

# Hieroglyphs

The Newsletter of **Little Egypt Arts Association**

www.LittleEgyptArts.com    October 2026    618-998-8530



LEAA

Volume 6, Issue 36

leaa601@frontier.com  
www.Facebook.com/  
LittleEgyptArtsAssociation

## From the President's Desk

by Jane Morgan

### From the President's Desk

Have you seen the new front door and new windows at LEAA? All I can say it WOW, that all looks really nice. The first time I walked up to the new door I had to stop in my tracks and just stand there and admire how great that looks and how great the windows look.

As many know by now, during the September board meeting we heard loud noises as the upstairs ceiling was crashing to the floor. We then had to clean up the mess and contact a contractor come and make repairs. Lighting was the most important concern and priority for the board to consider. The large classroom ceiling will be finished this week. It will have plenty of very bright lighting giving the whole classroom a new and more modern, up to date workspace.

Be sure to stop in and see the 16th Annual LEAA Photography Competition. This competition is a regional open invitation that draws talent from the entire Southern Illinois region. It is a marvelous sight to see. This region is rich with talented photographers including our own in-house ALPS group. The ALPS photo group meets the second Thursday 6PM at LEAA. Please contact Kris Killman if you are interested in joining ALPS.

The fall days are getting shorter. Consider stepping out of your comfort zone and take a new class or visit a group that you have been meaning to visit. LEAA has a lot of opportunities to get out of the house and engage your mind as well as meeting new people or reconnecting with old friends.

Jane Morgan  
President LEAA

### MEMBER MEETINGS

ALPS Meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday at 6:00

LEWS meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm & 4th Tuesday at 1:30 pm

Cricut Group meets on the 1st Thursday at 6:00p

Papercraft & Card Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 12:30p

Monthly Board Meetings are on the 3rd Monday at Noon. All members are welcome to attend.

### Board Members

President  
**Jane Morgan**  
Vice President  
**Kris Killman**  
Secretary  
**Christy Motsinger**  
Treasurer  
**Janet Bixler**

Cathy Dudley  
Art Fager  
Linda Hooker  
Jonathan Lake  
Patty Morrison  
Barbara Patchett  
George Stone  
Cindy Taylor  
Vebbie Troutman

Minutes from Board Meetings are available to all members and are located at the art centre.



## **The ALPS Camera Club**

meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM and has monthly presentations everyone is welcome to attend. Kris Killman had a photo accepted into Cedarhurst at this years annual photography competition. Kris will be starting a beginner photography class on Monday Sept. 28th. Ten classes meeting on Monday evenings from 6-8PM Cost: \$120.00 He'll be starting more watercolor classes on October 29th. And will supply the image to trace and give step-by-step guidance on how to create beautiful paintings. Cost \$120.00 for 4-5 classes.

Photo at left by Kris Killman

## **The Cricut Group / Paper Crafts and Cards Group**

Cricut Group has been busy working on lots of activities and preparing for fall. Ryan lead the group in July and we personalized hats and aprons. A much anticipated wood burning tray was taught by Stephanie and Ryan for the August meeting.

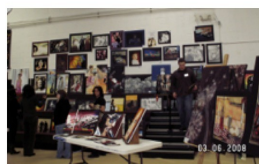
In September Stephanie taught paper sunflowers. We also had a two day class, Decorating Stacked Pumpkins with Cricut. Our guest leader was Michelle Lincoln.



## **Paper Crafts and Cards Group**

In August we made cards and delivered them for Honor Flight and Shirley lead a technique using napkins. Cheryl used paper bags for gifts bags and we made tags for September meeting.

## Standing on others shoulders



....

**Back in the day**, three women were in an upstairs attic painting and discussing the arts situation in Southern Illinois. There was a dream... which came true BTW. A building for sale, a man named Jo, and an offer. Little Egypt Arts Association (1995) as it is now known.

During that time, some artists from Carbondale and other areas were also dreaming about another effort...The Art Trail of Southern Illinois. (Bob Hageman, Richard Lawson, Zettie Shulz, and others)

The State of Illinois had created a rest stop near Whittington — the Illinois State Museum Southern Illinois Art Gallery which opened in 1993 along with the Southern Illinois Artisans Shop and Visitors Center. Priscilla Winkler Gray, Gail Klam and others along with the governor worked to bring this project to our area. (*Alas, during budget cuts, this invaluable center was later closed.*)

**LEAA has come a long way.** However, the arts in Southern Illinois were thriving, even without representation. From pottery created in the soils of Southern Illinois near Anna, to the universities, colleges and local schools. Groups in Carbondale and elsewhere including Fairfield where the Rural Arts Council promoted the arts culture in Wayne, White, Edwards, and Hamilton County. Teachers like Kathy Beletire and Missy Carstens that taught not only children on their own to paint and do colored pencil but also aspiring adults.

So, as you can see, I and others owe a debt to these visionaries. I look back and see **where we came from** and **where we might be going** as an arts organization. Thanks to Mayor Absher and Butler before him, LEAA has been allowed to thrive and continue when many that are listed on the Art Trail are no longer. It began with Jo Loomis and it is entering a new realm thanks to George Stone.

**Along the Way** the group has hosted congressional art shows, the Illinois Arts Council, taught countless children and adults to create art, and had visitors from as far away as Japan. Mary Jo Trimble may have been its first president, but there have been a 'few' since then including Kris Killman, Missy Carstens, yours truly, Betty Jesse, Bonnie Davis, Jane Morgan, and others. These invaluable leaders along with the executive board and the board members have kept LEAA alive and thriving. Kris is now a top muralist in Illinois and beyond. From meeting at the City Hall, various residences, and now - thanks to Jo - a building that has been a fixture on the Square (which Mayor Absher has brought back to its former glory with wonderfully bricked areas and other features) for probably more than a century.

**Entertainment venues** such as the Black Diamond Complex, Walkers Bluff, new wineries and a resurgence in art on the Marion Square and Southern Illinois—The arts in SIL are looking good. The Square is now a destination with its dining establishments, breweries, Civic Center, and our wonderful art centre enhanced by a mural from Kris. Jane, George, etc. continue on this mission.

So, we (LEAA) and I as an artist are standing the shoulders of many. Wonderful artists that continue to delight us such as Marie Samuel, Betty Jesse, Janet Bixler, etc. Writers, photographers, and others... artists such as Ned Trovillion, Richard Lawson, Herb Russell, etc...we stand on your shoulders too because you were the pioneers and more. Congressmen Poshard and Phelps who brought the High School Art Competition to be hosted at LEAA, and Herrinfesta which continues to showcase the arts in Southern Illinois. The Pavilion, the Mall, and countless other places as well as the local schools who called upon LEAA's expertise to judge our students and advocate for their talent...

Marie Samuel, Jeri Palmer, Marlene Webb, Mike Faris, and others - teachers all - who brought their talent and expertise into our history. So-o, so many that we could not have become what we are without their encouragement and expertise.

**Did I forget...**not only the congressional art show, but ALSO the annual high school art show. This show began because it was hard for many deserving students to get into Cedarhurst's annual competition. Now it has become a premier art event for Southern Illinois students.



**That dream in the attic** has become a reality thanks to Jo. George has now taken it a step further—a Foundation, so that long after I am gone I know that what **those above chose** to do will continue to live on.

---

I was looking at the letter from President George Bush (4/21/89) for the Citizens of Williamson County 150th Anniversary. "Williamson County is more than a collection of buildings...it has nurtured the lives and accomplishments of countless individuals... That deep sense of common good, resonates through all cities and towns across America. It is one of our nation's greatest strengths."



Please enjoy this photo montage. LEAA is celebrating a major milestone. Our nation is celebrating its 250th. Everyone at LEAA should honor those shoulders and celebrate that they can learn and create in such a country, but also in an area with a city that appreciates its efforts. Patty M.

\*Art Trail Logo created by Jay Bruce Grafix, Carterville IL



## LEAA's Mural Evolves

2009 Mural (top right)

Before Mural ( middle left )

2026 Updated Mural ( bottom right)



## Past & Present Pics from Patty

Two more past Presidents have been added to the mural. ( above left )

Jeri, Becca and Kris work on refreshing the mural. ( middle and right ) →



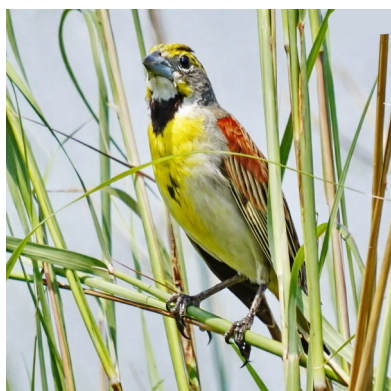
## About Our Members

Beverly Marshall has had three works selected for inclusion in *Seven Years of Regional Artistry* at Southeastern Illinois College's Ella Elizabeth Hise Museum. The exhibition will be on display from September 14 through December 4, 2026, with a closing reception scheduled for 6 p.m. on December 4.

Drawings from *top left*: The Knowing. *bottom left*: Addiction: A Human Condition, *right*: Shattered Chains



Several of our members are also showing at Ella Elizabeth Hise Museum until December 4th reception. But they are too shy to share! Jonty Kasku-Jackson recently had a show at Mooneyham Art in Alton, Illinois. Jonty and Stephen Scordias were both featured in the Go Guide Arts section.



Here' an image George Stone took at the Refuge of a bird that one doesn't see very often, a Dickcissel.

George often wonders why it doesn't start with Bill, Jim, or John!

You may have noticed that the newsletter was a bit lighter this quarter, and I apologize for that. One would think that cell phones, computers, and social media would make communication easier for all of us, but it certainly doesn't feel that way on my end. I didn't receive many submissions for this issue, so I chose to include only the new items that were sent rather than reprinting older news. P3



Illinois  
**ARTS**  
Council

**Little Egypt Arts 601 Tower Square Marion IL**

[www.LittleEgyptArts.com](http://www.LittleEgyptArts.com)



[www.facebook.com/LittleEgyptArtsAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/LittleEgyptArtsAssociation)