



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

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# Sketches

Official Newsletter of  
Your Lake County Art League

June 2025

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## Annual LCAL Picnic-Potluck; June 16!

Join our members to meet, mingle and have some fun!

For **our last meeting of the 2024/2025 year**, we will have a potluck picnic at Gurnee's Viking Park, on Monday June 16<sup>th</sup>, in the shelter (see map to right). Stop by, **bring a dish to pass**, and enjoy the shaded picnic table area next to the park's maintenance building.

**The main address** is 4374 Old Grand Ave, Gurnee, and the park entrance is directly across from McClure's Garage.

The park is open until sunset so we will meet from 6 - 8:00 pm.

**In case of inclement weather**, we will email members several days before the event to notify you that we will meet indoors at the State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake.

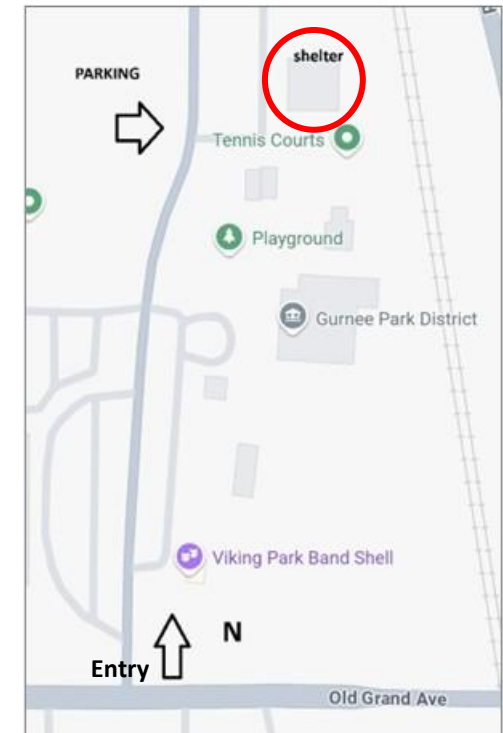
We are asking members to **bring a dish to pass**. In the past, members brought precooked food like chicken wings, fried or grilled chicken or pizza, so there is certainly no obligation to cook something.

**LCAL will provide the refreshments. No alcohol is allowed.**

We will be playing **"Art Bingo"** with a few prizes for the winners.

If you want to share your current art projects, bring your art and info about your techniques and the materials you use. Feel free to ask members for their input about any challenges you have faced with your art.

**For additional information:** text or call Deb Edmunds at 773-230-8068, or email at [edmundsdl@gmail.com](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com).



## Recap of the LCAL Spring Membership Show!



The LCAL hosted its Spring Membership Show from May 1-17th at the [Carnegie Library](#) in Waukegan.

- The newly remodeled Carnegie had their grand opening on May 1st and gave the LCAL a chance to be their first exhibitor. Hundreds of visitors toured the facility to see the Carnegie's renovation and our show. It was a great opportunity and exposure for our art league and for the 29 LCAL members who entered the show.

- A **critique** was held on Sat. the 17th with guest critique artist [Tom Henrichsen](#), an award-winning artist from Woodstock, IL, who is affiliated with Main Street Gallery in Lake Zurich.



Refreshments and food were served at 10 am, and the event ran until 12 pm.

- It was the first time our presentation was done using electronic projection. Visually, it was outstanding to see everyone's art up on a large screen.



Each year the art league puts together a Spring and a Fall Membership show and encourages members to enter. All mediums are welcome. **Our Fall show will be in Sept. at the Volo Bog** (information will be sent out in future communications).

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

### Congratulations to the following Award Winners!



1st Place  
Linda Regan  
"Excess Baggage"



2nd place  
Marshal Philyaw  
"Lazy Day"



3rd place  
Clarese Ornstein  
"Madeline Island's Florals"

## Upcoming Events

### 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) will give artists an opportunity in August to display multiple art pieces for a reasonable cost. This year the show will run from July 30-Aug. 31. Details to come!

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

AFAF LCAL Members Only Show	July 30 – Aug. 31	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 this Fall!

#### • Mon., Sept. 15, 7-8:30 pm:

##### **Reverse Glass Collage Workshop,**

In this hands-on workshop with Suki Michelle, learn how to create a collage on glass.



This workshop is already **filling up fast, so reserve a spot now; there are still a few spaces open!** 20 maximum participants. Registration and fee information will be sent out soon.

#### • Tues., Oct 21: **Tips and Tricks for Framing Art Work,**

7-9 pm at State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake. Christine Oleson and Tom Perkowitz are the presenters.

#### • Thurs., Nov 20: **Art Swap** for members, 7-9 pm at State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake.

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

## Upcoming Events, cont.

### 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!

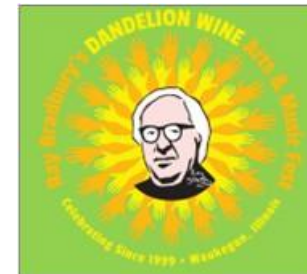
### Dandelion Wine Festival

LCAL will be part of this festival.

Artists can display up to 4 pieces depending on space and participation.

**When:** Sat., August 16, 2025 12-6 pm

**Where:** Bowen Park  
1800 N Sheridan Rd, Waukegan



**Artwork Drop Off:** 9 – 11 am, August 16<sup>th</sup>

**We need volunteers!** We need help with set up, watching the tent, and promoting the art league. There will be 3 shifts: 11 am-1 pm, 1-4 pm and 4-6:30 pm.

### Plein Air Opportunity

This will also be an opportunity to Plein air paint. Artists who can participate even for a few hours would be appreciated. **If you are interested, please contact** Deb Edmunds at [edmundsdl@gmail.com](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com).

## Membership Opportunities

### LCAL Has a New Hospitality Director!

Thank you, Fran Isaac, for stepping up and taking on this position.

Fran will be **looking for volunteers** to bring refreshments and snacks for future meetings.

Contact Fran at to let her know if you'd like to **sign up for the Oct./Nov. 2025 meeting or any future meetings in 2026.**

**For Questions and Volunteers**, contact Fran at [fmisaac@aol.com](mailto:fmisaac@aol.com).



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

Below are some ongoing needs for your help:

- **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 still need your help with the 2025 Fall Membership Show.** Volunteers are needed to help with the Fall Membership show at the Volo Bog in Sept. We will need several helpers on Sept. 2 for two shifts.
- **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!



Welcome to the 3 scholarship winners from the CLC Student Art Competition in May (see May Sketches) who have joined LCAL:

- Jiayi Yang; charcoal
- Rika Reidy; mixed media
- Sadie Saller; mixed media

### We Are 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)

### "Art Notes," by Ernest Schweit

Ernest will be taking a break from publishing his Art Notes in Sketches this month. We look forward to upcoming articles in the future publications of Sketches.

### Obituary for Maggie Kraus, Former LCAL Member

Margaret "Maggie" Adelaide Schwarz Kraus of Waukegan, died peacefully at age 97 on May 10 in Holland, MI. She was a member LCAL for more than 75 years!



Maggie loved not only painting, but also knitting, crocheting, needlepointing, batik, sewing, yarn spinning, rug hooking, and sculpting.

[Click here](#) to read more about Maggie's interesting life.



Artist Maggie Schwarz Kraus provides a bit of humorous introspection in this painting entitled "Nude Self Portrait," one of 58 original works featured in her show.

Schwarz Kraus recreates a memory of a simpler time in this heartwarming painting entitled "Lunch #1," one of 58 original works featured.

## Meet Our LCAL Board Members

### Ernest Schweit, Co-Director for On the Wall and for Plein Air



A photographic artist, Ernest's work focuses on the natural beauty of the Midwest, AZ, and CA. With life-long roots in the Chicago area, he and his artist-wife, Maureen, travel extensively, making art as they go.

His landscape photography is in the permanent collection of the College of Lake County and has appeared in galleries and juried art shows in Illinois and Wisconsin.

"Growing up where I did, I love the natural beauty of the Midwest; especially the lakes and forested areas of Lake County and the rural areas of Wisconsin and downstate Illinois," he said.

"Clicking the shutter is only the start. I create my personal vision playing with shape, texture and, most importantly, light and color to create my personal vision of every image I make," he said. "The final work is less literal and more of a personal interpretation."

Ernest began photography after leaving his job of 32 years as an editor at a Daily Herald newspaper in Arlington Heights, giving him the chance to pursue his passion for photography full time.

In 2009, he collaborated on an award-winning book, "Wisconsin Barns," in which his photographs help chronicle the love affair between Wisconsin's farmers and their barns.

His work has been featured in The Chicago Tribune, WGN-TV news, Fox News Chicago and the Lake County (IL) Journal.

Find Ernest's work is at his [website](#). Follow him on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Read his [monthly blog](#). Receive his [free monthly newsletter](#).

### Maureen Ivy Fisher (Rivkin), Co-Director for Programs



I've been a painter, illustrator and art educator most of my life. Coming from a family of artists—my brother Dean is a successful painter and art instructor and my dad was a professional cartoonist and portrait artist—I was lucky to be exposed to art at a very young age, including many family trips to art museums and galleries.

I studied in Illinois, California, and France, have a BA in Fine Art/Illustration from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA, and a Masters in Art Education from North Park University in Chicago, IL.

I had a 20-year career as a commercial artist illustrating children's books for educational publishers and creating art for the home décor industry.

My love of French led me to a new career as a middle school French and art teacher in Waukegan for more than 13 years. Now retired from teaching, I am re-immersed in oil painting and watercolors, and pursuing my new passion: fiber art.

I've shown my artwork at Blue Moon Gallery, the Robert Wright Gallery, Adler Arts Center, Antioch Fine Arts Foundation, and Fineline Designs Gallery in Door County, WI.

**Questions?** Contact Maureen at [mfisherrivkin@gmail.com](mailto:mfisherrivkin@gmail.com)

## 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)

### 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).

### 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!

#### 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:

#### Art Festivals, Tours, and Publicity

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

Directors *	Name	email
Historian	Ali Albakri	<a href="mailto:nyika1940@gmail.com">nyika1940@gmail.com</a>
Hospitality	Fran Isaac	<a href="mailto:fmisaac@aol.com">fmisaac@aol.com</a>
Membership	Louise Villegas	<a href="mailto:lou999@comcast.net">lou999@comcast.net</a>
	Bobbi Swisher	<a href="mailto:bobbi_swisher@outlook.com">bobbi_swisher@outlook.com</a>
	Jeff Harold	<a href="mailto:jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com">jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com</a>
On the Wall	Clarese Ornstein	<a href="mailto:socoro@comcast.net">socoro@comcast.net</a>
	Ernest Schweit	<a href="mailto:ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net">ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net</a>
	Deb Edmunds	<a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@gmail.com</a>
Programs	Fran Isaac	<a href="mailto:fmisaac@aol.com">fmisaac@aol.com</a>
	Debbie Kalinowski	<a href="mailto:artbydebbiek@gmail.com">artbydebbiek@gmail.com</a>
	Jeff Harold	<a href="mailto:jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com">jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com</a>
	Maureen Fisher Rivken	<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	<a href="mailto:galbraith@gmail.com">galbraith@gmail.com</a>
	Jody Bennett	<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:denesemanley@gmail.com">denesemanley@gmail.com</a>
<b>Connection to the Greater Art Community</b>		
Social Media	Erin Galbraith	<a href="mailto:galbraith@gmail.com">galbraith@gmail.com</a>
	Louise Villegas	<a href="mailto:lou999@comcast.net">lou999@comcast.net</a>
Website	Phil Schorn	<a href="mailto:phil@pschornstudio.com">phil@pschornstudio.com</a>
	Deb Edmunds	<a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@gmail.com</a>
	Deb Edmunds	<a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@gmail.com</a>
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	<a href="mailto:chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net">chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net</a>
	Ernie Schweit	<a href="mailto:ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net">ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net</a>
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	<a href="mailto:nyika1940@gmail.com">nyika1940@gmail.com</a>