



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

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# Sketches

Official Newsletter of  
Your Lake County Art League

May 2025

## Inside This Issue

Spring Member Show

Pg 1

Event Recaps

Pg 2-4

Upcoming Events

Pg 5-6

Membership  
Opportunities

Pg 7

LCAL Members

Pg 8

Art Notes by E Schweit

Pg 9-10

FB/Digital Library/  
YouTube/Website

Pg 11

Meetings/Board Members

Pg 12



## LCAL Spring Membership Show! May 1-May 17

**Where:** Waukegan History Museum inside the newly remodeled Carnegie Library, 1 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan.

**Entrance Fees:** No fee for all LCAL members and guests on the day of the critique, Sat. May 17.

General admission fees before the critique:

- Adults: \$6 (residents), \$10 (non-residents\*)
- Seniors (60+), Military, Veterans, Students, Youths (6-18 yrs): \$3 (residents), \$6 (non-residents\*)
- Children under 6 yrs and Historical Society Members: free

\*Non-resident: Non-Waukegan Park District tax-paying resident. Some areas are Waukegan Park District tax-payers.

**Questions?** Contact Fran Isaac at [fmisaac@aol.com](mailto:fmisaac@aol.com)

## Critique, Continental Breakfast, and Close of Spring Show: Sat., May 17, 9:30 am – 12 pm

- Doors open at 9:30 am
- Continental breakfast starts at 10 am

**Critique:** by [Tom Henrichsen](#), award-winning artist from Woodstock, IL. He finds inspiration in his Midwest surroundings, enhanced by his travels across the country, painting plein air. Tom has been showing his art for over 20 years and is represented by numerous galleries. He is well-known internationally and has sold his works in Canada, Europe and the US. He is affiliated with Main Street Gallery, Lake Zurich.

### Recap of LCAL April Member Meeting & Demo

The demonstrator for the April member meeting, **Carol Fink Sackowsky**, gave a very good in-depth lesson on watercolor painting.

Members were able to watch the demonstration with the help of Jeff Harold. Jeff set up his video equipment so that the group could watch Carol paint and view on a large TV screen. Thanks, Jeff for helping out!



Carol Fink Sackowsky

Prior to the demo, we held our **LCAL elections**.

- Mary Neely presented the slate of officers: President, Deb Edmunds; Vice President, Claresse Ornstein; Treasurer, Elizabeth Engle; Corresponding Secretary, Erin Galbraith, and Recording Secretary, Jack Littlefield. The vote was unanimous (no nays) to continue this slate of officers. Congratulations to all those who were elected for another year!
- Since the president can only serve 2 years in a row, **we are looking for a leader to replace the president position in the 2026/27 term**. Anyone interested in running for this position please contact Deb Edmunds at [edmundsdl@gmail.com](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com).

### Congratulations to the winners of our Excellence Awards!



Deb Edmunds



Fran Isaac



Sandra Saxton

### Raffle

A raffle prize was won by Bobbi Swisher.



### 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried CLC Student Art Competition

Each year the LCAL offers a **\$500 scholarship** to each of 2 College of Lake County (CLC) students whose work is accepted by jury into the [Robert T Wright Gallery](#) spring art show.

- One scholarship is funded by the LCAL.
- The other by the Phoebe Boyd family. Phoebe was a long-time LCAL member.

At this student show that took place in April, the awards selection committee (LCAL members Oliver Merriam, Mary Neely, and Roger Shule) presented the following awards:

- Phoebe Boyd Scholarship of \$500 to Jiaya Yang
- LCAL Scholarship of \$500 to Rika Reidy
- A \$50 award to Sadie Saller.

CLC awarded a Margaret Salem Purchase Award to LCAL member Linda Rodriguez.

In addition to the awards, these students each receive free membership to our Art League for the 2025/2026 year.

**Questions?** Contact:

Val Brandner at 847-445-2788; [isketchit@yahoo.com](mailto:isketchit@yahoo.com); or

### Winning Artwork



Phoebe Boyd Scholarship  
**Jiayi Yang**  
"Hallway Sketch"  
Charcoal



LCAL Scholarship  
**Rika Reidy**  
"Postara/Mabon"  
Mixed medium sculpture



\$50 award  
**Sadie Saller**  
"Through the Looking Glass"  
Mixed media



Margaret Salem Purchase Award  
**Linda Rodriguez**  
"Winter Sunrise"  
Oil

### Plein Air Event, Sun., April 27 at Lake Charles Park

The Lake County Plein Air group gathered at Lake Charles Park in Vernon Hills for their 2nd meeting outdoors in the 2025 season.

Six artists enjoyed an afternoon of painting and sharing ideas, ending with a critique of their work.

Deb Edmunds who runs the group would like to invite all members to try it out at least once! Your level of expertise is not important, but having a yearning to learn and share with a group of painters who enjoy working on location is a must.

A simple set up can include a travel set of paints or limited palette, an easel or chair, brushes, solvent/water, and items to keep your brushes clean.

Sketching is also a popular way to enjoy the session. An artist needs only to bring a sketch pad and something to draw with. Check out this YouTube [video](#) to get ideas about what you can do when you take your art outdoors.

**Questions?** Contact Deb at [edmundsdl@gmail.com](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com)



Painters enjoy spring colors and weather

### Deb Edmunds' Plein Air Set Up, View, and Finished Painting; May 7, Ray Lake



Actual View



Finished Painting



Simple Easel & Paint Set-up

**Art Show Opportunities**

All LCAL members are encouraged to participate in the shows this year.

Both membership shows (Spring and Fall) are free.

The Antioch Fine Arts Foundation (AFAF) gives artists an opportunity to display multiple art pieces for a reasonable cost.

Members who would like to display their art at the Jack Benny Center in Waukegan, please contact "On the Wall" director, Fran Isaac at [fmisaac@aol.com](mailto:fmisaac@aol.com) for possible opportunities at that location.

The art league is looking for other areas around Lake County where our members can hang their art. If you know of a place that would allow our group to hang art, please contact "On the Wall" director Deb Edmunds at [edmundsdl@gmail.com](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com).

**Timelines for 2025 Shows**

Membership Spring Show	May 1-17	Carnegie in Waukegan
AFAF LCAL Members Only Show	Aug.	AFAF in Antioch
Membership Fall Show, "Let's Celebrate Nature!"	Sept. 6-28	Volo Bog in Volo
• Drop-off for art, tentatively 9 am-1 pm	Sept. 2	
• Critique, noon-3 pm	Sept. 28	

**Save the Dates!**

• **June 16:** LCAL annual **pot-luck picnic** will be June 16, starting at 6 pm, tentatively at Viking Park, weather permitting. There won't be a demo at this social event, but there will be fun art activities. Bring a dish to pass. Water will be provided. Look for more information in June Sketches.

• **Mon., Sept. 15: Reverse Glass Collage Workshop,** 7-8:30 pm. In this hands-on, workshop with Suki Michelle, learn how to create a collage on glass.



• **Tues., Oct 21: Tips and Tricks for Framing Art Work,** 7-9 pm at State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake. Christine Oleson and Tom Perkwitz are the presenters.

• **Thurs., Nov 20: Art Swap** for members, 7-9 pm at State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake. This workshop is already **filling up fast, so reserve a spot now;** 20 maximum participants. Registration and fees will be sent out soon.

**Interested?** Contact Clarese Ornstein, LCAL Workshop Director, at [socoro@comcast.net](mailto:socoro@comcast.net).

### Library Lobby Art Display Opportunities

The Lake Villa Library is seeking local artists to display 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, please complete the [online proposal form](#)**.

**Questions?** Contact Deb Edmunds at [edmundsdl@gmail.com](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com).

### Call for Art at Starline Factory

Details for the Second Saturdays Art Event at the Starline Factory will be available soon on the [Starline website](#).



Note that this show has moved from the 4th Fridays to the 2nd Saturdays.

### Antioch Fine Arts Foundation (AFAF)

We look forward to August when the [AFAF](#) will again host a show for the LCAL, as they did in 2024!

### We Need a New Hospitality Director!

The position starts at our next in-person meeting in April.

Note: this position **can be shared** among several people.

#### Description of Duties

For each in-person LCAL meeting and event:

- Organize members to bring food/snacks.
- Prepare tables for refreshments and snacks.
- Heat water for hot beverages, put out plates, napkins, etc.
- Clean up afterwards.
- Replenish supplies as needed.

The Hospitality Director is part of the LCAL board and is invited to attend the monthly board meetings.

This is a great opportunity to support your LCAL!

**Volunteers to help the Hospitality Director are also needed.**



### Volunteers Needed and Appreciated!

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 the last page.

Below are some ongoing needs for your help:

- Hospitality Director (described to the left)
- **Support for Workshops and Shows**
  - We need your help with organizing, checking in art, hanging (sometimes), helping with refreshment set up and clean up, and runners to help bring art to critique artists.
  - We need your help with the **2025 Fall Membership Show**.
- **Open LCAL board positions**; see **Note** on the last page.

**Interested/Question?** Contact Clarese Ornstein at [socoro@comcast.net](mailto:socoro@comcast.net)

#### Do you want to serve?

Contact a board members (see last page).  
Keep the LCAL healthy and the art community growing for another 90 years!



### New LCAL Members



#### Welcome New Members!

- Richard Schnadig - Oil, Acrylics, Pastel, Gouache

**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](mailto:lou999@comcast.net)

### Meet Our LCAL Board Members

#### Deb Edmunds, President



Being a life-long Illinois resident, I joined the LCAL after getting back into painting art after a long absence. I am mainly self-taught, only taking a few classes to get back into using watercolor and then trying a new medium, pastels.

Along the way I became interested in plein air painting and it became a regular activity when I wasn't working at my full-time position as a self-employed professional house painter. After 38 years, I retired from my career and focused on my art and dedication to plein air and the LCAL.

As past president at the Grayslake Greenery Garden Club, stepping into the president's role was inevitable. When I'm not creating artwork in gouache, casein, acrylic, watercolor, pastels, and pen and ink, I'm enjoying gardening during warmer months. Many of my subjects and scenes are inspired by the photos I take while biking regularly.

In the last few years, I've been interested in portrait painting and participate in live-model sessions. It gives me great joy to know that my artwork is being enjoyed by clients across the US.



### Local Areas that Inspire Great Art

Now that the warm weather is here, I'm sure many of us are anxious to get outside in nature and create art.

Whether you are a plein air painter or a landscape photographer, Lake County is teeming with great places to ply your craft.

The Lake County Forest Preserve District manages more than 31,000 acres of natural land that covers more than 50 gorgeous forest preserves and other natural areas.

Add the smaller natural areas managed by local municipalities, and the artist has a cornucopia of places to set up shop.

With that in mind, here are 3 of my favorite places; each has amazing scenery for a plein air painter or photographer.

#### Independence Grove, Libertyville

A one-time quarry, Independence Grove is my go-to spot for landscape photography, even in the winter.

At 151-acres, the grove features more than 7 miles of hiking trails surrounding a 129-acre lake.

Bring a camping stool to setup along almost any trail for beautiful views of trees, grasses, twisting trails and lakefront shoreline, especially around sunset.

I favor the north end, which has a slightly more rugged feel. You may have to dodge volleyball players and picnickers along the shoreline.

Parking lots are plentiful and are often times located only a few steps from the trails.

#### Rollins Savannah

At more than 1,200 acres, Rollins Savana is one of Lake County's largest parks.

With 2 entrances, one on Washington Street and one on Drury Lane (both with decent parking), the Savanna features 2 loops that wind their way past wetlands dotted with a variety wild flowers, grasses and trees.

The smaller of the two loops, 1.5 mile, winds over wooden bridges and through heavily forested areas that offer great views of wetlands, grasses, and trees. The bridge features a convenient deck that looks out over deep wetlands and a shoreline of trees, one of my favorite places to work.

It would be hard not to find dozens of beautiful scenes here, especially around sunset, when the grasses turn a golden yellow as they wind their way past the wetlands. (cont. next page)



Independence Grove



Rollins Savanna

### Fort Sheridan Beach

This beach lies on a small stretch of lakefront within Fort Sheridan, which was designed in 1889 by renown designer, O.C. Simonds.

Finding the beach is a bit of a challenge, but worth every bit of it.

- Drive through the Fort Sheridan army base, past several brick residences. Look for a sign that points to a parking area near the beach.
- Walk a bit past the entrance to a trail that winds along the lake.
- Follow the road down to the beach, where you will find large boulders looking out onto a sandy landscape, a prefect spot to set up for a composition.

I enjoy visiting around sunset, when you might find a lone beach goer walking pensively along the shoreline.

Although the beach faces east, sunset sometimes brings colorful cloud formations. And if the beach isn't inspiring, there's a network of trails that wind through Leonard Woods just west of the lake.

Save some energy, though; the walk back to the parking lot is uphill!

### Other spots worth a visit:

- McDonald Woods, Lindenhurst
- Nippersink Forest Preserve, Round Lake
- Ryerson Conservation Area, Riverwoods

Know someone you'd like to see featured in Art Notes? Contact me at the email below.

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

**Questions or Suggestions?** Contact Ernest at [ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net)

See more on my [blog](#).



## LCAL Facebook, Digital Library, YouTube

### Are You a Facebook User?

Check out the [LCAL Facebook Group](#)!

Right now, 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. When we receive your request, we will add you to the group.

**Questions?** Contact one of our FB Group administrators:

Erin Galbraith [galbraith@gmail.com](mailto:galbraith@gmail.com)

Deb Edmunds [edmundsdl@gmail.com](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com)

Louise Villegas [lou999@comcast.net](mailto:lou999@comcast.net)

### Link to Your Social Media on LCAL Facebook!

If you want [LCAL Facebook group](#) to include a link to your social media/web site, email your name as you want it to appear online, and the web address (URL) of your page(s), to one of our FB administrators (see last page).

### Enjoy Our Digital Library

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](mailto:denesemanley@gmail.com)

### YouTube

We currently have over 1100 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 **contact** Deb Edmunds at [edmundsdl@gmail.com](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com).

### 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

## LCAL Meetings, Board Members and Directors

### The Lake County Art League Year:

Meets Sept. through June, generally 7-9 pm; 3<sup>rd</sup> 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	<a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Clarese Ornstein	<a href="mailto:socoro@comcast.net">socoro@comcast.net</a>
Recording Secretary	Jack Littlefield	<a href="mailto:thelittlefields@gmail.com">thelittlefields@gmail.com</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Erin Galbraith	<a href="mailto:galbraith@gmail.com">galbraith@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	<a href="mailto:betharoo30@aol.com">betharoo30@aol.com</a>

### \* Open Positions

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

**Hospitality, Art Festivals, Tours, and Publicity**

Directors *	Name	email
Historian	Ali Albakri	<a href="mailto:nyika1940@gmail.com">nyika1940@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>(vacant)</b>	
Membership	Louise Villegas Bobbi Swisher	<a href="mailto:lou999@comcast.net">lou999@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:bobbi_swisher@outlook.com">bobbi_swisher@outlook.com</a>
On the Wall	Fran Isaac Jeff Harold Clarese Ornstein Ernest Schweit Deb Edmunds	<a href="mailto:fmisaac@aol.com">fmisaac@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com">jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com</a> <a href="mailto:socoro@comcast.net">socoro@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net">ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@gmail.com</a>
Programs	Fran Isaac Debbie Kalinowski Jeff Harold Maureen Fisher Rivken	<a href="mailto:fmisaac@aol.com">fmisaac@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:artbydebbiek@gmail.com">artbydebbiek@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com">jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com</a> <a href="mailto:mfisherrivkin@gmail.com">mfisherrivkin@gmail.com</a>
Scholarships	Val Brandner	<a href="mailto:isketchit@yahoo.com">isketchit@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletters	Erin Galbraith Jody Bennett	<a href="mailto:galbraith@gmail.com">galbraith@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jorbenn1@yahoo.com">jorbenn1@yahoo.com</a>
Workshops	Clarese Ornstein	<a href="mailto:socoro@comcast.net">socoro@comcast.net</a>
Virtual Library	Denese Manley	<a href="mailto:deneseamanley@gmail.com">deneseamanley@gmail.com</a>
<b>Connection to the Greater Art Community</b>		
Social Media	Erin Galbraith Louise Villegas	<a href="mailto:galbraith@gmail.com">galbraith@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:lou999@comcast.net">lou999@comcast.net</a>
Website	Phil Schorn Deb Edmunds	<a href="mailto:phil@pschornstudio.com">phil@pschornstudio.com</a> <a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@gmail.com</a>
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Undercroft	Ali Albakri	<a href="mailto:nyika1940@gmail.com">nyika1940@gmail.com</a>