



March 2024

newsletter

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Let's talk about the glue that holds us together!

This critical element has been on my mind so often during these two years as your president that I thought it well worth devoting a column to it.

The DuPage Art League is comprised of many things. It's a brick-and-mortar **building**. It's a local **business** in Wheaton, IL. It's a **school** serving 1500 students each year and a resource for more than 500 members. It's a **gallery** and it's a **gift shop**.

It hires only a few part-time people—teachers, a janitor, and one amazing Business Manager. That's it. You might wonder how it handles so many diverse functions with such a modest budget. **It all holds together because of our volunteers and the myriad ways they contribute their time, energy and talent.**

Front and center are our Front Desk volunteers—greeting all who come in, answering questions, opening the building each morning and locking up each night.

And then there is the Board of Directors who together manage all the work of the league—publicity, education, membership, activities, building and grounds, finance, office management, note taking and continuity from one year to the next. Did I mention our treasurer and her major responsibility for managing all the art league's funds, bills, taxes and investments?

All the above are volunteers, **BUT** we also have the wonderful volunteer who makes sure the refrigerator is always filled with beverages, and another who makes sure we have plates and napkins. We have volunteers who bake for special events and one who collects old art books and resells them at discount prices to contribute a bit more money to our coffers. Some volunteers show up to help hang exhibits and another makes sure there is always a supply of paper towels and TP. One volunteer recycles our printer cartridges and others set-up, clean-up, donate items, decorate and volunteer their husbands for the heavy-duty stuff!

These people are the glue that holds the DPAL together and you are invited to join this merry band of volunteers.

For more reasons to volunteer a bit of your time and energy at the DPAL, look for the colorful little **Reasons to Volunteer** scattered throughout this month's newsletter.

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



Congratulations to DPAL's Sue Thomas! Sue's pastel, Zhou Stairwell, took 2nd place in the Best of the Best Show. See more on pages 4-5.

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March 18 Art DEMO
Word Art by Wes Douglas
[Register here! \(CLICK\)](#)

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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 - February

Treasurer: Jennifer Bayer said we continue to do well. Expenses for the period were less than budget. The income for the period was more than budget due to higher membership, gallery sales, winter classes interest and donations. The unrestricted cash decreased by 2% due to artists' sales payments in January. We have 15 months of reserves.

Activities: Sandy Winter reported that the January Monday Night program was well attended despite the weather conditions. There were 40 people in attendance. The 173 virtual attendees included people from outside of DuPage County, were from DeKalb County and Kane County. Viewers from outside of Illinois were in Arizona, Iowa, Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Texas, and Wisconsin.

March's featured artist is Wes Douglas. This will be a hybrid program.

Office Management: Barb Finn said the current staffers are doing a great job, but we need to train a few new people to fill in when needed. Plans are well underway for our Member Tea Party in April.

Carol Kincaid and Barb Finn hosted three groups of Scouts this month and have several more planned. It is a fun way to build enthusiasm about art and what the DuPage Art League has to offer both the troop leaders and the younger generation. They will also host a Senior Group in April.

24-25 DPAL Board Elections

DuPage Art League Board Officers are elected in April of each year and assume duties at the May board meeting. Per DPAL Bylaws, the president emeritus chairs a nominations committee consisting of one other board member who is not running for office and 2 non board members. This year the nominating committee was Diana Mitchell, Sally Hines, Dan Danielson, and Mary Ann Staroscik. The slate of officers was announced to all current members in a "Constant Contact" email February 10, 2024. Note that part of the board is elected in even years and the rest in odd numbered years. The slate of candidates for this year is as follows:

President	Mary Lynn Sullivan
VP Education	Margaret Bucholz
VP Exhibits	Danielle Crilly
VP Finance	Carol Kincaid
VP Office Mgmnt	Barbara Finn

Your **official ballot for voting will be sent to you on APRIL 5 using Constant Contact. Voting deadline will be April 12 .**

Ballots will be counted on **Monday April 15, 2024.** Please print your ballot and give it to the front desk staffer by April 12 or mail to the art league. Ballots will also be available at the front desk.

You must be a current member to vote.



**BE THE GLUE.
VOLUNTEER!**

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

Gallery II March Solo Exhibit - Nature's Beauty, Artist Vicki Leszewski

The DuPage Art League Gallery II is excited to begin the 2024 season of showcasing solo artists! We are thrilled to have for the March show, the talented Vicki Leszewski.

One of Vicki's first drawings at about age three was proudly pasted into the family album and trotted out to embarrass her often: an elephant with two of its legs emerging from the middle of its stomach. Creativity was encouraged in her family and extra art classes soon corrected the anatomy error. She's been making art ever since.

She attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison as an art major with an area of emphasis in drawing and completed a B.S.E. in art at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater.

She spent most of her working life as a graphic designer, typographer and corporate Art Director with brief stints as a K-12 art teacher and a not-for-profit office manager. Over her career she has designed everything from record album covers to parking garage signage to web sites, and typeset everything from cookbooks to computer manuals. She mastered the elementary art teacher's "art cart" and is proud to say her high school students were accepted in state-wide shows. There were many interesting projects along the way but there was no time for fine art outside of work.



Approaching retirement Vicki decided to return to watercolor and pastel. She took an evening watercolor class with Kay Wahlgren at the DuPage Art League and was hooked. Since then she has taken workshops with Tony Couch, John Salminen, Arleta Pech, Andy Evenson, David R. Smith, Dan Danielson, David R. Becker, Robert Krajecki and several other watercolor and pastel artists. She likes to consider herself a life long learner and has taken classes at the LaGrange Art League, the Naperville Art League, Peninsula School of Art and Dillmans Art Workshops. Nature, birds and landscapes are her main subjects in watercolor and pastel. Depicting the beauty of nature realistically but expressively is her goal. The process of seeing as an artist sees and translating that vision to paper is something she finds endlessly thrilling.

Memberships include: Nature Artists Guild of the Morton Arboretum, the Chicago Pastel Artists and the DuPage Art League.

Awards

2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 DuPage Art League shows: Merit, Special Merit, Theme awards 2019 Danada Nature Art Show: Animal and Plant categories honorable mention awards 2022 Danada Nature Art Show: Animal category honorable mention award.

Vicki's show, "**Nature's Beauty**" will run the month of March and we hope you will come to meet the artist behind the magic, at the reception on Friday evening, March 8th from 7:00 -9:00.

Maryann Staroscik, Gallery II

Why volunteer

Teaches you valuable skills

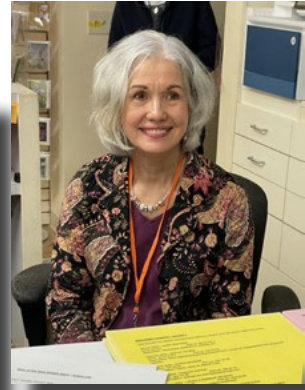
The training and hands-on experience you gain while volunteering can help you learn new skills as well as build upon ones you already have. You could potentially gain new skills in data entry, marketing, building relationships, social media and more.

Why volunteer

Improves self-esteem

Volunteering may boost your self-esteem and self-confidence. When you do something that you feel is worthwhile and valuable for your community, it gives you a sense of accomplishment that may help you feel more fulfilled about your life and any future goals.

Best of the Best 2024 Reception



Best of the Best - 2024

Judged by Teresa Marrandino



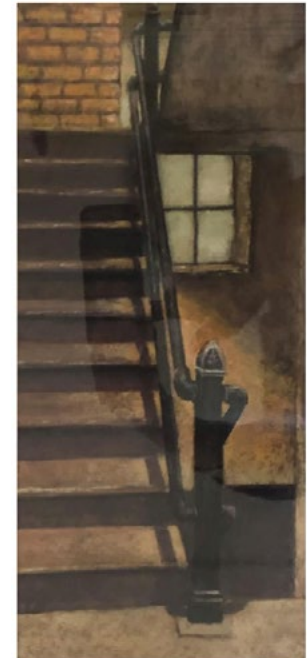
Best of Show: Tony Abborano, Oak Park, IL
Elmhurst Artists' Guild, "Time Machine,"
36 x 36 Acrylic, \$3,500



First Place: Gina Rende, Orland Park, IL: Lemont Artists' Guild,
"Wednesdays at Shirley's," 8 x 63", Colored Pencil & Pen & Ink.

↑ Judge's Comments:
Good use of color. Out-of-the-box thinking. Blending of color excellent.

← Judge's Comments:
I'm aware it's the largest piece. Shading, shadows are superb. Not muddy. Blending of color excellent.



Second Place: Sue Thomas, Lisle, IL
Dupage Art League, "Zhou Stairwell,"
18x8", Pastel, NFS

Judge's Comments: →
Captivating. Where do the stairs lead. Gentle medium, yet powerful. Done very well.



Third Place: Michael Preski, Chicago, IL; Lemont Artists Guild, "Self Portrait #2," 9 x 19.5", Ink and Colored Pencil, \$225

↑ Judge's Comments: Excellent use of lines and shading. Love the pop of orange sets off the whole piece. Composition is excellent as well.

**Best of the Best
Judge:
Teresa
Marrandino**



Honorable Mention: Caroline Susner, Shorewood, IL; Naperville Art League, "Cruisin," 12x16", Watercolor, \$375



Honorable Mention: Ardythe Tiesenga, Oak Park, IL, Oak Brook Art League, "Nite Nurse," 14x16", Oil, NFS



Honorable Mention: Dorothy Bury Shaw, Downers Grove, IL; Elmhurst Artists' Guild, "A Few Dead Branches," 27x20", Mixed Media Collage, NFS



Honorable Mention: Joan Lucht, Shorewood, IL; Naperville Art League, "Song from the Sea," Mixed Media Collage, 12x16", NFS

SCOUTS VISIT DPAL

We have already hosted three local Brownie Troops at the Art League in 2024, with more scheduled in the next few months. Groups of second and third grade scouts come with their leaders to enjoy a fun art project plus a tour of our galleries. It's a fun way for them to earn their Art badge, and we enjoy it as well!

Each scout leaves with their own artwork and a new box of pastels. Some have come back to join our kids' classes, and leaders have shown great interest in what we do. Overall, a win-win project for DPAL!

Carol Kincaid and Barb Finn



2024 Gallery I, Exhibit Schedule

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

March 2024 – MARCH MADNESS *Drop Off: Feb 28-29*

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

April 2024 – CREATURES AND PETS *Drop Off: Mar 27-28*

Description: Animals are such fascinating creatures.

May 2024 – CREATE A FRAGRANT BOUQUET

Drop Off: Apr 24-25

Description: Bouquets, gardens, landscapes

June 2024 – Music in Motion– VOLUNTEER SHOW

Drop Off: May 29-30

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

July 2024 – ABSTRACT ART *Drop Off: June 26-27*

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

August 2024 – MASTERS AND FABULOUS FAKES

Drop Off: July 31-Aug 1

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

September 2024 – GLORIOUS FALL COLORS

Drop Off: Aug 28-29

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

October 2024 – BEAUTIFUL STILL LIFES

Drop Off: Sept 25-26

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

November, December 2024 – YULETIDE TREASURES

March Gallery I Judge: LYNNE KORNECKI

Lynne Kornecki is the founder and publisher of Art BEAT weekly online visual arts-only newsletter featuring stories about area artists, along with news, events and opportunities. Located in the Chicago area, and about to enter its fifth year of publication, it has gained both a national and international readership. Currently, she is the Director of Education at the Naperville Art League. She teaches Art Marketing ("Get Your Work Seen & Sold") to visual art groups based on her Art Marketing 52-card deck. When she's not writing or teaching, she takes weekly art lessons exploring techniques in watercolor or colored pencil.

<https://www.foxvalleyartbeat.com>

Why Volunteer

Brings fun into your life

Many people use volunteering to pursue their hobbies while making a difference. Volunteering for the art league may provide you with a renewed sense of creativity and motivation that carries over into your personal and professional life.

Activities and Exhibits

Vineyard Arts Fair

Saturday, June 22nd, 10:00—4:00

Vineyard Church of DuPage is hosting this event FREE of charge, to help artists become more visible to the community. Unlike most fairs, the artists don't have to pay for their booths, so they keep all the proceeds of their sales.

Learn more and/or register:

<https://www.dupagevineyard.org/arts-fair-2024>

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Susan R. Wilson

will be having a solo exhibit "Color Legends" at Gallery 777 in the Lisle Library at 777 Front Street.



March 8th through April 2024. Reception open to the public March 8th 7-9 PM.

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Glen Ellyn Historical Society

Call for Artists

Submit your proposal for a solo show! Artists will exhibit for 1-2 months in Stacy's Corner Store

Contact Jeffrey Anderson if interested: director@gehs.org

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Support for Local Art Fair

Covenant Living of Windsor Park invites you to their Fine Arts Fair on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 124 Windsor Park Drive in Carol Stream, IL, from 9 am to 3 pm.

This beloved annual event allows residents and visitors to purchase art made in many media by their residents. The artwork includes original paintings and drawings, matted prints and notecards, wood carvings, jewelry, photographs and textile pieces—something for every shopper's artistic preference.

Many, many years ago, one of our teachers, Marilyn Dwyer, taught there and started this event with her students' artwork. Now, Pat Helbig, a resident artist and art instructor is largely responsible for keeping this event popular.

FROM THE FRONT DESK...

Hello fellow members,

Have you ever wondered how you might **volunteer** some time at DPAL but don't know where to begin? We are now offering the perfect solution!

You may have noticed that we have a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who occupy the front desk six days a week. They greet visitors, register them for classes, answer phones, do their best to answer questions and solve problems...but most importantly, they are on the front line when someone walks into the DuPage Art League.

We are now looking for a few more friendly faces to add to our ranks. I have personally learned so much since I started "working the desk" and especially love being able to meet so many more artists and teachers that I never would have known otherwise. It has made my experience as a member so much richer. You will be well trained, and there is always someone available to answer questions.

Any amount of time you can spare is most welcome!

Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in joining our ranks and I will try to answer any questions you might have. No experience necessary – just a desire to help out and interact with others who might need a helping hand.

Thank you!

Barb Finn
DPAL Office Manager
Barbfinn505@gmail.com
630-234-1984



Why Volunteer

Provides a sense of community

Volunteering can help you feel connected to those you are helping in the community. This experience may make you want to get involved with other aspects of your community, such as local politics or advocating for programs you believe are important.

Newsletter/E-Blast Submittals

To submit email blast information and newsletter articles, send your information to: dpalmembershiplt@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.