

SKETCHES

Our January presentation is woodturning

Our next general meeting is on Monday January 20 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) at 7:00 pm in the basement community room of State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake. The presentation by Roberto Ferrer will challenge your idea of art and even sculpture: woodturning. Look at the wood railings of an elegant stairway and you will see turned newel posts and balusters as supple as the human figure, and that is the traditional craftsmanship of a woodturner. Woodturners like Roberto take this to the next level, turning exciting wood sculpture that explores the tension between free-form carving and the smooth curves of wood cut and polished on a lathe.

Roberto Ferrer was born and raised in Mexico, where he was surrounded by art and crafts from the very early age. He explains that drawing and painting were part of his everyday life, but "the love for wood as a medium was born in visit my cousin's wood shop. Then the colonial and baroque style architecture in my home town sparked the desire to one day be able to create sculptural work."

His natural curiosity of knowing how things are built and how mechanisms work led him to explore building construction, auto mechanics, body shop among other professions.

In his mid-twenties he explored carving sculptural bowls and vessels using a limited number of handheld power tools. Although the results were somewhat satisfactory, it was hard on his body and time consuming as well. This led him to pursue woodturning as a way of removing wood in a more efficient manner and to lay the base for the sculptural work he currently creates.

In July 2019 he received a POP (Professional Outreach Program) Excellence Award from the AAW (American Association of Woodturners) [http://www.qgdigitalpublishing.com/publication/?i=587374&p=8&pp=1&view=issueViewer#{"page":2,"numpages":"1","publication_id":"59376","issue_id":"618049"}](http://www.qgdigitalpublishing.com/publication/?i=587374&p=8&pp=1&view=issueViewer#{)

and his work was featured in the AAW journal in August 2019. [http://www.qgdigitalpublishing.com/publication/?i=587374&p=8&pp=1&view=issueViewer#{"page":2,"numpages":"1","publication_id":"59376","issue_id":"601768"}](http://www.qgdigitalpublishing.com/publication/?i=587374&p=8&pp=1&view=issueViewer#{)

In recent years he has been invited to demonstrate at local woodturning clubs. Since 2018 he has participated in art shows around the Chicago land area as well as online juried exhibitions. He is humbled to know that his work is now part of private collections across the USA and Europe.

Roberto lives and works in the suburban Chicago where his studio is located. There he is able to combine his family and the passion for making and creating. See his website at www.ferrerstudioart.com for more images of his work.

IN MEMORY OF JACKIE CARMICHAEL



Jackie Carmichael's daughter Becky Simon wrote us that Jackie died peacefully on September 12, and there was a memorial November 30 at North Shore Unitarian Church in Bannockburn. "Mom's best work was some of her last. Her body was weak, but her art was strong." Separately she wrote "You have no idea what an incredible person she was." The obituary says that Jackie was a "devoted mother, a lifelong rebel, artist, and gardener." Condolences can be shared with Becky at bsimon60540@yahoo.com.



See Jackie's art at [Search: %23JackieCarmichael | Flickr](#) to understand why Linda Kollacks says that her art was "original, avant garde, and seemed to reflect her vibrant personality."

IN MEMORY OF LAINI ZINN



Laini Zinn's daughter Cindy Zinn wrote us that Laini died after a long decline through dementia on November 16. The obituary says that "as an artist, musician, teacher, and volunteer, Laini lived out her motto 'Bloom where you are planted.' Laini was lovingly referred to as a 'dynamo', 'force of nature', and 'Zany Laini.'" There will be a June 27, 3:00 pm celebration of her life at St. Pauls UCC, 2335 N. Orchard St. in Chicago. "patronize your local artists"

January 7, 2020



We are asked to “patronize your local artists” in her memory. Condolences can be shared with Cindy at cindyzinn@sbcglobal.net.

A 2012 Undercroft Gallery press release for its “Outreach: Waukegan artist Laini Zinn” show gives some idea of the impact she had on Waukegan, and is reprinted at the conclusion of this newsletter.

IN MEMORY OF LEE RADTKE

Lee Radtke died quite unexpectedly in an automobile accident near Volo on December 23. Lee’s son Jon is a member of the art league

and has been communicating with us through Mary Neely. We have learned that Lee had some time ago decided that he did not want a memorial service in the event of his death. We do hope to work with Lee’s many friends to offer his family some assistance in the sale of his many remaining paintings.

Condolences can be mailed to Barbara Radtke at 23888 Sunset Drive, Lake Zurich IL 60047.

It’s too soon to build a summary of Lee’s life and art, but recall that he won first place in our Fall Membership Show with an oil painting titled “Orange Sky,” reproduced here. It was the latest of a series of paintings he had done of the Sturgeon Bay shipyards. He had refined his own recognizable style to be spontaneous and powerful, and he often shared his excitement about that with us.



WE WILL ELECT A NEW PRESIDENT THIS SPRING.

In 2020 we will need to elect a new President, as Oliver Merriam will have completed his two-year term in June. Once again Debbie Kalinowski will head an Election Committee that will approach individual members about taking on this important position. Chris Tanner, Mary Neely and Val Brandner make up her committee.

The Election Committee will recommend a slate of officers at the April meeting, and if additional members would like to be considered there will be a vote taken at the May meeting. Please contact Debby if you wish to be on that committee or if you would like to be considered for the position of president. She can be reached at 224-221-1348 or artbydebbiek@gmail.com.

There are also Board of Directors positions to be filled, but Board positions are not elected. Board positions are assigned by the President, and the remainder of the Board can help the President with that if needed. Our bylaws say that we must have directors for twelve specific activities, like Programs and On-The-Wall. We have two existing positions (Historian and Workshop) that are unfilled, and we may drop some director positions and create others to better fit the current direction of the art league.

Besides filling director positions, the President is tasked to “preside at all meetings of the League and its Board of Directors meetings” and “perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may assign.” In addition, he or she may, with the approval of the directors, appoint a member to take on a once-a-year job, project or liaison with another organization. That is how the art league has authorized Thom Kapheim’s Legacy Collection program, for example. The President is limited to a term of 1 or 2 years.

Thus, the President can simply provide a dignified presence, but can also choose to also lead us in new directions by carefully building a consensus with the Board of Directors and recruiting like-minded talent. The art league benefits either way. At its base, then, this is an opportunity to support and even inspire a team that genuinely wants to help artists and would-be artists learn and grow.

**“Outreach: Waukegan artist
Laini Zinn”
Undercroft Gallery,
August 27 to October 18, 2012**

Laini Zinn, wife of the late Rev. J. Robert Zinn, has long been an advocate for the arts for all ages. A gifted painter herself, she believes that good art is all about community. She has exhibited her watercolors, oils and ink drawings since 1948, and is now showing her work at Gallery 128 in the Waukegan Public Library. Her art will be on display for all of April and May, with after-hours Saturday receptions on April 21 and May 19. The receptions will run from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, with almost all of Laini’s art for sale. She no longer has space to store the nearly 50 works on display, and would like to find a home for them. Many unframed copies will also be available in bins.

Born Danne Elaine Howey, Laini married Bob Zinn in 1954. She taught art and music in towns where Bob was pastor. After time out raise three children, Laini served as a substitute teacher and a teaching assistant in the Waukegan schools. When Bob returned to Chicago Theological Seminary in the early 70s to earn his Doctoral degree, Laini audited some courses. Her fieldwork included teaching ten weeks of art therapy at the College of Lake

In 1976 Laini, Don Daniels and Bryan Kent started the Waukegan Visual Art Center in the Waukegan Park District’s former Boy Scout headquarters. Twenty years later, Art Czajkowski enlisted her to market his plan for the Lake County & It’s Arts monthly magazine. When family needs took much of Art’s time, Laini managed the magazine for seven years. The magazine started by Art and Laini became the Lake County Arts Magazine, and has been published for over 15 years.

All this time Laini was painting, and her pieces won many awards. After 1965 most of Laini’s paintings and drawings were shown in community art groups like the Lake County Art League, and Lakes Region Watercolor Guild. She served on the boards of both organizations. In 1997 she was one of seven women chosen for “Best Women Artists” by The Lake County Women Artists Association.

Waukegan Park District gave Laini its 1999 Humanities and Arts award for her leadership in the arts. They noted that she had opened community studios and gallery space, published the arts magazine, served on the board of Friends of the Jack Benny Cultural Arts Center, and spearheaded the drive for Waukegan’s Jack Benny statue.

The Lake County Art League year runs from September through June. In the past we have met on the third Monday of these months, 7-9:00 pm. Meetings in September, October, January, February, March, April and June include presentations and are held at State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake. November and May meetings are the closing critiques for our popular fall and spring membership shows, and these are held at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts theatre in Waukegan. Finally, we take a holiday break in December. Here are dates that should now be on your horizon now:

Monday, January 20
 General Meeting with Demo
 State Bank of the Lakes, 7:00 pm

Monday, February 17
 General Meeting with Demo
 State Bank of the Lakes, 7:00 pm

Monday, March 16
 General Meeting with Demo
 State Bank of the Lakes, 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 4
 Spring Membership Show Check-In
 Jack Benny Center, 10-1:00

ELECTED OFFICERS		
President	Oliver Merriam	omerriam@yahoo.com
Vice President	Mary Neely	mmbn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
ACTIVITY DIRECTORS		
Programs	Roberta Bragg	freouwebbe@msn.com
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Linda Rodriguez	linda_rodriguez931@comcast.net
On-The-Wall	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Publicity	Ali Albakri	lcamagazine@yahoo.com
Membership	Leslie Nauta	nautateam@comcast.net
	Betty Perri	bettyaperri@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Issac	fmisaac@aol.com
	Sunny Parenteau	parenteousunny@gmail.com
Workshops	(vacant)	
Librarian	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Visual Recording	(vacant, under evaluation)	
Art Festivals	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Historian	(vacant, under evaluation)	
Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
CONNECTION TO THE ART COMMUNITY		
Social Media	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Legacy Art	Thom Kapheim	kapart1@sbcglobal.net
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com

