



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

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Sketches

Official Newsletter of
Your Lake County Art League

March 2025

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IN-PERSON Member Meeting and Demo March 17, 7 pm

“Arun Bellary, Paint Like Bob Ross”

Our March Member Meeting will be **in person!**

Guest Artist

Arun Bellary will do a demonstration in oils. He is a Certified Ross® Instructor (CRI) from Lake County, IL. As most of you probably know, Bob Ross had a TV show, “The Joy of Painting” for many years.

Arun was trained and certified in 2019 and has been teaching in the Chicagoland area since. He conducts workshops at his home in Gurnee and in local art studios.

NOTES:

- **Excellence Awards** will be awarded to Members, so make sure you bring an art piece that you have recently completed to share with the group.
- You may want to ask Clarese Ornstein about her experience with taking **Arun’s recent class at the Dunn Museum** in Libertyville:
socoro@comcast.net



“Tropical Seascape”
from *The Joy of Painting*,
Season 12, Episode 9

Introduction to Color Pencil Workshop: A Big Success!

LCAL member, Phil Schorn conducted this LCAL-sponsored, 1-day workshop. The 15 members and non-members who participated learned how to layer and mix colors, and created a finished rendering.

Proceeds from the workshop fee will be used for refreshments and snacks at our Spring and Fall shows, so no one will need to bring anything!

A big thanks to Clarese Ornstein for organizing this event, and to Louise Villegas for her assistance.

And a final thank you to Phil for putting together this wonderful workshop!

Questions? Contact Phil at 847-421-7925; phil@pschornstudio.com; [website](#)

Recap of Jan. Member Meeting

This meeting featured guest artist **Robert Burridge**, who did a demo on florals in acrylics (see 2 of his completed works below).



It was great! Thank you to Jeff Harold for putting it together. You can view the demo on [YouTube](#).

See more of Robert's work on his [website](#), where you can also sign up for his portrait class.





Art Notes brings you interesting artist calls, gallery shows, and tips and guidance for living the creative life.

Upcoming Shows

Local encaustic artist **Rebecca Stahr** joins Joan Geary in a 2-person show at the **Addington Gallery**, 704 N. Wells St., Chicago: **“Echoes of Earth and Sky.”**

- Rebecca will show her abstract landscapes, and Joan will show her oil and cold wax paintings.
- I’m a long-time fan of Rebecca’s work and I can tell you that you don’t want to miss this show!

Attend the **“Wall Flowers” Show** at the [Blue Moon Gallery](#), 18620 Belvedere Rd., Grayslake.

Opening reception: March 22, 6-9 pm.

- Gallery owner Kendra Kent says the juried show will highlight the beauty and diversity of flowers and their “positivity, happiness, inspiration and healing.”
- The show reopens the new season for the gallery, which has received a spiffy new paint job for the event.

It’s not too early to think about the coming **outdoor art fair season**. Many top shows are sending out calls to artists.

- **The Adler Center [44th annual Festival of the Arts](#).**
 - This juried event will be held August 2 and 3 at Cook Park, in historic downtown Libertyville.
 - I’ve been in the show many times and it’s always been a great experience with lots of serious art buyers and terrific artists to network with.
 - **Application deadline: April 25.** Start reviewing your work to pick the best for submitting!
- A great place to look for other art fairs is [Cafe’](#), a free site that lists artists calls for shows in this area and nationwide.

Rejection?

As unpleasant as it is, sometimes we will get a rejection letter after submitting work to a juried fair or show. And it stings because our work is highly personal and part of who we are. It’s hard not to take rejection personally.

So, here are some highly recommended and common-sense approaches to dealing with rejection.

- **Self care:** Engage in an activity that makes you feel good and relieves the feeling of being jilted: take a walk in nature, eat chocolate, workout at the gym. It seems obvious, but it works.

(continued on next page)

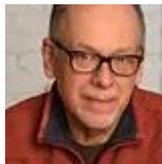
Rejection?, cont.

- Stop and recall: The rejection, even if it comes from an esteemed “expert,” is the opinion of but one person.
- Motivation: Remember that your motivation to do art it is to please you, not someone else, even an art-show juror. Rick Ruben, author of “The Creative Act: A Way of Being,” producer, and self-made guru to all creatives, says:
“The audience comes last. I’m not making it for them. I’m making it for me. And it turns out that when you make something truly for yourself, you are doing the best thing you possibly can for the audience.”

Read more about [dealing with rejection](#) on my [blog](#).

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

Questions or Suggestions? Contact Ernest at ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net



LCAL Spring Membership Show

The **Carnegie Library** will host our Spring Membership Show. There will also be a critique towards the end of the show. Details to come in future Sketches!

We need volunteers to help with this show (see page 6)!

Questions? Contact Deb at edmundsdl@gmail.com

CLC Student Art Show in April and Scholarships

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

- One scholarship is funded by the LCAL.
- The other by the Phoebe Boyd family. Phoebe, a long-time LCAL member, requested upon her death, that her family fund this annual scholarship.

This year the Selection Committee will be LCAL members Oliver Merriam, Mary Neely, and Roger Shule.

We encourage all Art League members to attend (date to be announced). Enjoy the students' creative works. Your presence will support LCAL's mission to promote the visual arts in Lake County.

Questions? Contact Val Brandner at 847-445-2788 or isketchit@yahoo.com.

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.

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 is being moved from the 4th Fridays to 2nd Saturdays beginning in March!



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!

Socializing and Sketching or Sharing: S-SOS!

Beat the winter blues and connect with each other in person for some socializing, sketching or sharing! Join us at a local coffee shop for a few hours of fun, sketching, and sharing your ideas, art, supplies or whatever you'd like to bring to the meeting.

Any LCAL member is welcome. **Check your email for gathering announcements with the heading, "LCAL, S-SOS."**

If you are interested in leading a session, please contact Deb Edmunds, Plein Air Director (contact info bottom right).

Are You Interested in a Fall Workshop?

Are you interested in doing a 2-hour, hands-on, workshop with Suki Michelle to learn how to create a **collage on glass**? LCAL will host this on a Mon. evening in mid-Sept. Your membership plus a \$10 donation will provide all supplies.

Interest/Questions? Contact Clarese Ornstein, our workshop director, at socoro@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 page 9).

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 for the LCAL Spring and Fall Membership Shows!

We are looking for volunteers to 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.

Interested/Questions? Contact Deb Edmunds (contact info below).

Questions? Contact Deb Edmunds at edmundsdl@gmail.com, 773-230-8068, or visit the [LCAL Facebook page](#).

Looking for New LCAL Members!

Tell your family and friends about our organization! Invite them to attend one of our Zoom or in-person member meetings and demos. You can refer them to our [website](#) for meeting information, upcoming events, and more!

Welcome New Members!

Clayton Fulling; clayjazz@yahoo.com

Oil, Watercolor, Pastels, Pencils, Charcoal, Inks,
and Mixed Media

Questions? Contact Membership Director, Louise Villegas at lou999@comcast.net

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 page 10.

We especially need a new **Hospitality Director! (see page 6)**

Support for Workshops and Shows: We are seeking a couple of members to assist our Workshops and Shows Director, Clarese Ornstein. Please email Clarese if you are interested: socoro@comcast.net

Other Open Positions: See **Note** on page 10.

Do you want to serve?

Contact a board members (page 10).
Keep the LCAL healthy and the art community
growing for another 90 years!



Val Brandner, Scholarship Director

Val Brandner joined the LCAL in 1985 and has been a member since. For about 10 years, Val served as the League's Corresponding Secretary, was the Tours Director for several years, and is currently the Scholarship Director.



Early Years

Val began his career in graphic arts in his cousin's print shop where he learned to set type by hand at the age of ten. He had always been interested in art and science and found that graphic arts combined both disciplines. In High School Val graduated with a diploma in Printing and during his High School and College years he worked in several Printing Companies doing a wide variety of printing and graphic arts functions. In 1963, he graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in Printing Management.

Working Years

After college Val enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served as an Officer for five years. Returning to civilian life he joined Continental Can Corporation and worked for several years as a Lithograph Production Supervisor in their Tampa, Florida plant. In 1972, Val returned to work for the Federal Government and became the Chief of Printing and Distribution for the United States Army Recruiting Command in Hampton, VA.

He retired in 1994 (at the young age of 52) as the Regional Manager of the United States Government Printing Office in Chicago.

Mediums

While art and drawing were something Val did all his life, it wasn't until the 1980's that he tried his hand at oil painting. It was the Zion Park District's Tuesday evening oil painting class taught by Norma Jean Borg that got him started. Since then, he has mostly painted in the oil medium but for two years, under the guidance of Don Daniels, he explored the fun of watercolor. Val has also taken art classes taught by Elvin Griffin, attended several Lake County Art League workshops, and for many years has been enrolled in oil painting and sculpture classes at the College of Lake County.

Art Appreciation

Over the years Val's appreciation for great art has grown dramatically because he has had the opportunity to visit many wonderful galleries in Chicago, Buffalo, St Petersburg, New York, Washington DC, Toronto, London, Venice, and Paris. However, Val says, "There is nothing like being the guy holding the brush and doing the creating."

Val has always loved art and believes, "it's the most relaxing activity he knows." He also says, "Getting together with friends, painting, and drinking a bit of wine...it just doesn't get any better than that!"

Questions? Contact Val at isketchit@yahoo.com

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
Deb Edmunds edmundsdl@gmail.com
Louise Villegas lou999@comcast.net

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

YouTube

We currently have over 1100 subscribers from about 30 countries to our LCAL YouTube channel!

- The [interview with Bob Burridge](#), our demo artist for the February Member meeting, was posted on Jan. 31 and has received 23 views.
- [Adam Clague’s Demo](#) at our January Member meeting has received 170 views with 6 likes; his [interview](#) has received 115 views with 2 likes.

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; 3rd Mon., as follows:

Jan., Feb., sometimes March*	Virtual
Sept., Oct., Jan.-June	Presentations, usually a demonstration
Nov., May	Closing critiques for membership shows
Dec.	Holiday break
* Mar 2025 meeting will be in person	

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	Erin Galbraith	galbraith@gmail.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com

* Open Director 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	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	(vacant)	
Membership	Louise Villegas Bobbi Swisher	lou999@comcast.net bobbi_swisher@outlook.com
On the Wall	Fran Isaac Jeff Harold Clarese Ornstein Ernest Schweit Deb Edmunds	fmisaac@aol.com jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com socoro@comcast.net ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net edmundsdl@gmail.com
Programs	Fran Isaac Debbie Kalinowski Jeff Harold Maureen Fisher Rivken	fmisaac@aol.com artbydebbiek@gmail.com jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com mfisherrivkin@gmail.com
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Newsletters	Erin Galbraith Jody Bennett	galbraith@gmail.com jorbenn1@yahoo.com
Workshops	Clarese Ornstein	socoro@comcast.net
Virtual Library	Denese Manley	deneseamanley@gmail.com
Connection to the Greater Art Community		
Social Media	Erin Galbraith Louise Villegas	galbraith@gmail.com lou999@comcast.net
Website	Phil Schorn Deb Edmunds	phil@pschornstudio.com edmundsdl@gmail.com
Plein Air	Deb Edmunds Chris Tanner Ernie Schweit	edmundsdl@gmail.com chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com