



DuPage Art League School & Gallery

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Almost a COVID-19 Sanctuary

Letter from the president, Dan Anderson

Most of us are very concerned about the risk of contracting COVID-19, which is a good thing. A related concern is the likelihood that we will go stir crazy being confined to our homes without the benefit of human contact. Without making any promises, I want to share a theory that classes at the DuPage Art League may be a better than average way to get out without getting sick. Here's why.

If you could sit in on any of the DPAL Board meetings, you would see firsthand how obsessed we are with keeping the Art League free of the coronavirus. In addition to the things that are obvious the minute you walk in the door (requirements for masks and social distancing, hand sanitizers, shields at the front desk and the like), we are sanitizing the classroom equipment after each class, doing building-wide cleaning much more frequently and strictly limiting the number of students in any given class.

And, at the last Board meeting, we authorized expenditures to upgrade the air circulation system in the large classroom and to introduce an air purification system for the entire building which reportedly kills the COVID-19 virus as well as other pathogens in the air. These new HVAC measures should be in place by the time you read this newsletter or very soon after.

Another thing in our favor: The majority of the people frequenting the Art League, especially those who are taking classes, are in an older, more cautious cohort. (We don't host frat parties!) This in itself helps to make our building safer than most public establishments.

Again, no promises can be made. But you can make a strong argument that the DuPage Art League is a good place to which to escape if your need to do something creative with other creative people proves irresistible. Stay masked and stay healthy.

Parking Update

Students, while in class, can use the customer parking on the second floor as long as they have the new full-page parking pass in their front window. They also can use the paid customer parking on the top floor if they are going to be in Wheaton for longer than the class. There is no parking at any time in the Permit Only spaces.

A Little Bit of History...

A news article published in November 1958

The DuPage Art League was first organized in March of 1957 and has grown to a membership of 57. Two series of classes of eight lessons each are held, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. When classes are not in session, members get together and paint. The group holds about 5 exhibits yearly in surrounding communities and in good weather conducts "paint-outs" on Sunday afternoons.

Member News

Mooneen Mourad has eight paintings and ceramic wall art in Elate Salon until January 2021. She is now selling her art on instagram @mooneenmourad.

Kathi Kuchler was accepted into the World Wide Art Magazine #4, 2020 with 3 watercolors painted during the quarantine. Her paintings are printed on pages 81-83. World Wide Art Books' international art anthologies are one of the most authoritative art resources of our time. Used by collectors, gallery owners, art consultants, interior designers, curators and other art professionals all over the world, each title published by World Wide Art Books comes out once a year. Visit their site: wwab.us/wwa-magazine-4/

Thank You!

Misty Alvis, VP Publicity & Promotions

Thanks to everyone who helped with our holiday windows. If you haven't seen them in person, please come by and take a look. I think they will get you in the holiday spirit! There are photo opportunities, I Spy riddles and even a Guess How Many is in the Jar game. Something for everyone!



First, thanks to Yvonne Thompson for her collectibles and her invaluable help and expertise. And special thanks for getting Santa's sleigh crafted! Thanks to Vicki Liszewski for loaning us her beautiful nutcrackers and bottlebrush tree collections; to Barbara Grabowski, Susan McLean, Sharon Peters, and Kay Wahlgren for their seasonal, mood setting original art. Thanks to Sue Jurkus for the vintage ceramic tree and some heavy lifting.

Thanks to Dan Danielson for creating our very realistic I Spy Holiday Signs.

Thanks to Kay Wahlgren for painting our sleigh.

Special thanks to Liesl Mann for painting the beautiful reindeer, trees, and ribbon on the windows and also thanks for loaning us her collectibles. Thanks to your family for moving the bench. Thanks to Pam Keller for painting the gorgeous Christmas wreaths on our doors.

Thanks again for your help! Your contributions helped make the windows beautiful.



Wes Douglas's Artwork

Misty Alvis, VP Publicity & Promotions



Examples Wes Douglas's works. Wes teaches Urban Sketchers and was profiled in last month's newsletter.



Behind the Scenes at the DuPage Art League



Carol Kincaid, VP-Finance

Because I joined the league in 1983, I have had the privilege of knowing and having as friends several of the original founding members of the league as well as taking classes from many of our very illustrious teachers—some of whom have passed on, unfortunately. Over the years I have served on the DPAL board many

times, usually in the position of Treasurer, Secretary or my current position as VP-Finance, a post I've held more than once. The VP-Finance position encompasses a number of areas including Fund Raisers, Donations, Scholarships and the Scout program.

As to my art preferences: I love painting flowers and land and water scenes as well as pet portraits in oil pastels and watercolor. I also love to do buildings in pen and ink and have a small business (with Marilyn Dwyer) called Home Portraits. About eight years ago I fell in love with oil pastels and joined the Yellow House Artists group which is an oil pastel organization. I now serve on the board there.

Yuletide Treasures

Yvonne Thompson, Yuletide Treasures Chair

Oh my, I don't know where to start! Have you seen Yuletide Treasures this year? If we are not the talk of the town I want to know why!

I have so many HUGE thank you's to some AMAZING people who without their help this show would never happen. Firstly to Misty and Scott Alvis, Liesl Mann and Pam Keller for their show stopping windows. Guys, you have excelled in creating the best windows I think we have ever have for a holiday show! Take a bow! Also big thanks to my friend Nate Nagy for taking my quick sketch and turning into the beautiful sleigh and to Kay Wahlgren for painting it.

So many members helped with inventory checking and helped me set up and cleaning the gallery. Thanks to you all:

Ruth Cleghorn	Vicki Liszewski
Kris Davis	Suzanne Massion
Sue Dix	Pat Mitroff
Barbara Grabowski	Diana Nawrocki
Jacque France	Linda O'Connor
Jan Fritch	Irene Paterson
Sue Jurkus	Sherry Theilgaard
Wilda Kemp	Lyn Tietz
Carol Krzyzak	Marlene Vitek

The second drop off is November 30; appointments only. Please contact me if you have more work to drop off or still haven't volunteered your time.

Board Notes

November 12, 2020



- The old bank building across the street is undergoing remodeling and we aren't able to park there anymore and the entrance to the city lot from Front Street will be closed while work is underway. There are new directions regarding where students and staffers can park. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the details. There are also new full page parking passes that have been requested by the Police Department which are available at the front desk.
- Chuck Showalter has been working with Bremer (a local hearing and air conditioning contractor) on our exhaust fan in the large classroom and they have solved the problem. They have located ductwork that goes to the outside of the building and will have the fan connected and a switch installed shortly. Bremer also recommended we install an IWave Air Purifier system on the two furnaces that will remove more than 99% of airborne bacteria, viruses, internal pollutants and odors. The cost is \$1,720. The board voted to install the system as quickly as possible.
- The Christmas windows are installed and everyone on the board praised Misty Alvis for once again doing an incredible job. The theme for decorations in Wheaton this year is reindeer and the reindeer painted on our glass are spectacular. A wooden sleigh will be chained to the bench and people can take photos sitting in the sleigh. Add to that a tree, toys and lots of Christmas merchandise and the result is amazing. If you haven't seen them they are definitely worth stopping by to check them out.
- The POS System is being beta tested which is always challenging. It's not there yet but it's getting better. It looks like we will need to upgrade the WIFI and internet speed so we're in the process of checking out our options.

DPAL Board 2020-2021

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Secretary: Sally Hines
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VP Activities: Sue Thomas
VP Building & Grounds: Chuck Showalter
VP Education: Kathy Szeszol; Workshops - Jen Schwab
VP Exhibits: Margaret Bucholz (gallery 1); Mary Lynn Sullivan (gallery 2)
VP Finance: Carol Kincaid
VP Membership: Sue Jurkus
VP Office Management: Sue Krzyzanowski
VP Publicity & Promotions: Misty Alvis
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Yuletide Treasures: Sherry Theilgaard, Liesl Mann,
Yvonne Thompson
Newsletter: Valerie Lorimer | vlorimer@yahoo.com

The DuPage Art League does not discriminate nor tolerates harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, national origin, genetic information, or any other characteristic.



Review of October 19 Monday Night Program with William Worcester

This was our first attempt at filming an online streaming demo at the league using an iPad mounted to a rolling tripod. I got there extra early to set things up and saw that, "Johnny on the spot" Ellen Rottsoik had already done so. Next, came demo artist William Worcester to set up his palette and oil painting supplies. We were all kind of jumpy thinking of all the things that could go wrong. William had never done a Zoom demo either.

Once everything was set up, we were pacing up and back hoping for the best, when a calendar reminder popped up right in the middle of my screen. Oh no, what to do now! I tried to swipe it away but that switched me over to the calendar and I lost the connection to the library. Only a minute or so before we go "live"! (I'm nervous even thinking about it). Quickly, I went through my emails to find the right link and got on just in time with seconds to spare.


Bari from Wheaton library made her announcements and away we went. William was a good story teller as he demonstrated his oil painting technique. All in all program went well. When the demo was over, William said it was hard talking to a silent audience. When he told a story or cracked a joke, Ellen and I remained silent. He couldn't even see if we were smiling due to our masks. So, looking forward to our next inhouse demo in January, we might need to make some noise so our artist does not feel like he is in a void. William shared his finished painting with us.

There will not be a December demo.

NEWSLETTERS/E-BLAST SUBMITTALS vlorimer@yahoo.com

To submit email blast information and newsletter articles, send your information to: vlorimer@yahoo.com and copy susanjurkus@att.net by the 15th of the month.

Acceptable formats for submissions include Word documents or PDF files for text and 300dpi JPG for images). Please proof/verify your information before submitting. **Use minimal formatting; send photos, flyers, images as attachments to your email (not as part of the email body).**

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