

APRIL, 2026

# Crystal Lake Camera Club

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980  
[crystallakecameraclub.com](http://crystallakecameraclub.com)



**Minneapolis**

Monochrome Image by Peter Pelke (Shown at the March 10 Meeting)  
Read Peter's comments on Page 2

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## IMAGES FROM THE MARCH 10 MEETING



Birch Cluster



Bridge



Mississippi Marsh

**The images on this page and on the cover are by Peter Pelke.**  
*Peter said - These images are my impression of something Ansel would photograph and an example of not reading instructions properly. These aren't really mundane subjects, just some from my archive I converted to Black and White using NIK Silver Efex and this is the result. I chose them due to the lighting, and the interest of the subject matter.*

## IMAGES FROM THE MARCH 10 MEETING

The two images of the birds on this page are by  
Doug Frey.

Doug said - *The white bird is an leucistic house finch (not albino). In the second photo is the normal color house finch with the leucistic finch. Birds with abnormal plumages are very rare, and both leucism and albinism are easily recognized and more commonly reported than other abnormal plumages. According to survey data, leucism and albinism occur at a rough estimate of 1 in 30,000 birds.*



Normal Color and White House Finches



White House Finch



Tractor Tire

The two images of the  
tractor tire on this page  
are by  
JoAnn Randall.

Joan said - *Tractor tires taken to try and accentuate the shadows and clean edges.*



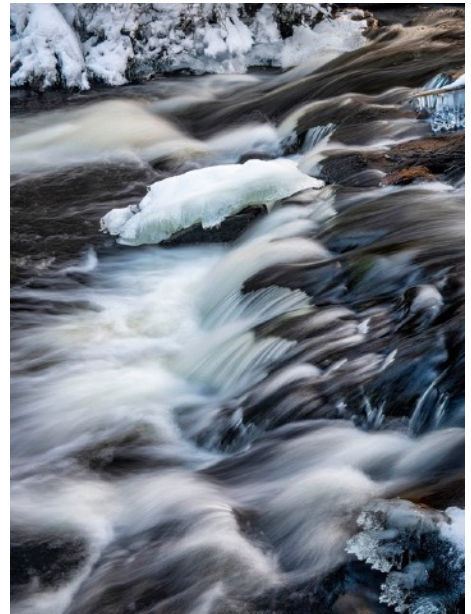
Tractor Tread

## IMAGES FROM THE MARCH 10 MEETING



**The images on this page and the next two are by  
Jeff Chemelewski.**

*Jeff said - The ice caves were taken on the shore of Lake Superior across from the Apostle Islands. Access is only allowed when a frigid winter freezes the water adequately, which hasn't happened in 11 years. Sadly, a storm shifted the ice and the caves were only open for one day ... and the area was overwhelmed by photographers and sight seers. Crowds were totally mismanaged.*



# IMAGES FROM THE MARCH 10 MEETING



Before



After

**These two *Before & After* pairs are by Jeff Chemelewski.**

*Jeff said - When I do a before and after, I am looking to simplify a photo by removing distracting objects. As I look at a landscape, I am looking for the essence of a photo and in my mind I am always thinking of how can I get to the subject without distractions. Often beginner photographers are trying to encompass too much whereas my philosophy is "less is more."*



Before



After

## IMAGES FROM THE MARCH 10 MEETING



### The two images of the Maroon Bells (CO) are by Jeff Chemelewski.

Jeff said - *Since our topic was Ansel Adams, I submitted two black and white images taken at the Maroon Bells in Colorado using zone system techniques described by Ansel. This system was better used in large format black and white, where multiple light readings were taken throughout the scene. His technique involved exposing for shadows and developing each individual negative to retain detail in highlights. I used this laborious technique in the black and white images when I was shooting in large format black and white. His idea of retaining detail throughout an image remains today, even in digital format. Taking multiple exposures of the same scene at different settings and merging them (HDR) can retain detail in a high contrast scene. Modern sensors also give a wide tonal range and if the photographer knows how to utilize the histogram, often only one exposure may be used.*



### The three images above on this page are by Judy Jorgensen.

Judy said - *The challenge for March was taking photos in the 'style' of Ansel Adams in a place where he would never have taken pictures, as in your garage. It sounded simple and was to stretch and challenge one's creativity. Sort of interesting but ..... Well, it was interesting. When I took my first photos in my garage, what seemed boring and uninteresting became food for thought when sitting down to edit that mess of mess and junk. The second attempt was much more interesting when shapes appeared more individualized: a group of extension cords hanging on the corner of a metal shelf frame, wheels and frames of bikes, etc. Those items stood out among the chaos of my garage and made sense of what I was looking at then. It was fun to edit to black and white, then came the challenge of how black is black, and how white is white to be properly done.*

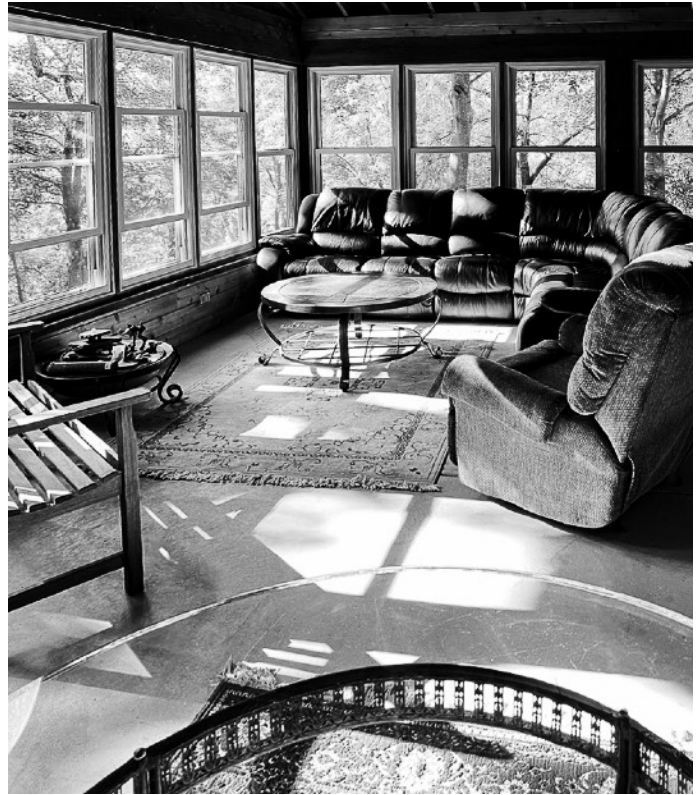
# IMAGES FROM THE MARCH 10 MEETING

**This *Before & After* pair is by Judy Jorgensen.**

This is the porch on her house, converted to black & white.



Before



After

**The two *Before & After* pairs below by Lynda Christopher.**

These are pictures from her garage re-worked in the style of Ansel Adams.



Before



After



After



Before

## IMAGES FROM THE MARCH 10 MEETING



1. A Group of Piers Waiting for Their Beams

**The two images on this page and the three on the next are by Russ King.**

Russ said -

*If you ask Siri to show you photographs taken by Ansell Adams, you'll notice that they lean heavily toward nature - mountains, trees, streams, prairie, and meadows. I'm more of a building person - particularly barns, and particularly barns in McHenry County. So here is my contribution, all in black and white.*

1. *A group of concrete "T" piers lined up like soldiers on an interstate highway waiting for construction of the deck to stretch a highway between them.*

2. *A group of storage boxes in my home storage area - empty now, but used at one time to store important stuff around the home.*

*(on the next page)*

3. *The outside end of an abandoned barn looking up at the Gothic Roof.*

4. *The inside of the Haymow of this abandoned barn showing the structural timbers used for it's construction.*

5. *The remaining stone wall of the house overlooking the abandoned barn.*



2. Storage Boxes

# IMAGES FROM THE MARCH 10 MEETING



3. Barn on Randall Road

The three images on this page Russ King.  
His commentary is on the previous page



4. Barn on Randall Road



5. Stone Foundation at the Barn on Randall Road

## THE FUTURE OF CLCC

### Notes from the March 10 Meeting ~

*Submitted by Steven Szalaj*

There were 16 members at the meeting this month. The meeting began at 7PM. We are reminded that it is time to pay the \$25 annual dues. You can give cash or a check to Gail.

### Welcome to CLCC's newest members: Andrew Nelson & Jane Oates.

There were 7 participants in *Show & Tell* and *Before & After* with considerable lively discussions about the images shared. As of February 24, there are 23 paid members, and the CLCC bank account has \$3885.

**Show & Tell** - The topic was *imitate the style of Ansel Adams with a subject that he would not shoot.*

- Doug Frey: White house finch
- Jeff Chemelewiski: Ice and stream, ice caves, Maroon Bells
- Judy Jorgensen: Various objects in her garage, after Ansel Adams
- Jo Ann Randall: Tractor tire
- Peter Pelke: Birch cluster, bridge, Minneapolis, Mississippi marsh
- Russ King: Group of piers, storage boxes, barn on Randall Road, Stone foundation

**Before & After** -

- Jeff Chemelewiski: Red barn, tree and snow fence
- Judy Jorgensen: Porch on her home
- Lynda Christopher: Objects in garage

*A REMINDER:* **Show & Tell** and **Before & After** run more smoothly if images are sent to Doug before the meeting instead of on flash drives given to him at the meeting. He would like them a few days before the meeting so he can prepare the presentation. See page 11 for more information.

**Be sure to note that the next meeting is April 7:** JoAnn Randall will lead us in a discussion regarding Photo Workshops: destinations, groundwork usually done by the leader ahead of time, what you can expect, cost, personal experiences, etc.

*Show & Tell* and *Before & After* will be to share images from our own workshop experiences. Be prepared to discuss and answer questions about any workshop experiences you have had.

Take a moment to contribute to the Facebook **Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat** page (see page 12).

The **Landscape and Nature Photography** small group is meeting regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Doug Frey's home (see page 11).

**CLCC is in need of more people to help provide direction for the club's future. Do you have ideas about presentations, discussion topics, club activities, or directions CLCC should be going? The easiest thing to do is to ask "Why isn't CLCC doing \_\_\_\_\_?" The better thing is to say, "Let's try \_\_\_\_\_, and I'll help it happen."**

**CLCC is a volunteer organization - YOU ARE NEEDED to make the club more valuable.**

**Have an idea for an outing?** If you have an idea or plan and want company, let Doug Frey know.

The **CLCC Breakfast Meeting** is the *last* Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted due to holidays, etc.) at Buttered Toast by Home Depot on Randall Road, Algonquin. All are welcome (see page 12). The next breakfast meeting is Saturday, April 25.

**Become an ACTIVE CLCC member** - your presence, your contributions, your participation is what will elevate the club experience for everyone. Most everything that happens in the club is by volunteers, that is, members choosing to participate because they *love photography*. CLCC needs *you!*

## CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings start at 7PM and are at the Algonquin Township Building, 3702 Northwest Hwy, Crystal Lake, in **Meeting Room 2**. Enter at the back of the building.

### April 7 **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THIS MEETING**

*Image Theme: Photos from workshop experiences;*

JoAnn Randall will lead a discussion of Photo Workshops

*Show & Tell and Before & After* - Show images from your own workshop experiences.

Be prepared to discuss your experiences, and answer questions as well.

May 12 *Image Theme: Photograph your first name from shapes naturally found in the environment. No manipulation is allowed.*

*Show & Tell and Before & After*

Show & Tell and Before & After have provided some lively, informative conversations for CLCC attendees. Great suggestions for outings and club offerings have come from these activities.

**For Show & Tell:** submit 3-4 JPG images to Doug Frey ([doug.frey@me.com](mailto:doug.frey@me.com)) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date. You can also bring them on a flash drive, but submitting them earlier is preferred, and helps the presentation go more smoothly.

**For Before & After:** submit *pairs of JPG images* to Doug Frey ([doug.frey@me.com](mailto:doug.frey@me.com)) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date, or bring the images on a flash drive (submitting them earlier is preferred, and helps the presentation go more smoothly). The pairs would include the image as it came out of the camera and the image after post-processing. Be prepared to tell (and perhaps even show) the changes that were made.

## LANDSCAPE & NATURE SMALL GROUP

**When:** Third Wednesday each month, 7PM

**Where:** 711 Glacier Parkway, Algonquin

**RSVP:** [doug.frey@me.com](mailto:doug.frey@me.com)

This small group meets in Doug Frey's home on the Third Wednesday of the month, 7PM. There are wide ranging discussions from beginning landscape photography, to post-processing, prime locations, both near and far, everything in between, and sometimes beyond! Photos are shared and comments made. It is a very friendly group.

Meetings are casual and relaxed. Any related discussion topics can be brought up. It is a great community learning experience. Let Doug know that you are interested! See him at a club meeting, or send him an email at the address above.

Join the **Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat** on FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/446897199179146> or scan this QR Code:

This is a closed group, so only members have access. Request membership through the page. Then, post your favorite images, join in the discussions, share information about photo outings, speakers, contests, etc.

Only group members will see your posts.



### **Last Saturday Morning Breakfast Meeting – Everyone invited!**

Please join your CLCC friends for the casual breakfast meeting on the last Saturday of the month. Lively discussions, good food! This month's will be on **Saturday, April 25, 2026, 8:30 AM** at

**Buttered Toast Restaurant, 2520 Bunker Hill Dr, Algonquin.**

Next month's breakfast meeting will be May 30.

## **GALLERIES, STORIES, VIDEOS AND INSPIRATION ON THE WEB**

(Click any bold-face heading, or underlined text, to follow the link)

### **20 Tips for Starting Out in Street Photography**

*Shared by Doug Frey - This is a great article to help get started in street photography. Concise and clear ideas with excellent photo examples. The author is [Kevin Mullins](#).*

### **This Photographer Has Captured 144 Stunning Chicago Doorways**

*An interview with tour guide and photographer Ronnie Frey, the creative force behind the Instagram feed [Doorways of Chicago](#). It introduces his newly published book on that subject.*

### **We've Been Manipulating Images Since the Invention of Photography**

*...and Long Before Photoshop or Artificial Intelligence. Dating to between 1860 and 1940, more than 50 photographs depicting the impossible are on view in a new exhibition at the Rijksmuseum.*

### **Amazing Architecture Images From The Sony World Photography Awards 2026**

*Now in its 19th year, the [Sony World Photography Competition](#) awards the best single images taken in the last year; "celebrating the power of an individual image to pique curiosity, spark imagination, and reveal a wider narrative"*

### **The One Thing Every New Street Photographer Needs**

*Fact: No photographer wakes up one day, figures out exactly what kind of style they want to shoot and makes their impression on it. Instead, they go out and shoot every second that they possibly can—which results in a never-ending experimental approach of finding something that works for someone as an artist.*

### **This Community Festival Embraces The Joys Of A Frozen Lake — While It Still Has One**

*In early February, Madison, Wis., was host to the city's 14th annual Frozen Assets Festival. "When our lakes are frozen, they are truly our greatest asset," says James Tye, executive director and founder of Clean Lakes Alliance, the nonprofit that hosts the festival. This is a gallery of photos from this year's festival.*

## *Helpful Resources - New links added!*

**Contribute to this page!** *If you have resources that you find useful, please share that link with me. Include a short summary of what can be found in the link. The reference can be a video, web page, PDF, or any other format that has an online link. Send your contributions to [szjsings@mac.com](mailto:szjsings@mac.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

*~SJS, Newsletter Editor*

Profoto Tutorials, submitted by Kevin Getty:

### **Tips and Tricks**

**<https://profoto.com/us/tips>**

A terrific collection to help photographers of any level.

Photographic Composition Webinar, submitted by Scott Larsen:

### **The Art of Photography: Crafting Compelling Compositions**

**[tinyurl.com/5ak88xt6](https://tinyurl.com/5ak88xt6)**

Natural Habitat Adventures posts a weekly webinar. This hour-long video is very helpful.

Photographers you may be interested in viewing, contributed by Judy Jorgensen:

### **Dan Anderson**

**[danielandersonphotography.com/](https://danielandersonphotography.com/)**

Beautiful color landscapes and seascapes with striking composition from America, Norway, Faroe Islands, Scotland, Patagonia, Ireland, Antarctica, Europe, Iceland, etc. If you love black and white, check out his American West, Europe, Antarctica, and Greek islands black and white images of land, sea, and architecture.

### **Ed Callaert**

**[edcallaert.photoshelter.com](https://edcallaert.photoshelter.com)**

This nature photographer travels extensively along the west coastal and mountain states as well as upper to mid east coast United States. His gallery is full of colorful landscapes and seascapes with interesting composition techniques you may want to try.

### **Willard Clay**

**[willardclay.photoshelter.com](https://willardclay.photoshelter.com)**

This landscape and bird photographer has a vast collection in his gallery by states and a stunning collection under birds. He also teaches at Mayslake in the Forest Preserve District of Dupage County. Enjoy, study, and try.

Resource for camera repair, contributed by Bill Batalden:

### **APS (AUTHORIZED PHOTO SERVICE)**

8125 River Dr # 100

Morton Grove, IL 60053

[repair@authorizedphotoservice.com](mailto:repair@authorizedphotoservice.com)

(800) 406-2046

Bill said: "I recently had my camera & lens repaired at APS authorized camera repair. I felt the work was good and the price reasonable. They give an estimate, which you have to approve, before proceeding with the work. When I spoke with the owner, he said he could offer a 'Club' rate."

*Helpful Resources (continued)*

Resource for camera repair, contributed by Sandy Wittman:

**ROYAL CAMERA SERVICE, INC.**

1134 E Lake Street  
Hanover Park, IL  
(630) 372-6150

Sandy said: "I had my Canon 7D Mark II repaired there this fall. They did an excellent job in about 10 days. The price was very reasonable. I found them to be knowledgeable and professional."

Resource for infrared photography, contributed by Peter Pelke

**LIFE PIXEL Infrared Camera Conversions**

<https://www.lifepixel.com/>  
(866) 610-1710

Resource for purchasing, selling, trading and repairing used camera equipment

**KEH**

<https://www.keh.com/>  
(800) 342-5534

"The original curator and reseller of rare and quality camera gear, KEH has always envisioned a better way to support the passion and profession of photography. We're proud to be the camera community's choice for gear that goes further. Field-tested. Expert-graded. Sustainable. Exchangeable. KEH-approved."

YouTube Channels by specific photographers

These were contributed by Doug Frey:

**Nigel Danson** - <https://www.youtube.com/@NigelDanson>

**Adam Gibbs** - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyKBQGE7OOsWeQIPWqVSzw>

**fototripper (Gavin Hardcastle)** - <https://www.youtube.com/@fototripper>

**Simon D'Entremont** - [https://www.youtube.com/@simon\\_dentremont](https://www.youtube.com/@simon_dentremont)

**Mark Denney** - <https://www.youtube.com/@MarkDenneyPhoto>

**Thomas Heaton** - <https://www.youtube.com/@ThomasHeatonPhoto>

**Ian Worth** - [https://www.youtube.com/@ian\\_worth/](https://www.youtube.com/@ian_worth/)

A great collection of "how-to" videos:

**Providence Photography DFW**

<https://www.youtube.com/@providencephotographydfw>

**Photoshop Elements+: The Secret to Removing Impossible Backgrounds!****Take Better Photos Episode 3 - ISO and Exposure** (click the title)

Video shared by Bill Tell. Bill said: "*In my experience, this video is essential for anyone who wants a deeper, more complete understanding of exposure and is ready to move to the next level.*"

**Capturing the Perfect Holiday Tablescape Just in Time for Thanksgiving!** (click the title)

Shared by Peter Pelke - an in-depth article that covers lighting, angles, composition, techniques, gear, and much more.

**Adobe Lightroom Classic - Tips and Tricks for a better workflow**

Shared by Bill Tell - "*I've been watching a lot of YouTube videos on Lightroom Classic, and this is by far the best one yet. It's packed with solid tips you can apply to virtually any LRC workflow and settings. Incredibly helpful. It will make your post-processing much easier.*"

*Helpful Resources (continued)***What Makes Great Photos Great**

Shared by Bill Tell - *“This video is very good at explaining what makes a photo great as opposed to a snapshot. A snapshot can be technically very good but a great photo conveys emotion that makes one like to look at it.”*

**Best L-Bracket Showdown!**

Shared by Bill Tell - *“Some photographers have asked me about the L-bracket for attachment of the camera to an Arca Swiss quick release system. This video demonstrates differences between brands of brackets. I highly recommend using a L-bracket if one expects to use a tripod.”*

**20 Tips for Starting Out in Street Photography**

Shared by Doug Frey - *“Great article to help get started in street photography. Concise and clear ideas with excellent photo examples.”*

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOUR IMAGES!****4th FRIDAYS ART EVENT AT THE DOLE**

401 Country Club Rd  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
815-347-8535

The next 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Art Event: **April 24, 2026**  
Submission Deadline: Sunday, April 12, 2026, by midnight  
Non-refundable submission fee: \$40 for up to 5 pieces submitted  
Cash Awards - \$450 total:

- 5 Honorable Mentions: \$50 cash each
- 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays Team Choice: \$50 cash each
- Kim Holz Memorial Award: \$50 cash
- Nancy Merklings Choice: \$50 cash
- People’s Choice Award: \$50 cash



Click here for the **PROSPECTUS** for the Photo-Only Exhibit.

Click here for the **SUBMISSION APPLICATION**

*Note: Photos may also be submitted to the Mixed Art Exhibit, especially if the photo is larger than the requirements for the Photo-Only Exhibit. Click here for the **Mixed Art Prospectus**.*

**CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS**

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

President	Judy Jorgensen
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Gail Schulz
Board Member	Rich Bickham

**YOUR IDEAS MATTER!**

Do you have a story, images, trip, post-processing technique, event, etc. that would be good for Camera Club members to know about? Your submissions will make this newsletter valuable! Write it up, and send it to **Steven Szalaj**, Newsletter Editor, at [szjsings@mac.com](mailto:szjsings@mac.com).

**Please make your submission by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month.**

## THE EIGHTH ANNUAL 6X6 PROJECT ART AUCTION AND FUNDRAISER

Raue Center's **6×6 PROJECT** fundraiser and online art auction & exhibition celebrates its seventh year of supporting arts with Art! All proceeds benefit Raue Center's fine arts education programs, **Mission Imagination (MI)** and **Raue Center School For The Arts (RCSA)**, which has been enriching the lives of over 20,000 kids a year in the local community since 2001.

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate by creating original works of art, in a variety of mediums, on 6×6" canvases. Since the inaugural event in 2019, 6×6 Project has raised over **\$112,000** for MI and RCSA with canvases coming from around the nation!

Create a mini-masterpiece and support the arts in your community!

Several of our CLCC members have participated in this event. It is a good way to get your images seen by a public that loves art, and you are supporting an arts venue right here in McHenry County. Entering is easy! Complete instructions are at the **6x6 PROJECT WEBSITE**.

Purchase one or two 6" X 6" canvases from the project partners (listed on the website and below) for a \$5 donation per canvas. They are available now through May 1, 2026. You must use these official canvases. Mount or print an image on the canvas and drop your artwork off by **May 15, 2026**. All artwork submitted to the **6×6 PROJECT** will be available for viewing and bidding online at **Auctria.com** beginning **June 13, 2026**. Artists and the public are invited to our reception on **June 27, 2026**. All canvases will be displayed at the reception - bidding will continue through the end of the reception.

**[Click here for the Artist Call \(Information about entering\)](#)**

**[Click here for Information about the Reception and Awards](#)**

***Project Partners - You can get the required canvases at these places:***

Abalabix Books – 30 N. Williams St Unit A, Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 893-6653  
 Creative Arts, Inc. – 400 Highland Avenue | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 219-9243  
 Reprographics – 26 Crystal Lake Plaza | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 477-1018  
 Piano Trends – 35 Berkshire Drive | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 477-4266  
 MainStreet Arts Center – 20 E Main St, Lake Zurich, IL | (847) 550-0016  
 Material Things – 103 E. Van Buren | Woodstock, IL | (815) 575-9710  
 Raue Center For The Arts – 26 N. Williams St | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 356-9212



**SUPPORT THE ARTS WITH ART!**