MCMURRAY ART LINES February/March 2024 Newsletter



TO PROVIDE AND STIMULATE FOCUS ON THE ARTS

www.mcmurrayartleague.com

FROM THE DESK OF THE CO-PRESIDENT

It is a joy to be a part of McMurray Art League. Over the past few months I have had many meaningful conversations with MAL members about the future of the League. I'm including some of my favorite comments from a few of those conversations...

- "Let's have some FUN!" was the most joyous statement.
- When I asked, "Would you be willing to make a donation of \$10 a month for a year toward the HVAC purchase?" The member's answer was, "I'll donate \$20 x 12 upfront!" His check for \$240 soon arrived.
- One of our newest members joined the studio prep crew and the next day dropped off new outlet covers, saying, "Here's a contribution that will help make the studio look fresher!"
- A board member who stopped by while the studio was being painted said, "The new color makes the studio look so much larger! I can't wait to get things reorganized. Maybe our first exhibit could be themed SPRING INTO THE FUTURE!"

These are only a few of the comments reflecting the excitement about MAL's facelift, programming possibilities, and potential. I look forward to many more ideas generated during other conversations about the use of the studio. Please read the whole newsletter and then plug in wherever you can. You have the opportunity to participate in making the league VITAL as we PROMOTE THE ARTS (and have some FUN)!



SANDY CONLEY, CO-PRESIDENT OF MAL



"NEXT ART TALK" 3/17 on Jack Butler Yeats by Lolly Owens

If someone would like to do an ART TALK, please contact Lolly Owens.

NEWS IN MAL

Important Announcement Per our arrangement with Mosites, we need to make sure we abide with their request that we park away from spaces that their other tenants need.

All MAL members and guests visiting the Studio must park between Key Bank and the Dollar Tree Store.

We are allowed to off-load materials temporarily parking near the **Studio**, but we need to move all vehicles to the designated spaces after off-loading. We are working with Mosites to address parking for members with mobility or accessibility problems.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please follow current Covid-19 guidelines. Thank you.

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STUDIO UPDATE - 2024 LEASE AND HVAC REPLACEMENT

We have a fully executed lease from Mosites for the 2024 calendar year. We tried to get a multi-year lease but Mosites would only offer a one-year lease. They've given us a new lease every year so we're not particularly worried about ending up on the street. Once we had a signed 2024 lease, we scheduled the HVAC replacement. We used Denillo Heating & Cooling as they gave us the best price. We even got them to take 3% off the total since we were writing a check rather than charging it! The HVAC replacement was accomplished on February



13 and took just a few hours. It was quite interesting to watch them use a huge crane to lower the old unit and lift the new unit to the roof.

JAN PINI



"NEW LOOK" FOR THE STUDIO!

In December the MAL Board voted to spend up to \$500 on paint and improvements to make the studio more attractive and inviting. Following the signing of our 2024 lease, paint was purchased from PPG Paints. (They were very generous, donating 3 of the 6 gallons of paint used in the project. Jan and Jim Pini are former PPG employees, so they got MAL a substantial discount also!) A team of members





prepared the studio by moving all the furniture, cleaning the baseboards and patching holes in the walls.



Then, **Superstar Lana Sakharova started to paint the walls.** Not only has she generously donated many, many hours of her time, she also donated some of the paint used in the project. Be sure to thank her for all she is doing to make the studio shine! Over the course of a couple of weeks in February, each room of the studio was transformed with multiple coats of paint, repurposed furniture, and reorganization of studio "stuff". The result is **STUNNING** - a much more inviting studio

space! Come and check it out!



SANDY CONLEY

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MAL STUDIO CELEBRATION – Friday, April 26th 4 – 8 pm and Saturday, April 27th 11 – 2 pm "**Spring Into the Future**" Exhibit and Celebration of **MCMURRAY ART LEAGUE.**

Plans are in the works for a gala event celebrating the new look at the studio! It's a chance to show off **MAL's** new look, share some refreshments, and for artists and art patrons to mix and mingle. The theme of the show will be "Spring Into the Future." Members can submit 2 pieces of 2-D artwork to be included in the show. **MAL** members are encouraged to submit pieces that will be for sale. (If your art from the Galleria Spring Show did not sell, you can bring that work for inclusion in this show). Mark your calendar **NOW** for this very special event. Details will be available soon on the **MAL website**.



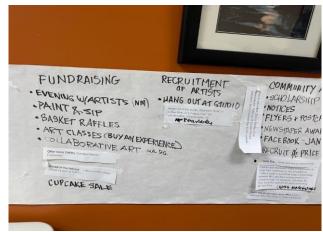
SANDY CONLEY

ART LEAGUE REBOOT BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS

On February 8 a group of members (Lolly Owens, Lana Sakharova, Karen Vituccio, Toni Jo Kidd, Linda Saksa, Jan Pini and Sandy Conley) met for an hour to talk about possibilities for expanding programming and growing the art league.

Many ideas were generated. These were categorized into Fundraising Efforts (9); Recruitment of Artists (4); Community Awareness (6); New Activities (8). This first session was an effort to quickly list as many ideas as possible. In the next sessions decisions will be made based on these and possibly other ideas.

Our next **ReBoot Session** will be held Wednesday, March 13, 6:30-8:00 pm at the studio. **All members are invited to this meeting as we work on shaping the future of MAL.**





SANDY CONLEY

MAL EXHIBITS by JAN PINI

ARC 7 EXHIBIT

Our seventh exhibit at the Arc space in Canonsburg is just around the corner. Darrilyn McCrerey from Arc has made her selections and the good news is that all our artists had at least one piece accepted! You can pick up work from the previous show and drop off art for the new show on Monday and Tuesday, March 4 and 5, 10-12. If you'd like to help with hanging the new show, that happens Tuesday, March 5, 10-4. Help is always needed and appreciated.

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SPRING JURIED SHOW AT THE GALLERIA REGISTRATION DUE MARCH 29

Our **Spring Juried Show "Springing Ahead"** will be held at The Galleria of Mt. Lebanon from April 5-14. You may remember that we have changed how many prizes that will be awarded at our juried show due to the cost and the fact that vendors are not offering merchandise and gift certificates as often as in the past. This change to the Policies was voted on and accepted by the membership at the September 14, 2023 meeting. In addition to a ribbon, the awards are:

First Place: \$100 value of cash and/or merchandise Second Place: \$50 value of cash and/or merchandise Third Place: \$25 value of cash and/or merchandise

Three Honorable Mentions: no monetary award, just bragging rights

First, Second, and Third People's Choice awards: no monetary award, just bragging rights

Here's a list of important dates for the Spring Show:

Important Dates	
Online registration deadline	Friday, Mar. 29, 2024
Drop off art (Galleria)	Thursday, Apr. 4, 7-8 PM
People's Choice voting ends	Thursday, Apr. 11, 7 PM
Pick up art (Galleria)	Sunday, Apr. 14, 4-5 PM



JAN PINI

STUDIO WINDOW EXHIBIT

Marlene Boas will be displaying her most recent endeavor in the display window for the month of March. Her new body of work is 3D figurative Assemblage. Each piece begins as a discarded mannequin who experiences rebirth by way of artistic midwifery. Through a process of adornment of found objects and upcycled materials, the figures are reawakened and brought back to life with purpose: saying something salient through their deafening silence. For Marlene, making art is a contemplative practice where a kernel of an idea is encouraged to gestate, grow, change, and transform until it becomes what it was meant to be.

The **McMurray Art League** studio is located in the McDowell Shops shopping center between Opal Rose and Cedars Restaurant. Please contact me via phone at 412-860-9049 or email me at <u>Klvituccio@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in displaying your work in the window.



KAREN VITUCCIO

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PETERS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY - "Night and Day" Library Exhibit January 17 - April 17, 2024



MAL artists Jan Pini, Beverly Fredericks, Carol Fritch-Anglin, Lana Sakharova, Betty Roseborough, Nancy Kenney, Margie Mersky, Ye Han, Peter Stamoolis, Debra Tobin and James Tobin are participating in the current show. The following are the Themes and Dates for shows through October 16, 2024.

Night and Day	January 17, 2024 – April 17, 2024
Evolve	April 17 – June 19, 2024
Start to Imagine	June 19 – October 16, 2024

Please consider showing your 2-dimensional pieces at the library. You may enter up to three 2-dimensional pieces no larger than 24" top to bottom. There is no entry fee but there is a 15% commission on sold works (10% is donated to the library and 5% to MAL). Contact Sandy Conley conley1973@verizon.net or

register on **MAL website** by the Monday before the exhibit. Provide artist's name, title of piece, medium and price.

SANDY CONLEY

OPEN STUDIO

The studio has gone through some major changes over the past month, what with a new furnace and the interior paint job. Hopefully, now we can have **Open Studio** for the next few months with no interruptions. Here are the upcoming dates: March 8, 22; April 5, 19; May 10, 24. Hours: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm or later, if need be. Hope to see you all there.

For more information contact me at Klvituccio@gmail.com, or call 412-860-9049.



KAREN VITUCCIO

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NEW BOARD POSITIONS

The **MAL Board** is considering adding several new positions to encourage more participation from our membership and handle all the new initiatives we have planned. Please consider taking on one of these positions. We have monthly Board meetings via Zoom so you don't even have to change out of your PJs!

- **Presenters** Responsible for inviting presenters to speak at our seven General Membership meetings. **Coordinates with Class Coordinator**. (This is the previous "Programs" position).
- **Programs** Responsible for coordinating new programs, such as **CAFEs**, **Art Talks**, and any other new initiatives we come up with. This would be a committee chair position with a committee of people who would handle each initiative.
- **Member At Large** There could be several of these. This position may not have any direct responsibilities but attends meetings and offers guidance to the Board.



MEMBERSHIP/NOMINATIONS by LESLIE BALDWIN

MAL currently has 86 active members. MAL welcomes new members:

- **Kenneth Courtney** enjoys working in Acrylic and Watercolor as he is recently retired and wanting to explore his artistic side.
- Rozita Laghei works as a software developer but is interested in working in several media.
- Margaret (Peg) Smith has been a fiber artist for decades and would like to acquire more painting skills in oil.
- Deanna Volz is also going to explore different aspects of MAL.
- **Cheryl Hopper** does free-form crochet, felting, and embroidery. She is an award-winning fiber artist who belongs to the Fiber Art Guild of Pittsburgh, Crochet Guild of America, and International Free Form Fiberarts Guild. Cheryl also works in Mixed Media and is interested in helping with **MAL Membership**.
- **Jennifer Martin** is an accomplished artist who works in a variety of media. Jennifer has already been an active participant in our "MAL Reboot" and can lend a hand to MAL in the areas of Class Registrar, Hospitality, Membership, and Studio Window Exhibit.
- **Svetlana (Lana) Sakharova** has a wide range of artistic interests. She is an accomplished Iconographic artist, baker, and pastry decorator. Lana has been extremely instrumental in galvanizing the "MAL Reboot", taking on the roles of **Hospitality Chair**, MAL studio revitalizing, and fundraising.

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MAL Nominations Report

NEWSLETTER CHAIR needed for 2024-2025! Paul Rebholz has done an amazing job as **MAL Newsletter Chair** and can assist our next **Newsletter Chair**. He uses a Word compatible template, and the articles are obtained from **MAL Board Chairs**, who also assist with proofreading. It's not that daunting of a task, and you have the opportunity to express your creativity.

PUBLICITY CHAIR is needed. Former **Publicity Chair**, Margie Mersky, has provided a list of activities to help you. A Facility with checking our website for upcoming activities, and facility with posting events on social media is most needed.

If you have an interest in either of these positions contact Leslie Baldwin at lesbld@verizon.net.



LESLIE BALDWIN

2024 MEETING DATES

The meeting will be in person. Please follow our Mosites requested parking rules, and please make sure you follow CDC Guidelines if you attend in person.

Board Meetings 2:00 PM Third or fourth Mondays	General Meeting (2 nd Thursdays)	Speaker/Presenter
	March 14, 2024 2:00 PM	Speaker is Ron Jesiolowski Artist https://rjjrdesign.wixsite.com/ron-jesiolowski
March 18, 2024	April 11, 2024 7:00 PM	Speaker is Matt Cosgrove – Potter Live Demo
April 15, 2024	May 9, 2024 7:00 PM	Speaker is Renee Keil. Abstract Painting with Pastel.
May 20, 2024		



BETTY ROSEBOROUGH

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MEET OUR MEETING PRESENTER - March 14 - Ron Jesiolowski

The presenter for MAL's March 14th meeting is Ron Jesiolowski, a Pittsburgh region fine artist and a past professor of drawing, painting, and printmaking at Waynesburg and LaRoche Universities to both graduate and undergraduate students. Ron is a member of the AAP and PSA. Ron Says "I feel I bring a unique approach to my teachings providing personal fulfillment to each individual through an appreciation and understanding of the application of basic principles of art, and by accepting and adopting, one can have a richer life, be a much stronger, accomplished artists, as well as be a much better communicator in any business environment or career objective".



UPCOMING CLASSES - 2024

The minimum number of participants must be met a week prior to the first class or the classes will be canceled. This is a courtesy to our instructors who prepare handouts/class instruction for the number signed up. Their time is valuable....they could be painting a masterpiece! *For more information about a class contact* Class Coordinator, Betty Roseborough, at classcoordinator@mcmurrayartleague.com.

You may register for a class on the **MAL Website** by viewing the class under the **Calendar OR** the **Events** menu option and clicking Register (register for the series or for each day separately) **OR** you may notify the temporary **Class Registrar, Jan Pini**, via email at <u>classregistrar@mcmurrayartleague.com</u> or 724-518-5585 and ask to be placed on the class list for the classes and dates desired. After you register, you can pay on the **MAL Website** or mail a check made out to **McMurray Art League** for the cost of the classes to the registrar: Jan Pini; 103 Crabtree Ct.; Venetia, PA 15367. In the Memo section of your check, note which instructor classes and dates the check covers. You will receive an email confirmation of your registration.

Date 2023/2024	Class (In-person following CDC Guidelines)	Time	Member – Non Member
March 27,	Barry Jeter, Oil or Watercolor	10:00 -	Member \$45 day/
April 3, 2024	(Register) Watercolor Supplies, Oil Supplies	4:00	Non-Member \$50 day
April 23,30	Sue Levy, Beginner-Intermediate	10:00 -	Member \$35 day/
May 7,14	Watercolor (Register)	2:00	Non-Member \$40 day
May 15,16, 2024	Diane Grguras, Plein Air Pastel (Register) Supplies	10:00 - 4:00	Member \$45 day/ Non-Member \$50 day

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PREVIEW OF MAL CLASSES 2024

BARRY JETER WATERCOLORIST AND OIL PAINTER - MARCH 27 AND APRIL 3 2024

Barry R. Jeter, native of Mount Hope, a small town in the Appalachians of southern West Virginia now resides in Finleyville, Pennsylvania where he maintains his studio. Basically a self-taught artist, he is an accomplished painter with over thirty years of experience, the last twenty of which have been given primarily to watercolor and most

recently mixed media including oils. Barry says "With every painting I begin, my primary objective is not necessarily to reproduce an exact image of what I see, but to communicate the visual impact of that moment for



the viewer to contemplate".

Barry Jeter Fine Art

SUE LEVY BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE WATERCOLOR ARTISTS

APRIL 23, 30 and MAY 7, 14

A great class for beginner to intermediate watercolor artists! To the artist, Spring is a palette of color explosion to paint and we immediately think of what paint colors to mix and the techniques to capture these vibrant colors. Drawing is important to plan the design and composition using a sketchbook, then the real fun begins when we put the drawing on paper and begin to paint. Come join me on this art adventure of learning to paint spring by learning the following watercolor composition and techniques, perspectives, depth, atmosphere and values.



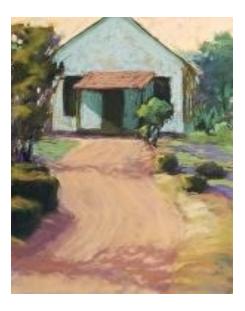
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DIANE GRGURAS PASTEL ARTIST – MAY 15, 16, 2024

Diane Grguras has a B.S. in Medical Illustration from The Ohio State University and an A.S. in Scientific Illustration from San Bernardino Valley College (CA). She completed an internship in medical illustration at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in East Orange, New Jersey. She has worked as a graphic designer and

illustrator and is a member of the Pittsburgh Pastel Artists' League, the North Hills Art Center, and Cranberry Artists Network. She is an associate member of the Pastel Society of America. She has taught art classes for adults and children.

Diane Grauras Fine Art





BETTY ROSEBOROUGH

ART TALKS AT THE MAL STUDIO

Here is the schedule for the coming **ART TALKS**:

- Sunday March 17, 2024 3pm. St Patrick's Day recognition of one of Ireland's most famous painters,
 Jack Butler Yeats, brother of William Butler. Presented by Lolly Owens.
- Sunday April 14, 2024 3pm. Canadian-American singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell is also a painter whose depictions of other musicians such as Bob Dylan and Graham Nash and her paintings of the Canadian prairies are popular. Presented by Sandy Conley
- Sunday May 19, 2024 3pm. Norman Rockwell, artist and illustrator, known for works that are reflections of our country's culture. Presented by Jan Pini who has visited the Norman Rockwell Museum in Massachusetts and viewed many of his works up close.
- Sunday June 23, 2024 3pm. Jackson Pollock a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement. Presented by Peter Stamoolis.

Members and non-members are welcome. Registration on **MAL website** preferred but not required (we like to know how many snacks to have). A \$5 donation per person will help with League operating costs. If someone would like to do an **ART TALK** please email me at owenslolly@gmail.com. Just pick your favorite artist and tell us why this artist inspires you.



Represented by JJ Gillespie Gallery, McMurray, PA Nautilus Fellow Member, International Society of Experimental Artists Member

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NEW!!! ART TALK RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Several of the popular **Art Talks** have been recorded and made available on **MAL's** private YouTube channel. You can purchase a link to an **Art Talk** on the **MAL website** at the **EVENTS**, **CAFES** menu option. Just click on the item, then add it to your cart and check out.

We're charging \$5, as that's the donation accepted if you had attended in person. If you pay by PayPal, you'll get an automatic email right away with the link to the video. If you pay by check you'll have to wait for the check to be received before you get the email with the link.

Check out the **Art Talks** as they are entertaining and informative!



JAN PINI

NEWS AROUND TOWN

- Mt. Lebanon No current events scheduled.
- **South Arts Pittsburgh** No current events scheduled.
- **Pittsburgh Society of Artists** <u>PSA SPRING NEW MEMBERSHIP SCREENING 2024</u>, March 09, 2024 1:00 PM, Wilkins School Community Center 7604 Charleston Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15218.
- **Upper St Clair** The Sugarplum Artisan Marketplace begins Nov 9 to the 14 at the activity Center on McLaughlin Run Rd from 10 AM to 5PM.
- **The Pittsburgh Watercolor Society** To register for WATERWORKS 2024, click <u>here.</u> (Online Registration closes April 12, 2024, 11:59 P.M. Mailed payments must be postmarked April 8.)



NANCY HOKAJ

HERE'S A TWIST – U.S. POSTAGE STAMP ART

Have you ever investigated the beautiful graphics on the U.S. postage stamps? Have you ever given any thought about the artist who creates it? If you have an interest you can view the artwork of numerous artists by visiting the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. The Museum states "Through the preservation and interpretation of our postal and philatelic collections, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum educates, challenges, and inspires its audiences on the breadth of American experiences". If you want to spend the time to examine this treasure, here is the link to the Museums website: Virtual Exhibitions | National Postal Museum (si.edu)



PAUL REBHOLZ

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MAL'S MARCH FEATURED ARTIST

Rosetta Dufalla is MAL's Corresponding Secretary, but she also does much more than that. She "sweet talks" art shops and distributors into donating gifts to MAL! Thanks to Rosetta, there are prizes of gift cards and money available to award to winners of our Juried Art Events and for any other special events that MAL arranges for our membership.

Rosetta says "This painting "Enter the Dragonfly" is 10x20, and is mixed media/abstract. The dragonfly is symbolic for rebirth and, in the Native American culture, it means something magical and mysterious. The metallic background serves as something mysterious for the swirling dragonflies; constant movement and change".

ROSETTA DUFALLA





SOME OF YOUR BOARD MEMBERS















Leslie Linda and Anne Sandy **Betty** Michalina Lisa **Past Presidents**

Here are some of the people that make McMurray Art League work so well for you and me. If you take advantage of any of the benefits that the League has to offer, then please consider volunteering some of your time to ensure the long-term viability of our League!

Thank you ladies for your hard work and dedication.

THE McMURRAY ART LEAGUE

Officers and Chairs - 2023 - 2024

Co-Presidents: Sandy Conley and Jan Pini

president@mcmurrayartleague.com
Vice-President: Leslie Baldwin

<u>vicepresident@mcmurrayartleague.com</u> **Recording Secretary:** Michalina Pendzich

mpendzich54@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary: Rosetta Volpe-

Dufalla

corresponding@mcmurrayartleague.com

Treasurer: Jan Pini

treasurer@mcmurrayartleague.com

Art League Liaison: Nancy Hokaj

nl.hokaj@gmail.com

By-Laws: Linda Saksa, Anne Trimble **Class Coordinator:** Betty Roseborough classcoordinator@mcmurrayartleague.com

Class Registrar: Jan Pini

classregistrar@mcmurrayartleague.com

Directory: Leslie Baldwin

Exhibit Co- Chairs (Fall): OPEN

Exhibit CO-Chairs (Spring): Jan Pini and

Betty Roseborough

Historian/Archivist: Paul Rebholz newsletter@mcmurrayartleague.com

Hospitality: Lana Sakharova

Membership: Carol Aurin

membership@mcmurrayartleague.com

Newsletter: Paul Rebholz

newsletter@mcmurrayartleague.com

Nominations: Leslie Baldwin **Open Studio:** Karen Vituccio

klvituccio@gmail.com

Past President: Anne Trimble, Linda

Saksa

Peters Twp. Library: Sandy Conley

Conley1973@verizon.net

Program: Betty Roseborough

erosie5@aol.com

Publicity: OPEN

Scholarship: Carol Aurin

scholarship@mcmurrayartleague.com
Standards: Leslie Baldwin, Gina Judy
Studio Exhibits: Lisa Markowski

Lisa mark95@MSN.com

Studio Window: Karen Vituccio

klvituccio@gmail.com
Webmaster: Jan Pini

webmaster@mcmurrayartleague.com

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