

inside  
www.pittsburghillustrators.org



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Editor: Anni Matsick

Reporters this issue:  
Fred Carlson  
June Edwards  
Molly Thompson  
Lindsay Wright

Design & Production:  
Yelena Lamm



## Calming Cup

Mark Brewer's drawing applied to a coffee mug will remind you to breathe when you're feeling overwhelmed. Available online at [Brewer's Birdz](#).

## Serial Drama

This cover art and wraparound illustration were recently done by **John Blumen** for *Rein*, the third book in Cora Carmack's Stormheart Series, to be released in August by Macmillan.



## Forest Friends

Works by **Lorrie Minicozzi** depicting birds and creatures are part of *Glorious Wilderness*, on display December 1 through February 28 at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort in Farmington. The squirrel is done in colored pencil and graphite on 18"x24" Bristol.



## My Spot

**Anni Matsick**

Tired of winter gloom? What better entertainment for a cold and dreary day than thirteen pages of exciting news and coverage of fun-filled events involving you and your PSI friends.

It's another issue packed with reports of commissioned art, awards, exhibits, book releases, and other accomplishments from PSI members eager to share their news. You'll recognize many of the faces in the photos (and maybe your own) having a good time at second-Tuesday Socials, last-Thursday-of-the-month program events, and an impromptu field trip (page 7).

Snapshots from our annual holiday Social, Saturnalia, show members enjoying the spirit while officers present

the year in review—before digging into the homemade figgy pudding.

The Spotlight is on three of our accomplished painters who received top awards presented at the opening reception of an annual open watercolor show. On page 10, complete with a video.

If you haven't yet taken advantage of opportunities to have your work promoted through PSI's new Social Media Committee, details await on page 5. You'll meet our planning crew there, busily working on a schedule of events for the year to inform and educate on useful topics related to illustrators' needs. While on that page, check out the recipients of PSI's Special Recognition Awards, given to our standout volunteers.

Excited? Renew! Pull out your checkbook or go to [PSI's website](#) and click on the Donate button to pay for your 2020 membership by the March 31 deadline. And be sure to send in your news for the next newsletter!

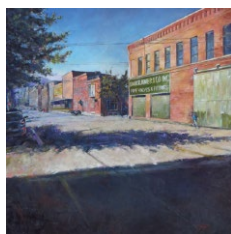


## On Exhibit



An exhibit of prints of pen & ink botanical drawings by **Lisa Rasmussen** was on display at Hunt Library on the CMU campus October 5 through mid-December. Lisa was commissioned to create 27 pen & ink drawings of plants that correspond to specific Raja Ravi Varma paintings or lithographs. Raja Ravi Varma was an Indian painter who worked in the late 1800s — early 1900s. Her drawings will also be exhibited in Bangalore and they will appear in a catalog *raisonne* of Varma's work as part of Encounters with the Botanical, a collaborative effort between Geetanjali Sachdev and the Raja Ravi Varma Heritage Foundation.

*Austral*, a juried exhibition presented by Brew House Association, featured work by artists living and working in Pittsburgh's South Side. **Kurt Pfaff** showed 3 oil paintings, including *21st South Side Pittsburgh* (36"x36"). The 28 works by 14 artists in a variety of media were on view January 9 – February 8.



**Keith Bastianini's** *Leannan Sidhe* was part of *As The World Falls Down* which ran October 4-26 at Panza Gallery in Millvale. Also included was *Jareth the Goblin King*, oil and 24 karat gold leaf, by **Rhonda Libbey**. The juried exhibition presented fantasy art inspired by Jim Henson's movie *Labyrinth*. The open call was for artists within the tri-state area and was curated by Panza Gallery in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Society of Artists. Read more [here](#).

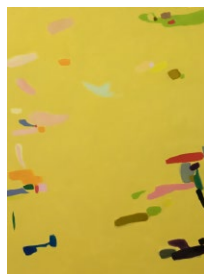
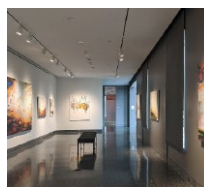


Rhonda has been juried for her first time into the Main Show of *IlluXcon 2020* at the GoggleWorks

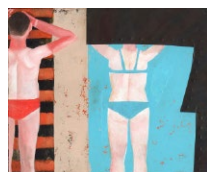
Center For The Arts, scheduled October 21-25, 2020, in Reading. It will be her fifth year to display and sell her work in *Showcase*, in the ballroom of the nearby DoubleTree hotel.

**Nicole Ryan's** pop-up solo show *Land of Little Thoughts and No Worries* at the Westmoreland Museum opened January 17 in the Robertshaw Gallery. The distant landscapes are based on Nicole's memories. It runs through February 16 with a closing reception on February 14 with Art on Tap: LOVE. Details [here](#).

Nicole's *Turn Left at Yesterday*, Oil on panel (30"x40"), was included among works from 53 artists in the 107th Associated Artists of Pittsburgh Annual on view through Jan. 26 at Westmoreland Museum of Art in Greensburg.



**Stacy Innerst** was among 6 artists participating in *Pretty/Ugly*, a group show held Sept 20-November 2 at James Gallery, 413 S. Main Street, Pittsburgh. *Sunblock* (13"x11") is acrylic and tin on board. *Election Night*, (14"x11") is oil on tin. Here's a [link](#).



*Pier Happy* (19"x25") by **Ron Thurston** was juried into the 153rd Annual International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society. Fewer than 140 entries were accepted from the more than 1,100 submitted. It's the 7th time for Ron to be included. The show opens Monday, April 6 and runs through April 25 at the Salmagundi Club in New York City.



**Bill Vrsack's** *Storm Alley* (24"x18") received the 1st prize award in the *Niagara Frontier 14th International Exhibition of Transparent Watercolor 2019*. Juror was Iain Stewart. The show ran October 20 - November 17 at Kenan Center House Gallery in Lockport, NY.



In the **February 2020 issue** of Watercolor Artist Magazine, Stefanie Laufersweiler writes, "**Bill Vrsack** eliminates the extraneous to elevate the everyday in scenes drawn from neighborhoods he knows so well." The 10-page article, "A Common Connection," covers Bill's recent work and old favorites, along with a detail from *Germantown* (18"x24") on the cover.

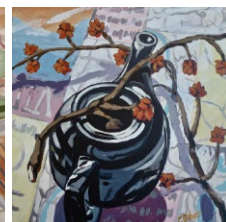


**Anni Matsick's** watercolor *Welcome In* (12"x12") was noted by juror Alberto Jorge Carol as one he "would have purchased had I been a collector."



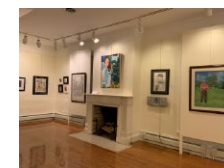
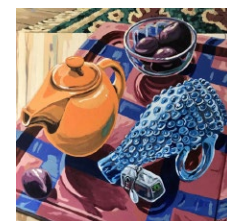
at the opening reception for the 11th Annual *Figurative Drawing and Painting Exhibition* at Lore Degenstein Gallery in Selinsgrove. The show ran September 25 through December 9.

*Welcome In* was awarded Best of Show in the Art Association of Harrisburg's annual *Figuratively Speaking* exhibit at the opening on January 9. Juror was Young Won. The show runs through February 13 at 21 N Front Street, Harrisburg.



**Christie Biber's** 12"x12" paintings *Aloe Map* (acrylic on wood) and *Black Teapot Map* (acrylic on canvas) were in the Art Association of Pittsburgh's *Off The Walls* show during December at Gallery One/Collective Works at 4106 Howley Street in Bloomfield.

Christie's 30"x30" acrylic on wood painting, *Orange Teapot*, was accepted in the 123rd Annual Juried Show at the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club, NYC. The show ran January 7-30 at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South, New York City.



**Judy Emerick and Bill Panos** paired up for an exhibit at the Dressler Center in Somerset, September 13 through October 18. Judy's works were done in oil, pastel, pencil, and pen & ink. Bill's works were done in egg tempera.

*Agnes Gets a Drink*, one of 4 paintings by **Kit Paulson**, won 3rd Place in the *Small Wonders* show at the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts, up through January 31.



New affiliate member **Gina Judy** recently won an Award of Merit at the Tuscarawas Art Guild Annual Fall Juried Show in New Philadelphia, Ohio. Her watermedia collage *Dreamscape* (25"x34") was accepted into **The Dairy Barn Arts Center's** 2020 exhibition *OH+5* in Athens, OH,

Continued on next page



a biennial mixed-media juried exhibition open to artists living in Ohio and the 5 surrounding states. It will be held in the center's Sauber Gallery January 17 - March 14.

Gina was also invited to participate in *Presence*, an exhibition about aging, opening in March at the Stifel Fine Arts Center, Wheeling, WV.

**Lorrie Minicozzi** was one of 12 artists exhibiting work in *Irreversibility of Time*, held in December at Christine Frechard's gallery in Lawrenceville.



**Nora Thompson** won Second Place for 3 pieces juried into Seton Hill's biennial *Women in Art* exhibit which ran October 1-30. Each is 18"x24" and painted with charcoal on cradled wood.

Nora was invited by Aeon Gallery

in Richmond, Illinois to show at their annual *Rapture* exhibit, this year with the theme "Muse." Her 5 pieces, in various sizes and media, can be seen [here](#).

Cactus Gallery in Los Angeles invited Nora to create a piece for their *Calaveras y Diablos* (Skulls and Devils) exhibit which opened October 23. See it [here](#). Nora's *All Better Now* is 10½"x13½" charcoal on paper.



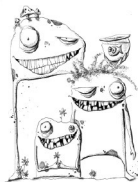
*Audrey* (20"x28") was among the 30 pieces Nora showed in an invitational exhibit at Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center in Johnstown, October 3-November 8. All were primarily BW, done in graphite, charcoal, pen & ink, or colored pencil.



Stranger Factory Gallery in Albuquerque invited Nora to be part of their annual group shows; *Bewitching*

*IX*, held October 4-27 and *Winter Salon IX*, December 2-29. This was the second consecutive *Bewitching* exhibit she had been invited to and the third *Winter Salon*. All of the pieces are acrylic on wood. See the entire *Bewitching* exhibit archived [here](#).

Stranger Factory also invited Nora to create art for several pages in their second group coloring book.



Main Exhibit Gallery in Ligonier celebrated their 25th anniversary with an invitational exhibit held August 16 through September 21. Nora was among 40 artists included.

The curator and two owners of You Are Here



Gallery in Jeanette invited Nora to exhibit with them at the gallery in Westmoreland County Community College in a show that ran November 4 through December 11. She created 3 paintings, all acrylic on repurposed cabinet doors.



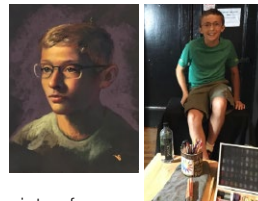
## On Location

**Stacy Innerst** went to Glasgow, Scotland for a week in October to interview kids and illustrate a graphic-novel type story as part of a series on childhood poverty for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. It was funded in part by a grant from the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting and the Economic Hardship Reporting Project. The photo shows him drawing with kids at Sacred Heart School in Glasgow and the finished illustration, *Cleaning Day*, in gouache, ink, and digital.



**Christine Swann**

gave a demo at the National Arts Club in New York in September, using her son Braden as model. It happened during the materials fair with the Pastel Society of America's 47th Annual Exhibition: *Enduring Brilliance*.



Christine is one of 20 masters sharing their thoughts in *The Secrets to A Good Composition*. Read it [here](#).

**Anthony Colaizzi** sketched attendees at **The Pittsburgh Irish Festival**, held September 11-13 in West Homestead. Rather than exaggerating features in a comical way, Anthony prefers to highlight his clients' best features and bring a smile to their faces.



**Howard Bender**

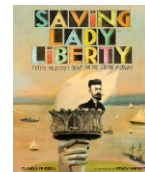
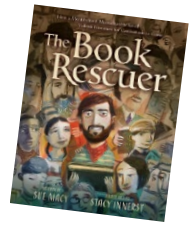
drew KDKA personality Lisa Washington Labor Day weekend at the Jack and Jill 75th anniversary picnic. Lisa's is a familiar face from the KDKA News and Pittsburgh Today Live show.



**Nora Thompson** was accepted to vend at Handmade Arcade for the first time this year. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ran a story about monsters and why people love them, and included vendors who feature monsters in their work. Read it [here](#).

## Books

*The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature for Generations to Come*, written by Sue Macy and illustrated by **Stacy Innerst**, was published October 1 by Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books. A book release event was held October 6 at The Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. It has received 3 starred reviews, a Parent's Choice Gold Medal, and a December 15 review in the NY Times Book Review. It is also a recipient of the American Library Association's Sydney Taylor Book Award for Picture Books.



*Saving Lady Liberty*, a picture book written by Claudia Fiddell and illustrated by Stacy Kane will be published by Boyd's Mills/Kane in June 2020.

Here's the cover for *The Joke Machine: Create Your Own Jokes and Become Instantly Funny!* by Theresa Julian and illustrated by **Pat Lewis**. The 224-page paperback's age range is 8-12 years. It was released on October 8 from Macmillan/Odd Dot. The Amazon page is [here](#).



**Fred Carlson's** recent book for Mel Bay Publications *Blues & the Soul of Man: An Autobiography of Nehemiah "Skip" James* was reviewed in depth in the November 2019 LA Review of Books by one of the most noted music critics in the USA, Greil Marcus ([link here](#)).



Fred recently added to his illustrations for the Field Guide for Troops of Saint George, a Catholic Boy Scouts group headquartered in Texas. He depicted Saint John Climacus, a 7th century hermit monk, for the badge called "Virtues" in the Merit Awards section. Done in graphite, watercolor and gouache.

## On Screen



**June Edwards** created some of the miniatures for the recently released movie *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, directed by Marielle Heller and starring

Tom Hanks and Matthew Rhys. She worked on the set for nearly 2 months last fall, duplicating the houses, buildings, and vehicles of the original neighborhood model, and creating additional structures, tombstones and monuments for the cemetery scene. Her previous experience with Mr. Rogers' artifacts helped her obtain this work; in the years since Fred Rogers retired June worked with Kathy Borland, the art director for the final 10 years of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, to repair and touch up the paint on the tree, castle, many of the puppets and the structures in the original neighborhood model. On December 6 she gave a slide presentation at Slippery Rock University to show how the miniatures were fabricated and filmed for the movie.

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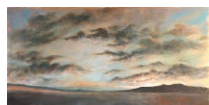


Here are a few of the backgrounds **Phil Wilson** painted for Rick Catizone's animation for the new television series *Creepshow*, airing on the Shudder subscription network. They are done in watercolor and average 11"x16". The season opener on Thursday, September 26 broke all previous viewing records for that network, resulting in approval for a second season. Watch this 30-minute [interview with Phil](#) done for Chiller Chat, broadcast on local Venango County cable following their Saturday Chiller Night Theater, featuring sci-fi and horror movies. Phil talks about his work with the new *Creepshow* television series, as well as his illustration work in general.



A signed print of Notre-Dame in Paris is offered by **Susan Castrita**, who shares the ink drawing process in this [video](#).

## Worthy Cause



**Nora Thompson's** painting *Pennsylvania Sky* (48"x24"), acrylic on wood, was auctioned live on October 26 at

the Loyalhanna Watershed Association's annual benefit at the Ligonier Country Club.

## Kudos

### Ilene Winn-Lederer

received a merit award in 3x3 Magazine's *Annual Pro Show No. 16* for illustrations from her book, *BESTIARY: An Imaginary Menagerie* (Imaginarium Editions).



**Dave Klug** was awarded Best in Show and **Yelena Lamm** Best in 2-D at the 6th Annual Mt. Lebanon Artists' Market, September 21-22. Jurors were **Jim Mellett**, **Mark Bender**, and Harold Behar.



**Michael Fleishman** is one of 19 artists named as 2020 Individual Artist Fellows by Delaware Division of the Arts. His is in the category of Emerging Professional, Visual Arts: Works on Paper. He recently completed this

cardboard construction as part of his ongoing series. The base is a 10" pizza disc that ultimately will be mounted on a 12" wooden circle, painted black.

## New Affiliate Members

**Gina T. Judy**  
Richmond, OH  
[www.ginajudyfineart.com](http://www.ginajudyfineart.com)



Although a professional educator by trade in the public schools in Ohio, Gina's experiences as an illustrator have been varied. Most of her illustrative experiences have come in theatrical mural-painting (10 years) and on-location wedding photography (15 years). She is employed currently as a church pianist, having extensive college training in classical piano literature. Gina painted the family court mural in the children's room of the New Cumberland, WV courthouse, and also led student volunteers in painting a 65-foot mural which resulted in a 1993 Wintersville, OH "Citizen of the Year" award.

Since retiring from full-time teaching 5 years ago, Gina exhibited extensively in 12 states and 22 shows that had a national or international screening, and recently received First Place in the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society *Waterworks 2019*. Her favorite media are acrylic on canvas, watercolor, and mixed-watermedia collage.

**K. Rose Quayle**  
Munhall  
[thebookofmoon.com](http://thebookofmoon.com)

K. Rose is a freelance artist working primarily in watercolor and pen and ink. She does artwork to benefit mental health groups and has recently published an illustrated novel, *The Book of Moon: An Lour ihn G'éalach*.



## 2019 Final Treasurer's and New Member's Report

by Treasurer/New Member Contact  
**Fred Carlson**

(Figures good through December 23, 2019)

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Income 2019</b>                       | \$13,278.40  |
| <b>Expenses 2019</b>                     | \$14,971.44  |
| <b>2019 Net Proceeds or (-) Deficit:</b> | - \$1,693.04 |
| <b>PSI Cash-On-Hand:</b>                 | \$11,535.20  |

## PSI Dues and Membership Report 2019

Membership 12.23.2019: **183 members**  
Full members 12.23.2019: **139 Full Members**  
Affiliate members and affiliate comp members: 44 (38 Affiliate and 6 Affiliate Comp members)  
Members deleted as of 12.23.2019: 11  
Members Upgraded from Affiliate to Full 2019: 1  
**PSI New Members 2019: 19**  
New members through 12/6/19: (11 Full-J Martino, D Rudy, A Wicker, C Bolan, P. Roden, K. Blevins, K. Malkin, N. Zivkovic, K. Fox, A. Kennawell and A. Zimmerman renewal) (8 Affiliate-M Swearman, M. Amitrone, A. Wagstaff, S. Webb, J. Wagner, J. Pena (Heberle), K. Rose Quayle, G. Judy)

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Sign in at [pittsburghillustrators.org](http://pittsburghillustrators.org)  
and click on "My Profile" then  
"My Work Samples" to update.



Digital illustration by Dan Wintermantel



## Share Your Work With Us!

The PSI Social Media Committee is always looking for content to populate our Instagram and Facebook feeds! Send a JPG image (less than 5MB, please) along with a detailed description to [news@pittsburghillustrators.org](mailto:news@pittsburghillustrators.org).

Not sure what makes a good social media post? Here are some possibilities:

- A current work-in-progress
- Your piece out in the wild (published in a magazine, seen on a billboard, a screenshot of your work used on a website, etc)
- Past work - for a #TBT (Throwback Thursday) or #FBF (Flash Back Friday)
- Any work relevant to an upcoming holiday (Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year, MLK day, etc)
- Upcoming events - gallery openings, open studios, shows, etc
- Recap of a relevant event
- We look forward to hearing about your work at [news@pittsburghillustrators.org](mailto:news@pittsburghillustrators.org). And if you're posting to your own accounts... be sure to tag us! Our instagram handle is: @pittsburghillustrators

## 2020 Planning Committee



PSI Board members (left to right) **June Edwards** (Secretary), **Lindsay Wright** (President), **Gary Ritchie** (Vice President), **John Blumen** (Exhibits Committee Co-Chairperson), **Andrew Pappas** (Programs Committee Chair), **Fred Carlson** (Treasurer, New Member Committee Contact), and **Kathy Rooney** (New Member Committee: Review Board Chairperson) met at the Abbey in Lawrenceville on January 22 to plan the BOI events and field trips for 2020, and to discuss various other PSI topics. The Board obtained lots of good BOI ideas from the 2019 membership survey — check Basecamp for updates and to give feedback on some of the possibilities.

## Special Recognition Awards

2019 PSI Volunteer Recognition Awards include a cash honorarium and are presented annually at Saturnalia for outstanding service. The honorees for 2019 are:

### Gary Ritchie: Vice-President

Gary not only stepped up and assumed the VP position last February when our previous VP resigned after 6 weeks, he has looked around corners all year helping out, especially on the technical side of web world like the Art Call system for our Student Scholarship Awards online submission process, as well as creating new intra-Board communication improvements.

### John Blumen: Exhibition Co-Chair

John took the initiative to place PSI into the awareness of the Stifel Fine Arts Center at the Oglebay Institute, the nation's oldest Arts Council, leading to our survey show wherein he did much of the technical work to assist Brian Fencil in the jurying. John also created the "To The Point!" critique series as a regularly scheduled program option to advise younger illustrators.

### Molly Thompson: Exhibition Co-Chair

Molly's co-chairmanship of the Stifel show was a large undertaking in a year when she was getting her substitute teaching certificate and also becoming Board Certified as a Medical Illustrator.

## Additional Acknowledgements

The Board and the entire body of PSI are indebted to the hard work of **Genevieve Barbee-Turner** for her work leading the social media team from the days of a hired consultant guiding us to an all-volunteer team coordinating together, and to **Andrew Pappas** for taking on the Program Chair leadership. Plus, the ongoing newsletter work of **Yelena Lamm** (production) and **Anni Matsick** (editor) is deeply appreciated. There's plenty of room for everyone to slide into a worthwhile position with PSI! **George Schill** took on the Scholarship Committee work and is looking forward to jurying our first online submission set of student work. He will be recruiting new jurors annually each fall so please say YES when asked! ALL PSI MEMBERS are asked to propose ideas for next year's meetings through the programs channel on Discord (see page X).

## Past Awards

The Special Recognition Awards for Volunteers began after the 20th-anniversary program in November 2017. That year's awards went to **Alex Patho Jr.** for long-time service as PSI event photographer and print resource for special documents; **Anni Matsick** for PSInside editorial work; **Yelena Lamm** for PSInside production design work. Awards for 2018 went to **April Hartmann** for leading the PSI trade show booth at the Pittsburgh Writers Convention; **Anni Matsick** for PSInside editorial work; **Yelena Lamm** for PSInside production design work; **John Blumen** for hosting Saturnalia as well as his ongoing service hosting picnics, meetings, and work on mentorship, programs, and exhibit graphics even with no specific position on the board.



## Figure Drawing Sessions

Wednesday evenings 7 to 9 \$10 fee

**John Pisarcik's studio**

Schoolhouse Art Center  
2600 South Park Road, Bethel Park 15102

[www.southartspittsburgh.org](http://www.southartspittsburgh.org)

## NEW: Monday Life Drawing Sessions

at Wilkins School Community Center

7604 Charleston Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15218

6:30 - 9:30 pm

\$10 per session

Single undraped pose in 25-minute intervals

Large third-floor heated room, access by stairs, chairs available

Street parking only, no on-site

Questions/RSVP: [facesbyjack@aol.com](mailto:facesbyjack@aol.com)



## Life Drawing Sessions in Highland Park

Thursday evenings 6pm - 9pm

\$15 model fee

**905 Studio by Yelena Lamm**

905 N. Saint Clair St. 3rd Floor,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

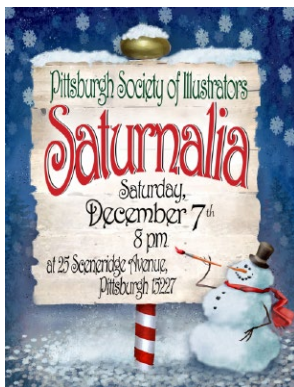
More information and RSVP:

[www.yelenalamm.com/life-drawing-sessions](http://www.yelenalamm.com/life-drawing-sessions)

Click here for  
more information about  
**FIGURE DRAWING IN  
PITTSBURGH!**



## Saturnalia 2019



The Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators wrapped up another great year in a gathering at the beautiful home of former VP and current Exhibits Co-chair, **John Blumen**.

The setting provided an opportunity for many relaxed

excellent discussions about projects completed and upcoming, peppered by compliments on the food, particularly citing the sweet and sour meatballs and homemade figgy pudding! PSI President **Lindsay Wright**, Treasurer **Fred Carlson**, and Secretary **June Edwards** gave

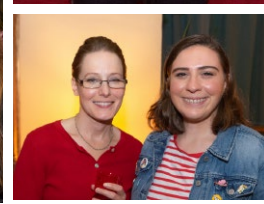
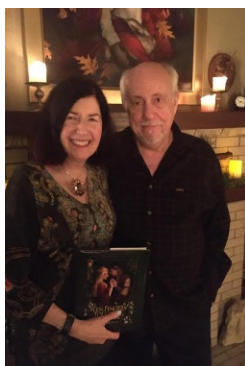


a brief year-in-review presentation and an overview of plans for next year. The names of PSI members receiving awards for outstanding volunteerism were then announced.

Lindsay stressed that all PSI members can suggest programs for the upcoming year and we have slots for 10 Business of Illustration meetings (every last Thursday of the month from January to October) PLUS field trips and other program ideas. Just let the Board know your ideas! And since there were no elections this winter, members can step up to be nominated for next winter's slate of officers for the 2021-2022 term.

Attendees - 33

President **Lindsay Wright** & Joe Durko, Treasurer **Fred Carlson**, Secretary **June Edwards**; full members **John Blumen**, **David Flynn**, **Frances Halley** & John Halley, **April Hartmann**, **Karl Huber**, **Yelena Lamm** & Nickolay Lamm, **Rhonda Libbey**, **Kurt Pfaff** & Megan Kelly, **Jim Mellett**, **Vince Ornato**, Screening Chair **Kathy Rooney**, **Dan Senneway**, **Christine Swann**, **Molly Thompson** & Vince Burns, **Gregg Valley**, **Phil Wilson**, **Ilene Winn-Lederer** & Jeff Lederer; affiliate members **Laura Garvin**, **Alex Patho Jr.**, **James Shipman**; guests Ellen Roth, Linda Varos, Brian Fencil (West Liberty U department chair and juror of PSI's Stifel Show).

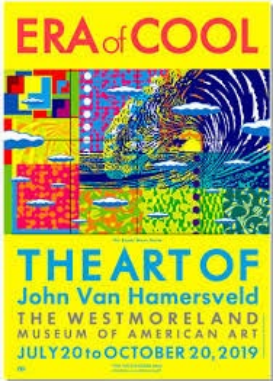


Photos: Alex Patho Jr.



Fred Carlson reports on...

# PSI Field Trip: Westmoreland Museum of Art



20 PSI members and spouses joined in a "field trip" experience to Greensburg's Westmoreland Museum of Art on the evening of Wednesday October 2, 2019 to meet and greet internationally known illustrator, designer, photographer **John van Hamersveld** of

Los Angeles. John met with visitors and fans for an hour before his talk. Many PSI members traded tech talk and had works by John signed by him. A documentary about John's career was shown first, a film short that has won numerous awards already in its short lifetime. Then John and curator Barbara Jones walked through 55 years of John's career: the Surfer/Artist, the Hippie, the Johnny Face, the Design Consultant, the Muralist...

During the 1967 to 1977 period, John was one of the most prolific designers/illustrators in the music industry. He was in Management at Capitol and at the same time running a free-lance studio all night. The list of top acts he worked for include: Blondie, the Rolling Stones, the Hendrix estate, Cream, Fabulous Thunderbirds, Leo Kottke, John Fahey, Jimmy McGriff, Claudia Linnear, Chaka Khan, Steve Miller, Jefferson Airplane and hundreds of others.

He did the branding for the 1984 LA Olympics, and the rollout of the expansion of Fatburgers chain which is now international. His work is



seen on everything from gigantic public murals to guitar picks. Surfboards to sneakers. Posters to t-shirts.

(l-r): **Nina Zivkovic, John Blumen** (Co-chair PSI exhibits committee), **Vince Ornato, Frances Halley, Jim Mellett, Judy Emerick, Gary Ritchie** (PSI VP), **Fred Carlson** (PSI Treasurer), **John van Hamersveld, Phil Wilson, Cindy Strosser, Mark Zingarelli, Wayno**. PSI members not pictured: **Vi Scarpone, Judy Lauso**. Others present: Pat Lauso, John Halley, John Emerick, Nancy Flury Carlson.

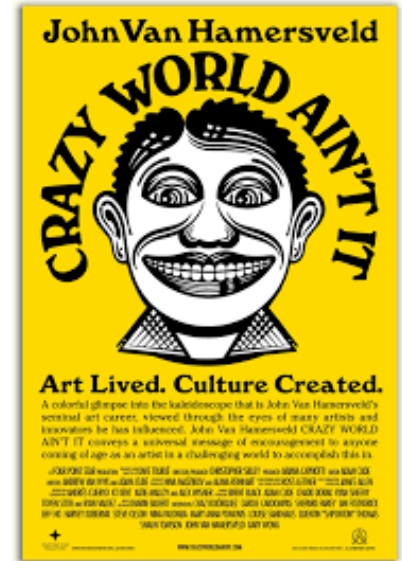
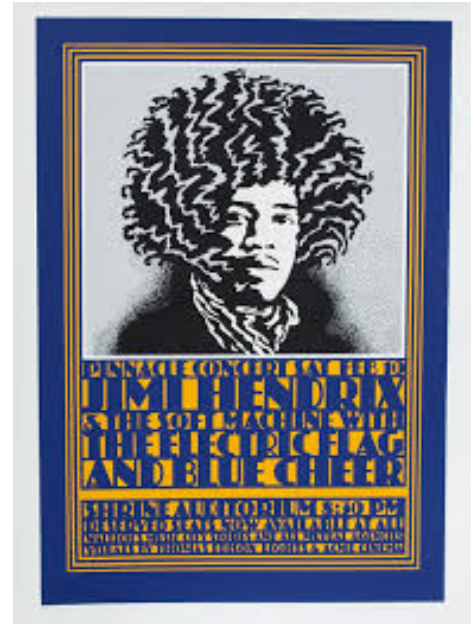


photo by Nancy Flury Carlson



## October BOI: Death and Taxes

Although a cold front with record rains earlier in the afternoon and winds gusting over 60mph kept the attendance down, the October 31 PSI Business of Illustration meeting included a spirited Halloween party adding to the atmosphere of the evening.



Speaker **Fred Carlson** (Treasurer and New Member Contact) gave an hour-long talk titled "Death and taxes." Fred presented techniques to streamline basic paperwork and accounting guidelines to make your creative illustration business more productive. Conquering the idea that managing income vs outgo in expenses and taxes is boring takes a little time, but Fred's talk gave people the foundation for looking at these tasks in a new way meant to enhance productivity, time management, and focus; with all helping the bottom line to make your career last longer.

Host **Karl Huber** opened up his wonderful newly remodeled home/studio/gallery space to PSI for the first time after a long construction process. His gallery, Gallery H, opens a clean storefront right on bustling Western Avenue on the North Side. Fred's talk was given in the living space at the foot of a classic Victorian stairwell. Halloween snacks and beverages were laid out in the dining room and kitchen. Attendees included: **Andy** (Robin Hood) **Pappas** (Programs Chair), **Lindsay** (Cool Cat) **Wright** (President), **Fred** (Swiss soccer player) **Carlson** (Treasurer), **Vince**



(Elwood Blues) **Ornato** (with toast), **Gabrielle** (Star Trek) **Burke**, **Karl** (Fez Meister) **Huber**, **Dan** (Foster Brooks) **Wintermantel**, **April** (Cat in the Hat) **Hartmann**, and Karl's mom Sally, who made everyone feel quite at home!

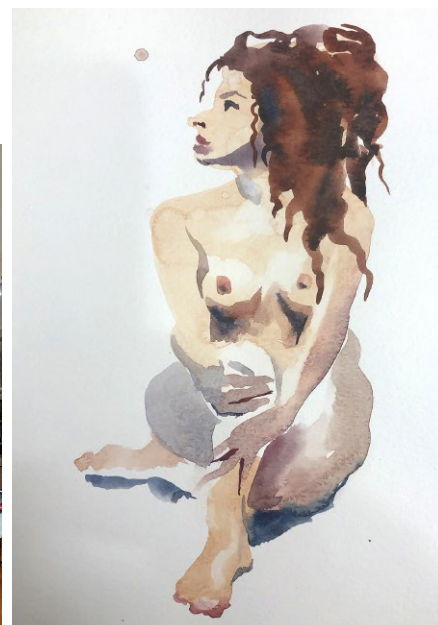
## January BOI: Figure Drawing

The year's first Business of Illustration meeting was hosted by **Yelena Lamm** in her 905 Studio in Highland Park, where artists gathered with their supplies for an evening devoted to life drawing. They discovered a "dream studio" with high ceilings, natural light, plenty of storage with artwork displays, and a kitchenette where everyone's shared goodies were offered. The 3-hour session began with short poses and ended with a 40-minute study. Yelena kept the session on track, playing chill jams and sharing stories and insight. Their model, Nicole, enjoyed seeing the different styles and techniques applied to the individual drawings. Yelena hosts long pose **figure drawing sessions** every Thursday, 6-9 pm. A different model is planned for each.

Attendees were PSI President **Lindsay Wright**, Programs Chair **Andrew Pappas**, Former VP **Genevieve Barbie-Turner**, **April Brust**, **Cassandre Bolan**, **John Wiegand**, **Yelena Lamm**, and **Sara Tang**.



Drawings by Lindsay Wright



Drawing by Yelena Lamm



## SECOND TUESDAY SOCIALS AT THE ABBEY!

*Hang out with colleagues, get feedback on new projects and marketing ideas, share trade talk, and just have fun!*



**Next  
PSI Social  
Gatherings:**  
February 11,  
March 10

Every month, PSI hosts our social from 6:30-9pm at The Abbey on Butler Street in Lawrenceville. There are 2 parking lots and plenty of on-street parking at this location near Allegheny Cemetery. We have a nice separate riser area past the bar in a comfortable open space, and the service is great! PSI provides the appetizers so you pay only for your beverages. All members should be getting a reminder email from the Board a day or two before the social, but remember the night is set in stone and should be marked in advance in your calendar!



*"I thoroughly enjoyed my first PSI Social and hearing about various members' experiences. It's so neat to meet so many with 'famous' connections! What a group! Always fun to gather with like-minded souls!"*  
Gina Judy

*"The PSI meetings are great to make new friends in the illustration community and forge meaningful connections. They inspire you to continue working, with all the friendly encouragement you get from the many wonderful PSI members."* Andrew Pappas

*"It's so interesting to talk to PSI members and see what they are doing. This is such a friendly group, too – a very enjoyable evening!"*  
June Edwards (Secretary 2019 - present)

*"I have been a member for a year and a half and finally made it to my first meeting - now I am hooked! What a great experience to be surrounded by pure creativity- I left inspired."*  
Lorrie Minicozzi

Photos: Hannah Garrison

## January Social

2020 began with a bang as mild weather encouraged a large turnout at the first social night for 2020. The Abbey did not forget about us as this was our first get-together since November in their welcoming space. The Board and others got a chance to begin outlining the program schedule for 2020 and we scheduled a follow-up planning meeting for the next week.

Attendees included: President **Lindsay Wright**, VP **Gary Ritchie**, Secretary **June Edwards**, Treasurer **Fred Carlson**, Program Chair **Andrew Pappas**, Scholarship Chair **George Schill**, Exhibition Co-Chair **John Blumen**, Social Media Chair **Genevieve Barbee-Turner**.

Full members **Lorrie Minicozzi**, **Gregg Valley**, **Rhonda Libbey**, **Mark Bender**, **Phil Wilson**, **Vince Ornato**, and **Christine Swann** joined affiliate members **Gina Judy**, **Alex Patho, Jr.** and new member prospect Mimi Albon.



(l-r) Lorrie Minicozzi, Gina Judy, Secretary June Edwards, Christine Swann; (foreground) Vince Ornato



President Lindsay Wright, new member prospect Mimi Albon, Program Chair Andrew Pappas



B (l-r) Scholarship Chair George Schill, Mark Bender, Exhibition Co-Chair John Blumen, Phil Wilson, Gregg Valley



VP Gary Ritchie, Social Media Chair Genevieve Barbee-Turner



Rhonda Libbey, Alex Patho, Jr.



## Spotlight on... Watercolor Winners

*It was another festive full house, celebrating the opening reception for Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's 73rd Annual Aqueous Open Exhibition.*

Bellevue resident **Bill Vrscak** was held up in traffic en route to the Spinning Plate Gallery in East Liberty the evening of Saturday, October 4. He arrived on the threshold just as the Cad Scarlet Award was being announced, envelope extended, naming him the winner. Soon after, Second Place was announced, going to **Anni Matsick**. That was followed by Best of Show, claimed by **Ron Thurston**. The three are also longtime members of Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators.

Both Bill and Ron are recognized internationally, and have earned a long list of prestigious society letters, like AWS,\* NWS,\*\* and TWSA,\*\*\* to follow their names. They are highly sought as jurors and for workshops, and awards for their own paintings are regular occurrences (evidenced by the listings in this issue's On Exhibit section). Relatively new to gallery exhibits, Anni values them as mentors who generously offered comments when she began entering shows about six years ago. "No vignetting!" is one she recalls from both, when seeing an early painting of a child's figure floating on the page. That advice pushed her to think more about applying backgrounds and edges, now a significant part of her compositions. Finding herself standing between these field giants for a snapshot was a heady moment.

This year's 73rd Annual Aqueous included 52 works from the 210 submitted by artists from around the globe. Among those chosen were 26 works from the greater Pittsburgh area and the other 26 from 19 states, and 2 from other countries. Juror Frank Eber selected 12 for over \$5,000 in total cash and prize awards.

A celebration of the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's 75th anniversary year is taking place in 2020, with a number of special events planned. Follow updates on the [PWS website](https://www.pittsburghwatersocietysociety.org/).

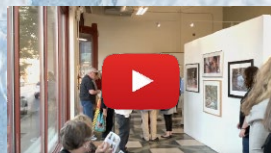
\*American Watercolor Society

\*\*National Watercolor Society

\*\*\*Transparent Watercolor Society of America



Juror for the show and prizes was **Frank Eber**. While in town to select award winners, he presented a 4-day landscape painting workshop at Andrew Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie. [www.frankeber.com](http://www.frankeber.com)



[Watch the video](#) filmed at the Aqueous Opening Reception on October 4 by Victor Beltran.

Article: Anni Matsick; Design: Yelena Lamm



L-R: Bill Vrscak, Anni Matsick, Ron Thurston  
(photo by Gina Judy)

### BEST OF SHOW

*Archie and Sidney*

(11"x15")

Ron Thurston



### SECOND PLACE

*Dreamscape with Wading Pool*

(11.5"x14.5")

Anni Matsick



### CAD SCARLET AWARD

*The Bus Stops Here*

(12"x21")

William Vrscak





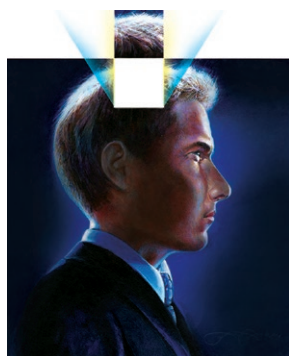
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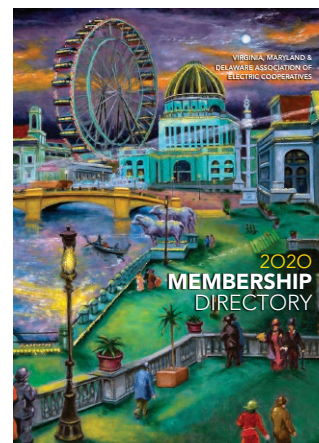
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1. **John Weigand's** most recent 16"x13" colored pencil drawing, *Longshot*, is 4th in a series of 5 drawings for the **Kiski School**. It shows some of the students playing ultimate frisbee on the Quad in front of Heath Hall (the main school building).
2. New affiliate member **K. Rose Quayle** sent this sample of her recent ink line work. The illustration is an opener page from her book, titled *The Book of Moon*, available on Amazon.
3. This 18"x24" acrylic painting was completed in August by **Phil Wilson**. *Psittacosaurus* (pronounced 'Sit-tack-o-saurus, the "P" is silent) was a relatively small dinosaur at a length of 6 to 7 feet long, with a row of quills or spines running down its tail. It was an early relative of the more familiar Triceratops.
4. *Holiness* (9"x12") is the latest example of **Anthony Colaizzi's** exploration into pastel painting. This piece was inspired by the Jewish High Holidays as part of his work with a local synagogue.
5. This illustration by **John Blumen** was done for a short story included in a recent issue of *DreamForge*, a magazine of science & fantasy fiction published by Scott and Jane Noel.
6. **Ron Mahoney** recently finished these illustrations for the packaging, cans and bottles for IC Light by Pittsburgh Brewing Company. He did work for the account in the 1970s and the new agency sought him out for this update. The blowup of his illustration of a Steeler touchdown celebration is on the wall at Lefty's bar in the Strip District.
7. This transparent watercolor by new affiliate member **Gina Judy** was on display at the Tuscarawas Center for the Arts in December. *Cantilever Balconies At Fallingwater* (26"x32") was done in October en plein-air to potentially be a part of a coordinated Pittsburgh Watercolor Society show in 2020.
8. *INNOVATION* is an editorial corporate illustration by **Jim Prokell**, done in acrylic on board.
9. *Understanding Business Working Styles* was done by Jim as an editorial illustration for the business journal *McKenna International Review*.
10. Jim painted these pets for collector clients. *Joey* and *Trixie* were done in oil on canvas. *Lucy* was done in watercolor.
11. **Vince Ornato** was solicited by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electrical Cooperatives (VDMAC) to buy reproduction rights for his painting, *Tesla and Westinghouse Power America-the 1893 Chicago World's Fair*, for its membership directory. They also bought rights to use a reproduction of the painting for the wall of their new facility. The original 28"x35" oil painting on canvas is part of a series of paintings by Vince that represent the history of manufacturing in America. The client is Frank Ruscetti, owner of Harvest Financial.

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12. The first 1,500 students who entered the University of Pittsburgh's Cyber-security Scarehouse this Halloween got a free t-shirt with **Vince Dorse's** spooky Cathedral of Learning design. "This project is a highlight of the year for me. So much fun drawing monsters for a living....it's really everything 10 year old me dreamed about," Vince says. This was his 3rd time to create the shirt.

13. Vince's art for the the Halloween/Election Guide cover for the Pittsburgh City Paper portrays Allegheny County D.A. Stephen Zappala as the twins from *The Shining*.

14. Vince's ghost-a-day Haunted Mansion project turned into a small print-run of posters that was featured on BoingBoing and some Disney blogs.

15. Vince did a 2-page spread of carica-

ture/sequential art for the Creighton University Alumni Magazine to honor a featured graduate.

16. This ornate owl is **Rhonda Libey's** print-of-the-month for February on her **Patreon** site.

17. **Fred Carlson's** recent illustration commission for Cindy Porter, a national-class mountain dulcimer player from Corbin, Kentucky. The job was done within 3 days after receiving the assignment with inks, graphite, watercolor and gouache and digital color.

18. Fred's Tampa Red illustration was done for a new Guitar Workshop DVD-all hand lettering done in the artwork itself by Fred. Job was done within 12 days after receiving the assignment with inks, graphite, watercolor and gouache and digital color.

19. This Illustration was done by Fred for the Marvellous Hearts of Sydney Australia for their new release *Babble On!* Artwork is used on Spotify download site, for packaging, for merchandise and for advertising. The job was done within 4 days after receiving the assignment with inks, graphite, watercolor and gouache and digital color.

20. Fred illustrated the famed blues duo Wilson & White playing at the packed Beneath Driver Lane underground cellar club in Melbourne. The image was used in advertisements for the band and in ads for the club. The illustration scene has become so popular in Australia that there was a recent order for 5 of the Driver Lane posters from **Fred's retail shop**.

21. France's Robert Koch, the sponsor and promoter of the European Music Workshops series out of Strasbourg,

commissioned Fred to create this whimsical logo artwork for his **BLUES-FROG PRODUCTIONS** that will be the new umbrella organization over all his enterprises involving concert and music educational events. Robert reached out to Fred 2 1/2 years ago for jobs after seeing Fred's Muddy Waters DVD cover for Guitar Workshop. These 3 comps are first draft designs in black & white for the client to work from.

22. This portrait by Fred is done in watercolors and inks. The subject is Georg Schroeter, keyboardist extraordinaire, who will be joining the European Music Workshops festival lineup this summer. The previous 4 musicians in the series were illustrated by Fred and were shared in the Fall 2018 issue of PSInside.

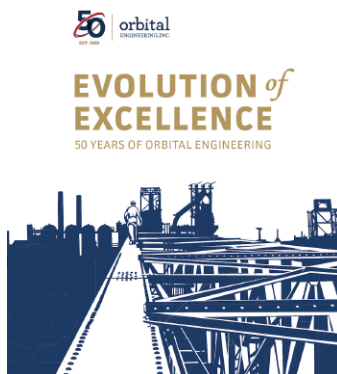
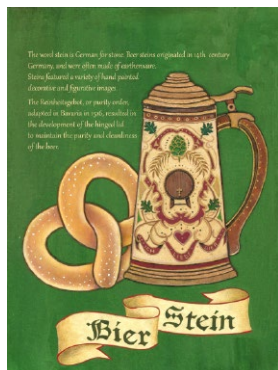
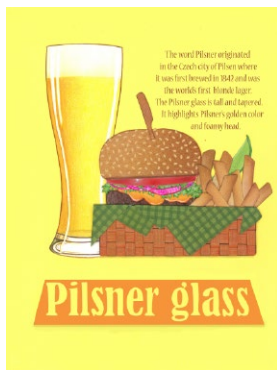
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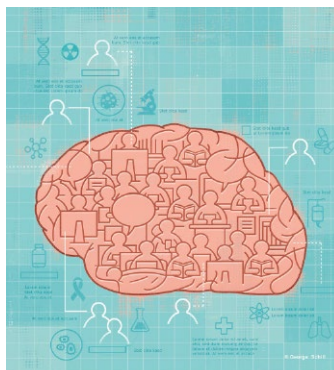


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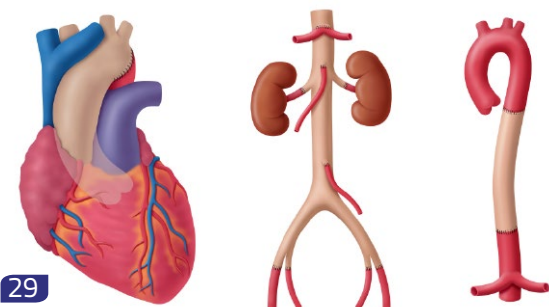


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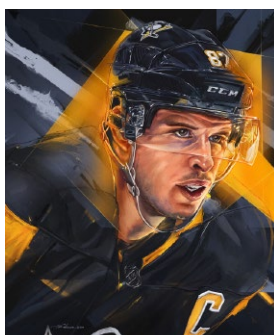
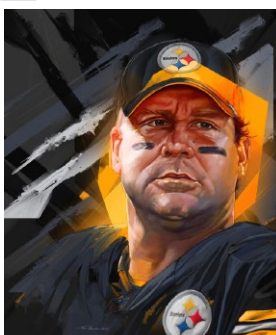


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23. "I was channeling Brad Holland," says **Dave Biber** about this piece from a panel discussion, whose topic describes a future perspective of how one operates in a potential cyber future. Developed from a pencil sketch, to Adobe Illustrator, completed in Adobe Photoshop.

24. This cover and inside illustration by **Hilary Schenker** are digital works done for a 50th anniversary book for Orbital Engineering.

25. Hilary's 9"x12" watercolor on paper portrait of a rabbit was done as a commission.

26. **Frances Halley** was recently accepted as a member of the **Guild of American Papercutters**, located in Somerset, Pennsylvania. The first 2 in a series of illustrations featuring beer and beer vessels are among other images featured on her member page.

27. **George Schill's** image for *OnsVoice* Magazine cover relates to oncology

nurses responsible for identifying the best methods in educating patients with the way they learn.

28. This new illustration by **Ilene Winn-Lederer** appears in an early-December blog post, *A Creative Dilemma*, with a [link](#) to the essay on *Imaginarius*.

29. **Molly Thompson** created these vascular graft images in Photoshop for a transplantation product company in Virginia. They're poster sized for trade

show booths and also to be used in standard size trifold brochures.

30. These recent portfolio additions by **Thomas Hoover** are 20"x24" digital pieces created in Painter.

31. Here are some results from a December holiday party gig where **John Manders** entertained with caricatures of the guests.

32. *Girlfriends* is latest in a series of 30"x12" oil on canvas paintings **Yelena Lamm** is currently working on.