



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

[LCAL Website](#)  
[LCAL Facebook](#)

# Sketches

Official Newsletter of  
Your Lake County Art League

December 2025

## LCAL Fall Membership Show, Volo Bog

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners



1<sup>st</sup>, Clarese Ornstein  
"Liam the Old Irish Goat"



2<sup>nd</sup>, Russell Kraly\*  
"Winter Bird"



3<sup>rd</sup>, Marina Rawlings  
"Hedgegrow Cloudscape #1"

## Inside This Issue

Event	Page
About the LCAL	2
Upcoming Events	3, 4
Event Recaps	5
Plein Air	6
Member News	7-9
Membership Information	10
LCAL Digital Resources	11
Meetings/Board Members	12

# 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.

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](mailto:Edmundsdl@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

### Monday January 19, 2026

#### Zoom meeting/demo

Watch your email for the zoom link

[Kathleen Kalinowski](#)

Oil on Linen

Kathleen is an impressionist painter, and painter of landscapes in pastel and oil.

### Monday February 16, 2026

#### Zoom meeting/demo

Watch your email for the zoom link

[Bonnie Paruch](#)

Cafes and figures in the city

### Monday March 16, 2026

#### Zoom meeting/demo

Watch your email for the zoom link

[Bob BurrIDGE](#)

Acrylic

### Monday April 20, 2026

#### In Person Meeting

Location: State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

### Wednesday May 13, 2026

#### Spring Membership show critique

Watch for information to enter the show end of March or the beginning of April

Location of Show: Lake Villa Library

### Monday June 15, 2026

#### Demo and Picnic

Program and location to be announced

### Monday, September 21, 2026

#### In Person Meeting

Location: State Bank of Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

### Monday October 19, 2026

#### In Person Meeting

Location: State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

### November, 2026

#### Fall Membership show and critique

To be announced



### Small Masterpiece Show at Mainstreet Gallery

Now through Jan. 31 at Mainstreet Gallery, 16 E. Main St., Lake Zurich, IL.

We warmly invite you to explore our latest small paintings exhibit from local artists.

Mainstreet Art Center is dedicated to nurturing local artists and providing a platform for their incredible talents.

This exhibit features a diverse array of artwork; from landscapes to abstract expressions, showcasing the rich tapestry of our community's creativity.

Join us as we celebrate the talent of our featured artists and engage with the local art scene that inspires us all.

**Questions?** Contact Frankie Johnson at [artists@mainstreetartcenter.com](mailto:artists@mainstreetartcenter.com)



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:lakecoartleague@gmail.com).

### Hands on with Sandra! Nov. 20 LCAL Meeting

To celebrate the upcoming holidays, the art league provided pizza and a hands-on program for members at our Nov. meeting. Member Sandra Saxon led the group with a short demo, "How to Start an Abstract Painting," in the community room at the State Bank of the Lakes.

Sandra helped members create an abstract by using her method of getting relaxed and loose to create an interesting art piece. Each member was provided with a complimentary blank 8x10 canvas and members shared paints, Gelli prints, magazine pages, gel mediums, crayons and various art supplies to create an original abstract piece.

Several new members attended and a warm welcome was given by the group. Everyone enjoyed the feast and the fun.

A special thanks to the volunteers who helped with set up and clean up! Also, thanks to those who donated food and refreshments!



After a short demo Sandra Saxon assisted members with various suggestions.



Louise Villegas, (membership chair) and Lois Guthridge created some bold and expressive art pieces.



Sandra had a few suggestions for Patty VanHuis, one of our new members..  
Welcome Patty to LCAL!



Oliver Merriam, past president, went all Picasso on his piece.





## 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](mailto:Edmundsdl@gmail.com). Also visit Deb's Facebook pages: [personal](#) and [artist](#)

## Marina Rawlings

### "Small Works" – Antioch Fine Arts Foundation (AFAF) Invitational Exhibit

Dec. 10 – Jan. 25 at 896 Main St, Antioch, IL.

I am exhibiting 6 paintings (shown below) as part of the "Small Works" show hosted by the Antioch Art Center.

**Opening reception:** Dec. 13, 2-5pm.

**Gallery hours:** Wed.-Sun.

**Questions?** Contact Marina at [thorny.wallflower.art@gmail.com](mailto:thorny.wallflower.art@gmail.com)



"Autumn Colors", oil



"Wetlands", oil



"Nostalgia", oil



"Comfort", oil



"Reflections", oil



"Little Creature", oil

### Sandra Saxton



"You Brought Me Flowers"; 24X36;  
\$395.00

- **On Dec. 13 at Starline Factory in Harvard, IL**, I am showing 3 art pieces at their juried show. The theme is "It's a wonderful life." It is a one-day show with entertainment and food. Very interesting and fun!
- **On Dec. 10 at Antioch Fine Arts**, I will exhibit up to 6 pieces at their "Small Works" show. Also, in the front of the gallery, I will have my 2-3 new membership pieces.

**Reception: Dec. 13, 2-5pm.** Food and wine will be served. Lots of fun with other artists!!

**Questions?** Contact me at [saxton.songbirdstudio@gmail.com](mailto:saxton.songbirdstudio@gmail.com).



"Time to Fly Little Painted Bunting"; 24X24; \$495.00



"Best Family Vacation";  
9X11; \$175.00



### Ali Albakri

Please join us at the **Undercroft Gallery** for a reception featuring Monajphifferx: Abstract Art Paintings.

**Reception: Sat., Dec. 27, 3-5pm.**

**Location:** Lower level of Christ Episcopal Church, 410 Grand Ave., Waukegan, IL. Free parking is available in the church lot. Light refreshments will be provided. All are welcome!

**Questions?** Contact me at [rich.frontjes@gmail.com](mailto:rich.frontjes@gmail.com).



### Tiffani Williams

#### New Podcast “ArtIsZen” Explores the Healing Power of Art

Announcing the launch of “ArtIsZen,” my new Spotify podcast dedicated to the emotional, mental, and everyday well-being benefits of art. Each episode invites listeners to slow down, breathe a little deeper, and rediscover how creativity can calm the mind, lift the spirit, and reconnect us to ourselves. New episodes will be released regularly.

Blending practical insights with heartfelt storytelling, ArtIsZen explores why art matters—not just in galleries, but in real life. Whether listeners paint, sculpt, cook, or crochet, the show offers simple ways to use creativity as a grounding force in a stressful world.

I am an artist and a creative mentor. Art has always been my safe place and emotional release. This podcast is about helping people find that same sense of peace and clarity.

[Listen on Spotify](#)

View my work at my [website](#).

**Questions?** Contact Tiffani at [twillpaints@gmail.com](mailto:twillpaints@gmail.com).



### Art Notes, by Ernest Schweit

I will be taking a holiday break and will see you all next year. In the mean time, I invite you to visit my [website](#) and [blog post](#).

Wishing everyone safe holidays and a Happy New Year!

[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 [ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net)

### 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](mailto: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 12). 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](mailto: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](mailto:fmisaac@aol.com)).
- **Other open LCAL board positions:** see the note at the bottom of page 12.

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

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY IN JANUARY 2026!

An important part of our organization is having volunteers to run our executive board. Each January, a **Nomination Committee** is formed to present a slate of officer candidates at our April meeting. We need several volunteers to spearhead this temporary position.

The job of this committee is to find replacement candidates for the vacant executive board positions that need to be filled for the 2026/2027 year. The committee will present those candidates to the membership at the April meeting. A vote will be taken at the meeting and if there is no opposition, the candidates will become the next executive board.

**To volunteer**, email Deb Edmunds at [edmundsdl@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com) or Louise Villegas at [lou999@comcast.net](mailto: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 [denesemanley@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lakecoartleague@gmail.com).

## LCAL Meetings, Board Members and Directors

### The Lake County Art League Year:

Meets Sept. through June, generally 7-9pm;  
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 (temporary)	Mary Neely	<a href="mailto:mmbn@yahoo.com">mmbn@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	<a href="mailto:betharoo30@aol.com">betharoo30@aol.com</a>

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>
	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	<a href="mailto:mfisherrivkin@gmail.com">mfisherrivkin@gmail.com</a>
	Rivken	
Scholarships	Val Brandner	<a href="mailto:isketchit@yahoo.com">isketchit@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletters	Deb Edmunds	<a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@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	Deb Edmunds	<a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@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>
Plein Air	Deb Edmunds	<a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@gmail.com</a>
	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>

[lakecoartleague@gmail.com](mailto: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."