

LCAL Fall Membership Show, Volo Bog

1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners



1st, Clarese Ornstein
"Liam the Old Irish Goat"



2nd, Russell Kraly*
"Winter Bird"



3rd, Marina Rawlings
"Hedgegrow Cloudscape #1"

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Upcoming Events

Event	Dates
LCAL Member Meeting: "Hands on with Sandra! "	Nov. 20

About the Lake County Art League (LCAL)

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.

Deb Edmunds

LCAL President

Questions? Contact Deb at Edmundsdl@gmail.com.



Hands on with Sandra!

In-Person Member Meeting: THURSDAY, Nov. 20,

6-9pm, State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake.

Doors open at 5:45pm!

- Celebrate the holidays with a demo and a hands-on experience with artist and member, Sandra Saxton, who will give a 30-minute demonstration on **"How to Start an Abstract Painting."**
- Members will be provided with various materials, an 8x10 canvas and guidance from Sandra.
- Sandra will give you tools to make abstract painting fun! Learn how to:
Loosen up and let go of perfection; embrace play and approach artwork with energy, clarity and confidence; mix color and create unexpected texture and accidental marks you will love, and express your art with FREEDOM!

Materials

- An 8" x 10" canvas and some materials will be provided to each participant.
- **Please bring a few items you would like to share, for example:** magazines that can be cut apart, gelli prints, tissue paper, tubes of primary color acrylic paints, oil pastels, markers, crayons, gel mediums, mod podge, flat brushes of various sizes, scissors, disposable plastic lid or plate.
 - We will all share these materials to create an abstract, so please mark your supplies so you can identify them when we clean up after the event.
 - You may want to dress in clothing for painting or bring an apron to put on. The art league will provide plastic table clothes and disposable gloves.
 - All participants will be responsible for cleaning up their area. No paint can be on the floors, chairs or tables.

Refreshments: We will provide **pizza and refreshments** to celebrate the start of the holiday season. Anyone wanting to bring a side dish (veggies or fruits) to go with the pizza, please do.

- We still need two more volunteers to help with refreshments. If you would like to volunteer, please email Fran Isaac at Fmisaac@aol.com or call at 847-309-9753.

Don't miss this fun evening and our last in person meeting for the year!

REMEMBER TO RSVP! If you plan to, email: lakecoartleague@gmail.com with the words, "I want to create an abstract with Sandra," in the subject line.

Can't attend? The LCAL wishes everyone a safe and cheerful holiday season. Your continued support of our organization enables us to bring members educational demos, two "free entry shows" per year, over a dozen Plein air events and get-togethers throughout the year.

Thank you for being a member!



Library Lobby Art Display Opportunities

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

Group shows or solo art exhibits are welcome. If you would like to be considered for an exhibit, contact us at 847-356-7711.

Questions? Email to lakecoartleague@gmail.com.

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 the LCAL at lakecoartleague@gmail.com.



Excellence Award
Mary Neely

Oct. Meeting: Frames, Mats, and Glass

At our Oct. LCAL meeting, members got to hear about the various types of framing that the Perkowitz Art Studio provides. Owners Christine Oleson and Tom Perkowitz discussed a number ways to use mats and frames to enhance your artwork. One of the ways artists can finish their work off is with a floating frame. Canvases fit into these with fasteners and give your art a finished look for as little as \$2 a linear foot. They also talked about the creative mats that they can make with their computerized mat cutter.

We want to thank all the volunteers and those who donated refreshments and snacks. Diane Philyaw brought a homemade pineapple upside down cake that was delicious and that disappeared!

Four members brought artwork to compete in the monthly completion, so we only gave out one **"Excellence Award."** Mary Neely was picked for her abstract photo that was printed on canvas (see image to the left).





Plein Air Has Come to a Close..... or Has It?

Last year I managed to meet members on several occasions throughout the winter months with my S-SOS group, which stands for Socializing! Sketching Or just Sharing!

This year, our Plein air group will be meeting at some new locations and will open these meetings up to artists outside of our membership.

Each month, depending on availability, organizers and weather, we will create an event where we can meet for coffee and you 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 announcements in your future emails from LCAL.

Questions? Contact Deb Edmunds, LCAL President and Plein Air Director, at Edmundsdl@gmail.com. Also visit Deb's Facebook pages: [personal](#) and [artist](#)

Mary Neely

The Undercroft Gallery will be hosting an afternoon **reception for Mary Neely**. The gallery has several of my abstracts on display, complemented by some pieces painted by artist Monajphifferx.

When: Thur., Nov. 13, 3-5pm.

Where: The Undercroft Gallery is below Christ Church, 410 Grand Ave, Waukegan, IL 60085.

Questions: Contact Mary at mmbn@yahoo.com

Multiple Members: "Lure of the Local IV"

Several LCAL artists (listed below) have their work in the in the Mundelein Art Commission's "LURE OF THE LOCAL IV" annual art exhibit, **Oct 17-Nov 16**. The theme is "Portals."



"Fans of Music"
oils

- **Aruna Sarode:** 3 paintings. **Questions?** Contact Aruna at arunans@hotmail.com
- **Oliver Steven Marriam:** 7 paintings. Oliver is a past-president of LCAL.. His entry, "Fans of Music" is shown on the left. **Questions?** Contact Oliver at omerriam@yahoo.com.
- **Ernest Schweit:** 3 fine art images. Ernest also photographed the event for the sponsors. His entry, "Alum" is shown on the left. He does event photography and portraiture as well as fine art photography.

Exhibit times: Open to the public all Saturdays and Sundays, 11am-5pm.

Location: 175 N Archer Ave, Mundelein.

Questions? Contact Aruna at arunans@hotmail.com



"Alum"
Photograph



Three scenes from Lure of the Local IV.
Photos courtesy of Ernest Schweit.



"Things Are Looking Up"
36" X 48"



"Meditation"
30" X 40"



"Life and Soul"
24" X 36"

Sandra Saxton

I am exhibiting 3 abstracts (shown here) at the "Large Works" invitational exhibit at the Antioch Art Center, from Oct. 29 through Nov. 16. All pieces are mixed media: acrylic, oil, paper collage, oil pencils and crayons.

Please visit! This should be a very interesting exhibit!

Location: 896 Main Street, Antioch IL 60002

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



"Reaching"



Tiffani

Tiffani Williams

Exhibiting in "Pastels Chicago 2025"

My pastel painting "Reaching" has been accepted into the 10th Biennial National Juried Exhibition, Pastels Chicago 2025, presented by the [Chicago Pastel Painters Society](http://ChicagoPastelPaintersSociety.org).

This prestigious exhibition showcases outstanding works in pastel from artists across the country. The judge of awards is renowned pastelist, Terri Ford of California.

When: Oct. 31-Dec. 6

Where: The Art Center Highland Park, 1957 Sheridan Rd., Highland Park

Reception, Awards Ceremony: Fri., Nov. 7, 5:30 – 8pm.

Gallery walk with the judge: 4pm.

I am a proud member of: Pastel Society of America, Chicago Pastel Painters Society, LCAL, Antioch Fine Arts Foundation. View my work at my [website](http://twillpaints.com).

Questions? Contact Tiffani at twillpaints@gmail.com.



"Signal of Spring"
Oil; 8"x8"

Aruna Sarode

I am happy to share that my painting "Signal of Spring" won Honorable mention and was sold at the Art of the Land art show to benefit the Land Conservancy of McHenry County, in Oct. at the Starline Factory in Harvard, IL.

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



Juried Exhibition at Mainstreet Gallery, Lake Zurich

["Nature's Palette: Still life and Gardens"](#) was a juried exhibition in Oct.

Several LCAL members participated in this show.

1st, 2nd, 3rd places, and 2 honorable mentions were awarded. See Aruna Sarode's post, below.



"Orange in Light"
Oil
8"x10"

Aruna Sarode

My painting 'Orange in Light' won 2nd prize at the Nature's Palette, a still-life and garden juried art show. The judge's comments said "Exquisite realism, glowing light and refined elegance. A jewel-like still life with masterful control. Precision of light and reflection elevates this piece."

Questions? Contact Aruna at arunans@hotmail.com.



Welcome LCAL NEW MEMBERS!

Lisa Closterides - Watercolor

Rich and Lily Frontjes - Poetry

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 Membership Director, Louise Villegas at lou999@comcast.net.

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

- **Corresponding Secretary:** We are looking for an addition to the executive board. Do you have computer emailing skills and have several hours a month to help send out information to the membership? This position would take someone who can notify the membership of upcoming events and monthly newsletter distribution. **Contact** Deb Edmunds, president, at edmundsdl@gmail.com to inquire about this position.
- **Workshops and Shows:** We need a leader to take over Workshops and volunteers to help 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:** We need volunteers to bring refreshments and snacks to our in-person member meetings. Contact hospitality director, Fran Isaacs, to sign up for the Oct./Nov. 2025 meeting or any future meetings in 2026 (fmisaac@aol.com).
- **Other open LCAL board positions:** see the note at the bottom of page 14.

Questions about workshops, shows, and open LCAL board positions: Contact Clarese Ornstein at socoro@comcast.net). Or, contact a board member, directly.



"Lily Pond"

Just Keep Looking!

Physical limits might change the approach, but you can still find beauty anywhere.

I had spinal surgery June 13 and to say that it hasn't impacted my photography practice would be an understatement. Full recovery could take 4 to 6 months or longer. As a result, my long, early-morning hikes searching for compositions, and carrying heavy equipment is, for now, out of the question.

But wandering through the natural world in search of beauty is what keeps me sane, so as I slowly return to the field, I've had to adapt by making some basic changes in how I work. In the process, I have relearned a valuable lesson: beauty can be found anywhere and under any circumstances; you just need to look for it.

Staying Close

I tried out some of those changes recently at my favorite spot in Independence Grove—North Pond. I love how the shoreline curves around the waters as it kisses the lake. Tall yellow and green grasses line the shore. In early fall, lily pads float quietly on the water, interrupted by white-grey rocks and distant trees that turn fire red, amber and blazing orange.

North Pond is only a few yards from a parking lot, which is a real plus for my healing back when carrying my camera gear. While the short walk is appreciated, on this visit, I missed my longer walks; they help connect me to the spirituality of the landscape so important to my work.

North Pond also features picnic tables close to the shoreline so I can spread my gear out on the table.

Packing Light

I'm learning to pack lighter, which usually means one camera body, two lenses, cards and batteries; the bare minimum to do my work. I leave the rest in the car.

I usually pack two zoom lenses (24-70 mm and 70-200 mm), which give me the most creative flexibility. In the car is an ultra wide 16-35 mm, along with ND filters, a polarizing filter and cable releases.

(Continued on next page.)



Just Keep Looking, cont.

Get Some Wheels

A few years ago, I saw a photographer carry his gear in a wagon. I resurrected that idea using a collapsable, cloth wagon. It worked well on paved or graveled trails; less well on off trail paths and steep grades. Still, the extra effort is a good trade off for saving my back.

Think Small, Explore Big

The final change is probably a good one. I now spend more time exploring smaller areas. Gone are the long walks down twisty trails, rapidly finding compositions. Now I find a spot, set up the tripod, explore the spaces' natural elements, their potential placements in the frame, find the best angle, and make a few test frames with the iPhone before deciding on the best one or two for my final shots.

These changes have reinforced to me that beauty can be found anywhere—you just need to look for it!

Find more details at
my [blog post](#)

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

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

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 edmundsdl@gmail.com or Louise Villegas lou999@comcast.net



Online Suggestion Box

If you have any suggestions, feedback, ideas, etc., that you would like to share with the LCAL board, please use our COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS online form.

We hope you will share with us! The regular suggestion box will still be available at our in-person member meetings.

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 deneseamanley@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	socoro@comcast.net
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
	Bobbi Swisher	bobbi_swisher@outlook.com
On the Wall	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Clarese Ornstein	socoro@comcast.net
	Ernest Schweit	ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Programs	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Maureen Fisher Rivken	mfisherrivkin@gmail.com
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Newsletters	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
	Jody Bennett	jorbenn1@yahoo.com
Workshops	Clarese Ornstein	socoro@comcast.net
Virtual Library	Denese Manley	denesemanley@gmail.com
Connection to the Greater Art Community		
Social Media	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
	Louise Villegas	lou999@comcast.net
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Plein Air	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Ernie Schweit	ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net
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."