Grilling, Milling and Chilling

by Brent Brotine
photos by Warren Perlstein

Great evening weather combined with T. J. and Claudia Hine’s picture-perfect backyard to make our 2017 Program BBQ a very productive evening. T. J. manned the grill while a dozen C3 members (and one four-legged member) schmoozed away—later sitting down for helpings of chicken, burgers and brats along with pot luck side dishes and desserts.

After our delicious dinner, we sat in our traditional big circle to relax, enjoy the surroundings, and contribute ideas for the coming year’s C3 programs. Among the highlights discussed:

• We have a possible new downtown meeting venue—a co-working space that invites groups like C3 in after hours. Stay tuned for details.
• Many members have requested an up-to-the-moment review of copyright and intellectual property laws; we may collaborate with another group to really have an all-star panel.
• Our Holiday Party returns, as fun and in as questionable taste as ever.
• We will work on a Business of Life program series to cover such topics as proposals, invoicing, time management, overcoming obstacles, planning for the future and more.
• Augmented reality and virtual reality continue to be in-demand topics we will pursue.
• We will work on growing our involvement with Columbia College, such as holding portfolio reviews for their students and other events offering real-world relevance.

Equally important, because George Berlin has been hopscotching the globe of late, this was our first opportunity to present him with his well-deserved Fall 2017 Friend Of C3 Award for 2017. This annual award goes to someone who has gone above and beyond to support C3 during the past year—either a member or ally—and George was the overwhelming favorite thanks to his tireless efforts last year to connect C3 with other outside organizations and City of Chicago departments. He has contributed mightily to the success of our programs through the years, and really outdid himself this past year in helping us develop valuable partnerships for the future.

So our congratulations to George, our sincere thanks to all the BBQ participants, and our invitation to those of you who weren’t able to attend but have thoughts on future programs to share them with George and Linda Levy.
What I did this summer.

Back in my grade school days I usually had to write a story about how I spent my summer. My family had a small cottage in Wisconsin where we spent most of the summer, so my essays covered daily biking adventures, visits to local farms and building forts in the woods behind the cottage. Those free-range summers of my childhood are long past, but I still try to have a planned activity or trip during the summer.

This year my summer adventure was a week-long leadership training on the Wright Foundation’s 60-acre savannah campus training center near Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Bunk beds, intense work sessions, impromptu songs and skits, collaborative meal making, daily lessons on human potential research and neuroscience, team building, and laughing so hard I almost bust a gut all made for a very memorable week. The theme for the training was Living, Loving & Leading. Beyond the Boundaries of Fear which included leadership theories on Task Positive Network (TPN) and the Default Mode Network (DMN), identifying trances and defense mechanisms, and birth order implications (I’m the oldest of eleven). Heady stuff, and yet this experiential training was structured to be both accessible and fun; there were skits, outdoor activities, and camp songs.

There were vulnerable moments too. Learning more about my birth order tendencies: perfectionist, achiever, bossy, responsible, motivated, conscientious, to name a few. Looking at personal family systems and how it imprints upon my personality. I led an unskilled kitchen crew team to make breakfast for 80 hungry campers in two hours. Getting critical feedback in-the-moment and being conscious of my defense mechanisms to hear it and course correct. I collaborated on various time pressurized projects. Received, again, more feedback.

I came home with a lot of takeaways from my camp experience. A few standouts: speak truthfully; give critical feedback with vision and from the heart; compassion for self and others leads to greater success; don’t avoid fear—surrender and feel it; use humor and play, and build great relationships.

From what I learned, I realized that my top priority should be relationships. Personally, I am incredibly lucky for the relationships I have with members of the C3 Board. I’m grateful for their support and engagement. I firmly believe that our camaraderie and a sense of shared purpose is at the root of the vibrancy of our organization. Without question, they are the most valuable assets of our group. Individual Board members are different and have diverse experiences and personalities that complement each other nicely. We have built a great team dynamic that encourages productive conflict. We engage during the meetings, and no one is afraid to voice an opinion, and we listen to each other. Add in several dashes of humor—our board meetings are productive and fun. I invite you to attend a Board meeting. Try out a committee, work with us to plan out the year, you are guaranteed to have a good time. Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month (except during the summer). We provide dinner before the meeting so let me know in advance if you plan to attend. And, be prepared to tell us what you did this summer.
FROM THE BOARD


by Michael Tanimura

Chicago Creative Coalition members are busily finalizing the programs and special event offerings for this year. The mix of continuing education programs in Technology, Art and Design, along with small business workshops and opportunities to engage in group projects makes membership in C3 a veritable "gimme" for those working in creative fields.

Oddly, participating in programs is not the most valuable aspect of membership in C3. Even more personally rewarding is serving on the Board of Directors.

It’s hard to explain the feeling of camaraderie that sitting on the Board engenders. Going to a board meeting is like going to a family gathering, but you get to talk shop and no one acts bored, or outraged! The board members are all pretty good listeners, which is a plus, since most seem to be natural-born talkers, and not shy about expressing their thoughts and feelings. Which is exactly what is important: sharing diverse viewpoints and opinions so that after discussion, decisions best-suited to support the organization’s members and mission are made.

The dozen or so current board are a fairly diverse lot, ranging in age from the 30s to 70s, with professions and skill-sets that cover many creative fields. This diversity keeps things from becoming dull or stale; while we always seem to reach consensus decisions, it’s not for want of differing ideas and healthy disagreement.

Everyone is on the board for his or her own reasons. For many, it’s a desire to ensure that there is a professional organization that offers the types of opportunities and resources that they want. For others, it’s about developing relationships with industry peers, leading to a personal and substantial resource base.

C3 is looking for others with a sense of self-interest and a commitment to improving and sharing their knowledge of the creative arts to join this year’s Board of Directors. E-mail me mike@sicreative.com if you are interested in learning more. You won’t regret doing so.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Let’s Make 2018 Fall Into Place

by George Berlin

The leaves are changing soon... and so is the calendar for our new 2018 programs!
At our annual Program Planning BBQ, we discussed last year’s multi-tiered theme of Technology, Art, and Design where we explored virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and many other two letter abbreviated things that inspired and excited all who attended our programs last year.
For fall and beyond, we’re looking to continue staying on top of cool new directions for digital creatives that look toward things like Apple’s AR Kit for interactivity in the real world, painting and illustration in VR, and how professionals in multiple disciplines get and stay inspired.

We’re even building up a set of programs that focus on getting our heads in line with our hearts—from copyright, to conquering the mindset of the successful freelance professional and beyond!
Winter is heating up fast for the Chicago Creative Coalition, with plans for some grinch-y holiday fun involving axe-throwing and stealing each other’s horrible gifts that you won’t want to miss.

Grab some cocoa and let’s get loco with new skills, enrichment, and networking in 2018!
We need YOU to help make these great things happen! E-mail me about something that piques your curiosity and let’s make it happen: george@georgeberlin.com.

Sponsorship Opportunities

C3 offers both members and non-members an opportunity to place products and services before our membership through two Sponsorship Programs: an Individual Program Sponsor and an Annual Sustaining Sponsor. For more information contact Nate Marks at nate@designmarks.biz.

Like what you see?
Ink Printed digitally on Xerox 700.
Paper This newsletter is printed on Classic Crest 70# text.
Process The digital press uses waste-free toner and no fuser oil.
The process is 100% chemical free—printed courtesy of Consolidated Printing.
**ANNUAL MEETING**

Paint, Wax, Tacos, Oh My!

by Cindy McEwen
photos T. J. Hine and Michael Tanimura

It was a beautiful day when 20 C3ers and their guests ventured to Bridgeport to the studio of Jenny Learner (jennylearner.com), encaustic artist extraordinaire. Jenny told us about the Zhou B Art Center where she’s located and the history of the Chinese-born artists, the Zhou brothers, who started the center.

Since encaustic art is created using beeswax, she also gave us a little background on those tireless insects that create the wax. Of the 20,000 species of bees, only the honeybee makes honey and beeswax. And that the 6-sided honeycomb shape is the only shape that uses the least amount of material to hold the most weight. I guess that’s one reason why they used it to create the Hubble Telescope’s mirror.

Jenny showed us around the studio and the many tools and materials at our disposal to use in creating our own encaustic art. After a demo of the process, including a “line and fill” technique, everyone got a tile of cardboard or aluminum and brushed melted wax onto it. Jenny uses a combination of damar crystals and refined beeswax for her encaustic medium.

Then it was up to each person to layer, color and add elements to make their own unique mixed media piece. Heating tools like irons and heat guns attach items to the layer of wax applied to the tile, while clay tools, nails, forks and metal stamps add texture. Materials like tissue, printed images, buttons, beads, gems, pastels, oil sticks, transfer paper and pigments were on-hand for all to use.

When everyone had had their fun and created at least one art tile, it was time for the annual meeting.

Members collected in the hall, board members gave a review of each of their areas and the vote was held. The result was unanimous and all nominated members were elected for the 2017–18 year.

**President** Kathleen Kearns
**Vice President** Open (Volunteers?)
**Secretary** Kathy Quintanar
**Treasurer** Carolyn Aronson
**Programs** George Berlin
**Membership** Michael Tanimura
**Newsletter** Cindy McEwen, Brent Brotine
**Communications** Cindy McEwen
**Internet** Jason Feinberg
**New Media** Danielle Tanimura
**Marketing and PR** Nate Marks
**Education/Intern Coordinator** Open (Volunteers?)
**Special Events** T. J. Hine

We have some open positions and can always use help on the programs committee. If you are interested in becoming more active and volunteering, contact Kathleen Kearns or any board member.

With the business done, we all headed up the block to Antique Taco for some good food and drink. Outdoor dining with friends on a lovely June day was a great finale.
You’ll Never Walk (Draw, Write, Paint, Shoot, Design, Animate) Alone

by Linda Levy

Most artists and entrepreneurs I know, and I know many, are very familiar with working in solitude. While commercial assignments provide opportunities to collaborate, and personal sample making may engage other support teams, artists are no strangers to working alone. Some actually prefer it. Working alone can be liberating, but it has its own set of liabilities, especially in today’s business climate.

Sustaining a C3 membership is an important, tangible action that artists and those who support them, can perform. The C3 group is so genuinely responsive to new ideas, it is a wonderful place to stay connected in ways that matter. Real gatherings with other creators to explore all kinds of topics, to keep learning new things, to be a community. In fact, it is a bargain, given how challenging it can be for artists and entrepreneurs to have reliable community peer support.

Do you know someone who works in a home office, coffee shop, library or other solitary environment? Refer them over to C3—or pass their name along to me at linda.levy@workbook.com. We’d love to have them belong to our creative family.
Powell Creative Services, Inc.
312.922.6366
info@powellphotography.com
powellcreativeservices.com

Powell Photography, Inc. opened it’s doors over 42 years ago armed with one goal in mind; to provide the highest degree of quality photography services for their clients. Doing just that not only enabled them to grow from a one-man operation at a storefront photo studio to a major creative services operation providing photography, video, graphics, and digital output to a growing list of satisfied clients. The father and son team, of Victor and Elliot Powell, is the foundation of operation today and by collaborating with other photographers and small creative service providers, Powell Photography has transitioned into Powell Creative Services. They provide quality and consistent creative services to their clients. Giving them a single source creative services solution that is able to meet their needs.

Their tag line more than just photography originally meant the images they created were more than just a picture. Now that tag line also means their services go beyond simply photography. Little did Victor know when he picked that tag line years ago that it would still be relevant with the changes needed to grow his business in an ever changing landscape. From film to digital to full creative services, Powell Photography has seamlessly adapted and continues to grow.

After 42 years of being a get it done service provider, Victor says “Clients come to us for Creative Services but what we deliver is Peace of Mind.”
1 Bob Beneson will be staging a one-man exhibition of his nature photography at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Center in Lincoln Park from March to September 2021. Much of his work focuses on the fauna and flora at the North Pond Nature Sanctuary (which the Museum abuts), the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool across Fullerton Avenue, and of course the magnificent lakefront. Bob notes that the invitation from the Center was validation for his efforts to gain recognition for his work. “The agreement with the Center refers to me as The Artist,” Bob said. “That is very rewarding, and much better than Eccentric Old Man Obsessed With Taking Photos of Ducks.”

2 Stephen Starr combined family visits in August with a camping tour of the midwest. Highlights include climbing the highest geological point in Minnesota, Eagle Mountain—a respectable 2301 feet, 7 mile round trip. He discovered Louis Sullivan’s last official commission, a bank in Columbus, WI, designed and built to connote financial stability and civic engagement. He also backpacked into the remote Nesbitt Lake in George H. Crosby Manitou State Park where a black bear made a night visitation and ate his bar of soap. No photos were procured, so you’ll have to check with credible sources for verification.

3 Nate Marks currently has four paintings displayed in a group show at Creative Coworking Art Gallery in Evanston. For the month of November, he will be the Featured Artist and will be hanging about 20 paintings from his Lincoln Park series.

4 Cindy McEwen spent a relaxing extended weekend visiting her long-time childhood friend Marty at her cottage on Mable Lake near Coldwater, Michigan in July. They did a little farmstand shopping, auto repair, and grilling, but more enjoyed doing nothing in the sun and water while sipping a cocktail.

5 T. J Hine was once again part of skydiving history. On July 25, he was co-organizer and plane captain to an international group of skydivers that completed a 111-person 3-formation jump at Skydive Chicago. The previous record was a 106-person 3-formation skydive. The group tried for a second record of a 112-person 4-formation skydive but fell short when weather hampered the attempts. The group will try that dive again sometime next year.

6 Jeff London and Gerta Sorensen have had a busy summer. In May they travelled to South Carolina for some relaxation, lounging on the beach, and bike riding. They also toured historic Daufuskie Island where they visited with several of the artists who live and work on the island. In July they attended a family gathering in Massachusetts to celebrate Gerta’s aunt and uncle’s 60th wedding anniversary. And in August they joined neighbors for a vigil, Portage Park Says No to Racism and Hate. The event was one of many local reactions to the Charlottesville tragedy.

7 Victor Powell recently received the Maye Foster Thompson Minority Business Advocate award from the Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council. The award commends Victor’s work helping other companies reach a high level of quality through collaboration—showing them how to team up and take on bigger projects than they could do on their own.

New Member
Jacqui Ross
708.351.1550
jacquifro@gmail.com
A cat, “Scooter”.

Occupation:
I’m a retired attorney whose avocation is art of any kind

Current Project:
My current project is what I am calling “resistant” art. I’m basically a “crafts” person, paper maché, mosaics, naive painting.

Family/Kids/Pets:
I have two grown daughters and two great teenage grandsons, one of which is a talented glassblower. I also have a cat, “Scooter”.

Favorite CD/Recording Artists:
Paul Simon, and anything Folk

Book I’m Reading Right Now:
I’ve just finished reading Unsettled by Melvin Konner. It’s a Jewish anthology. My teenage grandson is reading it now.

I’d Give Anything to Meet:
I’d love to meet President Obama. That’s my fantasy.

Places I’ve Traveled:
I’ve travelled extensively

Three Things in my Medicine Cabinet:
I have nothing in my medicine cabinet

If I won the lottery I’d:
Take care of my family and then give the rest to the ACLU and Planned Parenthood