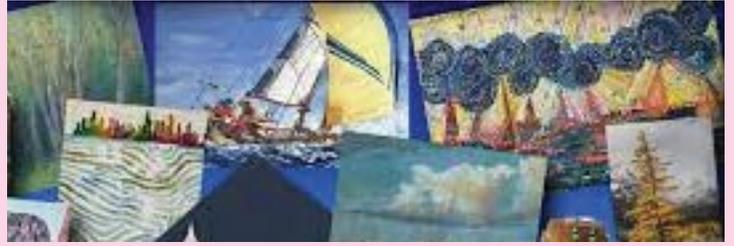


Newsletter



The DuPage Art League • February 2026

Happy February! A new year is well underway. I'm Maryann Staroscik part of the membership team and current chairman of Gallery II. My partner for Gallery II is another member of the art league, Becky Schobel.

We value our members and the wonderful talents the DuPage Art League cultivates. We encourage our members to show their beautiful art work in our monthly shows. There is a theme each month which brings out creativity in the most fascinating art work displayed.

Independent judges present awards in various areas such as Merit, Special Merit, Theme and Best of Show, each carrying different point values. When an artist accumulates 15 points in their lifetime of continuous membership, they are offered an opportunity to have their own show.

Oh what fun the receptions are! A well attended affair giving all members and the public an opportunity to meet the honored artist, see the exhibit and maybe find that perfect art piece you'd love to have in your home! The receptions, held once a month, are a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

It is our hope here at the art league that you will find a class that will enhance your creativity and enjoy learning new techniques that come from spending time with fellow classmate artists. For those who prefer painting outdoors, we have a group of Plein Air painters who attend a different outdoor venue each week. There is plenty of activity to get involved in at the gallery and it's the members who make the DuPage Art League a place to be proud to belong.

Maryann Staroscik
Membership team & Gallery II

*A couple of paintings
by Maryann Staroscik*



Raw



Lady and the Violin



Art must be an
expression of love or
it is nothing."

– Marc Chagall

National Wear Red Day is Friday, February 6, 2026.

Did you know.....Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women.

As many of you know, I suffered a "widow maker" heart attack on December 1.

I want you all to be aware that women do not have the same symptoms as men. Many women say they thought they had indigestion. Never take that chance. I am one of only 12% that survive this. To find out more information, please go here, it may save your life!

<https://www.goredforwomen.org/en/about-heart-disease-in-women/signs-and-symptoms-in-women>

Yvonne...one of the 12%!

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Board Meeting Notes - January

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Bayer commented that December was a very good month. Total income: Yuletide Treasures had a record year, membership renewals, class registrations, donations and sale of donated art supplies all contributed to put us over budget. Total expenses for the period were more than budget. Overall, we are doing well.

President Emerita: Diana Mitchell talked about the upcoming board elections. Please look for the slate of candidates and vote.

Activities: Adele Dunn reported on the upcoming Monday Night Demos at the Wheaton Library. January 19, featured watercolorist Maria Delton. February 16 th will feature Nancy Staszak, Gelatin Prints. These are live demos and they are recorded for virtual presentations on the library website. Register for the programs through the Wheaton Library.

Membership: The New Member Tea is scheduled for February 1st . Invitations were sent. Please remember to RSVP.

Amy Tran reports that we currently have 325 members for the 2026 year.

Buildings and Grounds: Mark Galli said the painting in the Galleries has been completed over the winter break.

Business Manager: Yvonne Thompson sends a Thank you to everyone who supported Yuletide Treasures. Special Thanks to Wilda Kemp who took over while she was recovering and all those who pitched in during Yvonne's absence. Yuletide had the best year so far!

Submitted by Maeva Cook, Secretary

DPAL Calendar

Jan 28-29 Pick Up Jan Gallery 1 Entry

Jan 28-29 Drop Off Gritty & Raw, Architecture, city scapes, pure emotion

Jan 31 Member registration for Winter B Session begins

February ♥♥♥

Feb 1 SAVE THE DATE.. New Member Tea 2-4

Feb 15 Nancy Anderson Gallery II Reception

Feb 16 Art Demo w/Wheaton Library - Gelatin Prints, Nancy Staszak, 6:30

Feb 23 Winter Session B classes begin

Feb 25-26 Pick Up Jan Gallery 1 Entry



2026 Gallery I Exhibit Schedule

February - GRITTY & RAW

Entry: Jan 28-29 Pick-up: Feb 25-26
Architecture, cityscapes, pure emotion...

March - WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, WISDOM

Entry: Feb 25-26 Pick-up: March 25-26
Passed down from our ancestors, felt in the body, learned experience...

April - PATTERNS

Entry: March 25-26 Pick-up: April 29, 30
Where do you see patterns, lines, rhythms?

May - SEASONS OF LIFE

Entry: April 29-30 Pick-up: May 27-28
Beginnings, growth, rest, maturity - cycles & transitions in people and nature.

June - VOLUNTEER SHOW, SOUNDTRACK

Entry: May 27-28 Pick-up: June 24-25
Celebrating work by our League volunteers. Let music, voices, city noise, sounds of nature inspire you. *Entry by invitation only.*

July - COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES

Entry: June 24-25 Pick-up: July 29-30
Abstraction, unexpected color choices, unique subject matter — what calls to you?

August - BEST OF THE BEST

Entry: July 30 Pick-up: Aug 26-27
Show representing winning artworks from art leagues/guilds from around the suburbs. *Entry by invitation only.*

September - NEGATIVE SPACE

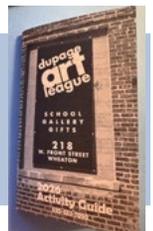
Entry: Aug 26-27 Pick-up: Sept 23-24
Description: Show off your skill in utilizing negative space in your work.

October - THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Entry: Sept 23-24 Pick-up: Oct 26-27
(note Monday, Tuesday pick-up).
Explore your ideas of expansiveness, verticality, horizons.

The Activity Guides are in!

Pick up your copy at the front desk.



DPAL Board 2026

President: Mary Lynn Sullivan

Secretary: Maeva Cook

Treasurer: OPEN

VP Activities: Adele Dunn

VP Building & Grounds: Mark Galli

VP Education: Margaret Bucholz

VP Exhibits: Gallery I: Danielle Crilly
Gallery II: TBD

VP Finance: Carol Kincaid

VP Membership: Mary Ann Staroscik

VP Office Management: Barbara Finn

VP Publicity & Promotions: Patricia Kosar

VP Safety & Security: Darlene Edwards

Presidents Emeritae: Diana Mitchell and
Carol Kincaid

Yuletide Treasures: Yvonne Thompson and
Wilda Kemp

Newsletter: Lori Tucker

dpalmembership1t@gmail.com

Gallery I - Sanctuary January Exhibit Awards



BEST OF SHOW

Robert Koch, Cottage Door*, watercolor

“Depicts privacy, sanctuary, warmth, secrecy, well-tended home, loved property. Superb handling of medium, wonderful contrast in color and texture to create interest. Many moods achieved all at once to convey a very special place of peace.”

**Note: This painting SOLD immediately. This is the best we could do to show.*

BEST THEME

Ken Kloss, Long Time Sanctuary, acrylic

“You have conveyed a warm, convivial environment. The proximity of the people and landscape creates camaraderie and seclusion. I feel joy. Great contrast of colors and textures to bring excitement to the moment yet keeps it a private moment — a sanctuary.”



Special Merit: Dawn Halter, Morning Mist, pastel

“Such a soft use of pastels to create a mood of soft continuance. Your lines and colors lead us throughout the work. Your soft use creates a physical feeling of moistness in the air. You’ve effectively created an environment, an experience for us, a mood of softness.”



Special Merit: D. Nawrocki, Open Spaces, fiber/stitchery

“How exciting to see such exploration in fibers. Depth in color and texture makes me want to touch it and become part of it. The color leads my eyes forward and back and throughout the work. My eyes reach in to search this environment. A work that makes us explore it — it is a physical experience!”



Special Merit: Myriam Villalta Elijah, Autumn at the Farm, pastel

“Your work conveys a soft quiet invitation to peace and solitude. Your use of color holds the work together as a whole, not just a barn. It shows us this is an environment of atmosphere — in the sky, the grass, the trees. It is a whole, not its individual parts. Lovely handling of pastel.”

MERIT AWARDS

Kathleen Sheers	Blue Refuge	pastel	Laurel Erickson	The Quiet Wild	pastel
Gary DeClute	Adrift	photo	Sue Thomas	Web Telescope	pastel
Chad Wooters	Sanctuary	oil	Anthony Alonzo	Looking at Me	acrylic
Kathy Olson	Reflection	pastel	Mary Beth Purse	Sand Hollow	pastel
Mary Beth Devine	Forest with Blue Bells	oil	Lisa Lucaccioni	The Penguins	mixed
Nancy Roberts Himmes	Paradise	pastel			

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.

Color, Light and Shadow, the Art of Soft Pastel

February Gallery II Exhibit

Gallery II is proud to begin the new year with the art of Nancy Anderson.

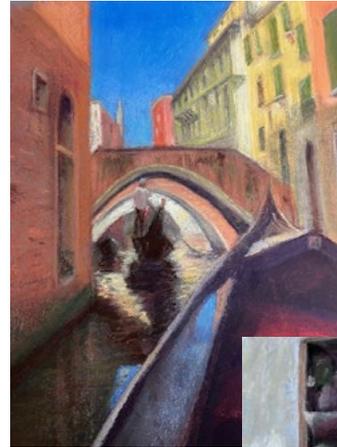
After a career as a lawyer and raising her family, Nancy began to nurture her creative side. She always enjoyed art, studying drawing, watercolor, and colored pencil before finding her true medium, soft pastels.

In Nancy's words: "I enjoy the vibrant colors, the ability to work in layers and the immediacy of their touch on different surfaces. I have been fortunate enough to have been able to study with excellent teachers, such as Ellen Rottsoak at the DuPage Art League and nationally known artists Margaret Dyer, Sally Strand, Desmond O'Hagen and the late Elizabeth Mowry." Nancy is inspired by her travels both domestic and international, always trying to capture the light.

The exhibit runs the month of February in Gallery II. Come and meet Nancy at her reception at the art league, held on Sunday, February 15th, from 2:00-4:00.

For more of her work, contact her at: nancyphillipsanderson@gmail.com.
Instagram: @Nancy8661

Maryann Staroscik, Gallery II
Becky Schobel, Gallery II



DPAL Board Volunteer Position

Have a desire to support the arts and art education?
All while being part of an active Board of Directors?
If interested, please contact Jennifer Bayer at
dpaltreasurer@gmail.com.

The DuPage Art League is seeking a Treasurer. The ideal candidate will have accounting and finance experience and a working, basic knowledge of QuickBooks and Excel. An understanding of nonprofit accounting is helpful, but not necessary. This person must hold honesty and integrity in high esteem and be committed to accuracy, transparency and timeliness.

Responsibilities include recommending financial policies, supervising the bookkeeper, monitoring credit card transactions, processing credit card refunds, overseeing the insurance policies, presenting and preparing monthly financial reports, reconciling bank accounts, executing ACH (direct deposit payments), preparing positive pay bank uploads, downloading sales information, and working with third-party accounting firm to prepare Form 990 (this arrangement will be completed after April 15). Qualifications include strong communication and interpersonal skills, working knowledge of Microsoft applications such as Excel, Word and PowerPoint, attention to detail and accuracy, and business acumen and ability to identify and communicate operating risk.

The time commitment is approximately 4-6 hours per week.
The current Treasurer's term ended on April 30, 2025.

DPAL Always Needs New People to Volunteer!

New exhibits chair for **Gallery II**. NEEDED

Two or three volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up **League receptions and get togethers**.

The **front desk** can use more trained staff to fill in as needed

Our Building and grounds person needs a back up for **snow removal**.

We need an experienced CPA to replace our **treasurer**.

Our VP of Education would appreciate a **scheduling assistant**.

Diana Mitchell will help any new volunteer to get in touch with the appropriate officer or member.

Contact her at diamitc4@aol.com

Please volunteer

"Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals." D G Coleman, Professional Services

YULETIDE NEWS Yvonne Thompson

We had a wonderful Yuletide, surpassing all past years! The final sales totaled \$14,513.55.

Forty-Four (44) Artists received checks. The high sellers were:

- Gloria Abrahamian
- Kathy Kuchler
- Diane Kehoe
- Wilda Kemp
- John Riss
- Diane Peterson
- Kathy Steben
- Jan Weland
- Nancy Matson
- Yvonne Thompson

Unfortunately, though, this will be my last time as the Yuletide Chair. As many of you know, in the early hours of December 1st, I had a massive heart attack, which I am still recovering from. Now, after over 30 years of doing this fun show, it is time for me to step aside for some new talent. I can think of many of you who could join a team responsible for our annual Yuletide fundraiser. Please contact me if you are interested. I have all the paperwork needed.

And now I must truly thank my co-chair, Wilda Kemp, who stepped into my shoes and was instrumental in ensuring everything ran as if I were there. Thank you, Wilda, you are a star!

Thank you everyone who has sent cards, flowers and been praying for me. Your kindness means a lot to me.

VOLUNTEERS AND BOARD ELECTIONS

for 2026- 2027

Hello Members,
Want to exhibit your art in our monthly shows? Want to be invited to display your work at the June Volunteer Show and Annual Member Meeting?

Here are a few ideas: Be the person who buys diet coke, water, etc.. and keeps the refrigerator stocked throughout the year. Contact Barbara Finn and learn how to staff the front desk. Become a full time or part time staffer. You also get a discount on a class.

We need a Hospitality Chair who will report to VP Activities Adele Dunn. Usually there are no more than three receptions each year. Ask your DPAL member friends to serve on your committee and they will receive volunteer status as well.

Regarding Board Elections

Elections will be held in April and the current board will meet with incoming board members at the May Board Meeting.

At this time the slate is as follows:

President: Barbara Finn

VP Education: Margaret Bucholz

VP Exhibits: Danielle Crilly

VP Community Involvement and Fundraising: Carol Kincaid

VP Office OfficeManagement _____ *no candidate yet*

VP Safety and Security: Darlene Edwards

More details will be available in the March Newsletter and/or

Constant Contact

Diana Mitchell

President Emerita

Sad News

Hello, I am letting you know that my aunt, Anita Brechtel passed away on Jan. 12. She was a long time member and active in your organization.

<https://www.kygers.com/obituaries/Anita-Helen-Brechtel?obid=46909574>



Obituary information for Anita Helen Brechtel

www.kygers.com



Valentine Fun with Rene Migritte's Portrait



Art Demo: Gelatin Prints

“ The possibilities are endless”

Monday - Feb 16th - 6:30 to 8:30 / Live and virtual

Nancy Staszak will demonstrate this simple, direct way to make prints of flowers, leaves, feathers, etc. using acrylic craft paints and no press. The textured prints can become collage elements and much more.



Register to attend in-person or via Zoom:

<https://www.wheatonlibrary.org/event/art-demo-gelatin-prints-128592>

Provided by Wheaton Public Library in partnership with DuPage Art League.
225 N. Cross St., Wheaton,

Safety Seconds

A few seconds can make a big difference!

Darlene Edwards, VP Safety and Security

Slips, Trips, and Falls

Winter weather can be picturesque, a perfect subject for artists, but ice and snow often lead to dangerous slips, trips, and falls.



To reduce the risk of winter falls follow these simple precautions.

- Keep hands free for balance.
- Wear shoes with good traction and rubber soles.
- Move slowly on potentially slippery surfaces, such as sidewalks or when exiting vehicles.
- Stay alert and focused – avoid distractions like using your cell phone when walking.

By following these tips, you can significantly reduce your risk of slips, trips, and falls during the winter months, ensuring a safer experience in icy conditions. Always prioritize safety and take your time when navigating winter weather.



Strategic Plan Summary

2023-2025

Dear Members:

Periodically, organizations may decide to take a fresh look at how they are doing and how they want to proceed in the future. It was July of 2022, when I announced that the DPAL was going to begin the work of Strategic Planning. For the next four months the Board studied and discussed the elements of a strategic plan, first understanding the purpose, vision and mission of our Art League as laid down by our founders, and then considering the opportunities and threats of the next few years. We looked at our current strengths and weaknesses and talked about where we could best help the Art League going forward.

The Board approved the recommended Strategic Plan Goals in November of 2022. The **Three Year Strategic Plan** kicked off in January of 2023 and officially closed in December of 2025. The overarching goals set for the Strategic Plan included: Grow Membership, Increase Revenue, Improve Efficiency, Increase Member Involvement and Community Outreach.

I can't begin to capture and share all the enthusiasm and work that went into these efforts. Many improvements were initiated and woven into the workings of our organization. All the Board Members and many, many members contributed hours of their time and energy toward these goals. Thank you all.

Following, is a summary of the work accomplished with this plan.

Our Five Overarching Strategic Goals

Grow Membership

The DPAL's purpose is to create a welcoming environment for like-minded people in the pursuit of art. Members are our reason for being, so our first goal was to increase membership to a healthy and sustainable number, that can provide the resources needed to ensure a bright future for students, teachers and members.

Members naturally come and go, contributing their unique talents and energies while they are with us. Beginning in 2023 our goal was to increase membership by 3% each year for three years and to focus on membership retention. We have met that target each year and will continue to work to maintain that level of membership or increase it. With this effort our membership rose from 455 in 2022, to 553 in 2025.

Increase Revenue

Our efforts to increase revenue centered around growing enrollment in classes by expanding our class offerings and communicating the many DPAL classes to our membership and to the community. We managed this through increased use of social media, and regular messaging to our members in our monthly newsletter. This effort continues. Our financials are solid even as we continue to maintain and improve the facilities as needed.

Improve Efficiency

The world is growing increasingly complex and requires us to adapt. Consequently, Improving Efficiency was an important goal.

- Part of this effort included experimenting with *monthly measurement and reporting protocols*, to identify key performance indicators (KPIs) that the Board could use to better evaluate performance on various initiatives. Nine KPI report graphs of performance indicators were experimented with and several are in use monthly. Others made a good start and may form a foundation for future efforts along the same line.
- Investments in maintaining and updating software and hardware to support DPAL operations were extensive. These included three new computers, printers, anti-virus software in both computers, Microsoft 365 updates for the computers and an upgraded Windows operating system. Additionally, new phone handsets were installed and a new small printer.
- Our POS/website is regularly adjusted to address any business problems and streamline the class registration process. Spreading out the timing of class registrations was one change. These efforts are ongoing and always will be.
- It was our plan to create a VP of Technology board position. Preliminary work was done on creating a job description, but unfortunately, no persons have expressed interest in this role. This effort will be ongoing.
- Improving efficiency around some basic Building and Grounds recommendations, was tackled very effectively, and Safety and Security became an important focus. The scope of these safety efforts seemed to warrant a VP position of its own. The Board approved this recommendation and the new position of VP Safety and Security was created. Four aspects of Safety and Security were identified and developed.
 - Building Security
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Safety Protocols
 - Safety Awareness & Training

Increase Member Involvement

This Goal was all about our members—providing social opportunities and encouraging participation in volunteer opportunities. It included:

- Increased publicity in our newsletter about coming events and ways to volunteer.
- Expanded social opportunities:
 - Three large events for members each year including a new Spring Tea event.
 - Overall greater participation due to fun themes and dedicated promotion—members informed by up to six different forms of communication.
 - Tracking member involvement and best practices for events with digital and paper records for future reference.

Community Outreach

There are so many ways that the DPAL demonstrates its commitment to the community. The DPAL regularly serves the community with scholarships, free community exhibits, brownie and scout group tours and art projects, visits from seniors, free donated paintings for fundraisers and involvement with multiple community projects every year—12 community projects over the past two years.

Most recently this involvement expanded to include the **Cleve Carney Museum of Art** at the College of DuPage and its celebrations of such famous artists as Frida Kahlo, Andy Warhol, and Hokusai & Ukiyo: The Floating World. We also collaborate with the **Wheaton Library** by arranging monthly artist demonstrations, available in person and online.

Conclusion:

Overall, the strategic plan created greater awareness across the Board about areas for more focused effort. We hope you are appreciating these improvements and that you consider joining our member volunteers at some point in the future. We all have unique gifts that can benefit the Art League for the years to come.

Thank you,

Mary Lynn Sullivan
President, DuPage Art League