



November 2023

newsletter

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Let's talk about Thanksgiving!

The Thanks Part: *The DuPage Art League gives us much to be thankful for. We have a lively, vibrant gathering place where all of us, no matter our age, can come to develop our artistic skills and share the joy of creating art!*

Have you heard these words before? They are, in fact, the "Vision" that set our art league in motion. This "Vision," along with the art league's "Mission" and "Purpose," are the guiding lights that our Board followed in creating the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. I look forward to sharing that plan with you in my December newsletter. What I want to focus on this month is the **LIVELY, VIBRANT, GATHERING PLACE** we enjoy here at the art league.

Many elements go into creating such a space, but none more important than you, our **STUDENTS** and **MEMBERS**. Thank you all so very much! It is your shining faces, smiles and encouragement every time I come to class, that make me want to keep returning, month after month, season after season.

What else contributes to these great vibes? Our **TEACHERS**, of course, who generously share their artistic skills with us! Our **GALLERIES**, covered with beautiful artwork, inspire us every time we enter those spaces. Periodically, we get together as members just for **FUN!** Another opportunity for fun is just around the corner. Please join us on Sunday, November 5th between 2-4 PM for **FESTIVE FUN AND HOLIDAY SHENANIGANS**. This event kicks off our **Yuletide Treasures** season with a visual feast for the eyes from our many talented crafting friends. Details are in another part of this month's Newsletter.

The Giving Part: As a not-for-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of our members and occasional donors and grants, to keep our art league going. November's "**Giving Tuesday**" has become a "thing" as charitable institutions across America ask for support. We all have favorite charities that we try to help, but I hope that this year you will consider our little "home-grown" DuPage Art League when you make your donations. We are thankful for any monetary donation you might make, but we desperately need your donations of time, enthusiasm and friendship.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Till next month,
Mary Lynn Sullivan
dpalpresident.mls@gmail.com

**FESTIVE FUN
AND HOLIDAY
SHENANIGANS!**

NOVEMBER 5!

ALL MEMBERS (and their guests) are invited to attend a FUN afternoon at the League, Sunday November 5th 2:00-4:00 pm. There will be nibbles and drinks, prizes and professional photography backdrops for you to take some holiday pictures, so bring your cellphone or camera. I have also heard a whisper that Santa maybe popping in to take photos with you too!

Yuletide Treasures will be up, so you can even do some holiday shopping.

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2024 MEMBERSHIPS

You will be able to purchase your 2024 membership online and at the front desk starting Friday, December 1, 2023.

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

Board Meeting Notes - October

Treasurer Report: Jennifer Bayer reports our income for September was more than budgeted due to higher membership, gallery sales, classes, workshops, and interest. Expenses less than budgeted, due to lower office expenses, repair and maintenance and business expenses this month. We maintain 15 months of reserves.

Exhibits: Margaret Bucholz reports the Gallery I exhibit had 73 entries by 59 participants and the plans for “Best of the Best” exhibit are well underway.

Activities: Sandy Winter said the September Monday Night Program had 80 people in attendance and 187 viewing virtually. The virtual viewers were from 16 states from California to Maine!

Office Management: Barb Finn reports we will participate in the Downtown Wheaton Association Trick or Treating. Festive Fun & Holiday Shenanigans plans are looking good. It will be a fun member event.

Business Manager: Yvonne Thompson has been preparing for **Yuletide Treasures**.



Are you “of an age?”

You are if you are 72 or older and must take **RMDs** from your IRA.

We’re talking, of course, about IRS **Required Minimum Distributions** (RMDs). The positive side of that coin is that you can use part of your **RMDs** to make **QCDs**!

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian to a qualified charity. This transfer allows you to exclude the amount donated to a qualified charity from your taxable income—saving you a little money, and making a qualified charity a little happier.

A tax advisor can help you determine if both your IRA and charity qualify for QCDs. But, it’s a great feeling to donate to a charity and feel like you’re getting a little “kick-back.” You should also be happy to know that the **DuPage Art League**, as a 501(c)(3) organization, is a qualified charity.

During this upcoming season of giving, remember this formula:

(RMD-QCD=\$\$DPAL)

(RMD minus QCD equals money for DPAL.)

Thank you for your generosity!

Coming Soon: DuPage Art League Apparel!

We will be holding a DPAL fundraiser in the first half of November this year: shirts, sweatshirts, hats and more—all with DPAL branding—will be available to purchase! The items will be posted online through the Custom Ink website for anyone to order, and everything will ship in time for Christmas gifting. More details will come by email in early November.

First Annual DPAL Holiday Mug Contest

Holiday Mug contest voting started on 10/24 and will continue through the end of the day on Nov. 1st. The entries are in our boardroom (upstairs). Go up and vote! Look for the winning mug to be in the Yuletide gift shop sometime later in November.

‘WHEATON GIVES BACK’

Cold weather collection is happening now! DPAL has a collection box in Gallery I. Coats, hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves that are still in good condition are accepted. Pickup will be in the beginning of November.

DPAL was able to give the **Animal Rescue Foundation, (ARF)** a \$945 check from the sales of the Warhol exhibit 25 Cats Named Sam. They were thrilled!

DPAL Board 2023-2024

President: Mary Lynn Sullivan

Secretary: Maeva Cook

Treasurer: Jennifer Bayer

VP Activities: Sandra Winter

VP Building & Grounds: Kay Wahlgren

VP Education: Kathy Szeszol

VP Exhibits: Gallery I: Margaret Bucholz

Gallery II: Mary Ann Staroscik

VP Finance: Sally Hines

VP Membership: Amy Tran

VP Office Management: Barbara Finn

VP Publicity & Promotions: Mary Kate Venturini

Presidents Emeritae: Diana Mitchell and

Carol Kincaid

Yuletide Treasures: Yvonne Thompson and

Wilda Kemp

Newsletter: Lori Tucker

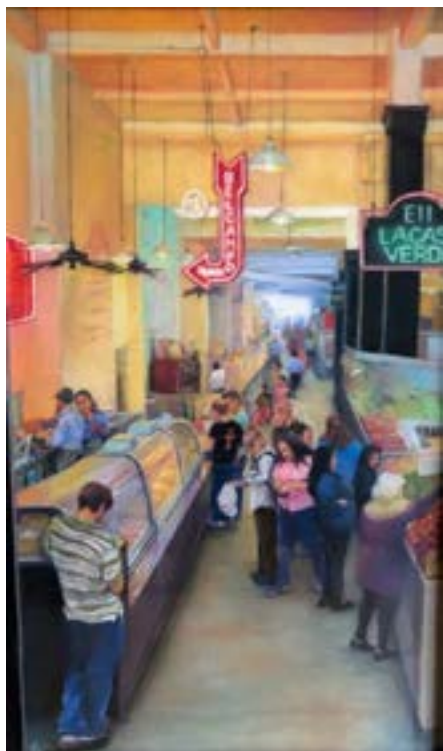
dpalmembershipt@gmail.com

Newsletter/E-Blast Submittals

To submit email blast information and newsletter articles, send your information to: dpalmembershipt@gmail.com by the 15th of the month.

Acceptable formats include Word documents or PDF files for text and 300dpi .JPG form images. Please proof and verify your copy before submitting. Send photos, flyers and other images as attachments to email.

Feast For The Eyes, Judged by Janice Czerwinski



Best of Show: Fran Puglise
Food Cathedral, Soft Pastel
 Fran, when I entered the gallery, your painting drew me in. Excellent depth created by the contrast of subtle distant to vibrant foreground hues. A challenging subject, very well executed.



Theme Award: Maureen McKee
19 Peonies, Oil
 Maureen, brush work on your peonies is fantastic. Wonderful use of lost and found edges and subtly suggesting some. Excellent composition leading the viewer throughout your painting.



Special Merit: My Darling Clementines
Pastel
 Cynthia, beautiful painting! Your composition has been thought through well. Wonderful reflections in your vessel. These can be a challenge. You Nailed it. You captured the light to shadow. I feel I could reach and grab a juicy clementine.



Theme Award: Peter Grass
Rushing to the Sea, Photo
 Peter, fantastic view captured through your lens. Great composition. Rushing waters capture the viewer, framed by the rocky cliffs. Well done.



Special Merit: Jennifer Hauser
Garden City, Ink and Colored Pencil
 Jennifer, quite an amazing work of art. Highly detailed drawing that draws the viewer into a mystical fantasy land. Pops of color and varying sizes of elements are wonderful.

Merit Awards

1. Susan McLean, Nantucket Still Life, Photo
2. Jeff Zawada, Fall-ing, Pen and Watercolor
3. Ralph Furmanski, Fall A Flame, Watercolor
4. Misty Alvis, Blackwell, Photo
5. Jan Kloss, Pears on Black Canvas, Acrylic
6. M. L. Sullivan, Love the Hollyhocks, Pencil

7. Jan Kalmanek, Floral Canopy, Photo
8. Sue Rohl, Flowers of the Field, Watercolor
9. Renee Bercher, Quiet Time, Cold Wax/Oil
10. Julie Keating, A Slice of Heaven, Watercolor
11. Darlene Edwards, Fire Fence, Acrylic
12. Sally Sharp, Um Um Good, MixedTextile

Visit the YULETIDE TREASURES for all your Holiday Shopping Needs!

MEMBER MARQUEE

Our member and DPAL President, **Mary Lynn Sullivan**, had her pastel painting, "Headed to Hogwarts" accepted into the **2023 International Association of Pastel Societies Fall Juried Exhibition**—11th Master Circle Division.
(www.iapspastel.org/exiaps_current.php).



Congratulations

Finn Times Two

Tom and Barbara Finn
WORKS IN PASTEL, WATERCOLOR & SCRATCHBOARD

NOVEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 27
GALLERY 777 – LISLE LIBRARY

Artists Reception
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
7 – 8 PM

777 FRONT STREET, LISLE, IL 60532



- *Congrats* to seven Dupage Art League members who won awards at the **Danada Nature Art & Photo Show**.
- Honorable mention to...
- **Misty Alvis** (not pictured), **Dan Danielson**, **Sue Krzyzanowski**, **Maureen McKee**, and **Sue Wilson**

1st Place to...
George Bruce, **Kelly Sebold** and **Alice Sulinsky**

Kay Wahlgren, Renaissance Woman

By Barb McCartney

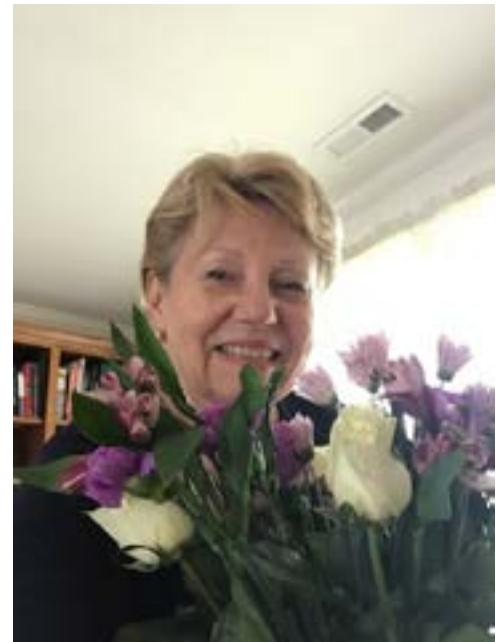
The DuPage Art League is fortunate to continually welcome new artists. But it also benefits from our many long-time members, including watercolor painting teacher and board member Kay Wahlgren. In her 50-year tenure with the league, Kay has served as President for five nonconsecutive two-year terms, as well as in various board positions such as Education, Exhibits, and Building & Grounds. She has also been a long-time and essential front desk volunteer. "It's really like a second home to me," said Kay.

Like many of us, Kay's interest in art began at an early age with a beloved grade school art teacher. The education she got growing up in Waukesha, Wisconsin prepared her well for college at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. It was there that she met her future husband, Bob. Kay relished classes in painting, anatomical drawing, drafting, architectural design and art history. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1965 with a degree in Graphic Design. After getting married, she did window displays for Marshall Field's before she left for her first pregnancy. She moved to making handmade 3D paper sculptures, which were assembled in many intricate layers. Entering shows brought her awards and fame. At one point she learned that her paper sculptures were being haggled over in divorce settlements! Unfortunately, repeated use of an X-ACTO knife resulted in an injured thumb and migraine headaches.

Kay and her mother decided to take both oil and watercolor painting classes at the DuPage Art League. It was watercolor that most appealed to her. "I like the freshness of it," she said. "I'm drawn to realism and you can really get a lot of detail with watercolor." She was especially influenced by teacher Dick Shipley and classmates Bill Batman and Anita Brechtel. "Every time I did a painting, I made sure it was something that I didn't know how to do," she said. She challenged herself to try painting metal, glass, wood and anything else that she could set up on her kitchen counter.

Kay especially enjoys painting flowers. "Their shapes and forms and darks and lights can really be quite lovely." As a master gardener, Kay is very familiar with flowers. She conducted garden tours for many years and wrote a weekly gardening column, which was published in about fifteen different newspapers.

In one of her watercolor classes, her instructor asked her to fill in as teacher for a day. Kay discovered she could teach. "I realized that I could articulate what I was doing and also explain why," she said. Since then, she has introduced many beginning artists to the medium. Kay loves the camaraderie that develops in the classroom as students share what they are working on. Always up for something new, Kay has now taken up writing. She is part of a writer's group with her daughter and son-in-law. Most recently she developed a character, named Elbow, whose adventures you can follow in her first published eBook, called "Ladies' Man (Elbow Chronicles, #1)".



Get ready to make headlines too! Here is the *proposed* 2024 Gallery I, Exhibit Schedule

Have fun with the themes, but remember that your artwork does not need to reflect the theme.

January 2024 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Description: Resolutions, celebrations, renewal, etc.

February 2024 – BEST OF THE BEST

Description: Show representing winning artworks from a dozen art leagues/guilds from around the suburbs.

March 2024 – MARCH MADNESS

Description: Sports, races, St. Patrick's Day

April 2024 – CREATURES AND PETS

Description: Animals are such fascinating creatures.

May 2024 – CREATE A FRAGRANT BOUQUET

Description: Bouquets, gardens, landscapes

June 2024 – Music in Motion– VOLUNTEER SHOW

Description: Depicting the dynamic energy and movement of music..

July 2024 – ABSTRACT ART

Description: Let your inner Picasso stretch you to try a looser, more abstract way to create art.

August 2024 – MASTERS AND FABULOUS FAKES

Description: Learn from the masters by imitating their style and techniques.

September 2024 – GLORIOUS FALL COLORS

Description: Be captivated by the red and golden colors of the fall leaves.

October 2024 – BEAUTIFUL STILL LIFES

Description: Beautiful centerpieces, window displays, fruit bowl, you get the idea.

November, December 2024 – YULETIDE TREASURES

From the Library:

First of all, thank you very much to the volunteers who packed and moved and then moved and unpacked the DPAL Library during the recent "back of the house" floor renovation. No one realizes how heavy books, especially art books, are until you have to move them!" The following titles have just been added to the Library. You may find them on the shelf labeled "New Books":

Barnes-Mellish, Glynis. *Watercolor Workshop II* (Watercolor)
Complete Work of Michelangelo (Biography)
Feliciano, Kristina. *Best of Pastel 2* (Pastel)
Harper, Sally, editor. *Complete Watercolor Artist.* (Watercolor)
Kunz, Jan. *Painting Beautiful Watercolors from Photographs.* (Added copy) (Watercolor)
Neevey, Jonathan. *Drawing with Coloured Pencils.* (Colored Pencil)
Spicer, Jean Uhl. *Bright & Beautiful Flowers in Watercolor.* Added copy) (Watercolor)
Yarnell, Jerry. *Secrets of Acrylic Landscapes; Start to Finish.* (Acrylics)

Enjoy!
Barbara Grabowski
Library Volunteer



Mark your calendars.....
Sunday November 5, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

What a wonderful way to start the holiday season with a fun afternoon at DPAL!
Yuletide Treasures will be open too, so you can start some holiday shopping!

There will be seasonal snacks and sips, professional photographic backdrops to snap some snazzy holiday photos (bring your cellphone or camera) and lots of prizes to win!

Join in the fun and win extra tickets to the prizes by any of the following:

- * Giving yourself a "reindeer" name (Name tag will be supplied)
- * Dressing as your favorite Christmas or Pantomime character
- * Wearing the ugliest sweater you can find!
- * Wear a crazy holiday hat
- * Dress in your Halloween costume
- * Playing the corn toss

Come and meet your fellow DPAL artists and Board Members.....
I also have it on good authority that Santa will be stopping by for Selfies with all you Elfies!!
It's a smart way to get on his GOOD list!

dupageartleague

Gallery, School & Gift Shop



In Partnership with:

MONDAY NIGHT PROGRAM – November 20, 2023

Painting with Fabric Monday, Nov. 20 • 6:30 pm • VIRTUAL

Artist Joel Fremion demonstrate his unique technique of fabric collage, incorporating fabrics, leathers, and paints to create detailed, tactile landscape, still life, and portrait pieces sewn to canvas backs. Provided in partnership with the Wheaton Library.



+



Register for this free program by using the link below

www.wheatonlibrary.org/calendar

Or scan the QR code with your phone

