



# Lake Placid Art League Newsletter

March/April 2021

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**President's Corner-Bob Jasper** As we approach the traditional end of our Fall/Winter season at the Art League, we do so with very mixed results. We are thankful that both painting and carving classes have resumed, but while attendance at the painting classes is back to pre-Covid levels, our number of carvers is down considerably from historical levels. And, while we are thankful for all of the Membership renewals we did receive, a number of past Members have not renewed their memberships for 2021 (**it is not too late to do so**).

We are disappointed that we were not able to hold the combined Member's Show that was scheduled for March of this year, but are busy planning for a special Member's Show in March of 2022. We will be sharing more details about this exciting event in the coming months.

Obviously, we have not been able to hold our regular Member's Meetings during these challenging times. We are considering several alternatives for the future, and will make a decision about a possible holiday luncheon as we see how local conditions develop over the next few months. Future LPAL newsletter issuance will be Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec. We will take a hiatus for Jun/Jul/Aug.

**Help Wanted:** Your Art League is in **need** of administrative help. It is simply not acceptable to expect the same small group of volunteers to do all of the work that is necessary "behind the scenes" to keep the League operating. Our most immediate need is for a Membership Coordinator, who could spend a couple hours a month (at their convenience) updating/maintaining our membership database. A working knowledge of Excel or similar computer database program is required.

**Parking:** Please note that the old Boy Scout's building just east of the Art League property has been sold and the new owner is planning to use the building as a part-time personal residence. As a result, we will be losing the parking spaces we have been using on this property. PLEASE DO NOT park in front of the garage doors or on either side of the driveway area. Diagonal parking along the fence surrounding the park is still available. And, there is a public parking lot just to the west of the Art League building (just past the two homes adjacent to our property). We will plan on posting No Parking signs at some point in the future.

**Canadian Art League Members & Others who have not returned** We have missed your presence on so many levels at the Art League. The Covid pandemic has affected every facet of our lives causing many of us to wish for a simpler time. The reality is we will acclimate to a new normalcy and work towards a time when we can all share our art and socialize together again. Your fellow Art League members that are here are complying with masking and social distancing. Even though our numbers are minimal, we continue to keep the Art League operational. Our best wishes to all of you. Continue to Stay Safe.

**Creations** We are sending a request to all members to share information on some of their recent creations. If you could send us a picture and description of your art we would like to add to future newsletters as space permits. We have some of the most talented members who have been so creative during the last year. Thank you.

### **MEMBER FOCUS – ARTIST BOBBI BROWN**

The Tuesday morning painting class at the Lake Placid Art League is an eclectic group of LPAL members. Some of our members are self-taught, others have taken classes. The group members themselves are as diverse in their backgrounds as the paintings they create. They meet weekly to receive advice and instruction from our resident Art Instructor and enjoy the encouraging atmosphere they receive from each other.

Our focus this newsletter is LPAL Artist Bobbi Brown. Her media of choice is Oil Based painting. Bobbi began painting 10 years ago at the age of **83**. Her initial introduction was through her mother, Daisy Tompkins, a Fine Art Major with 5 children. Although Daisy produced no paintings that Bobbi recalls, she did teach her children an appreciation for art. Mixing of primary colors to achieve different colors and creating with crayons are early memories for Bobbi. It was subsequently an aunt who enrolled Bobbi in an art class in Bradenton. Her first painting was of a squirrel eating out of a feeder and she was hooked. The majority of her paintings are Florida landscapes, animals and family members. That first painting was gifted to one of her grandchildren. Almost all of Bobbi's painting have been gifted to family members. Bobbi was blessed with 5 children; Teddy McCall, Mike McCall, Kandi Snow, Pat McCall & Sean McCall. Bobbi has 13 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

Bobbi is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Floridian & has sought instruction from many different sources before finding her home here at the LPAL. Her initial instruction at the art league was done by Bill Snyder and continues with Eileen Tietz. She has enjoyed the experience so much that currently her daughter Kandi, a retired RN, recently began accompanying her and is now painting projects of her own. Bobbi recalls her favorite painting was of an Osprey with 3-4 babies in a nest & the mate was returning with a fish to feed the chicks. A recent cherished piece she received is a painting by Eileen Tietz of Bobbi with her pet chicken Jenny Mae. Bobbi has learned, "It's a painter's prerogative to change objects in their projects to reflect the things that mean something to them." Her current project is a blue heron standing at the water's edge among the vegetation.

Bobbi's parting words are to the young & old alike. People who never thought they could paint & prospective students in school, should just take a chance & take a class. "Don't give up. Keep working at it and don't quit."



*Have a safe and enjoyable summer. Stay healthy and we look forward to a more "normal" fall and winter season.*