

Greetings!

They say April Showers bring May Flowers! I hope so, and I hope you are enjoying a lovely spring. April was a bit chilly, but we have seen some great flowers bloom and it is nice to look forward to May. May is an exciting month for LAG members. We have our annual membership drive and I hope you have received your letter and application for renewal to the Lemont Artists Guild. We do hope you want to be a part of our group this coming year, 2012-2013. Our Vice President, Lynn Rozycki is currently setting up the program schedule for next year, so if there is a topic you would like to see presented, let her know. Regarding renewal, we like to have everyone turn in renewals by the May 16th LAG meeting, so that way we can prepare our Membership Directory this summer and hand it out at the September LAG meeting. *For your convenience, we have attached the letter and renewal form to this month's newsletter in case you have misplaced yours.* Or, perhaps you are reading our newsletter and have not been a member for a few years, this is the perfect time to join LAG again! Come on out to our May meeting and see one of our own LAG members, Linda Berck, discuss Mata Ortiz Pottery. It will be a great way to end our 2011-2012 season at LAG. (We do not meet during the summer for a presentation, but if you are interested in attending a board meeting or being part of our Love of Art committee, let me know and I can let you know when we are meeting.) As I close, I want to mention a thank-you to Emily Christian. She sent me a wonderful note of gratitude in reading the letter we composed for membership renewal. LAG did a lot of exciting things in 2011-2012, that we listed in the renewal letter, and she said it made her proud to be a LAG Member. Thanks for your kind words Emily! I am proud to be part of such a great group of artists and art appreciators! As always, at our upcoming meeting, we welcome non-expired, non-perishable food items for the Lemont food pantry. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Sincerely,
Liz Popp
Lemont Artists Guild President

Many Faces of Mata Ortiz Pottery of Mexico Linda Berck

The upcoming Lemont Artists Guild meeting is on Wed., May 16th and will begin at 7 PM at the Lemont Public Library, 50 E. Wend Street. Linda Berck will be displaying and discussing Indian pottery of the southwest, mainly Mata Ortiz and the work of Maria Martinez as well as some hands on work in clay to make coil pots. Berck was an art teacher for 28 years...the last 16 at Lemont High school (retired 2 years ago from LHS) teaching basic art classes and Ceramics. Linda was traveling through the SW attending special showings of clay construction and outdoor firings and meeting some of the potters from the village of Mata Ortiz and Spencer McCallum. McCallum had discovered works with and promoted Juan Quezada, the young man who researched as a child the shards of clay he found around his village and brought the technique back to present date. Berck stated "I love history and pottery tells the story of ancient peoples and how they lived, their traditions and beliefs."

With an *olla* as their canvas, the potters of *Mata Ortiz* have imprinted in them not only re-creations of ancestral symbols, but they have searched within their own spirit and creativity and have been able to conceive a unique artistic language, creative and original. They have passed through the imitation of pre-Hispanic ceramics, and have moved on to a refined creation of contemporary art.

It is considered to be art and not crafts because their work is not routinely elaborated with a repetitive, popular style. The potters of *Mata Ortiz* combine both intellectual and aesthetic elements. Each artist has freely looked for his or her own form of expression, his or her own language through which to communicate.

"Their imagery evokes Op Art, M.C. Escher and computer chips in combination with plumed serpents and macaws." William Gilbert

Tucson is the area Linda hopes to settle in some day. With its old Spanish missions, the Indians and the history of that area...working in clay...and fibers of Devils, of basket weaving, Pre Anglo man...and was at one time the bottom of the sea...it has many caves from the ancient seas and is noted for its rock formations. Truly a land of spirits, ancient Indian cultures...their art on clay tells their stories.

Upcoming 2012

Calendar of Events for LAG:

Apr. 17-May 24	Best of Best at Mayslake
May 16	Linda Berck, Many Faces of Mata Ortiz Pottery of Mexico.
May 24	Best of Best Reception Thurs. Eve. at Mayslake
Nov. 3	Love of Art Show

DON'T FORGET FOR EACH MONTHLY MEETING:

- *Your Artwork for the Back of the Hall Competition
- *Bring donations for the Lemont Food Pantry
- *Your Hand-Made Name-Tag (did you make one yet, if not, check someone's out at the next meeting!)

Athens Gallery-Be sure to stop in at the Athens Art Gallery (in the Lemont Public Library, 50 East Wend St.). There will be a school's exhibit in May. The library will be using the room during June; an art exhibit is scheduled to start on August 3rd. Contact Jim McGloin (708) 710-5243 with any questions.

Notes from the Editor:

Information for the LAG newsletter should be sent to Betty Kirk by the first of the month (630) 257-0565, or Betty@bbkirk.com

* Our Hostess for the April meeting will be Liz Popp and Gina Rende will bring the beverages. (Please arrive early to set up.) Thanks so much!
* The March **Back of the Hall** had a tie for 1st place, Richard Vacco Jr.'s "Untitled Currently", 2nd place Nancy Uznanski's "Workhorse", and 3rd Betty Burian Kirk "Flower Hat"

**Upcoming Affiliated Art Guilds'
Meetings/Websites (if available)**

*Information is updated to the best of our ability;
please check each guild's website to confirm
information:*

Addison Art Guild

<http://www.addisoncenterforthearts.com/>

Alliance of Fine Art - Board meets 5/24/12

www.allianceoffineart.org

Artists Assoc. of Elk Grove Village-5/23/12 – Ed

Cook – Acrylic miniature pictures

<http://artinelkgrove.org/>

Bloomington Artists Association – TBA

www.bloomingtonartistsassociation.org

Book and Paper Arts Guild-5/10/12 -Mixed

Media Madness, Lisle Public Library www.bpag.org

Clay Space – Date N/A www.clayspace.net

Downers Grove Artist Guild – 5/14/12 TBA

www.downersgroveartistsguild.com

DuPage Art League - www.dupageartleague

Elmhurst Artists Guild – 5/17/12 – Members

Critique www.elmhurstartistsguild

LaGrange Art League –, 5/19 & 20/12 2 Day

Photo-Encaustic Workshop. Sarah Rehme

www.lagrangeartleague.org

Lemont Center for the Arts-Art Classes

Contact Mona Parry at 708-301-7496

For class schedule and event information.

Lombard Arts Coalition –

www.lombardartscoalition.com

Midwest Collage Society – 5/6/12 – Boganical

Collage, Susan Barlett

<http://midwestcollagesociety.blogspot.com>

Naperville Art League –

www.napervilleartleague.com

Oak Brook Art League – Date N/A

Plainfield Art League – 5/9/12 Photographing your

art work, Mike Bessler www.plainfieldartleague.org

West Suburban Artists Guild 4/ 15 & 16/12 – Art
in the Part, art show,

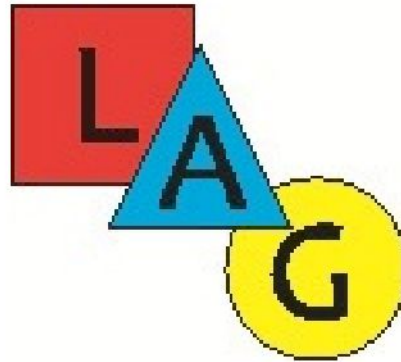
www.westsuburbanartistsguild.org

Town & Country Art League-5/11/12- Melissa

Schlesinger – How to do Surrealism

<http://www.afineartleague.com>

May, 2012 Newsletter



*Knowledge is one thing that doesn't
become secondhand when used.*

*To accomplish great things we must dream
as well as act.*

*Take adversity...turn it into challenge and
create opportunity.*

*Strong lives are motivated by dynamic
purposes.*