

Julie Corwith



“We moved to Naperville in 1957 & had 2 boys so don't remember who was trying to get me to join as a charter, but with the kids I didn't feel I had the time. We then got transferred to Iowa in 1960 and were there for 17 years. When we returned, I was an active member and sold a few pieces in the gallery.”

Julie was the League secretary for several years and became NAL's first paid receptionist, working the desk Monday through Friday. She volunteered on Saturdays and oversaw scheduling other volunteers for Saturday help. After that, Debbie Venezia took over the all-important job and expanded it. The family moved to Maryland in 2019, but Julie has kept up her interest in and communication with NAL and its members.



Treasures

Oil painter captures colorful impressions

Who: Artist Julie Corwith.

Family: Corwith and her husband, James, have three sons and two grandsons.

Something of merit: Corwith's interest in art began early. "I was working on a Girl Scout badge and always had been interested in drawing," she said. She took art classes in high school and furthered her studies at the Art Institute of Chicago. She focused on oils, watercolors and acrylics as well as dress design.

Group efforts: Corwith was one year shy of founding member status in the Naperville Art League. She joined in 1963, but the following year moved to Iowa after her husband accepted a job transfer. She rejoined the league when her family moved back to Naperville in 1981. She served as league secretary and now handles the group's newsletter.

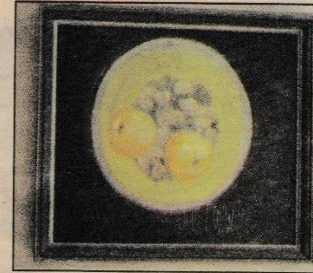
Favorite subjects: Corwith likes to paint flowers, scenery and landscapes. "I don't have to be there," she said, describing her painting of the Colorado River. "I had been to a similar area with high rocks and flowing water. The Scouts - Boys Scouts this time - took a photo on a boating trip. Between the photo and my memory, I created the painting."

Defining style: Corwith describes her work as impressionistic. "Everyone has to find their way. Some people have to leave a photographic rendition. Some people have to leave a pencil rendition. I like oils," she said. "Oils are something you spread, something that makes the color more powerful."

- Jane Lelugas



Jeff Krage / For The Sun



Flowers are always in bloom once artist Julie Corwith goes to work. Spreading the colored oils with a painting knife, Corwith created a texture no brush would allow in "Two Apples." Corwith learned to oil paint as a Girl Scout in 1944, when wooden plates and plaster of Paris figurines were more abundant than canvas, which was needed for tents and uniforms during World War II.



Naperville by the numbers

2,853

10

10,706

15

46