

Conway League of Artists Newsletter

January 2025

Please join us . . .

CLA Member Meeting

Presenter: Jennifer O'Brien

January 13, 2025 6:00 pm

Faulkner County Library Room 1

Creating an art journal was what helped Jennifer O'Brien the most following her husband's diagnosis and death. Her book, "The Hospice Doctor's Widow," which pairs images and words, has received multiple awards.

Jennifer will discuss her art processes and the power of art to help heal oneself and others.

About Jennifer O'Brien

Jennifer is a self-taught collage artist, both analog and digital.



Art journaling served as self-care mechanism following her late husband's diagnosis, and she continues the practice today.

To find out more about Jennifer and to get her art journaling prompts, visit her website at jenniferaobrien.com.

For Your Calendar



January 13 - CLA's Members Meeting and program - with Author and Artist Jennifer O'Brien.

February 10 - Members Meeting with presenter Shirley Howard

March 10 - Members Meeting with Sandy Arnault

April 14 - Members Meeting with Lakey Geoff

May 12 - Members Meeting and Spring Show Awards Presentation

EVERY MONTH:

Third Thursday Coffee in Room 1 of Faulkner County Library.

First and Fourth Thursday - Create Together - Faulkner County Library Stage Area

Congratulations

Congratulations to Virginia Potter and Joyce Hartman who sold paintings at the CLA Christmas Show!



Letter from the President

Create Together at the Library will be held the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Thursday of each month from 9-11 in the stage area. People are encouraged to bring whatever project they are working on. This is a great opportunity to learn from each other.

The New Year is exciting. We sit down with our calendars and our lists and make a plan for excellence. Many people make new year's resolutions. My friend told me she likes to choose a word for the year. I love this idea! She came up with words like resilience, abundance, clarity, gratitude, intention, purpose, balance, courage, wellness, and joy; these are all great words. Lately life seems to be telling me to pay attention. When playing pickleball, don't think about your newest painting, focus on the ball hurling toward your head. If you make a new recipe, don't be distracted by the ads that move the ingredients around on the screen. When your mom is visiting, pay attention to the old stories. This year, I am choosing to focus. I am great at trying to do everything but this year I am going to sort through, pick the things that are important, and do those things. Wish me luck.

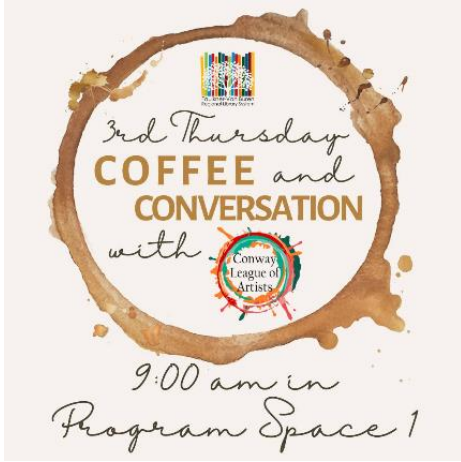
I hope that each of you find worthy goals as you plan your excellent year. I would like to invite you to join or renew your membership in CLA for 2025. Membership is \$25 a year. You can join or renew at a meeting or event, or mail a check to Conway League of Artists, PO Box 10226, Conway AR 72034. There are many perks to being a part of the group and one is that it provides a great opportunity to connect and inspire each other.

May you find joy in the New Year,
Christina Blum

President, Conway League of Artist
~Educate, Promote, Inspire, Connect~

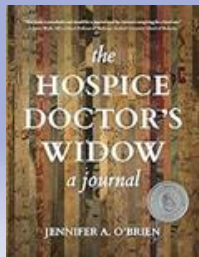


Congratulations to CLA member Kelvin Cunningham who had a show at the Ozark Heritage Art Museum in Leslie through December 20.



Program Preview - 2025*

January 13 - Jennifer O'Brien



Making an art journal was what helped Jennifer O'Brien the most following her husband's diagnosis and death several years ago. Using analog and digital media, she documented and depicted the exhausting reality of caregiving through collage, tableaus, notes and observations. After seeing how much that stack of pages helped others in their final months, she published her art journal of caring and grief, *The Hospice Doctor's Widow*. She will share her creative processes and ways she is expanding her artistic repertoire.

February 10 - Shirley Howard "Touch With Your Eyes"



Have you ever wished you could effortlessly navigate art museums and discuss artwork like an expert, regardless of your artistic abilities or knowledge? Imagine if there was a way to learn simple techniques to help you accomplish that. "Touch with your eyes" means experiencing art in a new way, with hands-on activities that help you understand and appreciate it. Once you have mastered this, we will check out an art museum to put it into action.

Shirley is a career art educator with over thirty years in the classroom. She was president of the State Art Association and was elected National Art Education Association board member as Middle School Division Director for two years. She earned her B.S.E. in art from Arkansas State University and a master's in education degree from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. She is currently retired and is the studio owner of Clay Flower Ceramic Designs in Cabot, Arkansas.

March 10 - Sandy Arnault "Painting with the Masters"

Sandy Arnault will share her extraordinary experience recreating Renaissance art at Paris' Louvre Museum.

About Sandy: Drawing horses on her father's knee is where Sandy's art journey began. Born in Minnesota, Sandy was raised riding ponies and horses, and they became a lifelong passion for her. She married Larry Arnault in 1976 and they have resided in Searcy for over 40 years.

Sandy studied art at ASU and Harding University, a five-year study of the "Old Masters" method by Frank Covino. During this time, her artwork took her abroad to Paris France. In 2000 Sandy painted in the Louvre Museum for three weeks, with ten American and three Brazilian artists. It was a highlight of her art career.

Sandy does commission work for the public and teaches classes out of Trinity Art Studio in Searcy.

April 14 - Lakey Geoff "Creating with our Creator"

Take a walk with Nature artist Lakey Goff and learn how to use berries, flowers, robins' eggs, mud, and other found organic materials to create art!

Please bring your own watercolor paper, any size (it absorbs flower pigment best) on the day of the class if you have access to fresh flowers from your garden please bring them and some to share!

For Lakey Goff, art is not separate from living. Born in Arkansas, raised in Costa Rica, Lakey's art is a catapult, from the lethargy of the spectator, into the flow of the River of Life! Everything she creates is meant to shift atmospheres and give dead things life. The Word of God is not chained and neither is her art. She teaches others how to create with the Creator, God, through walks & dance. Her art is visceral, and kinetic, her materials include The Word of God, pollen, mud, rose dust, feathers, seeds, wings, eggs, ashes & pigment of flowers are used in her creations.

May 12 - Show Awards and Presentations with Show judge

June 9 - Sandy Hubler -
Artist and Owner of "The Showroom" in Little Rock

July 14 - Social Media: Members Sharing "What Works"

Social media sites of several CLA members will be shown. Presenters will share information about various sites that they use - Etsy, FaceBook, Art Storefronts, Fine Art America, Instagram, etc. Bring your devices!