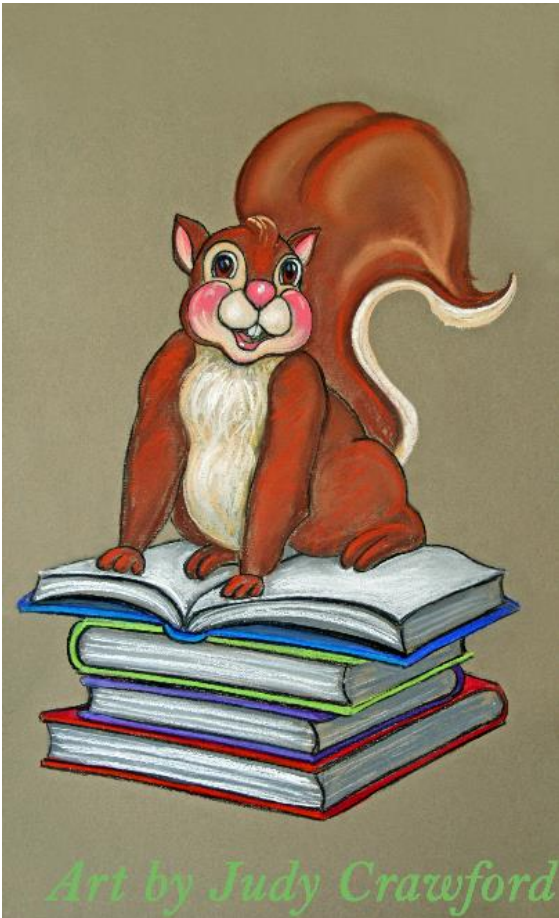


About the Artists



Judy Crawford: Our cover featured artist, Judy Crawford, is a fine art painter with a studio behind her home. Crawford specializes in portraits and still-life commissions, working in oils, pastels, charcoal, and pencil. Crawford and her husband, who have lived in DeMotte most of their lives, have raised two sons, now 35 and 31. Jasper County Public Library has been an important factor in all of their lives.

“The JCPL played an integral part in the lives of my sons. When they were babies we read to the boys, and so both very naturally developed a passion and hunger for books and reading. We used to leave the DeMotte branch with a special library-only tote bag full of magic!

“The librarians were also an important factor in the social growth of my sons, as they were always patient and affectionate, never talking down to the boys and always ready to engage in a chat. I see this project—1000 Books Before Kindergarten—as a logical and necessary addition to the programs offered by the

library, as it will lay the groundwork to establish and strengthen the bond between parents, babies, young children, and the love of books.

“It is my belief that if you hook kids at a young age, the love of reading will only grow in children and serve them throughout their entire lives. If JCPL can, through this program and its accompanying publicity, welcome and guide young parents to look into and use more of the resources our libraries offer, it is a win-win situation for all.”

The image of an animated squirrel perched atop a stack of books, titled “A Surprise On Every Page,” results from Crawford’s “desire to design a lively, colorful, and child-friendly character welcoming little boys and girls to the world of early reading, with the character literally coming right out of the pages of a book to do it!”



Max Crawford: Max Crawford grew up in DeMotte and attended DeMotte Elementary School, then Kankakee Valley middle and high schools. This submission, a black and white pen and ink drawing of an iguana titled “Critters Are Cool!” was created while Max was a sophomore in KVHS. He now lives in Irvine, CA and is a computer program designer.

While a student in KVHS art classes, Max Crawford enjoyed working with pen and ink—a very exacting and unforgiving medium. He thinks the 1000 books program is a great addition to JCPL.

“I feel this image will tickle the fancy of the little kids, as while it is not a cartoon in nature, it is an appealing work of a critter that is bound to stir their imaginations. Hopefully it will remind the parents to delve into the wonderful animal, insect, reptile, aquatic, and bird picture books available, as well as introductory science books.”

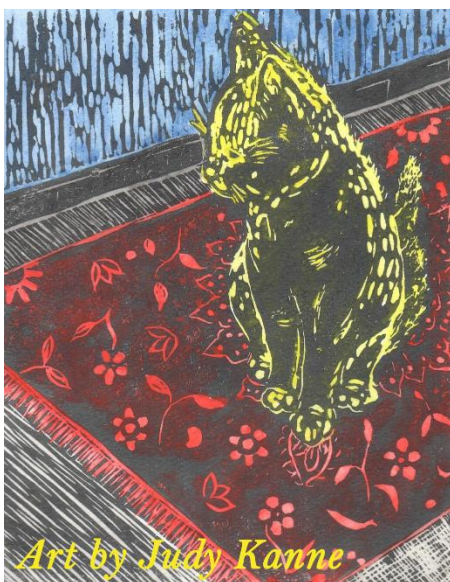
Carlie Guritz: Carlie Guritz is a clerk at the DeMotte Public Library, where she has been working for three years while attending Purdue North Central working towards her bachelor’s degree in elementary education.

“I come from a family of very crafty people, so I was always coloring, scrapbooking, and messing around with glitter. Even though school can get busy, I like to spend time doing these things with my family. One thing I really like to do is draw. It is very relaxing and peaceful for me.”



She said her submission, the fairy in the meadow piece, was inspired by a variety of things, “mostly things I saw, heard, or thought of throughout the day,” She said she was excited to take part in the art competition,

“It is truly amazing to see a variety of different artwork put together into one book. Everyone has their own way of creating something, but the outcome is always beautiful.”



Judy Kanne: Judy Kanne is a retired Elementary Education Professor from Saint Joseph’s College, the Jasper County Historian, Curator of the Jasper County Historical Society Museum, and Exhibit Chair for the Prairie Arts Council.

Kanne created this entry, titled “Lily in Color.” The block print with watercolor is of her young kitten, Lily Potter. The watercolors were added for the Jasper Art League fall exhibit called *Primary Colors*.

“It was unusual for her to sit quietly when she first came to our home,” Kanne recalled.



Art by Linda Kozyra

Linda Kozyra: Linda Kozyra is a retired Rensselaer Central Schools bus driver who has been drawing with colored pencils and painting with water colors for about four years.

"I enjoy doing both very much," she states. "After retirement, I started drawing, and watercolors and colored pencils are my enjoyment."

She is also a member of the Jasper County Art League and Historical Society, as well as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

Her contribution to this booklet is a drawing in watercolor and ink named "Larry Bird." The painting was named by her 11-year-old granddaughter, Grace.

Doris Myers: Doris Myers is a lifetime resident of Northwest Indiana. She taught art in the Kankakee Valley schools and retired in 1984, but continues as an educator giving demonstrations and workshops.

"I have participated in many group and solo exhibitions. In the fall of 2015 I had a solo show in retrospect, including my high school sketch book from the 1930s. I try to paint at least three days per week."

The photo she submitted for this booklet is of her granddaughter, one of three friendship paintings that she did as part of an ongoing series.

She is currently working on a wetland series for a show next August in the Wells Center in Lafayette.



Art by Doris Meyers



Art by Claudia Pletting

Claudia Pletting: Claudia Pletting is a member of the Jasper County Art League and new to watercolor painting.

"My interest in art as a means of expression began with photography.

"Little did I know, growing up in Wabash, how much I loved Indiana...nature...and the power of photography to create highly personal impressions.

"When I moved to Jasper County, I interacted more with other artists and learned from them—formally and informally. This connection to our area's art community has recently helped my artistic interest expand to watercolors, which I appreciate especially for their delicacy and transparency.

"Not until after retirement was I able to take the time to "look" at things the way I believe they should be viewed and enjoyed, both with a lens and with a paintbrush."

Her entry is a watercolor titled "Mr. Gracious Snowman."



Art by George Tachtiris

George Tachtiris: George Tachtiris, a resident of Jasper County for over 40 years, is a former art educator, coach, media specialist, and school administrator. Happily retired, he now draws and paints in his small art studio, shares time with his family, and enjoys a small menagerie with a dog, cats, chickens, horses, and pond fish.

“Like the jack in the box in my whimsical little drawing, children are exposed to a fascinating and exciting world when they spring out of their familiar boxes and learn about the joys of reading and books.”

His submission is titled “Jack in the Box.”

Gail Woolever : Gail Woolever is a retired art teacher having taught 34 years in the Kankakee Valley School Corporation. She is a practicing artist in a variety of media at her home studio, "Heart to Hand" located on the family farm in northern Jasper County.

“My art piece, ‘Dreams Can Come True,’ was inspired by the first moon walk which I witnessed as a youth.”

The colored pencil and ink on illustration board work depicts a young boy on the moon reading a book titled *Reaching for the Moon*.

“I hope to convey to children the need for reading and the idea that our success in life is determined by our ability to imagine, dream and create.”

