

Next General Meeting Saturday, March 14

10:00am
Pasture Room, Francis
Branch SJCPBL
52655 N. Ironwood Rd,
South Bend

Speaker
Lee Bauman
Artist/Illustrator

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President's Corner

As we enter 2026, I am excited to announce several changes that our board and I think will energize our membership and bring new spirit to our meetings. We expect these changes will increase attendance and provide excellent technical support for our guest speakers.

New day, time and location

Please refer to our calendar on page 4 - you will see that our meetings will take place Saturday mornings at Francis Branch Library, 52655 N. Ironwood Road, South Bend. While we enjoyed our meetings at the Near Northwest Neighborhood Center, the library will provide better access to audio visual services and Wi-Fi so our guest speakers can give their best presentations. The library offers ample parking, a warm atmosphere, and a friendly staff that sets up the chairs and offers help when we need it. Of course there is a kitchen to support our popular hospitality table.

We expect that members will find Saturday morning meetings convenient to attend as this timing will allow them to go on with other activities in the afternoon.

Can you help with exhibits?

As I wrote in the November newsletter, we need an Exhibit Chair for the exhibit committee and members to work with the chairperson on important duties. Computer skills are needed to operate the software that generates the lists of entries, labels for artwork and award certificates. Skills are needed to hang the artwork, hire the jurors, and book future exhibits and receptions. We thank Jude Phillips for her service in this post for many years.

Congratulations to us

2026 will be NIA's 85th anniversary as an organization. Beginning with the May Social on May 2, there will be presentations from our archives noting our history and progress. We look forward to sharing these points of pride with our members. And, we are happy to report that the May Social will return to the Sacred Heart Parish Center at Notre Dame this year.

Thank you for your continued participation in NIA and commitment to our growth and success in this new year.

Laura Elliott, President



NIA Dues

NIA Dues must be paid by March 31. Annual dues are \$30 (\$35 after March 31) and can be paid via check to: NIA Treasurer, PO Box 906, South Bend, IN 46624 . Dues may also be paid online at our website nia-art.org, using PayPal or a credit card.

Art Matters

Dan Slattery will be offering a six-week class in Watercolor Landscape painting at the South Bend Museum of Art, beginning January 26. The class runs from 1 - 4 pm on Mondays. Register at southbendart.org.

Mary Firtl's Winter I session of Continuing Practice in Soft Pastels class at the South Bend Museum of Art starts on Tuesday, January 20, 1-4 pm and runs for six weeks. Students should have some experience in the medium of soft pastels. Visit southbendart.org for more information and registration.

Anne Marie Peck will have a solo exhibit, "Of Presence and Light," February 18 - March 29, at Roti Roti Art Center, 117 W. Front St., Buchanan. Artist Reception: Sunday, March 1, 2 - 4 pm. A tree will be planted for every painting sold, in partnership with One Tree Planted. rotirotiartcenter.org



Tom Fehlner had one painting accepted in the Highland Park, IL, art center members show, which was chosen to advertise the exhibit.

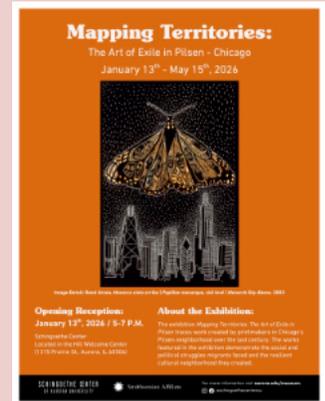


Linda Fritschner's exhibit, Landscapes, at the Roti Roti Art Center (127 West Front Street, Buchanan, MI 49107) runs through February 15. The opening reception is on Sunday, January 18 from 2-4 pm. rotirotiartcenter.org

Martha Hollett has 2 pieces in the "Under 30 Over 80" show at Heartland Art Center, 214 N. Michigan St., Plymouth. The show runs through January 30th. heartlandartgallery.com/



Ramiro Rodriguez has a print in a group show in Chicago. "Mapping Territories: The Art of Exile in Pilsen - Chicago," January 13 - May 15, Schingoethe Center of Aurora University, 1315 Prairie St., Aurora, IL.



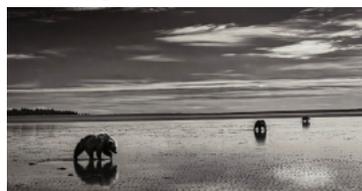
Ramiro will be part of a group show at the Krasl: "Material Memory," February 6 - May 10. Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, MI. krasl.org

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.

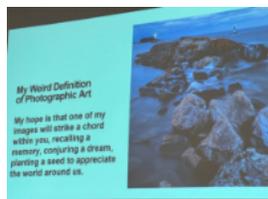
Lakeville Library, 120 N Michigan St, Lakeville, invites artists on Tuesday mornings from 10am-noon for the same purpose. No fee is charged.

The Leeper Park Art Fair will accept artist applications through March 1. Find out more at leeperparkartfair.org.

November Speaker Recap



Three Bears



At our November meeting, speaker Jeff Longenbaugh shared about his journey from "taking photographs to making photographic art." Difference being that photographic art connects with a viewer's mind, memory, emotion, curiosity and spirit, through lighting, contrast, composition, texture, perspective and more. His subjects do not include people, but rather animals in nature or abandoned buildings or still life images that are like those of nature photographer, Ansel Adams. Having a career as a veterinarian first influenced his artistic eye as well.

NIA Artists Accepted to Midwest Juried Regional

Many NIA artists were accepted to the 47th Elkhart Juried Art Exhibit at the Midwest Museum of Art, October 4-December 31. Sunday Mahaja won a Purchase Award for his metal sculpture, *Wings of Grace*. Thanks to Laura Elliott for photographing the entries.



Tree Frog, Photograph
Phil Gleissner



Solito, Monotype/Relief Print
Ramiro Rodriguez



Last Days of Damen Silos, Photograph
Lisa Kiselovich



Sanctification, Porcelain
Kathleen Pettigean



Dunes in Winter, Pastel
Catherine McCormick



Guns to Gardens, Found and Altered Objects
Susan Ward



Isis Aphrodite, Monotype Print
Laurie Rousseau



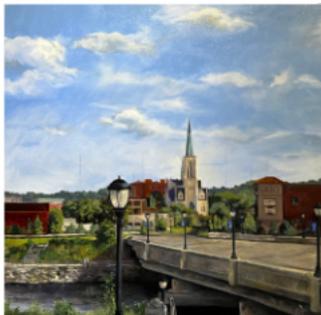
Wings of Grace, Metal
Sunday Mahaja



The Realm of Possibilities, Soft Pastel
Mary Meehan Firtl



Apple Pie Time, Oil
Diane Overmyer



Downtown Mishawaka, Oil on Canvas
Kimberly DeNolf



Dry Dock at Howth, Digital Painting
Joan Spohrer

NIA 2026 Calendar

February

20-April 11

Exhibit

1st Unitarian Church
801 E. Washington St.
South Bend

March

14 (Saturday)

General Meeting

10:00am Social • 10:30 Speaker

Francis Branch, SJCPL
Pasture Room
52655 N. Ironwood Rd.
South Bend

May

2

May Social

11:30am - 2:00pm

Sacred Heart Parish Center
Notre Dame campus

June

1-27

Exhibit

Heartland Art Center

214 N. Michigan
Plymouth

September

26

General Meeting

Francis Branch, SJCPL

October

Exhibit

Fernwood Gallery

13988 Rangeline Road,
Niles, MI

November

14

General Meeting

Francis Branch, SJCPL

March General Meeting Speaker Lee Bauman

Background

Artist and illustrator Lee Bauman creates uplifting, colorful heartwarming art!

A lifelong painter who graduated from Bethel College with a double major in Fine Art & Business Management, Lee took classes &/or workshops at IUSB, Notre Dame, and Bethel College.

Her first post-graduate job was as a Graphic Artist. It began as an obsession to learn how to create computer graphics. She became the Graphic Arts manager at St. Andrew's Products in Michigan City, generating computer images of logos that were silk-screened or stitched with machine embroidery onto golf attire.

With a good understanding of how to create computer illustrations, Lee began to create the artwork for authors. It became a rewarding venture to bring an author's words to life with art.

Lee spent a few years showing her artwork at various Midwest art festivals.

She has also been awarded funding from the Indiana Arts Commission to teach older adults and collaborate with



local art centers. She enjoys being out in the community sharing her skills with others.

Presentation

Lee's presentation will cover her Painting Practice, which includes mixed media, acrylic on canvas, and watercolor painting.

Lee takes a variety of online classes to keep her paintings interesting. She keeps her paintings loose by incorporating shapes, colorful backgrounds, and words that represent her thoughts at the time she is creating.

The example of her work here, a mixed media painting, *Autumn at the Park*, began as a Fall image with a branch and leaves. The birds were added because a friend took a photo of these birds outside her kitchen window, and they complemented the branch very well.

Lee enjoys working in mixed media, acrylic on canvas, and watercolor. She recently retired from teaching painting, but did so for several years with the help of Indiana Arts Commission Individual Artist Awards.



Northern Indiana Artists Show

Theme: 'Thinking About Spring'

First Unitarian Church

801 E Washington Street, South Bend, Indiana

February 20 — April 11, 2026 • Drop-Off; Friday, February 20, 11 - 1:30 pm

Reception & Awards — February 22, 11:45 am - to 1:30 pm • Pick-Up: Saturday, April 11, 11 - 2 pm

Exhibit judge: TBA

Depending on size, two entries per person will be accepted for this show. The art should not have been shown in a previous NIA Exhibit and must be your own original art. The church **can** accomodate 3-D Art that is free-standing, or if you bring your own secure stand. They have some secure space for Sculpture, but Pottery would be problematic. There is a 15% Commission. No AI work will be accepted.

All artwork must be ready to hang with wire. See proper hanging method on the nia-art.org website. Artwork content must be appropriate for a family gallery space. The Northern Indiana Artists or the Unitarian Church will not accept financial liability for accidents or loss.

Dues must be current to participate in any NIA show. If your dues were not current by (March 1, 2025) you will need to pay \$35 before entering. Pay on-line at nia-art.org or mail your dues to NIA Treasurer, PO Box 906, South Bend, IN 46624.

For questions about the show or help transporting artwork to the show, please contact Jude Phillips, 574-309-7222, or judephillips@att.net. Refreshments will be provided for the reception, it's early because this is a church and it is open immediately after their service and a short time after.

Please fill out (PRINT) two forms for EACH piece of artwork. Attach one to the lower right back of artwork, and hand in the duplicate form during receiving along with your payment of \$10 for the first piece and \$5 for the second.

Name _____ (NIA, 1st Unitarian, 2026)
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Title of Work _____
 Medium _____
 Price _____ Or, Not for Sale _____

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