



519 1/2 West Lockport Street
Plainfield, IL 60544

Support the Local Arts - Become a Member

Whether you are an accomplished artist, have a burning desire to move in that direction, or would just like to hang out with artists and find out what we study and what interests us, please consider a membership in The Plainfield Art League. Members receive a discount on our art classes, and an "armchair" supporter of the arts can sustain a membership and keep abreast of local art shows and other events through our newsletter.

Memberships: \$40 (Individual) , \$50 (Family)

Contact Leanne Harris to sign-up or renew! Call 815-922-1748.

Current members should look for renewal reminders attached to the current newsletter.

(If you have a RED DOT, it's time to renew!)

The PAL is grateful for your continued support!

Let Your Artistic Talents Blossom this Spring – Enroll in a PAL Class!

Join a class this Spring & Summer and bring a friend to share in the discoveries!

Spring/Summer 2007 Classes

Session One begins week of 4/16/07 through 6/1/07

Session Two begins week of 6/4/07 through 7/13/07

Session Three begins week of 7/16/07 through 8/31/07

Adult Classes (suggested ages 14 & up) :

Colored Pencils - Mondays, 1:00pm -3:00 pm, with Marge Schlekeway

Pencil Portraits - Mondays, 7:00 pm- 9:00pm, with Bob Gonda

Watercolors - Wednesdays, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, with Marge Schlekeway

Pastels - Fridays, 10:00am - 12:00pm, with Carol Baumrucker

Watercolors - Saturdays, 10:00am -12:00pm, with Marge Schlekeway

Youth Classes (suggested ages 9-14)

Watercolors - Wednesdays, 4:00pm - 5:30pm, with Marge Schlekeway

Oil Pastels - Thursdays, 4:00-5:30pm, with Kevin O'Brien

Each class meets a total of six times over the course of six weeks, and registration costs \$85 per class (\$75 for Members). *For more information or for a complete schedule, call 815-735-0726 or email plainfieldartleague@gmail.com.*

Registration Form

Spring/Summer 2007

Yes, I want to attend _____ (class)
_____ (day & time)

Please check which calendar session you will attend:

Begins week of 4/16 (\$1) 6/4 (\$2) 7/16 (\$3)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST & ZIP: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Each class is \$85. Make checks payable to Plainfield Art League.
Please mail this registration along with check to:
ATTN: Treasurer
Plainfield Art League
519 1/2 W Lockport St, Plainfield IL 60544

Change of Schedule

The following events will be hosted at the Plainfield Public Library, lower level, from 6:30pm to 8:45pm, with the exception of the June program.

April 18 - Dick Shipley & Watercolors Join us at the Library on April 18th as Dick Shipley of Glen Ellyn demonstrates his watercolor techniques, beginning with an abstract tonal painting, and with spontaneity and skill, transforms it into a finished composition that you could imagine yourself walking into. During the past six years, Dick Shipley has been teaching watercolor painting classes at the DuPage Art League in Wheaton, IL and at Carillon Lakes in Crest Hill, IL. During this time he has achieved Signature status and numerous awards in the National Watercolor Society, the Transparent Watercolor Society of America and the Watercolor Society of Indiana.

May 23 - Bill and Nancy Uznanski, In May, Bill and Nancy Uznanski of Lemont will give art lovers pause for thought in their presentation, " Light Catchers," on the impact the introduction of photography had art. This husband and wife team have been collaborating as professionals for more than fifteen years, and have received high honors in photography through their affiliations with Professional Photographers of America and the Professional Photographers Association of Northern Illinois.

June 13 - Annual Member Night Out/ Recognition Night. Location TBD.

PAL is Hunting for the Fox

The Lockport Park District is sponsoring the annual Gladys Fox Museum Art Show and Sale the weekend of May 5th-6th, and the PAL is rounding up artists to participate. Local performer Chicago Rose is already scheduled to be there! Interested artists must maintain a table/displays at the facility, with most items for sale. If interested, please contact PAL President Leanne Harris, 815-922-1748.

Please call ASAP for more information !
Your participation is needed!

Volunteers Needed for Positions

Election time for the upcoming 2007-08 program year is fast approaching, and we have several positions still in need of candidates. If you're interested in assisting us in any way, please contact President Leanne Harris, 815-922-1748. Some Positions up for grabs: Webmaster, Publicity Chairperson. Additional assistance is needed with desktop publishing/graphic design work, writing, community outreach, art instruction, etc.



CALL FOR ARTISTS:

May 5-6, Saturday-Sunday
 PAL Art Show and Sale at Gladys Fox
 Museum in Lockport, IL.
 See reverse side for more information!

**Spend time every
 day listening to
 what your muse is
 trying to tell you.**

~Saint Bartholomew

**The most potent
 muse of all is our
 own inner child.**

~Stephen Nachmanovitch

The Mission of the Plainfield Art League
 is to promote interest, knowledge,
 support and participation in the cultural
 and fine arts throughout the greater
 Plainfield area.

Board of Directors

Mindy Donahue, Leanne Harris,
 Amy Langoni, Dick Splant,
 Marge Schlekeway, Darrel Reese

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The Plainfield Art League (PAL) is a nonprofit
 organization, filed under IRS Section 501(c)(3). All
 donations to our organization are tax deductible.

The *Plainfield Perspective* is the newsletter of the
 Plainfield Art League.

Contact Us



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 Plainfield, IL 60544

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 http://www.plainfieldartleague.bct.com

Remembering What Muses You by Darrel Reese

When left to my own devices, it hits me every year like clockwork. Same time, same month, same problem. Lack of inspiration.

It has a lot to do with the winter season- shorter days, muted landscapes, filthy plowed snow, billowing smoke or steam, and the creepy chilling drafts you get that just makes you want to scoot farther under the covers. Winter is always fun for awhile, but it usually outlasts its welcome, like an uninvited guest that stays a few days too long. I used to be an Autumn person. I loved the bright golds and reds, mixed with the lingering greens. It was as if the golden sun itself finally painted a reflective landscape. Need I mention squash and pumpkins, and those beautiful holiday spreads we all tend to stuff ourselves like turkeys over?

Over time, I've been transformed to a Spring person. The rainbow mix of flora and fauna, the sound of returning of wildlife, and the anticipated bliss of summer memories in the making. It became a season of both reunion and promises that would warm the heart and soul.

My parents used to tease me that they found me on a stump in the woods and decided to keep me. I used to think of it as a cruel joke to tell your kid, but one day the idea struck me as kind of fitting. I grew up in the midst of ten acre woods that I had mostly to myself. I knew where I could find toads or moles, woodpeckers and bats, katydids and walking sticks. I could lie in the maypoles and watch the butterflies flutter by. It became my friend and my church. I became the woods, and I carry it inside of me. I use it for inspiration, and everyday, I say thanks for making that part of who I am.

My parents were fond of that woods, too, having raised their family inside its comforting and outstretched arms. But after us children grew up, moved out and started families of our own, it became too much work for just the two of them and they decided they had to move. They knew how much I loved it, but it just wasn't in my cards to raise my family there, too. The week after they sold it, an ice storm went through the area, and that woods, taking down many of the trees my family took for granted. My mother phoned me and said "Oh, Darrel, you just wouldn't recognize it if you were here!" They sent me pictures of the damage, but it took over a year for me to summon the courage to look at them - I was dealing with enough heartbreak at not having the woods as part of the family anymore, and I wanted to remember my tree-friends as I knew them and loved them. So I painted my folks a more pleasant wintery scene of our house in the woods, from a picture I had tucked away. They have it on the wall of their new home in sunny Florida.

Most of us know what inspires us to do what we do. The very elements that make your eyes light up and more passionate in your activity. If you don't, I suggest you find it! It may be your family, but I'm referring to some thing more elementary to you as an individual and an artist. Something you brought with you to the family. You may share a love of the natural world. It might be an event in your past, like winning a contest, or having taught yourself to paint while being stuck in bed with two broken legs. Maybe a grade school teacher or a comic book illustrator. Whatever it is, it moves you and makes you smile without realizing it. Put at least one picture of "it" in your studio (or a space that is just yours), and look at it daily and say a small "Thank You" for being your muse all these years. I bet you have a hard time naming just one. Go ahead, put them all up, maybe on a bulletin board, or in a scrapbook. Make this Spring the season you *plant a Muse Garden*, and look at whenever you need to feed that inner artist.

Now Exhibiting - Best of the Best Show

The Alliance of Fine Art's Best of the Best Show is on exhibit at the Elmhurst Art Museum from through April 22. The twelve member art leagues of the AFA invited members from their own guilds to represent them at the show. The Plainfield Art League is represented with works by Kevin O'Brien, Mindy Donahue, Helen McCluckey, Darrel Reese, Courtney Weed, Tita Brady, Judith Erwin and Marjorie Schlekeway.

The final day of the show, April 22, will also be the busiest -it will include the reception from 1:30 - 4:00 pm, and at 2:30pm begins the judges presentation andcritique. Artists will be taking their works home at the end of the reception. The Elmhurst Art Museum has other exhibits worth the visit, including the Transparent Watercolor Society show.

The Elmhurst Art Museum (tel 630-279-1009) is located at 150 Cottage Hill Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Gallery hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday;1:00PM to 8:00 PM, Wednesday; 1:00PM to 4:00 PM, Friday, Sunday; Closed, Monday. There is an admission fee, with Tuesday being a FREE day. However, AFA is sponsoring FREE admission for art patrons on Sunday, April 22nd.