DUPAGE ART LEAGUE
218 W. Front Street, Wheaton, IL 60187

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

DATE: **March 2026**
JUDGE: **Vilayphone Gingerich**

BEST OF SHOW
Artist: Fran Puglise Title: Frontline Mamas. Medium: Pastel
Comments: This stands out for its strong composition, rich color, and impressive depth. The artist captures an active protest scene with "Mamas" leading and boys and men supporting, creating a powerful sense of movement and unity. The layered figures and confident use of pastel bring the moment vividly to life.

THEME AWARD
Artist: Danielle Crilly Title: Auntie's Church Ladies Medium: Pastel
Comments: Dark coats anchor them like time-tested pillars, but their skin and the softly glowing background radiate the warmth of decades lived. Arms hooked, these church aunties form a chain of knowledge and resilience, each gesture carrying stories of love, struggle, and faith.

SPECIAL MERIT
Artist: Natalya Rowland Title: Surrounded by Flowers Medium: Oil
Comments: This painting has a captivating blend of mystery and vibrancy—the girl's Mona Lisa–like expression paired with delicate textures in her hair and the surrounding blooming flowers creates a moment full of grace and life.

SPECIAL MERIT
Artist: Benita Brewer Title: And We Rise Repeatedly Medium: Watercolor
Comments: This celebrates the courage and solidarity of women, using bold red and powerful symbols to show their determination to keep standing up for their rights.

SPECIAL MERIT
Artist: Adele Dunn Title: Grandmas' Whispers Medium: charcoal
Comments: Grandmas' Whispers" is a delicate charcoal drawing with soft blending, capturing a joyful moment—a baby cradled between two smiling grandmas, radiating warmth and love

MERIT AWARDS
Marguerite Paris: Ode to a White Begonia, Watercolor
Holly Hughes: Sun Damage, photo
Katherine Jacobsen: Winter Hike, pastel
Cynthia Boudreau: Idyllic Adriatic's, fiber
Lisa Pires: Life's Joy, pencil and charcoal
Nancy Anderson: Market Day, pastel
Barb Finn: Isabella, conte
Pallavi Jain: Rhythm that Weave Royal Tales, Rajasthan, India, watercolor
Dawn Halter: Degas' Blue Dancers, oil
Ken Kucera: Forest Frenzy, oil
Gary DeClute: Proverbs 31:10, photo
Myriam Villalta-Elijah, Mother Theresa, oil and cold wax