

PWCS Half Sheet

A Publication of the PHILADELPHIA WATER COLOR SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1900

Siv Spurgeon, President

Susannah Hart Thomer, Editor

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is an honor and a privilege to assume the role as your president. Following in the footsteps of my predecessors will be no easy task, as they each set very high standards.

Let me start by expressing my appreciation for Bill Ternay's dedication and unselfish support of the Society. As a long time board member, he contributed by volunteering for countless tasks, conceiving and organizing four successful paint-outs and exhibitions at Winterthur, co-chairing the 102nd Anniversary Exhibition, and finally, serving as our past president. We miss Bill and hope he will join the board again in the near future.

In addition to retiring board members Peggy Binns and Jane Miluski, both of whom Bill recognized in the Fall newsletter, I am sad to report that Mary Ledwith has decided to retire. Mary tirelessly arranged for all our awards banquets, and single handedly chaired our Members Select shows. We miss her and her quick wit, and the definitive closing sound of her briefcase, which for years has signalled the end of every board meeting.

Special thanks go to Jane Miluski, Chair, and Shelley Picker, Co-Chair, for all the planning and skilled execution in organizing a successful 104th Anniversary Exhibition at Widener University Art Gallery. We are also sincerely grateful for the assistance and professionalism given in support of the show by Becky Warda, Collections Manager at the Gallery, and their hosting of a wonderful reception.

The new board has been working on some exciting new things, and I am pleased to give the following update:

- By a unanimous vote, the board has revised the by-laws to include voting privileges for ALL members.

- A new PWCS directory will be published in January, thanks to the hard work of Susannah Hart Thomer, our

membership chair for the past 6 years.

- We will be launching an internal and external fund raising drive to increase our awards funds, with the goal of continuing to match the excellence of your work with the highest quality of awards.

- The membership application form has been changed to include opportunities for involvement by new members. The list of volunteer activities will also be included on the dues notice when it goes out in May, hoping that many of you will join in and contribute in one or more ways. Please let us know if you would like to serve on the board or become involved in any other capacity in the near future.

- Our website is up and running, featuring the new membership application, the award winning paintings from the 104th Exhibition, and finally, an email link. Thank you, Jane James!

Let me end with a short biography, to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me. I grew up in Stockholm, Sweden, and have lived in the US since 1967. With a professional education in engineering, I spent many years documenting construction details for architects and designers and eventually launched another career in sales, sales management and project management with Knoll, Inc., where I worked for 22 years prior to taking early retirement 3 years ago.

My artistic career dates back to 1993, when I finally found time to rekindle a passion for drawing and painting. Most of my training comes from classes at local art centers, and by studying and working on my own. I especially enjoy painting intricate details and challenging textures in close cropped views.

Thank you for your support in electing me to serve the Society. I look forward to an exciting new year!

Sincerely,



Siv Spurgeon

104th ANNUAL EXHIBITION

by Jane Miluski

On October 17th, the paintings were properly received thanks to Dorla Dean Slider, Don Robinson, Siv Spurgeon, Shelley Picker, Libby Rudnick, Lori Hollenbeck, Erika Neidhardt and Carolyn Howard. An extended thank you to Gene Spurgeon, Joe Miluski and John and Karen Schneider for the terrific job they did in uncrating the shipped entries. Don Andrews arrived from Alabama to choose the award winners that afternoon, and as Siv and I stood by to help, Don paid great attention to arranging and rearranging the pieces he preferred for awards. At one point he went outside to walk in the misting day and clear his head. Then he was ready to make the final selections.

This was the first year PWCS decided to use one juror for selection and awards, and we asked Don to address his views on this subject. Having participated in both processes, Don felt several jurors resulted in no one being totally satisfied, and if discussion was allowed, a sort of horse trading system developed by jurors saying if you give me this one, I'll give you that. On the other hand, the result of utilizing a point system could knock out both ends of the spectrum, bringing the whole show into the middle. Don felt that the use of multiple jurors was a convoluted way to select a show. "In trying to make everyone happy, you can end up making no one happy. I think you can see a definite direction in the paintings I selected for this exhibition and in those that won awards. Next year, you can have a strong opinion from a different juror." "That is what this is, anyway, just an opinion."



SIGNATURE MEMBERS NEWS

ANGELA BARBALACE received the American Frame Corporation Award at the 35th Annual Garden State Watercolor Society Exhibition "Pushing The Envelope," in Skillman, NJ, won the Traveling Show Award in Aqueous USA 2004, the Kentucky Watercolor Society's national juried exhibition this past fall, and was awarded the Arches Paper Award from Pennsylvania Watercolor Society 25th International Juried Exhibition at the Hoyt Fine Art Institute in New Castle, PA.

PAULETTE BENSIGNOR participated in Art-in-Community VI: The Color Project, The Green Exhibition, The Esther M. Klein Gallery in Philadelphia, PA.

MARGE CHAVOOSHIAN had a solo show at the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, NJ in July. Her many awards this year included the Coryell Gallery Award at the Coryell Gallery & Lambertville Historical Society 24th Annual Exhibit in Lambertville, NJ, the Kent Art Association Award at Ridgewood Art Institute, Ridgewood, NJ, Honorable Mentions from the New Jersey American Artist Professional League in Millburn, NJ and the League's Open State Show at the Noyes Museum in Oceanville, NJ. Marge received the Daler Rowney Award at the Garden State Watercolor Society Members Show in Trenton, NJ and the Pen & Brush Club Award at the Salmagundi Club Non-Members Open Show in NYC. One of her watercolors was selected for the permanent National Association of Women Artists collection at the Zimmerli Museum, Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.

GEORGE M. CLARK won First Place in the York Art Association Annual Collage Show and was accepted into the PWS National Show.

DONNA (NEITHAMMER) CUSANO participated in The Ronald McDonald House of Delaware Artfest, November 5-6, 2004, held at the University of Delaware, Wilmington. She also participated in The Heron Gallery & Studios annual December sale in Aston.

JEANNE DOBIE won the Brodock Award at the Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors, NY and was also selected for the traveling exhibition. She was awarded the Captain & Mrs. Rogers Sponsor Award at the San Diego Watercolor Society International Exhibition, CA.

SY ELLENS had paintings accepted into 30 competitions, and received the following awards: The Winston

Churchill Award at Missouri Watercolor Society's 4th Watercolor National Show in Fulton, MO, Second Place at Ferris State University's First All-Michigan All-Media Juried Exhibition at the Rankin Art Gallery in Big Rapids, MI, and his work was featured on the announcement postcard for the 84th NWS Annual Exhibition in Fullerton, CA. In July, Sy completed a 2200 sq. foot commissioned mural in the Children's Room at the New Air Zoo in Kalamazoo, MI.

LAURIN McCRACKEN had work accepted into 15 national juried watercolor shows. Her awards included: the Hardie Gramatky Memorial Award at the 137th Annual International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society, Best of Show at the 29th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Tennessee Watercolor Society, Gold Brush Award at the 27th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Southern Watercolor Society, Patrons of the Arts Award at the 55th Annual Exhibition of Texas Watercolor Society and the Connoisseur Brush Award at the 36th National Exhibition of the California Watercolor Society.

BOB MILNAZIK was accepted in the 9th Biennial Exhibition of the New England Watercolor Society and had work accepted in the 25th International Pennsylvania Watercolor Show, the National Watercolor Society Show in California, and the 25th Anniversary Show at the Mystic Maritime Gallery in CT. Bob won Fourth Prize in the National Museum of Naval Aviation Show in Pensacola, FL. His winning painting became part of their permanent collection. Bob served as part of a group, as Juror of Awards for the New Jersey Watercolor Society. He also had a painting included among the Top 100 of the National Arts for the Parks competition in Jackson Hole, WY.

CHRISTINE PORTER participated in a three artist group watercolor exhibition held at the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ in November.

FLORENCE PUTTERMAN had an exhibition at the Walter Wickiser Gallery in NYC in September and is currently showing work in "Explorations in Several Media" exhibit at the Walton Art Center in Fayetteville, AK through January, 2005.

WENDY SCHEIRER participated in "Painters' Showcase," a group show and sale at the Spread Eagle Village Hall in Strafford-Wayne, PA, Nov. 5-7,

2004.

DOROTHY SLOAN was awarded prizes for work in the 2004 Art Show at the Long Beach Island Foundation for the Arts and Sciences. She also received a prize at the Spring 2004 Annual Membership Show at Cheltenham Art Center, Cheltenham, PA.

JEAN UHL SPICER served as a selection and awards juror for the 2004 New Jersey Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition. Jean's upcoming workshops include Missouri, New Jersey, Maryland and Yosemite Park.

HAZEL STONE had work accepted into the International Society of Experimental Artists, ISEA 2004 Exhibition in Fort Myers, FL, the Kansas Watercolor Society Exhibition in Wichita, KA, the Watercolor USA 2004 Exhibition in Springfield, MO, Red River Watercolor Society's 11th Annual Juried Art Exhibition in Fargo, ND, the 64th Annual Open Exhibition of Northwest Watercolor Society in Seattle, WA and "Aqueous Open 2003," the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's Exhibit in Pittsburgh, PA. She received signature status in the International Society of Experimental Arts.

SUSANNAH HART THOMER is part of a three-person exhibit at the Multiple Choice Gallery in Blue Bell, PA titled, "Three Heads Are Better Than One, A Show of Three Friends," now through January 16, 2005. She won the Winsor & Newton Award for Excellence in Watercolor in Artists' Equity Annual Exhibit at the Berman Museum, won first place, watercolor at the 49th Annual Perkiomen Art Center show at the Hill School in Pottstown, PA, and first place at Greater Norristown Art League's Annual Fall Exhibition in Norristown, PA. Her work was accepted into the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society 25th International Juried Exhibition in New Castle, PA and the 23rd Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors in NY.

ANDREA VINCENT won The Friends of Watercolor Award at the National Exhibition of American Watercolor at the Taos Art Museum, NM. She also had a solo show at the Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago, IL this year.

STEVEN J. WHITE won The Ruth G. Rosenau Silver Medallion in 2004 Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors in Old Forge, NY.

IDAHERMA WILLIAMS had woodblock prints included in the 110th Anniversary Gala Pen and Brush Exhibition in NYC, the Audubon Artists' 62nd Annual Juried Exhibition at

*Congratulations to our new
Honorary Life Members*

LOUIS de MOLL
GENEVIEVE PAT HOLMES
DORLA DEAN SLIDER

the Salmagundi Club in NYC, the National Association of Women Artists Top Award Winners from 2003-2004 Annual Exhibitions. At The Plastic Club in Philadelphia, PA, Idaherma showed in the 107th Annual Exhibition of the Fellowship of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the American Color Print Society's 57th Members Exhibition.

SUSAN WILLIAMSON had work accepted into the Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors this year.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS NEWS

JIM CAMANN had art accepted into the 34th Annual International Exposition, Louisiana Watercolor Society and was awarded the Trails and Stream Award and Medallion in the 23rd Annual Adirondacks National Exposition of American Watercolors in Old Forge, NY. His work was chosen to be the poster painting for their upcoming 2005 show. Jim also won the Marion de Sola Mendes Memorial Award at the National Painters in Acrylic and Casein Juried Show at the Salmagundi Club, NYC, and displayed work at the Lake Placid Lodge, Lake Placid, NY, the Gallery North in Old Forge, NY, the Fynmore Studios in Booneville, NY and the Studio in Coopersburg, PA and Old Forge, NY.

CALVIN deRUJTER won an Honorable Mention and Best of Show at the Extremely Minnesota Juried Exhibition in Robbinsdale, MN. He was also awarded Best of Show at the Fall Show of the North Star Watercolor Society.

SUSAN KLINGER has a solo show at Off the Wall Gallery in Skippack, PA now through January, 2005.

SHELLEY PICKER had a solo show "Singles and Duets" at the Cosmopolitan Club of Philadelphia, PA.

CAROL STAUB won several awards this year including an Honorable Mention at the Ninth Annual Exhibition of The Experimental Artists of Alabama, The Wright Art Center Gallery, Samford University, the Ana Drobnies Award at the San Diego Watercolor Society International Exhibition and the Garden State Watercolor Society Award at their 35th Annual Juried Exhibition. Carol was awarded a 4-person exhibit for May, 2005 from the A.E. Bean Backus Museum. She had

IN MEMORIAM

G. HOLMES PERKINS
Honorary PWCS Member

work accepted into the New Jersey Water Color Society 62nd Annual Open Juried Exhibition and the Garden State Watercolor Society 8th Annual Associate Member Juried Exhibition.

SARA STEELE's, "Blueprints for Paradise" will open at the Berman Museum, Collegeville, on June 12, 2005.

MEMBERS IN PRINT

GEORGE M. CLARK was recently featured in the December Issue of *Watercolor Magic*.

SY ELLENS was a finalist in the *International Artist Magazine* Challenge 19 Landscapes in the February/March 2004 Issue, and in July, was featured in an article in the same magazine, "How Did You Paint That, 100 Ways to Paint Landscapes." One of his paintings was included in *Splash 8* published by North Light Book Club in August. Sy's life and work was the subject of an article titled, "Art Makes the Man," written by Penny H. Briscoe in the September issue of *Encore Magazine*.

ELIZABETH KINCAID is the author of a book titled *Paint Watercolors That Dance With Light* published by North Light Press. She also has a painting in *Splash 8*.

LAURIN McCracken's style of still life painting inspired by 16th and 17th century masters is the subject of an extensive article titled "Inspired by Dutch and Flemish Still Lifes," in the Fall issue of *Watercolor Magazine*, written by M. Stephen Doherty, Editor-in-Chief.

HAZEL STONE had her biography included in *Who's Who of American Women, 2004-2005*.

ANDREA VINCENT has work in *100 Ways to Paint Flowers and Gardens, Vol. I, 100 Ways to Paint Your Favorite Subjects, Vol. I* and *100 Ways to Paint Still Lifes and Florals, Vol. II* published by International Artist Publishing.

ANNUAL MEETING

PWCS held their annual meeting on September 26, 2004 at the Community Arts Center in Wallingford, PA. Board elections were held, followed by guest speaker Nancy Barch, who critiqued artwork. Nancy shares some of her insights and suggestions in the following article.

CRITIQUE OR NOT CRITIQUE? THAT IS THE QUESTION

by Nancy Barch, AWS, NWS

Critique. Not a funny word like banana, but a serious word like "declined." However, it can help your

artistic growth. When you're ready to move forward to yet another level of growth and development there is nothing better than analyzing your work.

Or course, to do this you must be detached and unemotional. Not possible? That's when critique comes into play. It is much easier to have someone else, whose opinion and honesty you respect, review your work. They may tell you things you already know and are quite happily denying. You may find their opinions hurtful, depressing and, worse yet, not in total agreement with yours!

To have a successful experience: (1) Don't bring a framed piece. You have put the person whose talents you're seeking at a disadvantage. You're sending a message that the piece is well executed, framed, ready to be presented, not at all lacking in any area. Why is this at a critique? Instead bring a painting you need assistance with or that has truly left you with that "I don't know what to do next" feeling. ; (2) It's not Show and Tell; don't bring your favorite painting. This is a time to look for flaws and how to correct or avoid them. The person doing the critique will search for them in order to fulfill his/her contract and you'll go home angry or hurt; and (3) Leave your ego at home. This is not a grounds for debate. You are asking someone for his opinion. You don't need to agree with him or take his advice. You also don't need to participate.

If critiques are to be truly helpful, you must understand that when professionally done, they are not personal reflections of you or your work. The person doing the critique should be pointing out errors in execution or design but also recommending ways to remedy these faults. Listen for the "good stuff;" don't just focus on the things that seem so demoralizing to you. A good critique encompasses the negative and positive aspects of a painting; you must hear both to become better at your craft.

Keep an open mind, get the opinions of others, then process, evaluate and grow!

We are honored to present the
PWCS CREST MEDAL
to
NANCY BARCH
and
HENRY MEIER

AWARDS BANQUET

On Sunday, November 7, following the Opening Reception at the Widener University, PWCS members and guests traveled a short distance to The Little Inn in Media for the Awards Banquet. The ambience was warm and friendly; the attendees enjoyed good food, renewed old acquaintances and made new friends.

The PWCS Achievement in the Arts Award was presented to Lily Yeh in absentia. President Siv Spurgeon and Jane Miluski presented the 104th Annual Anniversary Exhibition winners with their awards, to well-deserved applause.

NEW SIGNATURE MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following Associate Members who have achieved Signature Membership status this year. They have met the PWCS criteria by being accepted into two of our annual international exhibitions of works on paper. We welcome Bobbie Brown, IL, Vickie Dorsam, PA, Bonni Farber, PA, Laurin McCrackin, TN, Sandra G. McKeehan, PA, Marion Swierkos, NY, Debi Watson, PA, Susan Williamson, PA and Rhoda Yanow, NJ.

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