Great weather, conversation and of course, food—a dozen C3ers enjoyed another perfect evening at T. J. and Claudia Hine’s Old Irving Park backyard discussing life, liberty and programs! T. J. ran the grill, Claudia made sure everyone was properly lubricated in the heat, and honorary four-legged member Banjo was on guard to clean up any dropped food.

Again this summer, our menu starred burgers, brats and chicken, along with a splendid assortment of potluck sides and desserts. Afterwards, we all formed our traditional big circle to contribute ideas for the coming C3 program year.

Coming off our Annual Meeting with our big-fun Escape Game event, many of our ideas revolved around more of the same—programs where we can pick up more tips to working together as teams and collaborating more successfully. As George Berlin mentions in his Upcoming Programs article, that’s exactly where his committee will be heading.

In addition, members asked for a follow-up of our last program on copyright and intellectual property laws; we will be looking at a program that will cover new ground. Of course, you can expect an encore of our Holiday Party with another festive theme, and programs that let us continue keeping ahead of cutting-edge trends like augmented reality and virtual reality.

Remember, if you’re part of other creative groups who would enjoy partnering on an event with C3, by all means let us know! You can share your thoughts on future programs anytime with George or Kathleen Kearns—and you’re always welcome to help out on any or all of our 2018–19 events.
C3 culminated the 2017–18 year with our annual meeting held at The Escape Game. Divided into teams, we spent 60 minutes either saving the world, solving a mystery, planning a prison break or repairing a spaceship to return home. Each adventure required teamwork, determination, curiosity, a sense of urgency and humor.

Many of our C3 participants claimed that the adventure helped them realize that challenging themselves was the best way to understand what they were capable of. Hidden talents were unveiled.

This one-hour adventure also reminded me to become an everyday explorer. If I didn’t feel challenged in whatever I was doing, it could be creating an environment and adding novelty where I can continue to grow. Novelty can take many forms: meeting a new friend, learning a new skill, buying a new outfit, listening to new music or traveling a different route to work.

Novelty makes us happy, and brain research has shown that a rush of dopamine accompanies fresh experiences. In one study published in the journal Neuron, researchers showed participants a series of commonplace images: ordinary landscapes, interiors and faces. Then, they randomly threw in an oddball image, something unexpected and out of the ordinary. The participant’s pleasure centers of the brain, were activated when the oddball image appeared.

Living life as an adventure also helps challenge my limiting beliefs. Stepping outside my comfort zone pushes me to try new things. I attended a workshop recently where most of the attendees were 20-somethings. We were divided into small teams. Our task was to create and present a brand campaign within 30 minutes. I had all kinds of mental barriers stirring in my head: I’m too old, I’m not creative enough, etc. Yet I stayed, worked well with my team and had fun creating an exciting campaign for Winnebago.

I want to say thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. C3 has been a valuable component of my career and relationships, and I am honored to be a part of this organization. Our cooperative, collaborative environment has never been more critical. C3 is a unique community of engaged creatives at all stages of careers, actively working together to support each other.

At C3, our board members and volunteers come together to provide education and engagement opportunities for all our members. We welcome your ideas, engagement, commitment and willingness to help build or staff a program. If you want to be more involved with our busy new year, we’re eager to have you participate. Help us turn evenings into an exciting quest for knowledge, where you can learn about new technology, freshen up your perspective and mingle with professionals in various creative industries.

And if you are not a member or haven’t been active for a while, please consider joining us this year. We want C3 to always be a welcoming shared space. Whatever you choose, get out there and experiment, explore and experience. Go make the everyday extraordinary.

The C3 Mission
Chicago Creative Coalition enriches, educates and inspires creative lives.
We provide the framework for creative collaboration through insightful, educational programming and unique opportunities for networking and creative expression.

Connect with C3 online
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linkedin.com/groups/1895594
C3Chicago
ChicagoCreative.org
What can we learn from people with different skills? How do we live together with each other as creatives? Stay tuned for dates and themes, and come help out when you can!

Volunteers each sat at a table, and had assigned time slots for speed networking between industry professionals and alumni. Volunteers each sat at a table, and had assigned time slots for speed networking with participants.

Linda met with several writers, an actress, a film historian, a musical composer, several videographers, a CGI animation artist, and a singer. She was amazed at how well many of them could articulate their skills and their goals, and made as many relevant suggestions as possible. Most of these conversations were balanced on the need to reassure these alumni that many career problems can be solved by some simple clear-headed thinking. “Do you want to work with people here in Chicago who are passionate about movies? Where are you likely to find them clustered together? How about at the annual International Film Festival? Maybe it would be a good idea to research who produces that event and go talk to them.”

Kathleen and Michael had similar encounters, though they mostly met with people interested in working in advertising and graphic design. They suggested that involvement in industry networks—like joining C3—was one good way to expand and maintain connections that can help grow careers.

At the very end of the evening, Linda met with a singer who, among other things, wants to explore creating soundtracks for animated films. It occurred to her that one of the best people to introduce her to would be the fellow who had sat in the chair just moments earlier. He runs a music production company.

So while it was really good to help the newest members of our ever evolving advertising and arts communities, it was curious to be reminded that they each can also very literally help each other. C3 President Kathleen had a similar experience regarding a writer who wants to write for non-profits, and someone who runs a non-profit who is looking for marketing assistance. Both alums had sat in the chair across from her.

Linda says that in full disclosure, she doesn’t usually believe that much of substance can be accomplished in a seven-minute-speed-dating venue. She was nonetheless delighted at the energy and information exchange, which seemed to be flowing in all directions throughout the room that night.
2018 ANNUAL MEETING

The Great Escape

by Cindy McEwen

photos by Warren Perlstein and Cindy McEwen

Blind mazes. Russian space probes. Ballet slippers. What do these things have in common? Clues to escaping from locked rooms at the Escape Game in Chicago. That’s where this year’s Annual Meeting began. Eighteen C3ers and family members divided into three groups, each of which had to escape from a different, themed story room.

The first group started with The Heist, a challenge to infiltrate a thief’s office and find a missing Monet painting. The next group went on a Mission to Mars, but encountered some spacecraft damage and had to find a way back home before fatal radiation would overcome them. The last group was wrongfully accused of a crime and had to come up with a way to initiate a Prison Break to find their way out.

Each team watched a short video giving them their backstory and three clues to get them started. Hosts secretly monitored their progress along the way and offered additional clues on the video monitor to help them solve their puzzles.

Only one of our teams was successful—with only 2-seconds to spare. But all said they had a blast in trying to figure out the clues to escape in the allotted 60-minutes.

After catching our breaths from the exhilaration of the games, we headed across the street to Pizzeria Dué. Salad, deep-dish pizza, dessert and soft drinks were served up, with several members enjoying a stronger beverage to calm our excitement.

When all were stuffed (no pizza pun intended) we headed over to Linda Levy’s place, just a few blocks away, for ice cream and our annual meeting. Each director gave a status report for their area of responsibility. And some, like Programs and Events, restated a need for members to help out on committees. Since all board members had agreed to continue on in their current positions and no nominations from the floor were added, the slate was approved unanimously as follows:

President: Kathleen Kearns
Vice President: Nate Marks
Secretary: Michael Tanimura
Treasurer: Carolyn Aronson
Programs: George Berlin, Linda Levy
Membership: Michael Tanimura
Newsletter: Cindy McEwen, Brent Brotine
Communications: Cindy McEwen
Internet: Jason Feinberg
New/Social Media: Danielle Tanimura, Kaitlyn Keely
Marketing and PR: Nate Marks
Education/Intern Coordinator: open
Special Projects: T. J. Hine

After the election, Nate Marks extolled the hard work of many members, with a particular nod to Kathleen Kearns who was announced as this year’s winner of the Friend of C3 Award. Kathleen was caught very much by surprise, was visibly moved and accepted the award with much gratitude and thanks. She said she was proud to be involved in C3 because “We make things happen.” The award is given to individual(s) whose contributions have made a significant impact on C3’s ability to fulfill our mission of enriching, educating and inspiring creative lives.

Thanks to Linda Levy and her husband/caterer Yervant Chalkagian for graciously hosting dessert and the annual meeting at their beautiful home.
Business for Life #4: Making Friends with Fear

by Brent Brotine and Cindy McEwen
photos by Victor Powell

We told C3ers to be prepared for a hands-on evening. But our 16 attendees may not have realized it meant sharing our inner fears with the group. Happily, speaker and coach Marta Johnson Lettofsky was so reassuring and nonjudgmental that everyone gladly participated in this revealing experience.

Held at Victor Powell Photography’s studio and training space on Wednesday, May 23rd, the workshop began with the group sitting in a circle and revealing one of their fears. From having to speak in public to being abandoned to not living to 500, we found that we all shared many of the same. According to Marta, these feelings and emotions are parts of us, and not the whole of us—so we are free to acknowledge these parts and put them away in a place where they affect us least.

We participated in a self-awareness meditation exercise where we identified which part we were currently feeling and what the part is saying to us. We then paired up with our neighbor and shared what we felt, followed by a whole-group sharing. Marta had brought drawing paper and colored pencils, and encouraged us to produce free-form visual art of some part we were feeling. People enjoyed the sharing aspect, and some of us definitely made friends with our fears.

Marta is a pianist and performance/creativity coach who has worked with the Lyric Opera, Music of the Baroque, Grant Park Music Chorus, Light Opera Works, Emerald City Theatre, and Chicago Folks Operetta. In her quest to cope with performance anxiety, she found Internal Family Systems (IFS) therapy/coaching, which has been a transformational experience for her whole life. She can be reached at marta@innerartistry.space.
Paul Minnihan
Minnihan Painting
773.636.4672
paulminnihan@gmail.com
minnihanart

Looking Closely
Paul Minnihan came to Chicago in 1987 to attend The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He now runs Minnihan Painting, a company focusing on high-end residences and businesses that incorporates his love of beauty with his expert execution of highly refined decorative techniques. Highly committed to his clients, Paul says “Creating something they couldn’t quite put into words, through trial and error until they have an environment personally suited to them, is what I’m good at.” He continues to develop his skills in drawing and painting, particularly watercolors.

1 Sweet Dreams
Watercolor on Arches Paper
9 x 12 inches

2 Christmas Morning
Watercolor on Arches Paper
6 x 8 inches

3 Gretchen
Watercolor on Arches Paper
16 x 12 inches

4 Grace
Watercolor on Arches Paper
16 x 12 inches

5 Ralph
Watercolor on Arches Paper
16 x 12 inches
1 Victor Powell and his 12 person team traveled to Houston to cover the bi-annual conference of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. At the close of the 5-day event, with 19,000 in attendance, he was surprised and honored to receive the President’s Award from outgoing president Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson for his 20 years of service as visual historian.

2 Stephen Starr enjoyed an outdoor adventure camping and hiking in Buena Vista and Crestone, Colorado and Jemez Springs, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Stephen reports mountain hiking and sleeping outdoors in the high desert has not lost its charm.

3 Nate Marks is completing a novel entitled Evolve: We have been given the tools to continue our own evolution—at our own pace. It’s a story about how we have enough brain power to speed up evolution. The novel is now in final review and will shortly be ready for printing.

4 Irv Michaels vacationed in Venice and Croatia with son Adam, daughter-in-law Shannon and her dad David. They attended the opening of the 2018 Venice Architectural Biennale, where Adam and Shannon’s L.A. graphic design studio created the design for the U.S. Pavilion and Dimensions of Citizenship book. Afterwards, they took a road trip to Croatia where they visited a Roman coliseum, winery, waterfalls, seaport and other historic sights. Great trip, great memories!

5 Illustrator and overgrown child George Berlin debuted a 112-foot long, 9-foot high vinyl mural showcasing all the great things to do inside the Sheil Park Fieldhouse in Lakeview. Designed in partnership with the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce, it features huge ballet shoes, cool dinosaurs, wacky robots, board games we all love, and almost every sport you can imagine!

6 Mary Wagner’s Enigma drawing was selected by Brooklyn, NY based Kayrock Screenprinting to be one of their Fresh Print limited edition silkscreens. The Fresh Print series is by invitation only. Enigma is a 5-color, signed and numbered edition of 175, 24 x 18 inch prints suitable for framing. They will be shown in the Kayrock booth at upcoming art and prints fairs.
C3 Talks with Irv Michaels

Company: Michaels Consulting
Occupation: Business advisor helping creative businesses thrive
Current Project: Business planning for two architecture firms
Dream Client: Successful creative company, positioned to grow and needs help to break through to the next level
Family/Kids/Pets: Married to Margaret, 2 married children, Adam & Rachel
Hobbies/Interests: Music, movies, politics, sports, exercise
Three Words that Best Describe Me: Positive, ethical, outgoing
Gadget I Can’t Live Without: iPhone & iPad have become appendages
Favorite Movies: Raiders of the Lost Ark, Citizen Kane
Favorite CDs/Recording Artists: Past: Dylan, Beatles, CSN, Stones
Current: Punch Brothers, Brandi Carlile

Book I’m Reading Right Now: The Innovators by Walter Isaacson
Favorite Web Site: The New York Times
My Fantasy Is: A world at peace
I’d Give Anything to Meet: Barack Obama
Prized Possession: My handmade acoustic guitar from the ’70s
My Inspiration Comes From: Understanding that today can even be better than yesterday.

Favorite Food: Omelet with Swiss cheese and herbs from Provence
Favorite Restaurant: Too many
Favorite TV Shows: Austin City Limits, The 11th Hour with Brian Williams
Favorite Radio Station(s)/Air Personalities: WXRT/Lin Brehmer, WBEZ/Peter Sagal, Wait, Wait Don’t Tell Me, and Chris Thile, Live From Here

The One Thing Nobody Knows About Me: That I had a ticket to Woodstock, but ended not going because the traffic was so terrible
I Always Find this Funny: Robin Williams
Favorite Way to Chill Out: Sit in the backyard on my patio chair with a good book and a drink
If I Won the Lottery, I’d: (use it toward) Family, travel, and philanthropy

C3 Membership Benefits

Programs and seminars for personal and professional development
For-members-only workshops that spark new ideas and promote networking
Member exhibitions that generate awareness, commissions and sales
C3 website showcase that has search engine preference and directs traffic to your own site
Social events and outings that strengthen Chicago’s creative community
Publicity opportunities through the newsletter, website and e-list

Committee and Board appointments that build leadership skills
Free member classifieds plus discounts on newsletter display ads
Quarterly newsletter featuring member success stories and event recaps
Mentoring opportunities such as internships and special events
Private e-list where members exchange ideas and provide assistance

CHICAGO CREATIVE COALITION

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