



Newsletter

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November, 2025

General Meeting

November 9

1:00pm
Near Northwest
Neighborhood Community
Center
1007 Portage Ave.
South Bend

Speaker
Jeff Longenbaugh
Photographer

NIA Board of Directors

President

Laura Elliott
elliottsb4@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Kristen O'Dell
klostudioart@gmail.com

Secretary

Elisabeth Simeri
elisabethsimeri@gmail.com

Treasurer

Paul Thornton
pt1953@att.net

Exhibits

Jude Phillips
judephillips@att.net

Historian

open

Hospitality

Dee Thornton
deethorn@att.net

Membership

Emily Thomas
emily96thomas@gmail.com

Publicity

Catherine McCormick
CAMcCorm@aol.com

Publications

Joan Spohrer
jfspohrer@ameritech.net

Past President

Dee Thornton
deethorn@att.net

President's Corner

Dear Fellow NIA members,

As 2025 comes to a close, we have had many exhibits, general meetings and social events to think back on. Our three gallery shows had participation at record levels, which demonstrates the vitality and growth of our organization's members. Our General Meeting artist speakers gave us many opportunities to reflect on and appreciate the journey we are all on as artists. Our social time together strengthened the bond we have as friends with a common mission. Looking forward to 2026, our Board Members will charter the course that will continue the mission of our organization. Our roster of Board Members will be sustained, with the exception of Exhibit Chairperson and a Historian.



St Pat's Park Trail

The Exhibit Committee Chairperson job entails: "Responsibility for the arrangements (as the gallery liaison), hanging, and organization (entry forms for each show, digital records list with pricing and tags for all submissions) of all of the all-member annual exhibit and such other exhibits throughout the year as may seem valuable for the membership." (NIA By-Laws Article V., Sec 5.) The Exhibit Chairperson also arranges for a juror for each show, creates individual Award Certificates given at the opening or closing reception. The Chairperson prints copies of the juror statements for distribution, NIA signage & mission statement and guest record book at the gallery.

Our archives have been collected into two boxes and inventoried. The collection is a record of our history going back to our earliest beginnings in the 1940's!! The task of sorting and preserving them for future members has graciously been taken up by Martha Hollett. She has extensive experience as a genealogist that is extremely valuable in this effort. Our goal is to offer samplings of our archives at General Meetings and the May Social this spring. Martha will turn over the ongoing storage arrangements, maintenance and display of the archives after she has completed her task. A volunteer will be sought at that time to join the Board in the capacity of Historian.

Please note that the Board decided that there will be no General Meeting in January going forward because the weather is often very unfavorable. Our thanks goes out to Jude Phillips for over 10 years of service on the NIA Board. Your input on 2026 goals and events is welcome. Participation is the key to our progress.

Best regards and Happy Fall,
Laura Elliott, President

All Member Show Pick Up

Pick up time for NIA's All Member show at Fernwood is Sunday November 2nd from 3:30 to 4:30. Be there no later than 4:20 so they can close up. If you can't pick up your work please make arrangements for someone to pick up for you.

Art Matters

Linda Fritschner's "Amish Garage" received a Judge's merit award at the Elkhart Art League's 100th anniversary art show, ealonline.org/news-events. She has two paintings, "Saturday's Laundry" and "Laundry Day" in the Indiana Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art show, "Hear Our Voices" at the South Bend Museum of Art, southbendart.org. All of the paintings are acrylic on canvas.



Linda Fritschner

Mary Firtl's pastel self portrait, "When I Hit 70" won a Judge's award in the recent Northern Indiana Pastel Society Members Show held at the Colfax Cultural Center. She was also accepted into the Midwest Museum of American Art 47th Elkhart Juried Regional Competition with an abstract pastel titled, "The Realm of Possibilities." The exhibit runs through December 31. 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. midwestmuseum.org



Mary Firtl

Cara Lawson-Ball currently has two paintings on view with the Indiana Women's Caucus for Art at the South Bend Museum of Art, two paintings in the Roti Roti Art Center Members Show, Buchanan, rotirotiartcenter.org/, and one painting exhibited with NIA All Member show at Fernwood Botanical Garden. She received a Purchase Award for her painting "Diamonds Between Spaces" at the Midwest Museum's Elkhart Juried Exhibit and was juried into *Art Comes Alive 2025* in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Perry Olshein

Perry Olshein's painting, "1773" was accepted to the Elkhart Juried Regional, Midwest Museum of Art.

Susan Pelka won 2 awards at the Cass County Regional Gallery 9th Open: Drawing Representational for her pastel "On the Trail to Laurel Falls," pictured; and Painting, Watercolor and Gouache for "Cade's Cove."



Susan Pelka

Ramiro Rodriguez' exhibition, "Atravesar: Monoprints by Ramiro Rodriguez," runs at the Heartland Art Center, 214 N Michigan St., Plymouth, from December 2 - 31, heartlandartgallery.com/. Reception is on Friday, December 12, from 6 to 8pm.

Susan Ward has 3 pieces at the Women's Caucus for Art show "Hear Our Voices" at the South Bend Museum of Art, 2 in the Cass County Regional, 2 at NIA's All Member show at Fernwood Botanical Garden and a sculpture in the Elkhart Juried Regional, Midwest Museum of Art.

Dan Slattery won a Judge's Award at the Northern Indiana Pastel Society Exhibit at the Colfax Cultural Center this fall. He won a Third Place award at the St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society's exhibit at Corvillia.

Joan Spohrer's digital painting "Dry Dock at Howth" was accepted to the Elkhart Juried Regional. She also has 2 paintings in the Heartland Annual Juried Exhibition, Heartland Artists Gallery, Plymouth, two paintings in the St Joe Valley



Joan Spohrer

Watercolor Society exhibit at Corvillia, and three paintings in the Area Artists Association exhibit "Gathering Light" at the Roti Roti Art Center, Buchanan.

Thomas Zuber's image, "Figure Fantasy 611," along with 12 additional images, were chosen to accompany an article in *Soul Artist Journal: Heirloom*." Tom explains that a spiritual health and wellness coach, seeking artwork to augment an article placed in her latest journal, discovered his website. She and the end-of-life counselor/author chose his 13 images to illustrate the article by Virginia Chang, PhD. *Soul Artist Journal* is edited and produced by R.R Shakti, PhD, Vail, CO.



Thomas Zuber

November Speaker Jeff Longenbaugh



Remains

Jeff's topic will be "Forces of Nature- An attempt to find photographic art that is "hiding in nature right in front of us."

A native Hoosier, Jeff Longenbaugh was born in Warsaw and has resided most of his life in northern Indiana. He studied at Purdue and became a veterinarian, spending over 40 years caring for animals and the people "attached" to them.

Jeff started taking pictures in the early eighties and has spent four decades trying to progress from "taking a photograph" to "making a photograph." His emphasis is on the natural world, but will photograph manmade things when form, function or light presents an interesting image. In addition, he will photograph anything that his granddaughter asks him to. Over the years, a number of his photographs have been selected for the Midwest Museum's Elkhart Regional Juried art show.

His images have been published in *Our Magnificent Planet 2020*, *Single Image Celebrations* from Lenswork Readers, edited by Brooks Jensen and Maureen Gallagher; and *Trilogies 2022*, *Three Image Collections* from Lenswork Readers, edited by Brooks Jensen and Crystal Baird.

Visit Jeff's website, www.JeffL.photography

Exhibits, Classes & Events

"Painting the Darkness," a watercolor class focusing on low-light subjects, will be taught by Dan Slattery at SBMA Monday afternoons beginning Nov. 3 for 6 weeks.

"The Local Cup" will feature watercolors by Dan Slattery through the month of November. The coffee shop is by the Near Northwest Neighborhood Office on Portage Ave.

The Indiana Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art show "Hear Our Voices: Recent Work" is on exhibit at SBMA through Nov 17. southbendart.org

The Area Artists Association show "Gathering Light," is on exhibit at the Roti Roti Art Center, 117 Front Street, Buchanan through December 14. rotirotiartcenter.org

Heartland Artists 37th Annual Juried Exhibit ends November 1 with a reception & awards from 4-6pm. heartlandartgallery.com

The 47th Elkhart Juried Regional will be on exhibit at the Midwest Museum of American Art, through December 31. midwestmuseum.org

Pinhook Artists welcome artists of any experience level and medium to join us at Pinhook Park Pavilion, 2801 Riverside Dr, South Bend, Wednesdays from 9:30-noon for studio time, camaraderie and inspiration. Bring your own supplies. A small fee is charged quarterly.

Lakeville Library, 120 N Michigan St, Lakeville, invites artists on Tuesday mornings from 10am-noon for the same purpose. No fee is charged.

The Leeper Park Art Fair will begin accepting artist applications December 1. leeperparkartfair.org

St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society Art Demo and Opening Reception

We're excited to invite you to a special day of art and connection at **Corvilla!**

Corvilla Exhibit Artist Private Tour & Demonstration

Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience with Corvilla Artists.

Date: Friday, November 14

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Corvilla, 135 E. University Drive, Granger, IN 46530

SJVWS Artist Reception

Immediately following the tour, we'll gather for a warm and inspiring reception with fellow artists.

Time: 12:00 – 2:00pm

Location: Same venue

Come celebrate creativity, community, and the incredible work of our local artists. We hope to see you there!

FREE FRAME: if anyone is interested in a free wood frame measuring 32" x 40", text Dan Slattery at 574-485-3800.

Images from our All-Member Show, Fernwood Botanical Garden August 22 - November 2

