



Sketches...

Official Newsletter of your
Lake County Art League

June 2022

Since 1934 LCAL.org 501c3

Our June 20 meeting will be a “social gathering” at Viking Park

Our meeting of the 2021/2022 year will again be in Gurnee’s Viking Park, enjoying shaded picnic table area next to the Summer Kitchen. The GPS address for Viking Park is **4374 Old Grand Ave, Gurnee**. Viking Park is open until sunset, which is 8:30, so we will meet from 5:30 to 8:30. Bring a refreshment to pass, art to share, and whatever plein air painting, drawing or photography gear you might want to use.



The weather forecast at wunderground.com for that part of the day is a warm but breezy 91 degrees under mostly sunny skies, cooling by sunset to 85 degrees with 10 mph winds. There is only a 20% chance of rain, but we can always duck under the park’s 20x45-foot picnic shelter if necessary. We still have the State Bank of the Lakes community room to use if the weather looks to become a problem.

Questions should be directed to Gail Gudgeon at 847-804-0328 or gaile.gudgeon@gmail.com

Undercroft Gallery is “reopening” following the pandemic pause

The Undercroft Gallery is staging its Grand Reopening after a long Covid break. LCAL members are encouraged to share their art with a NATURE theme, with a special focus on flowers and butterflies if possible. Call/text or email the Gallery Director Ali Albakri at 224-381-0321 & nyika1940@gmail.com or Beth Engle at 847-858-9018 & betharoo30@aol.com to schedule art pick up or drop off the week before the opening reception. We will determine the number of pieces per artist based on how many artists respond. The show is at the Undercroft Gallery on the lower level of Christ Episcopal Church, 410 Grand Avenue, Waukegan.

The opening reception is scheduled for 11-3:00 pm on June 26, with refreshments (we would appreciate any offers from members to supply some refreshments). The show will hang until July 30. Publicity will include announcements to the Christ Episcopal Church congregation, as the reception begins as Sunday services are concluding. The event will be included in the Waukegan events calendar and Patch online events calendars. Multiple members have sold pieces from shows at the Undercroft, so be sure to participate in this easy indoor opportunity.

The gallery is a joint effort of the Lake County Art League, the Lake County Arts Magazine and Waukegan’s Christ Episcopal Church.

Winners of the Spring Membership Show critique

Leisa Corbett critique gave us high marks and reminders. She reviewed 24 entries, which by our practices would mean three awards, plus honorable mentions at the critique artist’s discretion. The award winners were:

Second Place: Les Scott

'Summer Nocturn/The shower'



First Place: Thom Kapheim 'First Love'



Third Place: Roger Shule 'Spitfire 2015'



Honorable Mention: Mary Neely 'Family'



Honorable Mention: Fran Isaac 'Dragon Fly II'



Leisa complimented composition, technique and abstraction, and pointedly noted pieces of imagination and experimentation. A couple of things she reminded us of were the importance of layering pigments and the need for bits of light in our dark areas. Layering in areas of a painting draws the eye of the viewer, and it earns a nod to painterly skill. Paintings need things like occasional lights in dark areas to give a sense of depth. Photographs, by contrast, have tons of details to suggest depth, so troublesome darks matter little. Paintings, on the other hand, are much more visually simplified and can seem flat without a little help.

Leisa gave us some gems, too. Noting a painting that was based on a theme, she pointed out the benefit of being absolutely fearless in pursuit of a theme. Noting a painting that was rich in meaning yet soft in presentation, she said it struck her as “ineffable,” something better said visually than in words. Finally, she mentioned the happy discovery that most of us experience: the excitement of painting something that fascinates always seems to give a successful result.

Jeff Harold made a video recording of the critique using a laptop and a webcam, and that is available at <https://youtu.be/1K3RenyAu0>. He said that “there are several different software products that could be used to do the recording, but I used an app called ‘Vmix,’ which I also used to do the artist interviews and virtual demos. Where we have a good Internet connection, this software can be used to live stream the critique.” He explained that lighting is problematic because of the combination of the lights in the JBC theater and the LCAL tungsten lights that were used to light the judge and the artworks. “I used ‘PowerDirector,’ a video editing application, to correct the lighting and color balance as best I could. In the future, I’ll be providing lights more appropriate for recording and see if I can get better camera placement.”

Jeff Harold helped the Starline Factory prepare a brief article highlighting LCAL

A Starline article includes a sampling of the art pieces that are being displayed in the Upper Gallery through June 25, and these can be seen at <https://www.starlinefactoryartists.com/4th-fridays/upper-gallery-4th-friday-artists/1042-lake-county-art-league-in-the-upper-gallery>. He updated the Starline effort with a little about our scholarship program and a link to the interview with the winners. The interview can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzoPGwSTNYk>.

And ...

The Lake County Art League year runs from September through June, meeting 7-9:00 pm on the third Monday of these months. Meetings in September, October, January, February, March, April and June include presentations, usually a demonstration. November and May meetings are the closing critiques for our popular fall and spring membership shows. Finally, we take a holiday break in December. After December our newsletters will be sent only occasionally to members who have not paid their dues.

If you sense there is new way to bring fine art to Lake County, or you know how to improve the advantages of membership, please share that. Contact one of the members below.

Elected Officers

President	Gail Gudgeon	gaile.gudgeon@gmail.com
President-Elect	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
Vice President	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Recording Sec	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
assisting CS	Anne-Marie Bracken	amabracken@gmail.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com

Directors

Art Festivals	(vacant until festivals again become viable)	
Historian	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Issac	fmisaac@aol.com
Librarian	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Membership	Betty Perri	bettyaperri@gmail.com
	Leslie Nauta	nautateam@comcast.net
On-The-Wall	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Publicity	Tom Perkowitz	perkowitz@mac.com
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Sketches	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Workshops	(vacant)	

Connection to the Art Community

Social Media	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com