



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

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

Sketches

Official Newsletter of
Your Lake County Art League

April 2025

Inside This Issue

April Member Meeting
Pg 1

Event Recap
Pg 2

Art Notes by E Schweit
Pg 3, 4

Upcoming Events
Pg 5-7

**Membership
Opportunities**
Pg 8

LCAL Members
Pg 9

**FB/Digital Library/
YouTube**
Pg 11

Meetings/Board Members
Pg 12

In-Person Member Meeting and Demo WEDNESDAY, April 23, 7-9 pm

The Lake County Art League (LCAL) will hold our monthly meeting on a **WEDNESDAY this month!** Please make a note of it! Doors open at 6:30pm.

Demo Artist: Well-known artist and instructor, Carol Fink Sackschewsky, will demonstrate different watercolor methods. Watercolor is a challenging but a rewarding medium. Please join us to see how Carol creates her beautiful watercolor pieces.



Monthly Competition:

Please bring only one piece of art you have been working on to be part of our monthly competition; the winner(s) will receive an Excellence Award Ribbon. (see details to the right)

Annual Elections: We will also conduct our annual elections, so your vote is needed! The nominating committee, Mary Neely and Val Brandner, will present the slate of officers for President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer.

Monthly Competition Rules

What is our monthly competition?

Members can bring a single art piece to an in-person meeting to compete and possibly win a ribbon. The guest artist will judge the art and winners will be featured in our newsletter, *Sketches*.

Rules

Are you aware that there are rules for our monthly competitions? Members can access the information that governs our organization on the [LCAL website](#) under "About" and then under "Bylaws and Constitution." Copied below are the rules as stated in the "Policies and Procedures" section:

Monthly Competitions

1. Work must have been completed within the past 3 years and not have been entered in any other monthly competitions.
2. One piece per member. To qualify for a ribbon, it must comply with the theme, if any.
3. Monthly Competition ribbons shall be awarded, based on the number of entries:
 - 1-5: 1 ribbon
 - 6-10: 2 ribbons
 - 11-15: 3 ribbons
 - etc.

Recap of LCAL March Member Meeting

The art league held their first in person meeting of 2025 on Mon., March 17th. In honor of St. Patrick's day, the refreshments had a green theme! The demonstrator, **Arun Bellary**, painted a landscape in the style of Bob Ross (of the TV show, "The Joy of Painting"), using oil paints.

Arun is a Certified Ross® Instructor (CRI) from Lake County, IL, and has been teaching in the Chicagoland area since 2019. He conducts workshops at his home in Gurnee and in local art studios.

Excellence Awards were awarded to the 3 members shown below.



Linda Regan



Oliver Merriam



Roger Shule



Example of Bob Ross' style.
"Tropical Seascape"
from *The Joy of Painting*,
Season 12, Episode 9



Arun Bellary
at work.





Interview with Phil Schorn

Long-time LCAL member Phil Schorn is an accomplished colored pencil artist, instructor and author. He's constantly on the go.

If he's not showing his work at an art fair, he's teaching a class somewhere, or giving a demo at a local arts group.

His stunning renderings have been shown at local galleries and art centers, and during the warmer months, you can find him on the art show circuit.

I've known him for years, so I know what I'm talking about when I say he's also one of the nicest guys around.



Q: How would you describe your art?

A: "Details" I want the viewer to see more than they thought was there. I extract a portion of what I'm seeing to make it come off the page. I take what is ordinary and make it extraordinary.

Q: What is your process; how do you make your art?

A: Using the color pencil gives me the ability to put on paper what I want to see. It is a medium that requires patience. Since the pencil is small, you draw small. It is a layering process of color on a smooth paper to create the effects and details I want.

Q: How did you get started?

A: I always did some drawing. In High School, I had an art teacher that pushed me to do more with my art. He helped me get my art in order to submit to colleges. I was offered an art scholarship to Eastern Illinois University. I double majored in 2D Fine Art and Commercial Art.

After college I worked for a couple different printers as a graphic artist. Then in 1993, I decided to go on my own as a self-employed graphic artist. I incorporated as "PS Graphics Inc." in 1995 and used the corporation for my art.

In the early 2000's I was a judge for the 4H art entries at the Lake County Fair I was a judge for about 12 years. I got to talk with the kids about their art. Seeing the quality of what they were creating, and I'm like "why am I not doing this?" So, I started some drawings and by 2016, I was featured in Color Pencil Magazine. The first of several publications.

In 2018, I was challenged with cancer and I decided to make the change - because life is too short. In 2019, I published my first book of my art. I slowly distanced myself from the design side and worked more on my own art. Since that time, I have done gallery shows, workshops, classes and 80+ outdoor art shows.

(continued on next page)



Q: What/who is your inspiration and why?

A: I see inspiration everywhere; you just have to look.

Q: What does your art mean to you?

A: My art gives me a sense of calm and relaxation. Whether a piece takes me 10 hours or a few hundred hours is irrelevant in the process.

When I get pictures of my art on a wall by the purchaser, expressing what it means to them, that is what makes it worthwhile.

Ongoing Shows

- **Big night for 10 LCAL artists at “Wall Flowers”**

It was a glorious opening on March 22 of “Wall Flowers” at the [Blue Moon Gallery](#) in Grayslake.

Exhibiting artists were: Maureen Fisher Rivkin, Erin Galbraith, Aleksa Lederer, Oliver Merriam, Linda Rodriguez, Sandra Saxton, Susan Schneider, Phil Schorn, and yours truly.



Of the 150 pieces submitted to the show in 30 different mediums, 69 were selected from 64 artists in IL and WI.

A big crowd jammed the gallery until it closed around 9pm.



If you missed opening night, **the show runs through April 27.**

Gallery hours: 1-4pm, Saturdays. In addition, it will be open 1-4pm on Sun., April 27 for the show.

- 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.” **Art is on view through April 27.**
- In the coming **outdoor art fair season**, many top shows are sending out calls to artists.
 - **The Adler Center [44th annual Festival of the Arts.](#)**
A juried event Aug. 2 and 3 at Cook Park, Libertyville.
Application deadline: April 25.
 - For other art fairs, check out [Cafe'](#), a free site that lists artists calls for shows in this area and nationwide.

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, and is a writer and award-winning landscape photographer.

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

See more on my [blog](#).



LCAL Spring Membership Show! May 1-May17

We have exciting news about the Spring Membership Show! Please see all of the information below.

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

Show Opening: May 1, 2025.

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

Fees to enter the Waukegan History Museum on any other day before the critique are shown below.

| General Admission | Resident | Non-Resident* |
|--|----------|---------------|
| Adults | \$6 | \$10 |
| Seniors (60+)/ Military/ Veterans/ Students/ Youths (6-18 years) | \$3 | \$6 |
| Children under 6 years/ Historical Society Members | Free | Free |

*Non-resident: Non-Waukegan Park District tax-paying resident. Some addresses for Beach Park, Libertyville, Gurnee, etc., are part of the tax-paying section of the Waukegan Park District.

Free Open-house Hours During Our Show:

Thur. May 1 & Fri., May 2: 12pm-6pm
 Sat., May 3: 9am-3pm
 Sun., May 4: 12pm-3pm

Critique and Continental Breakfast: Sat., May 17; 10am-12pm. The critique artist will be [Tom Henrichsen](#).

Tom is an 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 a well-known international artist, and has sold his works in Canada, Europe and the US. He is affiliated with Main Street Gallery, Lake Zurich.

Requirements for Submissions:

- Must be ready to hang with wire only, no sawtooth.
- Must have been created within the last 3 years and has not been in a previous LCAL spring or fall show.

Register by April 20:

- Email the information about your submission listed below to **Denise Manley** at denesemanley@gmail.com or text it to her mobile at 847-529-1869. If you text your information, please include your email address so she can email you a release form.
 - Title of art piece
 - Size (not including frame)
 - Price/NFS
 - Medium
 - A clear jpg file of your art
- Release Form: Denise will email you a release form, which must accompany your art when you drop it off at the Carnegie on Saturday April 26 between 10am and 1pm.

Drop Off: Sat., April 26; 10am-1pm. Drop off your art plus your release form (see above). No exceptions to this day or times; THERE WILL NOT be anyone at the location before or after to receive your art. Forms will also be available at the drop off if you need one.

44th 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.

Reception: Thur., April 24, 5pm - 7pm; scholarships and other awards at 6pm.

This year's Selection Committee are LCAL members Oliver Merriam, Mary Neely, and Roger Shule.

Who is Invited? All LCAL members and their family and friends. Enjoy the students' creative works. Your presence will support LCAL's mission to promote the visual arts in Lake County.

Gallery Hours (vary during college breaks and summer semester)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| ▪ Mon.-Thur., 8am - 9pm | ▪ Fri., 8am - 6pm |
| ▪ Sat., 9am - 3pm | ▪ Sun., Closed |

Questions? Contact:

Val Brandner at 847-445-2788; isketchit@yahoo.com; or
CLC art curator, Ann Rintz; (847) 543-2040; arintz@clcollinois.edu



Location: The Gallery is in the L Wing of CLC (dark red on map). Park in the visitor lot in front of the main entrance or in any of the student lots. Student Lot 4 is closest to the main entrance.

If you enter the main entrance, walk toward the cafeteria (Café Willow); before the entrance, turn right and go down the hall to the L Wing. You will see the gallery on your left.

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.

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!

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 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.

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 | Sept. 6-28 | Volo Bog in Volo |

Plein Air Has Begun and Socializing and Sketching or Sharing (S-SOS) Will Continue!

I met several times this winter with our members at the Hansa Coffee Roasters in Libertyville. It was a lot of fun meeting and conversing with some of our new members and catching up with everyone who participated.

I am going to continue adding dates for S-SOS throughout 2025 when weather is inclement for plein air. I was able to photograph a number of interesting coffee lovers for sketches and future paintings. If you have not tried plein air, these coffee house sessions are fun to just socialize, share or sketch the local crowd. Any LCAL member is welcome.



Check your email for gathering announcements with the heading, “Plein Air or 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.

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](#).

New LCAL Members



Welcome New Members!

- Arun Bellary (& family); arun.bellary@gmail.com; Oil Paint (Arun is a trained "Bob Ross" instructor and did the demonstration at our March member meeting.)
- Linda Togliatti
- Cassandra Anzelone

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

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.

We especially need a new **Hospitality Director**, (see page 8), and **support for Workshops and Shows** (Contact Clarese Ornstein at socoro@comcast.net).

Other Open Positions: See **Note** on the last page.

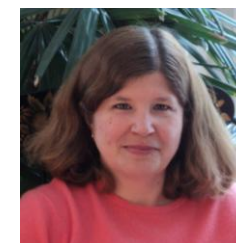
Do you want to serve?

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



Meet Our LCAL Board Members

Elizabeth (Beth) Engle, Treasurer



I attended Lake Forest College from 1986 to 1990 and graduated with a BA in business administration.

From 1990 through 2009 I was a commercial real estate banker, specializing in residential construction, at Bank of Lincolnwood, Fifth Third Bank and New Century Bank.

From 2010 to present I have been a residential real estate appraiser.

I began making jewelry in approximately 2007, participating in numerous art festivals. Today I focus on listing my pieces on Etsy. I make jewelry but my biggest seller on Etsy is eyeglass lanyards.

The majority of my work is comprised of precious and semi-precious gemstones and other natural materials.

I have been the LCAL Treasurer for approximately 14 years.

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
 Deb Edmunds edmundsdl@gmail.com
 Louise Villegas 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

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; 3rd Mon., as follows:

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