



News

Summer 2016

Upcoming Shows

**Chatham Township
Municipal Building
58 Meyersville Road**

Fall

Reception

**Sunday, Sept. 11
2-4 p.m.**

Receiving

**Tuesday, Sept. 6
1-2:30 p.m.**

Winter

Reception

**Sunday, Dec. 11
2-4 p.m.**

Receiving

**Tuesday, Dec. 6
1-2:30 p.m.**

**Interviews with the
incoming and outgoing
ALC presidents.....**

see pages 5-8



"Restful River," a watercolor painting by Ellie Culver, will be in the Lundt-Glover Gallery exhibit at the ALC Fall Show.

Fall Show to Feature Mother-Daughter Duo

The Fall Show of the Art League of the Chathams will feature a mother-daughter gallery show that showcases the watercolor paintings of Ellie Culver and the photographs of her daughter Colleen Kirton.

The opening reception for both the general membership show and the Lundt-Glover Gallery show, "A Collection of Color: A Mother-Daughter Art Show," will be held Sunday, Sept. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Chatham Township Municipal Building. Ed Schuh will give a watercolor painting demonstration at the event.

Artwork by members will be received at the municipal building on Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

A Family Affair

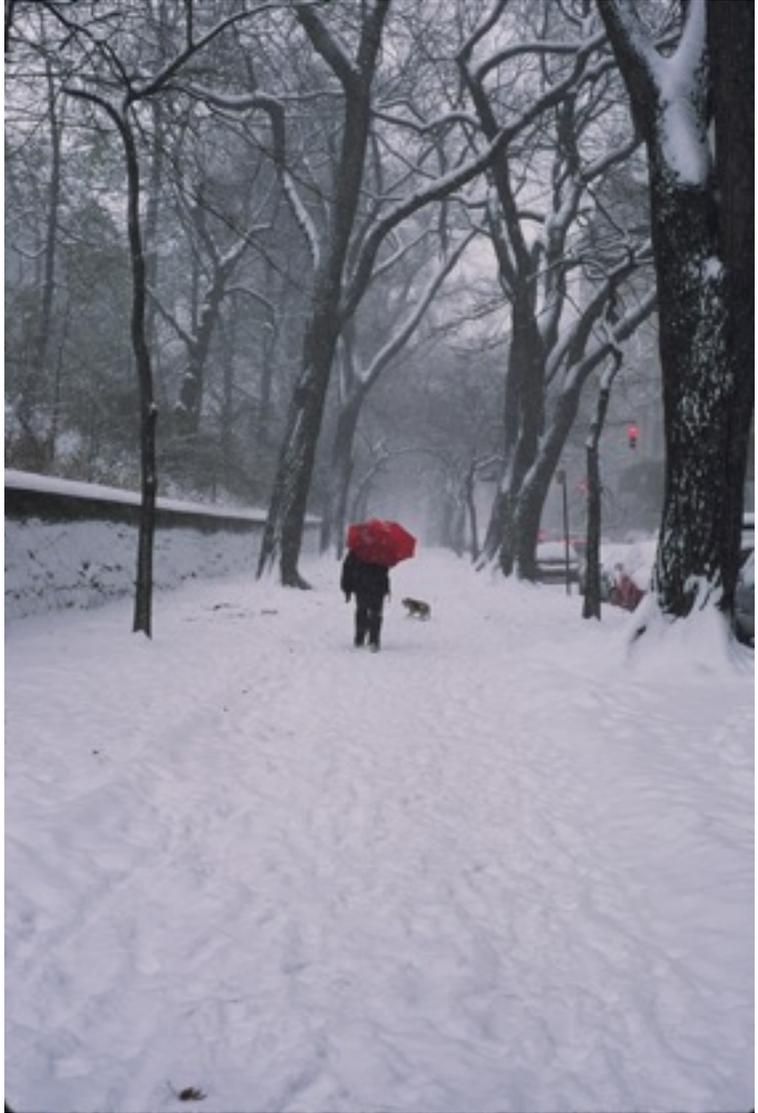
It may be the first mother-daughter show for the art league, but it's not the first for Ellie and her daughter Colleen. They had a joint show in the Chase Room of the Madison Public Library in November 2013 that included over 50 pieces. They have a large extended family in the area, including many cousins, as well as siblings. So the opening reception became a large family gathering, "lots of fun," said Ellie.

Growing up, Ellie remembers being the only one of nine siblings who was interested in art. She took both watercolor and oil classes. As an adult, she painted china, something her grandmother had done many years before. Although the paint she used for floral designs on cups and plates was oil-based and needed to be fired, the look and feel was similar to watercolor, she said. Next she moved on to painting tiles, which, she said, seemed like a natural transition. While her son and daughter were growing up, she first worked for a tile design business in Morristown and then had her own business for four years, primarily designing and painting tile murals for kitchens. The designs could include flowers, baskets, bowls, and sometimes landscapes—or custom requests for designs that had special meaning to the client. Ellie now enjoys painting watercolors, and landscapes are her favorite subject.

Colleen took her first photography class with an art teacher at Oak Knoll High School in Summit. "That was my first taste of it and I loved it," she said. The course was in black and white photography.

She returned to photography as a young adult living and working in Manhattan, where she witnessed Sept. 11, 2001. The company she worked at was about a half mile away from the World Trade Center, and she remembers being in a conference room with many windows. She and her colleagues witnessed the second plane hit the Towers.

Like many others, she said, her reaction to 9/11 was a decision to "spend more time doing something I really love." For her, that was photography. "It gave me something positive to focus on."



"A Walk in the Snow," a photograph by Colleen Kirton, will be in the Lundt-Glover Gallery exhibit at the ALC Fall Show.



"Bridge in Central Park," a photograph by Colleen Kirton, will be in the Lundt-Glover Gallery exhibit at the ALC Fall Show.

She started taking classes at the School of Visual Arts. Her first course was in black and white photography; she developed her own film and made prints in the darkroom. Her city apartment had an interior bathroom, a perfect darkroom space where no light entered. The buildings of New York were ideal subject matter for her black and white prints.

She started using color when it was part of her assignments at the School of Visual Arts, and moved more in that direction when digital photography came in and she stopped developing film and making prints. But she still likes black and white, and lets the subject matter determine which mode she shoots in. At a balloon festival, for example, the beauty was in the colors of the balloons, she said. For a scene with beach cabanas at the New Jersey shore, though, black and white was more effective for showing the linear pattern of light on the objects. Lines and textures can be more apparent when you aren't distracted by colors, she noted. This was also true, she said, of a photograph she took of pearls on a white sheet, which contrasts the smooth pearls with the crumpled texture of the background. Landscapes and cityscapes remain favorite subjects for her, and she likes strong, clean lines, textures, and patterns.

Colleen favors natural light and doesn't manipulate her photos after she takes them. "My manipulation takes place in the moment, when I'm shooting," she said. "Part of the art is capturing

the moment, and the sense of light, on film.” Some of the magic, she added, is not always knowing exactly what draws her to take a particular photo.

Concentrating on the moment is also part of what makes photography such a good creative outlet for her, she said, a good distraction that adds balance to her life. She has kept her photography separate from her work life.

“Maybe I don’t want to take the fun out of it,” she commented.

Ellie and Colleen are gathering 40 to 50 pieces of artwork for the upcoming show. “It is so much fun to see it all come together,” Colleen said, adding it is something she really enjoys doing with her mom. They are both looking forward to the show and once again sharing their love of art and sharing their artwork at a show with family and friends.



“Golden Light,” a photograph by Colleen Kirton, will be in the Lundt-Glover Gallery exhibit at the ALC Fall Show.

It’s a Launch!

The new ALC website has been officially launched. Visit www.artleagueofthechathams.org and view members’ artwork, biographies, and links to personal websites. Check the news on upcoming events and see photos from recent gatherings.

If you’d like to add images of your artwork or a biography to a personal page, send them to Magdalena Urbankova at mu@urbanek.info.

Board Members

President

Magdalena Urbankova

Secretary

Open

Treasurer

John Howlett



Rosemary Howlett (front), outgoing ALC president, passed on the gavel and paintbrush, symbolic of league leadership, to Magdalena Urbankova, the incoming president, at the picnic on June 17. Looking on are committee chairwomen Ann Frommer (left) and Helena Axelrod.

The Passing of the Gavel

Rosemary Howlett: Many Years of Service

By Linda Kimler

As she wound up her term as president of the Art League of the Chathams this month, Rosemary Howlett looked back and said: “I’ve accomplished what I set out to accomplish.” And after serving a bit more than six years in that capacity — 2007-2009 and 2013-2016 — she is “happy to be turning over the responsibility to Magdalena Urbankova. She’s young, enthusiastic and energetic. She’s going to be great; she has new ideas.”

Of those accomplishments, Rosemary is proudest of the initiation in 2008 of the Arts Scholarship given to a Chatham High School graduating senior who will continue to pursue art. The \$500 scholarship goes hand in hand with another new initiative during her term: developing a strong partnership between the league and the CHS arts programs. For example, the scholarship recipient is chosen by the high school art teacher. In addition, every spring and fall, the league contributes funds to aid in extracurricular school programs related to art. Those contributions may help pay an extra instructor, or could help purchase supporting materials. Philla Barkhorn has been the league’s liaison to this program and “has been instrumental in making it work,” says Rosemary.

Rosemary is happy to report that the league’s bank account is much healthier than when she first became president. She notes: “The 20th and 25th anniversary celebrations were very successful financially and enabled us to support the scholarship and high school participation.” Frank McDonough was especially helpful in that endeavor, she adds. In addition, the anniversary celebrations created more public awareness of the league.

Membership is up and the league has coordinated with Chatham Borough's arts and cultural programs. "We've covered the walls of both municipal buildings so that there is always an art exhibit," she says, adding, "although the new configuration of Chatham Borough's offices have changed and that exhibit space is no longer practical." Solo shows in the Lundt-Glover Gallery have also expanded.

In general, events are held in the Chatham Township Municipal Building and the staff "has been good to us in every way. They encourage us, are always complimentary, and they lend a helping hand to set up events," she points out.

Of course, the job is not without its challenges. People are very busy these days and so filling board seats and finding volunteers is the chief challenge. "I'd like to see that change," she said. Urging members to consider volunteering for the league, she points out that "volunteering with the league is a very positive experience, a great people experience."

The Howletts have been Chatham Township residents since 1981. Rosemary began seriously studying watercolor in 1998 and as a watercolorist, she was drawn to participation in the art league. She had always had an interest in Asian art and furnishings, so when she took a class in Chinese brush painting, she "loved it, just loved it." On a visit to China a few years later, the Howletts toured a museum and art school where Rosemary participated in a Chinese brush painting workshop. "That just enhanced what I was doing," she explains. "I loved it so much. I wondered how I could have lived without this before."

Rosemary continues to serve as exhibit chair and that job "actually takes more time," she explains. The art league has also been a family affair. Her husband, John Howlett, a digital photographer, has served as treasurer for seven years. But now the Howletts are looking to spend more time with grandchildren and traveling.

Shedding some responsibility, will there perhaps be more time for art itself? It's uncertain, she admits, since she struggles with chronic back pain, which limits her ability to plant herself before her easel.

She leaves the presidency with some regret. "I stayed on as long as I did and would stay on as long as needed because of my absolute love for the organization — the people and the art. And except for my back ailments, I would still be prez at 90!" Rosemary has praise for the strong board of directors. "They work really hard" and she is "pleased to be leaving the league in good hands."



Outgoing ALC President Rosemary Howlett

Magdalena Urbankova: Hits the Ground Running

By Nancy Kingman

Within the last year, Magdalena Urbankova initiated and organized the league's first off-site show, developed a new league website that showcases members' work, started an online Meetup page where members can get details and sign up for upcoming events, and began informal plein air painting sessions for interested members. And that was all before she took up the gavel as league president on June 17.

Although Magdalena, who has been league secretary since 2014, spent the last year "in training" to lead the league, she didn't wait that long to come up with and try out new ideas.

Of last month's league group show at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, the first held at a site other than the Chatham Township Municipal Building, she said, "I loved that it added a variety of venues where our members can show as a group." The 11 artists who participated in the show, which was open to the entire membership, all said they would like to do it again next year.

Magdalena sees the new league website, which was officially launched this month, as "an important link between ALC as a group of independent artists and the general public. It will hopefully serve not only as a platform to provide members with information about our events," she said, "but also to attract new members."

The new website (see www.artleagueofthechathams.org) is already getting rave reviews from members. Each artist gets an individual page with up to five images, one of which is featured in a slideshow on the home page; a short biography; and links to a personal websites or blog.

What's next?

"I would like to explore the possibility of getting some grants and using them for an artistic development series or workshops for members, and perhaps a lecture series," Magdalena said, "which could provide a forum for meeting other artists and art professionals."

"I've also heard members mention that the league used to have 'creative meetings.' I would like to revive these monthly get-togethers where members can meet and share the areas of art they are currently exploring."

Magdalena, who works in pastels, acrylics, and watercolors, recently "fell for plein air painting and can't get enough of it. I like the challenge of dealing with the environmental factors," she said, "the weather and location. A love of nature and the environment also draws me to it." It's an enthusiasm that



Incoming ALC President Magdalena Urbankova painting the earth in a mural for a child's room.

she welcomes other league members to share with her. When she has the time and the weather is cooperating, she lists her next destination on the ALC Meetup page, inviting league members to join her. A recent site was the Giralda Farms Preserve across Woodland Ave. from Loantaka Brook Reservation in Chatham Township, which Magdalena favors for its wide trails with lovely vistas of beautiful old trees and open skies. Another favorite is the Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

In the brief biography she wrote for the league's new website, as well as in her art for children, Magdalena's whimsical side shows through: "Magdalena was born in Prague, in the already nonexistent country of Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic. She has spent the last 20 years in the lovely Garden State, constantly falling in love with its nature, quaint old barns, and small towns. In her art, she is attracted to capturing the always moving ocean and skies. Besides catching the last wave on the canvas, she also spends her time creating bold murals and illustrating her son's stories."

"I would like to revive the monthly get-togethers where members can meet and share the areas of art they are currently exploring."

Magdalena Urbankova

Magdalena began painting murals last year when, she says, her 4-year-old son "declared that I should paint on the walls of our basement. He would, of course, join me." Soon after, there was a pod of playful dolphins swimming on the walls of their basement playroom, later joined by Star Wars robots the size of a small boy. Next she took a commission to paint a space scene with planets, comets, and a little green man in a home in Madison. Then she took commissions to paint a family of penguins for a home in Brooklyn, N.Y., and a May meadow filled with birds, butterflies, and flowers for another family.

Recently Magdalena has also been applying her interest in art for children to creating art workshops for children in the Czech Parents group she belongs to. "The idea is to introduce a particular artist, such as Rothko or Mondrian, to the kids and create a lesson around their work and life," she said. "In the next year or two I will be working on developing the lessons in particular on works of Czech artists, such as Čapek, Kupka, and Lada." She has already created a website and a Meetup page for the group.

Magdalena is looking forward to a busy year ahead leading the league, and is asking more members to join her on the board, especially with the vacancies created by the recent shift. Someone is needed to replace her as secretary, and also to take over as treasurer from John Howlett, who has served for seven years. And, she notes with a smile, "my term is for two years. Someone will need to replace me after that."

Open Positions
Several important ALC positions need to be filled. If you could volunteer to be Secretary or Treasurer, or join the Publicity or Programs & Workshops committee, please contact Magdalena Urbankova.

Phoebe Nichols Wins 2016 ALC Art Scholarship

Phoebe Nichols has been named the recipient of the 2016 Art League of the Chathams Art Scholarship, which is given to a Chatham High School graduating senior who will continue to pursue art.

Phoebe has always loved art, particularly painting and illustration, and is grateful for the encouragement she has received from the talented teachers in Chatham over the years. She is a National Merit Finalist and plans to attend Bowdoin College.

See some of her artwork below.



Phoebe Nichols



Artwork by 2016 ALC art scholarship winner Phoebe Nichols, clockwise from above: “Reflective Objects,” “Maeve,” and “Wilt.”

Member News

At the ALC Spring Show:

Susan May sold four watercolor paintings at the opening reception of her solo show in the Lundt-Glover Gallery: “Dory,” “Lighthouse,” “Goats,” and “Bird With Seed.” She also sold notecards, and coloring books that she designed to teach good nutrition to preschoolers.

Susan donated \$250 to the ALC art scholarship fund “to say thanks for being so kind and giving me the opportunity to show my work.” The scholarship is awarded annually to a Chatham High School graduating senior pursuing art.

Larry Kerner sold a photograph entitled “Phlox” at the opening reception of the general membership show.

Suzanne Casterlin sold an acrylic painting entitled “Lilac Cottage” in the spring show.



“Dory,” a watercolor painting by Susan May.



“Lilac Cottage,” an acrylic painting by Suzanne Casterlin.



“Bird With Seed,” a watercolor painting by Susan May.

Committee Chairs

Exhibits

Chatham Township

Celeste Fondaco

Rosemary Howlett

Hospitality

Alison Hooper

Sharon Remlinger

Membership

Ellie Culver

Membership

Directory

Celeste Fondaco

Publicity

Open

Programs &

Workshops

Open

CHS Liaison

Philla Barkhorn

Newsletter Editor

Nancy Kingman

Web Manager

Helena Axelrod

Lundt/Glover Gallery

Ann Frommer

Showcase

Larry Kerner



Yolanda Fundora sold a digital print on paper, “Plane Tree, Chatham,” (above) at the ALC Spring Show.

She also sold a digital print on aluminum, “Manhattan, Manhattan,” (right) to an Arkansas woman who bought it for her grandson, a recent magna cum laude graduate of UCLA. He, his parents and his grandmother, a quilter, had stopped by Yolanda’s house last summer while on a driving vacation of the Northeast. The grandmother, who knew of Yolanda through her quilting fabrics, went away with lots of fabrics, and her grandson fell in love with the print, which was hanging outside the quilt room. He started saving up to buy it for when he moved to his new apartment after graduation. His grandmother found out and surprised him by taking it to him as a graduation present. "I feel like I got a special present myself hearing how much this image meant to this young man," Yolanda says.



New Members

Please welcome our newest members:

Jim Mitchell of Chatham Borough works in oil.

Odile Volpicelli of Chatham Borough works in watercolor.

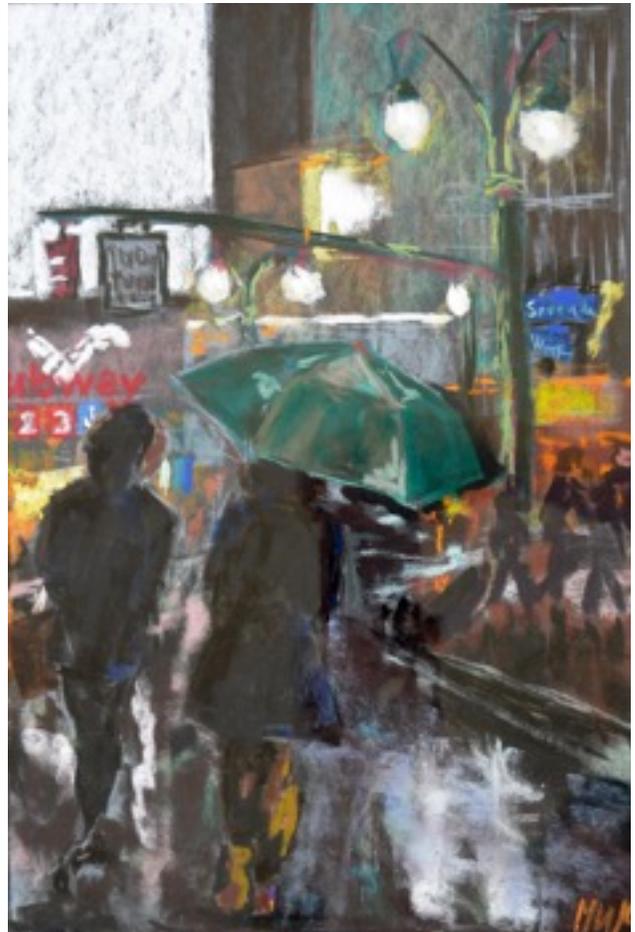
Come Paint With Us
If you would like to paint outdoors with other ALC members, check the ALC Meetup site for times and places:
www.meetup.com/http-www-artleagueofthechathams-org/



The New Providence Garden Club donated four canvas prints of flower photographs by ALC member **Joanne Petuchovas** to the DeCorso Community Center May 9. Pictured are (L-R) Sonya Dinyari, co-president; Nancy Sperling, member; Stacey Kinum, center coordinator, who accepted the donation; Jean Schiels, co-president; and Joanne, member and photographer.



Ann Frommer won first prize in photography at the Morris County Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Art Show at the Morris County Library in May. Her winning photograph (top) is entitled "Man With Umbrella."



Magdalena Urbankova sold a pastel painting entitled “Penn Station” (above).



Two ALC members have artwork in a group show with the theme “Summertime” at the Zufall Health Center in Dover through Sept. 17.

Deborah Fennelly has three watercolors on display, including “Boathouse Still Life” (above top) and “Sunny Day, Spray Beach” (above).

Harriet Kushins has a photograph entitled “Summer Reflections” (right) in the show. She also has a solo show, “Nature’s Kaleidoscope,” in the Chase Room of the Madison Public Library for the month of June.





Philla Barkhorn, Kathy Havens, and Larry Kerner displayed artwork in front of the Library of the Chathams during the Fishawack Festival in Chatham June 11. Philla gave oil painting demonstrations of pet portraits at her booth (left).



Celeste Fondaco sold two oil paintings, “Poppy,” (above) and “Garlic” (at left). She also sold pastel paintings of a dog and a cat.

Celeste will have paintings on display at the new Sotheby’s realty office in Madison during the month of July.



League members at the annual ALC summer picnic held at the home of Celeste Fondaco on June 17.

Meet Us at Meetup

To get the latest news on league events, see who else is going, and view photos of past events, go to the ALC Meetup site at:
www.meetup.com/http-www-artleagueofthechathams-org/