

Happy Spring!!



Tulips, Keukenhof Gardens, Netherlands
Jody Bennett

Click on photo for more images!

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Monday April 20

- **In Person Meeting**
Randy Sweitzer, mixed media demo
Location: State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake; 7 pm
- **LCAL Officer Elections:** Slate of officers for board elections will be presented

Wednesday May 13

Spring Membership Show Critique

See page 6.

Deadline: April 21

We are still looking for members' submissions

Location: Lake Villa Library

Monday June 15

Demo and Picnic

Program and location to be announced

Monday, September 21

In Person Meeting

Location: State Bank of Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

Monday October 19

In Person Meeting

Location: State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

November

Fall Membership show and critique

To be announced

LCAL Member Meeting, April 20; In-Person

At State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake, 7 pm

Demo of Mixed Media Techniques; Randy Sweitzer



My name is **Randy Sweitzer**, and I am new to the Lake County Art League. I will be sharing a demonstration that I learned from the **famed illustrator, CF Payne**.

CF Payne is a regular visiting artist with Visual Arts Passage, an on-line illustration and fine arts program that I highly recommend. Payne developed this technique as a way to address increasingly tight editorial illustration deadlines, allowing rich, full-color rendering while preserving his drawing.

Starting with a Prismacolor pencil drawing, with well-developed values, which is sealed with a thin, brayered application of acrylic paint and clear gesso, creating unified shadows and mood. The clear gesso provides a tooth for color pencil rendering, focusing on the lighter areas.

We teach **the CF Payne Technique** to our students as one of our go-to mixed media approaches in our 2D Art + Creativity, Drawing + Painting I + II, and AP Art classes. The technique can lead directly to the final, or be a jumping off point for further, more experimental approaches.

Growing up, I only ever wanted to be two things: an illustrator and a teacher. I feel so incredibly fortunate in that I have been both; 25 years as an illustrator, and 13, so far, as a visual art teacher at Grayslake North High School.

I absolutely love encouraging and supporting creativity in my students. It's been an amazingly focused endeavor. While I honestly never dreamed of being a fine artist, it now feels like the natural progression of my journey as an artist. I want to honor this leg with the same intentionality as the previous, allowing me to continue to model and trumpet the merits of choosing creativity, freedom, and meaning in life to my students and others.



EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS, April 2026

Each year the art league holds their elections at the April in-person meeting. To prepare for the election a member is asked to serve as nominating committee chair at the January executive board meeting. Several members will be needed to assist the chair with finding candidates to fill the open positions.

New officers start their term on July 1; each position serves one year. The president is the only position that can not serve more than two consecutive terms.

This year the positions of president, vice president, treasurer and corresponding secretary will need to be filled. Ali Albraki has agreed to be the nominating chair and will need several other members to assist him in finding those candidates.

Please contact him if you would like to assist him: nyika1940@gmail.com or 224-381-0321.

Our organization has survived for over 90 years and has seen many executive board members. Please consider the opportunity to volunteer to keep our organization strong by becoming a candidate for this year's election.

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

PRESIDENT: one-year term; can serve two consecutive terms

- Preside at all in-person meetings
- Secure the community room at the State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake in October for the following year
- Create monthly meetings as needed to meet with the executive board and directors. Present an agenda for the meetings and run the board meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order
- Perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may assign
- With the approval of the directors, recruit a member to take on a once-a-year job, project, or liaison with another organization
- Appoint a chair for the nominating committee once a year at the January board meeting
- Sign all documents that pertain to the taxes that are filed for LCAL organization



EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS, cont.

VICE PRESIDENT: one-year term

- In the absence of the president, preside at all meetings of the League and its Board of Directors meetings
- Perform all duties that regularly pertain to the office and perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may assign
- Attend Zoom board meetings that are scheduled, but attendance is not mandatory

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

- Send out monthly notices via email to distribute the Sketches publication
- Send out via email notices to collect information for Sketches
- Send out any special notices for shows or events
- Help edit "Sketches" for publication
- Attend Zoom board meetings that are scheduled, but attendance is not mandatory

TREASURER

- Deposit dues or other monies
- Reimburse any expenses incurred from members who purchased authorized items
- Issue payments to demonstrators
- File, in a timely manner, all necessary papers(s) with the State and/or Federal Government to maintain the Lake County Art League as a not-for-profit organization
- Create a monthly budget and spending report for the board
- Present a yearly budget report for the membership
- Maintain accurate books for the art league to audit once a year
- Monitor bank accounts
- Attend Zoom board meetings that are scheduled, but attendance is not mandatory



It's Time Again for LCAL's SPRING MEMBERSHIP SHOW!

Theme: "Art Tells a Story"

Location: Lake Villa Library, 140 N. Munn Rd., Lindenhurst, IL

Show Entry: Please complete the [show entry form](#) by **April 21**.

Art Drop Off: Mon., May 4, 3-7 pm and Tues., May 5, 10 am-2 pm

Critique: Wed., May 13, 6-8 pm

Art Pick Up: Mon., June 22, 3-7 pm and Tues., June 23, 10 am-2 pm

Volunteers Needed!

We can use some extra hands to help at the show; if you would like to volunteer, please contact Deb Edmunds; edmundsd1@gmail.com



Main Street Art Gallery

- New **Gouache Class** with Maria Galvan Herrera
 - 3 classes for beginners; April 19, May 3, June 14; 10 am - 2:30 pm, Sundays; \$200.
 - Advanced class; April 18, May 2, June 13, 1-4 pm, Saturdays; \$150.
- **Gallery Opening** for "Not Your Average Pet"; Apr 17-30
 - Reception: Fri. Apr. 17, 5:30-8 pm.
 - We hope you can see this very Fun & Creative Approach of Painting Animals!



- **Location:** [Mainstreet Art Center](#), 20 E. Main, Lake Zurich, IL; 847-550-0016
- **Questions?** Contact artists@mainstreetartcenter.com

Creative Coffee: Sip, Swap or Shop

The Antioch Fine Arts League (AFAL) invites LCAL members to join their monthly Creative Coffee every 3rd Wed. of the month, 9:30-11:30 am. Bring what you are working on and wish to "show and tell" (optional). Coffee and treats are provided by AFAL but donations are gratefully accepted. Bring your unused art supplies that you'd like to get rid of; to be swapped or shopped (\$10 or less). Mark your item.

Location: Antioch Fine Arts Gallery, 896 Main Street, Antioch, IL.



Library Lobby Art Display Opportunities

The Lake Villa Library is seeking local artists to show their artwork in the **Featured Artist Exhibit space**. Exhibit your 2D works in the library lobby for 2-month time periods.

Group shows or solo art exhibits are welcome. Interested?, contact us at 847-356-7711.

We Are Looking for Places to Hang Our Art!

The art league is looking for other areas around Lake County where our members can display their art. If you know of a place that would allow our group to hang art, please email us at lakecoartleague@gmail.com.

Recap of Demo at the LCAL March Member Meeting

Bob Burrige's Approach to Creating People in His Paintings With Acrylics



Zooming gives our members an easy opportunity to watch a live art lesson right from their home and see artists from all over the country.

Bob Burrige, a well-known California YouTube artist was the guest artist for our March meeting.

His technique, which he calls his "carrot people," simplifies the rendition of human figures. Just a few brush strokes creates various shapes that represent the figures. This technique can also be used in various ways to bring life to a simple scene.

See Bob's [Demo](#) here.

Visit Bob [online](#) to see his collection of videos.





Plein Air

Once we are again able to go outside to plein air, we will start our 2026 season with up to a dozen locations and meetings. If you have any suggestions about plein air locations or times, please contact Deb Edmunds, Plein Air Director at edmundsdl@gmail.com.

Socializing! Sketching! Or just Sharing! (S-SOS)

This plein air group meets at various locations when the weather turns colder. Meetings are also open to artists outside of our LCAL membership.

Each month, depending on availability, organizers and weather, we meet for coffee and participants can bring either something you've been working on to be critiqued, or sketching tools to capture the local scene. Or just bring yourself for fun discussions and socializing!

Look for future announcements from LCAL in your email.

S-SOS Event in March

On Saturday afternoon, March 21, 14 artists met at Hansa Coffee Roasters in Libertyville.

With the warm weather that day, members and non-members alike enjoyed the refreshments and the warm afternoon breeze that came in through the open garage doors at Hansa's. Artists shared ideas, supplies and interesting conversations.

Maureen Fisher Rivkin and Deb Edmunds coordinated the event.

Did you miss this one? Well, there will be more, so watch your email or our Facebook Members group for future dates and times.

Would you like to help organize a gathering? Contact Deb or Maureen at lakecoartleague@gmail.com and put in the subject line, "s-sos organizer."



Scholarships for CLC Student Artists; Awarded April 16, 2026

You Are Invited!

The Phoebe Boyd and LCAL annual, \$500 education scholarships will be awarded on Thurs., April 16, 2026, to College of Lake County (CLC) art students at the **45th Annual CLC Student Art Competition** reception.

All Lake County Art League members and their families and friends are invited to the reception.

You are also encouraged to stop in and view the work of these creative students. Displayed art will have been created as part of the student's art class assignments during the 2025 and 2026 semesters. Your presence will provide support for the mission of our league to promote the visual arts in Lake County.

- **Reception:** April 16, 5-7 pm; Awards presented at 6 pm
- **Art Show:** April 16 to May 7
- **Location:** Robert T Wright Gallery on the Grayslake Campus of CLC
- **Visitor parking:** Main entrance of CLC and any student lot.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The Washington Ave. entrance to CLC is closed for the month of April. Use the Brae Loch Rd. entrance. Turn on Brae Loch Rd. going West from Hwy 45, or going East from Atkinson Rd.
- [Additional gallery information](#)

Scholarship Information: These scholarships are awarded based on student art juried into the student show. Student recipients are selected by our LCAL Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship Funding: The Phoebe Boyd award is funded by the Boyd family in honor and remembrance of Phoebe Boyd, a longtime member of LCAL, and the LCAL Scholarship is funded by our league.

The Scholarship Selection Committee for 2026: LCAL members, Jeff Harold, Sandy Saxton, and Tom Asma.

Questions? Please contact Val Brandner, Scholarship Director at isketchit@yahoo.com.



Robert T Wright Gallery, CLC

Clarese Ornstein

Reminder; I will be moving to Trinity, FL in May. You can contact me at iteachkeec@me.com

Aruna Sarode:

Guest Speaker Event at Friends of Western Art Club, Tucson, AZ

I was invited by the [Friends of Western Art](#) group to speak at their First Tues. art speaker event on March 3 in Tucson, AZ (also see their [YouTube page](#)).

Here is a link to the [recorded talk](#) and the [corresponding article](#).

Questions? Contact me at arunanitin@gmail.com



Cassandra Anzelone

Wellness Through Arts Workshop

The Art Center Highland Park, 1957 Sheridan Rd, Highland Park, IL 60035

Join Art Impact Project at The Art Center Highland Park on the last Wednesday of every month for our wellness art programming. We complete a different project each month to help spark creativity, self-reflection and self-care. Registration is free and all supplies are provided. No experience is required. Register via The Art Center Highland Park's events calendar: <https://theartcenterhp.org>.

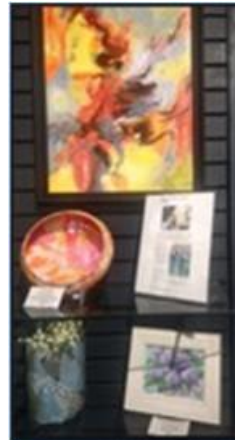
Questions? Contact me at cassandra@artimpactproject.org



Sandra Saxton

I was chosen "Featured Artist" for the month of April at the Antioch Fine Arts Foundation in Antioch, IL. I'm also giving a painting demonstration on April 11, prior to Antioch Fine Arts reception, the same day at 1-2 pm. All art is for sale.

Questions? Contact me at saxton.songbirdstudio@gmail.com



Phil Schorn

Upcoming Shows

- I will be in Franklin, TN, April 25 and 26 for their Main Street Art Fair.
- I will be exhibiting in the Deer Park Art Festival, Deer Park, IL, May 2-3.

The rendering of mine (right) is being used for the marketing promotions for this show.

Questions? Contact me at phil@pschornstudio.com





A Happy Accident/Mystery Photo Leads to Unintended Collaboration

When my artist wife, Maureen, and I collaborate, it is usually spontaneous and playful; she'll see one of my images and — trying to outdo her photographer husband — make some edits of her own. I stay clear of her fiber art or watercolor, but I will play around with one of her photos, just for fun, trying to make it what I consider “better.”

But the other day, something different happened. All by itself. By accident. A very nice shot of the bucolic coastline of Point Lobos in Big Sur, with rugged cliffs, churning waves of the Pacific Ocean and twisted cypress trees, popped up on my iPhone. It was among a series of images in a slide show that the phone automatically pulls out of your library.

Assuming it was one of mine that I had lost track of, I made some edits, and — liking the final product — scheduled it for posting on social media and to offer on my website. But the more I worked on the image, the louder a little voice in the back of my head whispered that the image didn't look familiar. A bit of research revealed that it was taken last February, when, according to my calendar and my sometimes-spotty memory, I was no where near Point Lobos.

Checking further, the image's meta data said it was made by an iPhone X, which was also strange seeing as, at the time, I wasn't making fine art images with my iPhone. I was using a mirrorless, full frame Sony A7r2.

I mentioned all this to Maureen. After searching her own memory, she recalled the image was probably made when she, her brother and sister had hiked Point Lobos during a family visit there. She had sent it to me, she recalled, for my take on her work. And I, of course, forgot about it until it appeared in that slide show.

I like my edited version of Maureen's image much more than the original she made. There's more depth to the light and the colors seem to pop with more authority. It's just a better version, I think.

But don't mention that to her!



"Point Lobos 2025"

[Ernest J. Schweit](#) is a long-time member of LCAL, and is a writer and award-winning landscape photographer.

Read his [blog](#).

Questions or Suggestions? Contact me at ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net



Welcome LCAL NEW MEMBER!

- **Liza Johnson**; mixed/assemblage; Liza.lt.johnson@gmail.com
- **Kirsten Carlson**; oil, watercolor, acrylic, mixed-media collage, mono prints
- **Randy Sweitzer**; watercolor, acrylic, pastels, pencil, charcoal, photography, gouache; sweitzer.randy@gmail.com
- **Markus Clavadetscher**; oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastels, pencil, charcoal, photography, textile; Markus524@comcast.net
- **Jared Verdejo**; acrylic, charcoal, photography, mixed-media collages, graphic design, digital illustration, ink and spray paint; jared@verdejostudio.com

We Are Always Looking for New Members!

Tell your family and friends about LCAL! Invite them to attend one of our member meetings and demos. Refer them to our [website](#) for meeting information, upcoming events, and more!

Questions? Contact Deb Edmunds at edmundsdl@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Volunteers Needed and Appreciated!

Keep the LCAL healthy and the art community growing for another 90 years!

Our league benefits tremendously from the skills and talents of *all* members. Please seriously consider helping our board in any of the league's positions (listed on page 17). Find the description of volunteer positions in our by-laws at [our website](#) under "about."

- **Workshops and Shows:** The Workshops leader helps with organizing, checking in art, refreshment set-up and clean-up, runners to help bring art to critique artists, and hanging art (sometimes).
- **Hospitality Support:** These volunteers bring refreshments and snacks to our in-person member meetings. Contact hospitality director, Fran Isaacs, to sign up for 2026 meetings (fmisaac@aol.com).
- **Other open LCAL board positions:** see the note at the bottom of page 17.

Questions about open positions: Clarese Ornstein at iteachkeec@me.com or a board member.

Member of the Month!

Would you like to be featured as a LCAL Member of the Month? Just send us a bio, a photo of you (headshot is preferred), and any contact info you'd like to share (website, Facebook page, email, etc.) Send to: lakecoartleague@gmail.com

What Is Our Mission?

In our 91st year, the LCAL continues to grow, change and strive to advance our mission.

What is our mission you ask? Let's start with the definition of "mission" in Webster's Dictionary:

"Mission": A specific task with which a person or a group is charged;

A pre established and often self-imposed objective or purpose.

LCAL's mission, according to our by-laws and constitution: "The purpose of this League is to create more interest in art in Lake County in the State of Illinois and to develop a higher appreciation of visual art. It shall do this through art exhibitions, festivals, demonstrations of art techniques, lectures, critiques and sharing of ideas, inspiration and encouragement between members."

How does the LCAL promote our mission? Throughout the history of the art league, depending on the circumstances, we have continued to promote these ideas and offer members various ways to promote our mission.

- We offer free shows/exhibitions twice a year at various venues.
- We conduct educational demonstrations through Zoom and in-person sessions.
- We provide opportunities to share ideas, to inspire and to encourage all levels of artists. For example:
 - Our plein air group met 14 times this year and will continue to meet during winter months at various venues so that artists can share, sketch or just socialize.
 - The two membership shows in the spring and the fall offer critiques of artists' work to help guide artists to new levels.

How does the LCAL accomplish our mission? We do it through participation from members in our shows, demonstrations, and mostly through volunteering. The LCAL would not be what it is today without the dedicated and devoted work of our members who have volunteered to help out in various board and director positions.

Last summer we participated in the Dandelion Wine Festival and the previous two years, in the Mundelein Market days promoting the art league.

Deb Edmunds
LCAL President

Questions? Contact Deb at Edmundsdl@gmail.com.

Are You a Facebook User?



Check out the [LCAL Facebook Group](#)! This group is only for current LCAL members. You are not required to join or use the group, but we encourage you to do so.

Advantages of Joining Our Group: It is a hub for communications where you can get the most recent news and information about LCAL, our events, shows, and anything else that pertains to the LCAL.

To join, search for “Lake County Art League Members Group” in Facebook, or click on the link above, and request to join.

Questions? Contact one of our FB Group administrators:

Deb Edmunds at edmundsdl@gmail.com or Louise Villegas at lou999@comcast.net

Enjoy Our Digital Library

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

Our library is accessible on the LCAL website. It covers many different art topics organized under 9 different categories.

Many references link to video presentations accessed from various streaming services. *(NOTE: links are updated 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 websites. That way, it will become a true reflection of the LCAL, and it will accomplish our mission to promote art in Lake County.

Questions? Contact Denese Manley at denesemanley@gmail.com



YouTube

We have thousands of subscribers from about 30 countries to our [LCAL YouTube](#) channel!



LCAL Website: Advertise Your Shows!

Anyone who will have an upcoming solo show and would like to advertise on our website, please email lakecoartleague@gmail.com.

LCAL Meetings, Board Members and Directors

The Lake County Art League Year:

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

Jan., Feb., sometimes March	Virtual
Sept., Oct., Jan. through June	Presentations, usually a demonstration
May, Nov.	Closing critiques for membership shows
Dec.	Holiday break

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

Elected Officers	Name	email
President	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Vice President	Clarese Ornstein	iteachkeec@me.com
Recording Secretary	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary (temporary)	Mary Neely	mmbn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com

Directors *	Name	email
Historian	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
Membership	Louise Villegas	lou999@comcast.net
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
On the Wall	Clarese Ornstein	iteachkeec@me.com
	Ernest Schweit	ernestschweit@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
Programs	Maureen Fisher Rivken	mfisherrivkin@gmail.com
	Ernie Schweit	ernestschweit@sbcglobal.net
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Newsletters	Jody Bennett	jorbenn1@yahoo.com
Workshops	Clarese Ornstein	iteachkeec@me.com
Virtual Library	Denese Manley	denesemanley@gmail.com
Connection to the Greater Art Community		
Social Media	Deb Edmunds Louise Villegas	edmundsdl@gmail.com lou999@comcast.net
Website	Phil Schorn Deb Edmunds	phil@pschornstudio.com edmundsdl@gmail.com
Plein Air	Deb Edmunds Chris Tanner Maureen Fisher Rivken	edmundsdl@gmail.com chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net mfisherrivkin@gmail.com
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com

lakecoartleague@gmail.com

* Open Positions

The following positions are currently open to any member who would like to volunteer:

Corresponding Secretary, Workshops, Publicity, Art Festivals, and Tours

Find descriptions of volunteer positions in our by-laws at [our website](#) under "about."