.homerlibrary.org, Ph: 708-301-7908

RSVP is REQUIRED, SEE LINK

AFTER THIS DESCRIPTION



On March 11, 2026, in partnership with the Homer Township Public Library, the Lemont Artists Guild is pleased to present, at the library, Steve Kost, who will talk about his Metal Sculpture artwork and how he came to creating it. Steve Kost is a local

artist who is also a United States Veteran and also worked as an Ironworker high above Chicago's cityscape. He creates "Upcycled" metal sculptures which came about originally from dismantling typewriters and sewing machines. He will talk about his "Metal Health Artwork," places he has displayed his sculptures, including the Library of Congress, and share his deep sense of purpose that comes with the healing power of creating art.

Kost's journey to becoming a scrap metal artist began when he joined the Navy at 17 years old and became a hull technician, eventually joining a battalion with the Navy Seabees as a steelworker. During a deployment overseas, he experienced trauma and when he got home, Kost said he tried to put his traumatic experiences aside and move forward. He became an ironworker in Chicago and after seeking mental health counseling through the Veterans Health Administration, he began to tinker with spare metal parts to create animal sculptures. Since delving into scrap metal art, Kost has become a voice for the challenges combat veterans face, advocating for them to use their time and energy constructively. He's also a musical artist; Kost plays drums for the rock band The Seventh Sons. He has proudly displayed his sculptures at the Illinois State Museum, The Library of Congress, The Joliet Historical Society, The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival,

2026 Winter/Spring Events

Most at Homer Library unless indicated otherwise:

📅 March 11, 2026-Metal Sculpture with Steve Kost, register at: <https://www.homerlibrary.org/metal2026>

📅 April 8, 2026-Encaustic with Sarah Rehmer, register at: <https://www.homerlibrary.org/encaustic2026>

Registration opens March 9 at 8:30 am

📅 May 13, 2026-Patterns of Movement to Enhance your Creativity with Elaine Gotfryd-Noonan

Register at:

<https://www.homerlibrary.org/movement2026>

Registration opens April 13 at 8:30am-please note there are only 15 registration spots for this meeting!

📅 2026 Create and Chat, 1 pm-3 pm, 3rd or 4th

Mondays: (no registration needed): March 23, 2026*,

April 20, 2026, May 18, 2026

* 4th Monday

📅 Plein Air Calendar for Summer 2026 to be announced as we get closer to summer!

📅 **Event Information is also listed on our website:** WWW.LEMONTARTISTSGUILD.ORG

Visit and "Like" our Facebook Page! Look up Lemont Artists Guild

Scrapfest Metal Art Festival in Lansing, Michigan, and online as a featured Veteran Artist with a special commissioned sculpture prominently displayed on the Google search page and installed in their HQ at St. Johns Terminal in New York City. In October of 2018, he had his first experience sharing his art in public at a Chicago Veterans art show and he felt a sense of belonging with the talented veteran artists he met there. Since then, he has found a deep sense of purpose in sharing his journey and inspiring other veterans to find the healing power of art for themselves. As he continues to take the next steps in his journey, he looks forward to finding opportunities to create and share more public art installations. To learn more about him, visit his website at: <http://www.stevekost.com/>

Registration Link:

<https://www.homerlibrary.org/metal2026>

President's Letter:

Hello there! It is great to be moving into March and looking forward to springtime. We will still have cold days, but hopefully we will see some spring bulbs popping out of the ground soon! We enjoyed Hank Erdmann's program in February and he taught us a lot about using our "senses" when taking our photographs. Thank you Hank! I hope you have already registered for our March program with Steve Kost and I am excited to hear about his amazing sculpture artwork! The

registration is full for this program already, but there is a waiting list you can join if you have not registered yet. Speaking of programs, I am excited to announce that the Homer Library will partner with us again for our programs to take place there next year, and we are so thankful to be able to have our programs there. Thank you Homer Library! We are already thinking about planning our next year's (26-27) speakers so if you have an idea for a speaker/program, please let us know. Our email is listed below. As we get closer to the summer months, we will keep you posted on when we will start our "Plein Air" outdoor art meet-ups this summer! Hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

Have a great March, Happy Spring to all!

Sincerely, Liz Connelly

Web: www.lemontartistsguild.org

E-mail: lemontartistsguild@gmail.com

Notes from the Editor: Information for the LAG newsletter should be given to Betty Kirk by the first of the month* (630) 257-0565, bettykirk321@gmail.com

CONGRATS February BACK OF THE HALL Winners:

1st –Betty Burian Kirk, "Felted Waterfall," Fiber
2nd – Nancy Bentley, "Bella In the Woods," Pastel
3rd – Cheryl Ferber, "Fresh Pick," Oil Paint
View the 1st place winner at:
<https://lemontartistsguild.org/back-of-the-hall>

LAG MEMBER NEWS:

LAG Member, Mary Fronczak Grochocinski was accepted into the Colored Pencil Society of America's "Explore This" Online Competition. Her woodcut "Is Anyone Listening? Variation II" is currently being displayed online with the other accepted artists. This is a great honor and we are so happy for Mary! **View her artwork and the online exhibit at:**
<https://cpsa.org/explore-this-22-online-exhibition/>

LAG MEMBER NEWS Continued:

LAG Member, John Giemzik (aka JAGIII) is having some of his art in a group exhibit in March! It is called Quadrivium taking place at Dancing Krow Studio in Oak Park, IL.

Reception: Friday, March 6, 2026-3 pm - 9 pm

Address: 43 Harrison St. in Oak Park, IL. Find out more here at the Facebook Event Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1257654722889681>

Visit the Dancing Krow Studio Website to learn more about their exhibits and gallery

hours: <https://dancingkrowgallery.wixsite.com/dancing-krow-gallery/exhibitions>

LAG Member, Autumn Baranowski, will be in an Art Show with other Resident Artists at Zahav at Berwyn Rehabilitation Center. She will be showing her beautiful paintings at this event!

Date: Sunday, March 22, 2026

Time: 1 pm - 3 pm

Address: Zahav of Berwyn Rehab Center, 3601 S. Harlem Ave, Berwyn, IL

LAG Member, Michael Preski, will be in a two person show at the Bridgeport Art Center in Chicago starting this May! CANVAS, COLOR, & VISION

Duration: May 15 - Jul 3, 2026

Opening Reception: Friday, May 15, 2026, 7 pm to 9 pm

Gallery Hours: Monday — Saturday 8 AM — 6 PM
Sunday 8 AM — 12 PM

Address: 1200 W. 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60609
(Enter on North side off of Racine Ave / 34th Place), Free parking North lot, Find out more at: <https://www.bridgeportart.com/canvas-color-and-vision/>

Saying to Inspire You:

He said, "There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other one is called tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do, and mostly live."

Dalai Lama