



# Dust in the Wind

March 2025

**LCPS**

**Mission Statement**

We seek to unite artists from beginner to professional who are interested in the pastel medium and to serve their needs by encouraging artistic growth and development through education and sharing. We also work to create public awareness of pastel as a unique and beautiful art form.

From the President	1
Upcoming events	3
Members meeting	4
Workshops	5
Articles	7
Challenge	8
Member News	9
Calendar	13

## From the President



### Cultivating Curiosity

Each year I chose an annual theme word. Last year my word was ABUNDANCE and it served me well so it took some time to find a new word for 2025. Drumroll, Wendy's 2025 word is CURIOSITY!! A year exploring new ideas, processes, and places. To ask: Why? Why not? What if? And, to embrace the discomfort that comes with learning and applying new skills.

Here are some of the reported benefits of a curious mindset:

- Promotes resilience and flexibility
- Accelerates learning and improves memory
- Encourages empathy and natural curiosity about others
- Encourages exploration and innovation
- Naturally opposed to complacency and boredom
- Sparks joy and FUN!

In my art practice, the goal is to release expectations and embrace feeling awkward and uncomfortable as a requirement of accelerated learning. I've been experimenting with a wide variety of mediums, techniques and genres with the intention of integrating what I learn into my pastel work. But for now, it's all just for fun as I make a lot of art, much of it only valuable as a learning tool!

I'm especially excited about our two artist workshops this year. Curiosity has clearly been a driving force for both artists. They have each spent decades as professional artists pursuing a wide variety of subject matter and using multiple mediums (often simultaneously) to tell their stories. If you have spent any time around Fred Somers, you know he is ALWAYS asking, "what if?"

Part of my challenge is to revisit my art practice goals with a fresh eye. Why and how I share my art. What part of my art practice brings me joy, or doesn't? What might I do differently?

Who could I turn to for guidance and coaching? Our March Member Meeting will be a great starting point as we welcome Andy Sturdevant from Springboard for the Arts to talk about his art career.

I'm currently reading *The Well Lived Life: A 102-Year-Old Doctor's Six Secrets To Health and Happiness* by Gladys McGarvey, and her driving philosophy is to live her life as "A joyful, participatory engagement that extends to every breath and every moment...When life gets tough, we don't drag our feet; instead we become curious and we engage even more." Amen sister!

I'm applying a curious approach to other areas as well. What else might be possible? How might we do better? What would happen if we do this instead? Recently we welcomed two new LCPS Sponsors - Terry Ludwig and Diane Townsend Pastels and continue to work with others as a way to keep our membership costs affordable. We are also looking at venue options and virtual offerings for future meetings.

What new interests are you pursuing? I'm looking forward to seeing you at our March meeting and hearing a little bit about what you've been up to.

Wendy

Here are a few more digital library book recommendations from this past few months: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* - V.E. Schwab

*A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* - Betty Smith

*The Island of Sea Women* - Lisa See

*Become a good GREAT artist* - Kristy Gordon (a book on voice finding)

*The Simple Secret to better painting* - Greg Albert

*Color Harmony In Your Painting* - Margaret Kessler

*The Patron Saint of Liars* - Ann Patchett

**BLICK<sup>®</sup>**  
**art materials**

# Upcoming Events

March 11, 2025 Tuesday – Andy Sturdevant, How to Start Your Own Business

New Brighton Community Center 7 – 9 pm

Allison Ecklund was not able to make it, so Andy was able to step forward and do the presentation. Andy works with Springboard for the Arts in St. Paul. He is also the Artist Resource Manager and Coordinator for the Minnesota Lawyers for the Arts.



Andy Sturdevant (he/him) is a writer, artist, and designer living in Minneapolis. He is the author of four full-length nonfiction books, including the Minnesota Book Award-nominated book *Closing Time: Saloons, Taverns, Dives and Watering Holes of the Twin Cities* (with Bill Lindeke). He graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Art in painting in 2004 from the Hite Art Institute at the University of Louisville. Andy has written about art, history and culture for a variety of Twin Cities-based publications and websites. He is the recipient of grants from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and Forecast Public Arts, awards from the Minnesota Media & Publishing Association and the Minnesota Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

His presentation will cover the basic tasks needed to start your own art business He will talk about Naming your business, setting up the structure, how to create a business plan and the taxes associated with the ubusiness. Mostly the focus will be on creating an LLC.

May 15, THURSDAY – Lorenzo Chavez Live Demo

New Brighton Community Center room 224, 7pm – 9pm

Lorenzo, our workshop artist, will be giving a live demo of his work and technique. Please note that this is Thursday, not our usual Tuesday meeting day.



July 8 Paint Out, Tuesday from 4pm – 7pm.

This coming July join us for our annual Paint Out, or you may call it our annual plein air event. We are planning something around the area of Forest Lake at this time. It will be a great chance to learn from others about techniques and the process of preparation for outdoor painting itself. Hope to see you there.

STEVE BUDAS  
LCPS Program Chair  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

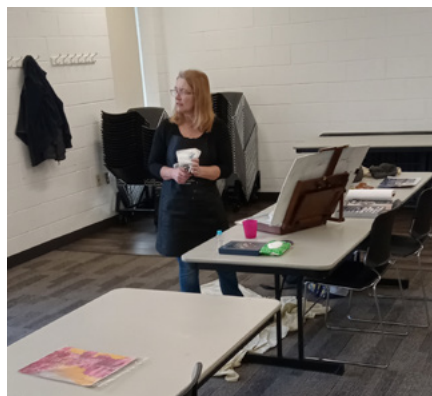


# Members Meeting

## Recap of the January 4 Paint In

I was originally concerned with the below zero temperatures that no one would show up, but lo and behold, there were six of us interested in painting. During our three-hour session, one person had shown up, thinking we were from the “Lake County” pastel group. That is his county and he never heard of us! Ha, the sign on the door was misspelled. Two other guests showed up who work at the New Brighton Community Center and they always help set up the room, but never had a chance to see what goes on. They were delighted to see our works in progress. One of them was a student who attends Creighton University in Nebraska. He was very interested in joining our organization, but wants to finish his college work first. He may join us again during the summer months.

Meanwhile, one of us was touching up on several paintings that had not been finished. Another person was totally experimenting and without a photograph, totally made up her painting, based on what colors she wanted to experiment with. The other four of us were starting new paintings altogether. Our group discussion (in between all of our painting) covered so many topics, to include how much different is a beginner from a professional, when in fact, we are all seeking new knowledge about the art form? Lisa Stauffer introduced us all to a free software program called “Chromatic” that helps one develop a good eye for color and its many shades. We shared funny stories about our experiences and teachers we have worked with. Several mentioned that Lorenzo Chavez is a great artist and teacher. He will be doing our workshop this coming Spring. We were having so much fun that the three hours just flew by. Maybe the next time, we’ll see YOU there!





## LORENZO CHAVEZ WORKSHOP

May 14, 15 & 16, 2025

“It is the simple glimpses into nature that move me to create.”

~Lorenzo Chavez

The Lake Country Pastel Society is excited to host internationally known award-winning painter, Lorenzo Chavez for our Spring 2025 workshop! It will be an IN-STUDIO workshop Wednesday-Friday, May 14-16 at the New Brighton Community Center, New Brighton, MN. It is almost full, so don't hesitate to register!

Chavez is a renowned fine artist specializing in pastel and oil landscapes. He is also a sought-after instructor who teaches workshops across the United States.

Born and raised in New Mexico, Lorenzo Chavez has been a professional artist for over 35 years. His first inspirations and foundations as a young artist were formed by the local landscape and the art history of the area. Lorenzo now makes his home in Parker, Colorado and uses his location as a base to travel and paint throughout the region and across the country.

His award-winning work is featured in prestigious exhibitions, galleries and publications, as well as private and corporate collections throughout the US and internationally. He has been a recipient of awards from notable groups as the Pastel Society of America, California Art Club, and the American Impressionist Society and is an active member of Rendezvous of Art, Signature member of The Plein Air Painters of America and the Pastel Society of America, the California Art Club Signature Member, American Impressionist Society, and the Pastel Society of Spain.



Lorenzo's workshop will focus on the fundamentals of landscape painting... shape, line, values, colors, edges, emotional involvement, and atmospheric and linear perspective. The importance of simplifying the landscape and composition will be emphasized. His workshop will offer lots of individual attention with daily demos and an opportunity for relaxed and inspiring group discussions. His goal is to “awaken your artistic vision.”

Chavez was recently published in PLEIN AIR TODAY...

Exposing our sight and other senses to situations that may not be part of our existing routine allows us to step out of our pattern, breaking norms of creative comfort. It encourages what Chavez refers to as “a beginner's mind” (full of curiosity and wonder), and allows us to take on the unknown in order to grow the seeds of what is already feeding an artistic practice.

Find the full article at... <https://www.outdoorpainter.com/creative-ideas-art-assignment-relocate-your-senses/>

The registration form for this workshop is below.

Becky Jokela and Gwen Solberg  
LCPS Workshop Co-chairs

Initial Registration Form

LORENZO CHAVEZ WORKSHOP – LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY – MAY 14, 15 & 16, 2025

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Down Payment OR  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$465 Full Payment (\$505 non-members)

Make check payable to **LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY** or **LCPS** and mail to:

Gwen Solberg, LCPS Workshop  
1033 Tamarack Lane  
Lino Lakes, MN 55014



LORENZO CHAVEZ WORKSHOP – LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY – MAY 14, 15 & 16, 2025

**\*Return this portion with balance by APRIL 10, 2025\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ \$365 due if initial payment was \$100 (\$405 non-members)

Make check payable to **LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY** or **LCPS** and mail by **04/10/2025** to:

Gwen Solberg, LCPS Workshop  
1033 Tamarack Lane  
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

## TWO Educational Scholarships are available to Lake Country Pastel Members

This award is inspired and dedicated to the memory of Abbey Duncan and funded by her family, with the goal to encourage artistic growth and development through education and sharing, with an emphasis on sharing.

Two \$375 scholarship awards are available to be used towards a 2025 or 2026 Lake Country Pastel Society workshop registration fee. \*Cannot be used for a workshop you have already registered and paid for.

Deadline to enter is April 1, 2025

This is not a competition, entries will not be judged. Award recipients will be chosen through a random drawing. The selection will be made, and the award recipient will be contacted by April 15, 2025. Selected individuals will be announced in the May newsletter.

Interested individuals may apply as follows:

Send an email to [mpatriciaduncan@aol.com](mailto:mpatriciaduncan@aol.com). In 500 words or less, share why you want to attend one of the 2025 workshops, what you are hoping to learn from it and how you plan to share this knowledge with others.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's time to renew your membership with the Lake Country Pastel Society.

Membership runs from January 1-December 31. Renew before March 31 to avoid missing any benefits!

**Membership fee is \$35/year.**

Find the Membership form on the Contact section of <https://lakecountrypastelsociety.org/contact.php> to renew or join!

If you paid for a 2025 membership but have not received a proof of membership, please email Michelle at [Michelle.wegler@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle.wegler@gmail.com)

Renew now so you continue to receive newsletters. You don't want to miss anything!

## MONASTERY EXHIBITION

Well the Monastery exhibit went well. After talking to some artists who were picking up their paintings, I found out that two other paintings were "pre-sold" before the exhibit opened. That means officially we sold a total of four paintings for that showing. People were also surprised that the portraits by Jeanne were done in pastel only! Congratulations to everyone who participated and let more people know the beauty and challenge of working with the pastel medium. Our next exhibit will be ...

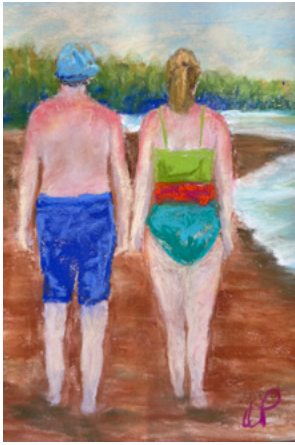
## UPCOMING EXHIBIT

Coming up in July of this year we will be having our next judged exhibit. It will be hosted by Frameworks Gallery in Highland Park of St. Paul. Mandy, the owner, is very excited to host this one. It will be judged by Suzann Beck, a pastel artist herself. There will be more details in the May Newsletter.

# Challenge

## FEBRUARY CHALLENGE- WINTER GLOW

A warm thank you to our February Winter Glow challenge entrants!



Winter Glow of New Arrivals  
Wendy Peterson



One Visitor  
Chris Walton



Rosehips in the Snow  
Sandy Gildersleeve



Standing Out  
Gwen Solberg



Open Creek in February  
Janice Johnson



Impressions of Snow  
Pat Sorensen



The Morning Show  
Carol Pruchnofski

Congratulations to our two randomly selected winners: Pat Sorensen and Gwen Solberg. Each winner will receive a Pan Pastel in Turquoise 580.5.

**TERRY  
LUDWIG  
PASTELS®**



# Member News

## *Patricia Sorenson*

I've had some success in getting my work out in the public lately. I credit my participation in the Minnetonka Center for the Arts Holiday fair in 2022 and 2023, because this led to my being contacted by the art curator at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka. The church building is relatively new, and they invite artists to display their art for three month periods on a long wall in their beautiful, light-filled sanctuary - and the work can be offered for sale. I have 16 pieces there now through the middle of April.

The art curator, Christy Dachtelet, has become a real advocate for me and she first suggested I apply to the Landscape Arboretum of MN to have an exhibit there; I was accepted and will exhibit along with another artist for two months this summer. Then she suggested I contact Gallery 360 in Minneapolis (at 50th and Xerxes) and I have been invited to display/sell a few pieces in early March as well as participate in a bigger show in mid-April.

I tell you all of this in order to encourage others who are interested in selling their work to seek opportunities when you can, as you never know what might come of it. I started painting in pastel two years ago, have had a website for almost two years, but have had very few sales from it. I think it took getting my work in front of actual eyeballs to begin to have some success. I didn't even begin exploring trying art (first with watercolor and then a bit of acrylic) until the pandemic, and never intended to make any money from it - it was purely for my own enjoyment and satisfaction. And I will continue painting for those reasons even if I never sell another piece.....I've given many, many pieces away and that is also extremely satisfying.

## *Janice Nelson Johnson*

My show runs March 7 through April 28, 2025. Gallery hours are:

Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

Sat 12-4pm

Sun 1-4pm.

<https://www.oakdalemn.gov/227/Art-Gallery>

### CROW PORTRAITS

Oakdale Discovery Center Art Gallery

March 7 -April 28, 2025

Crows are fascinating creatures known to be intelligent and capable of building relationships with humans. View my crow portraits at the Oakdale Discovery Center Art Gallery. Pick up a free plan on how to build and install a crow feeder in your own backyard.

Oakdale Discovery Center

4444 Hadley Ave North

Oakdale, MN 55128

651.747.3866



## Rita Kirkman

2025 pastel workshops with Rita Kirkman, PSA-MP, CPS, IAPS-EP

8/18/2025 - 8/20/2025 Midland TX, contact Dee Kemp or Sherry Thomas,  
[deekemp@gmail.com](mailto:deekemp@gmail.com) or [thomasstudioart432@gmail.com](mailto:thomasstudioart432@gmail.com)

10/9/2025 - 10/11/2025 Rockville, MD, contact Karen Peck, [sop@marylandpastelsociety.com](mailto:sop@marylandpastelsociety.com)



It's not too early to register for Pastel Live 2025! (September 2025) Rita Kirkman is excited to announce that she has been invited to be on faculty and will be doing a 90 minute portrait demo. Go to <https://pastellive.com/psl2025> and use the code "KIRKMAN" for 10% off your ticket!

-----

Rita Kirkman is proud to announce her painting "The Letter" (pastel, 16x20 inches) is a part the China Zhuhai "PASTEL WORLD" Online Pastel Invitational Exhibition 2024 and the 10th Zhuhai Shutong Art Pastel Invitational Exhibition. This exhibition unites pastel artists worldwide, featuring works by presidents of pastel societies from eight countries and contributions from artists across the globe, including 62 pieces by 40 Chinese pastelists. Its goal is to position Zhuhai as China's hub for pastel art.

The show can be seen online here <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/yH7KCiAdvqQvGI-wvs7k93Q>



## *Patricia Duncan*

I feel very honored to have this piece “A Deeper Connection to the Earth” be in the Arizona Pastel Artists Association International Show at the Prescott Phippen Museum. The show can be seen online February 22nd - April 25th through the [APAA Website](#).



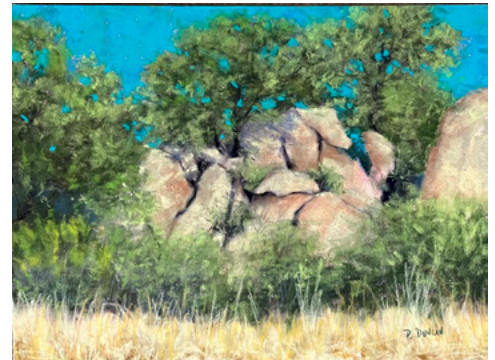
I am honored to be a part of the exhibit for the Desert Museum “Pastel Expressions” Four Corners Gallery. These 3 pieces will be a part of the show starting on March 19th - May 17th. Reception and awards will be March 22nd. This beautiful event is sponsored by the Tucson Pastel Society.



HoneyBee Canyon  
11 x 14



The Spirit of Autumn  
11 x 14



Sacred Stones  
12 x 16

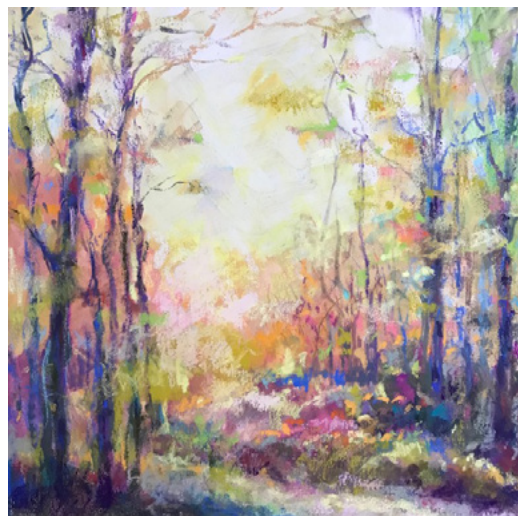
## *Sue Rowe*

Greetings, Fellow Pastelists -

February, 2025 held a surprise for me - the joys of playing with pastel pigments returned! It may have been art festival hard deadlines, the toned canvases sitting unused in Studio B, or the quiet whispers from hundreds of pastel sticks and pans idling their way in the main studio. Who knows? One or more of these three resulted in the unexpected beginning of a new series of paintings! Not bear portraits, not bears sitting in moonlight, not a bear or two dancing.

I somehow felt the need to create imagined spaces of peace and beauty. Welcoming, mysterious places where one could relax and wander - while discovering the mysteries held in shadow and light. Fantasy forests created primarily from those tiny bits and pieces of pigment that just could be discarded yet. Using toned canvases instead of the usual substrates has been interesting. I am experimenting with various fixatives throughout the process. Taking notes.

Two pastel paintings are finished, and a colorful oil painting in the same theme is sitting on the easel. Life Lesson: Keep those resting art supplies around just a while longer. their siren songs may lead you back to the studio again. I'm back playing those bits of color those - and happier for the doing!



## *Lisa Stauffer*

I have a class coming up at the Grand Marais Art Colony- shake off the winter doldrums and join us up in beautiful Grand Marais, MN.

### [Painting In Pastel- Landscapes From Photographs](#)

Wed. April 30- Sat. May 3, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.



Bring your pastel landscapes to life through a better understanding of key artistic principles. We'll discuss design and composition, painting fundamentals, the importance of accurate drawing and those valuable tools: color, value, intensity, and temperature, among others. We'll experiment with and have fun exploring a variety of painting approaches. Students will paint from their own photo reference materials, paintings, and field studies. Lisa will lead the class in an exploration of materials, including pastel brands, papers and techniques. Class time will include demonstrations, one-to-one instruction, and group critique. (Click on the title to go to the info page for my class)

**DIANE TOWNSEND  
ARTISTS' PASTELS**



## Board of Directors

### *President*

Wendy Peterson

### *Vice President*

OPEN

### *Treasurer*

Susan Warner

### *Secretary*

Nancy Dahlof

### *Program Chair*

Steve Budas

### *Exhibit Chair*

OPEN

### *Workshops*

Becky Jokela

### *Public Relations*

OPEN

### *Mentoring Program*

Eileen France

### *Membership Chair*

Michelle Wegler

### *Historian and Newsletter Chair*

Dian Dewi

### *Past co-Presidents*

Christine Tierney

Pat Duncan

## LCPS 2025 Calendar

### March 2025

1 - Newsletter

4 - Board Meeting - 5:30-7:00 -  
ZOOM

11 - Member Meeting - Allison  
Ecklund on "How to Start Your  
Own Art Business"

31 - UNPAID MEMBERSHIPS  
WILL BE REMOVED FROM  
MAILING LIST

### April 2025

1-20 Painting Challenge

### May 2025

1 - newsletter

6 - Board member - 5.30PM-7PM -  
Zoom

14-16 WORKSHOP - LORENZO  
CHAVEZ

15 - Chavez Demo

### June 2025

1-20 Painting Challenge

### July 2025

1 - Newsletter

1 - Board member - 5.30PM-7PM -  
Zoom

8 - CPS Member Meeting - Paint-  
out - location TBD

19- TOUCH OF COLOR SHOW  
- LCPS ANNUAL JUDGED EXHI-  
BITION

26 - TOUCH OF COLOR RECEP-  
TION



**New Brighton Community Center**  
400 10th Street NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112

In case of bad weather .....

LCPS will email members by noon  
the day of the meeting and will con-  
tact people who don't have email.

If you have questions, contact  
Wendy Peterson

