

# Sketches



## Official Newsletter of your Lake County Art



### Featured Artists Presenter for September 16th 7pm

Artist Chuck Keller presents his Northwest Coast Native American art. This summer our Programs directors Roberta Bragg, Jeff Harold and Linda Rodriguez managed to find artists for presentations for almost our entire September-to-June year. Our September presentation artist Chuck Keller comes to us through Jeff's association with Antioch Fine Arts Foundation where both he and Chuck are members. Chuck will show us the art of Northwest Coast Native Americans and examples of his own art that this has inspired.

Geographically this art form is from the region between Yakutat Bay, Alaska and the northern end of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and Chuck first saw examples of it when he moved to Seattle for post-graduate studies at the University of Washington. In galleries and museums in the Seattle and Vancouver he discovered its unique nature relative to other Native American art. Yet his interest went beyond the art itself to include the underlying culture and the ways in which historical events have shaped their art and the directions in which their art is now headed. "Now," he says, "I enjoy promoting the art of these people as much as I enjoy creating similar art myself."

Chuck quickly admits to having no formal training in art. Like many of us, he occasionally sketched or painted landscapes, wildlife or other subjects earlier in life, and while art and childhood curiosities had to wait for career, something clicked later on. "I suppose my first interest in Native American culture began when I was growing up on a farm in Ohio and found a number of flint or obsidian artifacts in our fields. However, I am a scientist by interest, academic background, and career path. ... It was only after retirement from medical device

consulting in 2017 that I began painting the works that I currently display.”

The art form uses continually tapering formlines, ovoids, U-shapes, S-shapes, and eye, hand or claw depictions are particularly characteristic of this art, as are those of nose or eyebrows. Color is generally limited to black, red and blue-green in that order of preference. It does not convey perspective and rarely displays any overlapping of the design elements. The subjects are limited to animals or supernatural beings either for decorative purposes or as crest symbols.

The degree of realism of the art can range from generally recognizable to near total abstraction. Symbolic ambiguity is common. A whale figure, for example, may incorporate design elements that are clearly associated with another creature, such as a raven. Human faces or figures may also be included as a representation of a human association or spirit aspect of the animal that is portrayed.

The unique elements of this art make balanced, coherent compositions difficult, and that’s what drives Chuck at this point. His works are brush paintings on paper, using archival ink. “My art does not always adhere to all of the characteristics associated with this system of art. However, the appeal of the traditional art of Northwest Coast Native Americans, while it is in some respects limiting, is for me unique and offers many opportunities and challenges.”

At some point Chuck says he would like to explore use of other media in creating this art. “I may seek out collaborators with whom to expand into areas for which I have little expertise. Basketry, gourds, pottery, and wooden items are possible surfaces for incorporation of these designs. If I should go back to creating more traditional watercolor or acrylic paintings, the subjects will likely include aspects of First Nations peoples' lives.”

## Fall Membership Show Check-in Saturday October 5



The Fall Membership Show check-in time will be 10-1:00 on October 5. That may be a month away, but it’s time to start planning your entry. The David Adler Music and Arts Center will review the show and invite five artists to display eight pieces at a February Invitational Show. As



### Dues Due

Membership dues are to be paid at or before our September general meeting. They are \$20 per full time student, \$35 per individual and \$45 per family.

Make checks payable to the Lake County Art League. The attached Membership Form (attached) is an effective and convenient way to update our records of your contact information and volunteer interests. Bring the check and form to the September general meeting or the Fall Membership Show Check-In (more forms will be available), or mail them as shown on the Membership Form.

Note that the table of volunteer opportunities has again been changed to better reflect the current direction of the Lake County Art League. Some opportunities are new.

before, those invitations will be based only on the one piece of art submitted. As before, the five artists are going to be selected by an artist who will not select the same individuals twice for a period of five or more years. This means that over time the Adler invitational show will again reach deep into our talent pool, with significant benefit across our membership.

There has been confusion about the fact that Adler now insists that all of their shows, ours included, must have some thoughtful theme. They have very effective publicity – another benefit to us – and if they think a meaningful theme will help generate interest, then we must give them one. This is not a theme about a subject, like flowers or portraits, but about the artistic mind. What brings these five artists together, for example. So once five artists have been selected, they will brainstorm about what they or their art have in common. An imaginative theme will be built from that, and each artist will briefly talk about that at their Artists Reception.

## New Directions

Fall Membership Show will again be connected to a **February Adler Invitational**, as noted above. Adler is changing the way they do shows to make them more interesting to the public, and their 2019 February Invitational was dropped until we explained how important it is to us, endorsed changes they wanted and budgeted a fee they now charge.

The way we develop or general meeting demos has changed. For the first time in memory the Programs director who invites demo artists is now a **three-person team** instead of an individual. The idea surfaced as names were being discussed for a new Programs director to succeed Sue Schneider. The Programs director needs to have contacts in the visual arts community, and it was pretty clear that a team would have wider contacts and that it would be a lesser burden on an individual. More and more of our directors are becoming two-person teams for similar reasons, like greater continuity when one person seeks to move on.

And here's one example. Chris Tanner and Deb Edmunds are now **jointly scheduling our plein air sessions**. Plein air opportunities have proven to be popular with many of our members, and the art league has benefited from the exposure we get because our sessions are free and open to the public. Yet the sessions, scheduled by Chris for over a decade, were interfering with the increasingly frequent travel plans of Chris and his wife. Deb volunteered to schedule half the sessions and others have agreed to step in if neither Chris or Deb can be at a scheduled event. All sessions are being limited to the warmer months of the year to further reduce the scheduling burden.

Our Legacy Art program was started two years ago by Thom Kapheim with the understanding that acquired art could be stored in his leased Waukegan gallery. Thom and Carol Kapheim have purchased the building that houses his gallery, so the **legacy art will now have a long-term home**.

**Newsletters will get a facelift.** With this issue Michael McConville has introduced a new layout for *Sketches*. His masthead is designed to be more conservative, more dynamic and to better fit the limited time he has to do our graphics. Coming issues will see the “Sketches” word in different fonts, different sizes and even different angles, always changing in unexpected ways. The lead article has always been a carefully written preview of the upcoming demo, and Michael may integrate that art or text into the masthead as well. The usual logo, table of officers and directors, and paragraph explaining of our schedule have been moved to Page 4 to better showcase this entertaining masthead. Once perfected, Michael's approach will also be echoed in Member News and On-The-Wall newsletters.

## Preview of the 2017-2018 year

Per our constitution, our presidents have a two-year term, so this April we must elect a new president. The Board of Directors, which includes elected officers, will soon name an elections chairperson. The chairperson must be a member, of course, but cannot be an elected officer. It's too early to know, but we may need to elect other officers as well.

**Monday September 16 General Meeting**

**Saturday October 5 Fall Membership Show Check-in**

**Monday October 21 General Meeting**

**Monday November 18 General Meeting,  
Fall Membership Show Critique**

*A Christmas party date and location will be announced as we approach the end of the 2019 year.*

**Monday January 20 General Meeting  
(Martin Luther King Day)**

**Monday February 17 General Meeting  
(President's Day)**

**Monday March 16 General Meeting**

**Saturday April 4 Spring Membership Show Check-in**

**Monday April 20 General Meeting, election of officers**

**Monday May 18 General Meeting,  
Spring Membership Show Critique**

As is common, the May Annual meeting is moved to June because May always conflicts with a critique.

**Monday June 15 Annual Meeting**

A summer picnic date and location will be announced as we approach the end of the 2017-2018 year.



| 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            | parenteausunny@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            |

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



Saturday, October 5  
Fall Membership Show Check-In  
Jack Benny Center, 10-1:00 pm



Monday, October 21  
General Meeting with Demo  
State Bank of the Lakes, 7:00 pm