



Official Newsletter of your Lake County Art League

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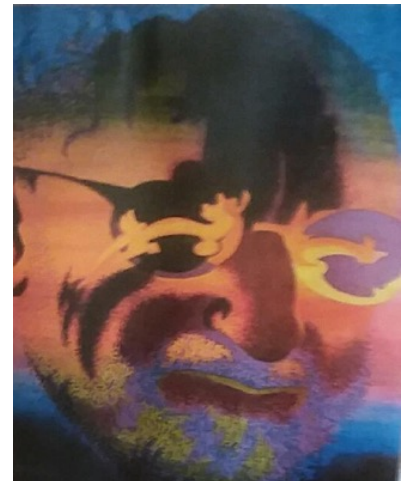
The Lake County Art League year runs from September through June. We meet on the third Monday of these months, 7-9:00 pm. Meetings in September, October, January, February, March, April and June include presentations and are held at State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake. November and May meetings are the closing critiques for our popular fall and spring membership shows, and 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 be on your horizon now:

Monday Nov 19 Fall Membership Show Critique
Jack Benny Center, Waukegan 7:00 pm

Monday January 22 General Meeting
State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake 7:00 pm

November Critique

This year's Fall Membership Show will conclude with a closing critique of 40 entries on the evening of November 19 in the Benny Center theatre. The critique will be from 7:00 to 9:00 pm with a 20-minute break for refreshments and conversation. Our own Skip Wiese, a veteran of many spring and fall membership shows, will perform the critique. The public is invited and members are encouraged to bring a friend.



Skip attended The Art Institute of Chicago on evenings and Saturdays while he was apprenticed in a local commercial

a fashion artist specializing in men’s clothing. Commercial work taught him how to try different things, not stay long in one groove, and to sometimes copy other’s styles. He says it was fortunate that he was not locked in by technique, and instead pursued one direction after another, driven by client needs. Skip freelanced with murals, posters and mechanical drawing, and did that full time after he left the commercial studio in 1980, then opened his own commercial studio and also taught workshops in pastels, watercolors and monotype printing. Now he calls himself a figurative artist with a “sloppy and loose” style, and more specifically a good draftsman, colorist, painter and designer. Mostly he sees himself as a teacher.

The January presentation back at the State Bank of the Lakes will be by artist Ricard McFarland. He will talk about “Illustrating Children’s Books.”

Jeff Harold Will Help Members with Juried Competition Submissions

Jeff read comments in November *Member News* about the technical barriers to submitting College of Lake County entries to the Recent Works Exhibition, and Jeff thinks he can help. Marshall Philyaw and Thom Kapheim had a discussion with their wives about what they all were seeing as low participation by our members in the Recent Works show at CLC. They blamed modern technology, and concluded that artists may feel intimidated by the computerized submittal, especially the required photos. “Some of us may not have the ability to understand how to work DPI [dots per inch] controls to our best advantage, or whatever else it takes to make submission photos show to their best advantage.”

Jeff Harold has asked that our members know he

will gladly take photos of their work and help with their submissions. “I’m offering this as a free service to any LCAL member.” Contact him at 847-838-9894 or jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com. The CLC website calls the Recent Works Exhibition an annual “display of award-winning work created by local artists .. at the Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art.” This year the art was displayed from October 5 to November 4.

Approximately \$2,000 in cash prizes and purchase awards were given to artists selected for the exhibit. For more information, call the Communication Arts, Humanities and Fine Arts division at (847) 543-2040 or visit <http://gallery.clcillinois.edu/>.

Artist Opportunity in the Community

Black Cat Yoga in Libertyville is looking for an artist to paint a mural on the outside of their building, and is taking submissions through December 15. They are opening up a mural contest for their exterior, west facing building wall, which has been freshly painted.

They say they want to see something “instagrammable,” a reference to Instagram [#instagrammable on Twitter], which Wikipedia says is a photo and video-sharing social networking service owned by Facebook. It and its imitators allow users to upload photos and videos, which can then be edited and organized with tags and location information. Users can browse other users' content, view trending content, "like" photos, and follow other users to add their content to a feed.

All this is Black Cat Yoga’s way of saying their mural should inspire the passerby “to interact, share + create conversation. Something that reflects the vibe of our studio, our community + our town.” Details can be seen at <https://blackcatlibertyville.com/mural/>, and a Google Street View of the wall at 56 E. Cook Ave. in Libertyville is shown to the left.



- Member Opportunities in the Art League**
- Adler Invitational Coordinator (see article below)
- Member News editor, compiling things sent by members
- Hospitality coordinator after the first of the year
- Presentation Chair for the 2019-20 year
- Historian

Annual Adler Invitational Exhibit is Changing

Last February was the fifth time that a handful of our artists were invited by the Adler Center in Libertyville to display art there, in what had become an annual LCAL invitational exhibit. Each year Adler’s curator reviewed the Fall Membership Show on the walls of the Jack Benny Center and invited five members based only on what was seen at that moment. Selection had nothing to do with who won awards our critique comments, and it did not repeat earlier invitations, and that approach worked well. The same Adler curator later hung the LCAL art in two display rooms of their architecturally historic building, and other Adler professionals promoted the event on their marquee on Milwaukee Ave., in mailed flyers and in local newspapers. Over a period of six years 25 of our members displayed a body of their work, bringing attention to their art and their art league.

We are skipping 2019 as Adler integrates us into an annual “exhibition series” of six events that will no longer be free to exhibitors. We have now budgeted \$250 to do this each year. We have also agreed to build our show around some theme, a change that Adler believes will improve publicity and attendance. Artists will still be selected from our Fall Membership Show, each artist will still display 5 to 8 pieces, and there will still be a February 2020 opening reception. Now, however, each artist will speak at length during a “Gallery Night” about how their art relates to the promotional theme.

We have determined that the theme of each show will somehow relate to our stated intent “to create more interest in art in Lake County ... and to develop a higher appreciation of visual art ... through art exhibitions, festivals, demonstrations of art techniques, lectures, critiques and sharing of ideas, inspiration and encouragement between members.” That’s Article 2 of our Constitution, and Adler has provided us with an unusual opportunity to share that with the community. We’ll let Adler’s experts come up with a clever title, but we will select the focus and Gallery Night will be a very personal discussion of some aspect of the art experience. Like the spring and fall membership shows, this will be part of the On-The-Wall program.

We will need a member to work with Adler to coordinate this in coming years, and we need suggestions from our membership on what thing or things that we do which would be fun to talk about and interesting to the community.

Current Commitments to Hospitality

Hospitality director Becky Schwarz says the current sign-up for providing refreshments for the conversation break at our next two general meetings are:

11/19/18 at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, Waukegan

- Barb and Denis Rogers
- Gail Basner
- Carol Otis
- Betty Perri
- Mary Jo Wignot

1/21/19 at the State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake

- Terry Furniss
- Leslie Nauta
- Lee Radtke



Christmas Party December 20 at Family Piano, Waukegan

The art league will have a Christmas party in the Riverwalk Room of the modern Harbor Place Waukegan building. This is the bottom floor of the Family Piano store lease at 118 S Genesee, and looks out into the wooded ravine of the Waukegan River. Our party will be Tuesday December 20 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Doc Dockery will serve as a disk jockey, and it looks like BYO beer and wine will be acceptable. More details will be sent to the membership via e-mail.

Why We Do Art

In September 2017 we had a “Why We Do Art” show at the Jack Benny Center. This show became a celebration of the art experience, a very personal, miscellaneous thing unbounded by the usual rules. This year we are serializing the artists’ written comments in Sketches, and below is what Jackie Hayes shared:

“Why do I do art? Because of the pleasure it gives me to create something new, different and of my own.

“Art in many forms has always been a part of my life. When I was young I spent many hours at the Art Institute in Chicago studying the Masters. As a young mother, I enjoyed sewing, making many of my children’s clothes out of necessity to stretch a dollar. My own too. I decorated, hanging wallpaper and painting the walls of our home. I created a beautiful garden around many of the houses we lived in. Later, when my family was grown, I went back to do art therapy as a School Social Worker. But I always wanted to paint. Now that I am retired it brings a satisfaction, a joy to my life. I feel I am doing something important when I can capture a look or a moment of beauty that I can share with others. I love mixing and spreading the colors. Time flies when I paint. I am completely immersed in what I am doing. Aches and pains and age are forgotten. That’s why I do art.”

New Member Profile of Betty Perri by Gail Gudgeon

A warm open personality, a common trait among artists, is what I discovered during a delightful



interview with Betty Perri. She humbly dismisses the title of artist, insisting that she is merely an appreciator and student of art. The soul of an artist was revealed when she spoke of her inspiration and showed me her work.

Born and raised in Waukegan, she developed a strong interest in the visual arts. Despite the encouragement of junior high and high school instructors to pursue her passion for art, Betty chose business management as a career goal, earning her degree from Alverno College in Milwaukee.

During her family raising and career years she was an avid art show attendant who admired artist’s diverse styles and mediums. Betty’s position with The American Art Therapy

Association after her retirement from Abbott re-launched her involvement in the arts and led her to pursue her hobby in earnest. Always a sketcher, she pursued knowledge of oil painting through classes at the Gurnee Park District and improved her drawing skills in botanical drawing classes at the Botanic Garden and a pastel and charcoal class at CLC. She has shown her work with the Artists of Heather Ridge where she now resides.