

This issue:

Member News	p.1
PSI AIP Awards	p.4
Meeting Recap	p.3
WPaSCBWI Report	p.4
Spotlight	p.6
Behind the Brush	p.7



Editor: Anni Matsick
Design & Production:
Yelena Lamm

My Spot

Anni Matsick

Glimpses of seasonal landscapes grace the cover of our last issue for the year. During that time, members flocked to twelve months of monthly socials, culminating with the perennially popular Saturnalia holiday celebration on a frosty December 14. As reported on page 4, the usual room upstairs was devoted to the musically inclined who brought their instruments to jam. This month's Spotlight focuses on one of them, a familiar guitarist who never misses this chance during holiday season to mix music with fellow illustrators. The story on page 5 tells how that ability flows into his assignments.

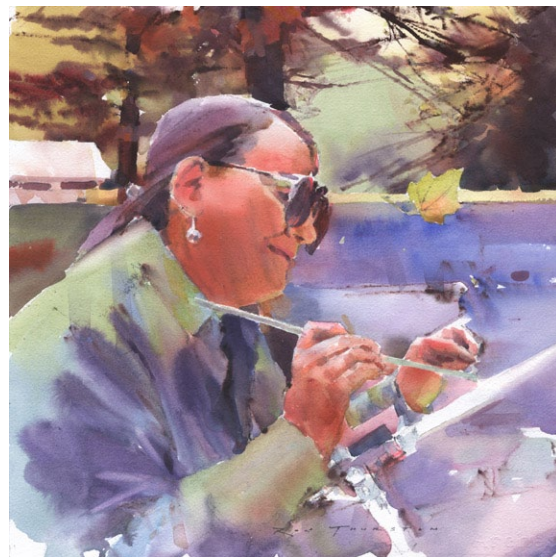
Talents were united again for the latest batch of Illustrators Ale, with three PSI members contributing their artistry for the labels. See all six in the release party photos on page 3.

Don't miss details on how to pay your 2014 dues, covered on page 5. Stay involved as we look ahead to more exciting things planned for 2014!



Remembered Well

This memorial portrait of Susan M. Brimo-Cox, a board member and instructor at Touchstone Center For Crafts, was done by **Ron Thurston**. It will permanently hang in the new glass studio when completed. Ron was invited by Watercolor Artist Magazine to do a feature article for their April 2014 issue. In addition to seven or so paintings they will show some side paint palette scraps and his thoughts on color placement.



Books

Hanna Garrison is working on art for a client's book for children. The nature book focuses on the life cycle of a leaf, and goes through the seasons in a deciduous forest. This spread, done in gouache, describes the sugars coming from the tree.

Books continued on page 2...



Winter Spread

Kit Paulsen's latest illustration for the winter "Table" magazine goes with a story about learning to love winter through the sport of snowshoeing.

If your New Year's resolution is to learn to paint in watercolor, take Kit's upcoming class "The Figure in the Landscape," February 4 and 11, 2014 at the McMurray Art League studio. More info on her [website](#).



Books continued from page 1...



Susan Castriota and Wilson were back in DC on December 7, signing copies of her book *Wilson and the White House Pups*.^{*} The first was held at the National Airport as part of the program series for Smithsonian Holiday Festival: Experience the Mall with More! Quite the little sales magnet, Wilson helped in getting "amazing" sales at the airport, according to Susan. "People took so many photos of Wilson and he loved it! The store's manager wanted me to come back the next week, but I told her I was booked until Christmas, so she and the Smithsonian want us back for cherry blossom time." Susan also did local signings during December at Fifth Avenue Place, South Hills Village, and the Galleria.

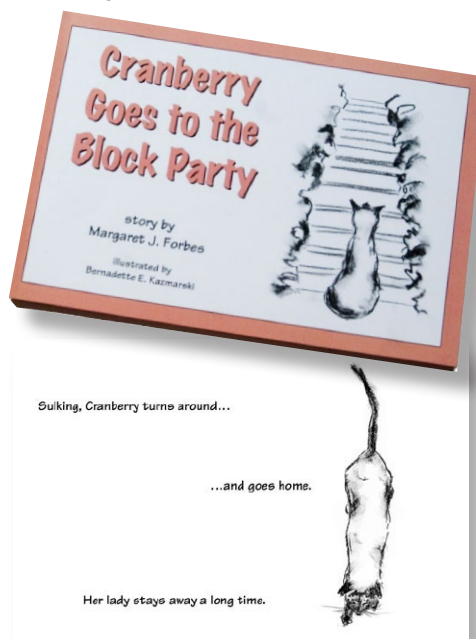


Susan's new book *Wilson & Bella's Big Apple Adventure!* is now available for sale. Macy's is featured in the story and art, and is considering purchasing a supply to sell in their stores in 2014.

^{*} See *PSInside's* September 2012 Spotlight for their earlier adventure.

"Pastelbord" with a mix of soft pastels and pastel pencils and drew at 9x12.

Cranberry Goes to the Block Party is another book designed and illustrated by Bernadette for client Margaret J. Forbes.



On Exhibit

Mary Dunn has four paintings on display at Jefferson Hills Library with the South Hills Arts League, through January 14. Included is one of her grandson, "Santa Baby."



Worth Noting

Here are the links for a two part interview that



Phil Wilson was asked to do recently for Cindy Wider's blog in England. Phil says, "I was very flattered and honored to be approached to do this interview, but have to remember not to get caught up in my own 'hype'!!

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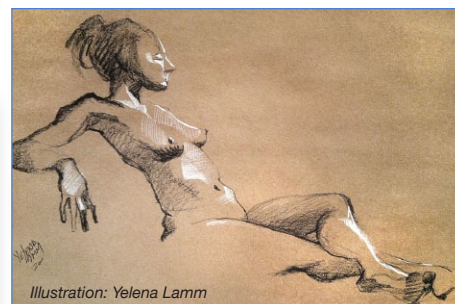


Illustration: Yelena Lamm

Life Drawing at Panza Gallery

Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm \$10

Coffee, pastries & drinks served.

Enter basement gallery on left side of building.
http://www.panzagallery.com/Panza_Gallery/Life_Drawing.html

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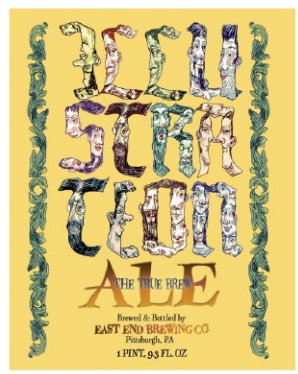
1930 East Carson Street, Southside
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* Discount can not be combined with any other offer, does not apply to clearance or sale items, Gift cards, BEST BUYS, Furniture, Lighting, and items designated as nondiscountable.

2013 Edition Illustration Ale



Ilene's design contains letters formed from an original alphabet she designed called Garrulous Gothic. It was based a font called SchachtstiefelKaputt by the German font designer Manfred Klein.



Pittsburgh's Toonseum was the setting on the evening of December 5 for a lively gathering of fans and supporters of the cartoon museum and East End Brewery to celebrate the release of EEB's 2013 Edition of Illustration Ale. This marks the third year that six local illustrators and designers were commissioned by East End Brewery's Scott Smith and Toonseum Board Member and cartoonist **Wayno** to design custom labels for their special dark microbrew. Among those are three members of PSI; **Sarah Miller**, **Nora Thompson** and **Ilene Winn-Lederer**.

Other labels were done by Jessica Heberle, Strawberry Luna and Lizzee Solomon. Each illustrator provided giclee prints of their original work for sale at the reception and members may be contacted through PSI to purchase additional prints.

Nora's Square Kat painting has a separate board she painted with the paw holding the stein, united in Photoshop. "I was in the process of painting the large image when I got an email from Wayno asking me to do a label," Nora explains. "The original painting will be part of a calendar of 'Square Kats.' This is my 'April Fool.'"

Sarah's illustration was shown earlier in Behind the Brush, with a note that she enjoyed having time to explore some personal painting.



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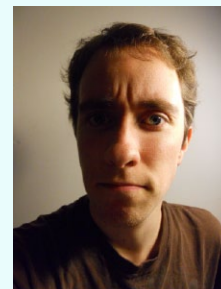
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New Affiliate Member

Sean Smith, Greensburg

Sean is a painter and caricature artist originally from Maryland. He moved to the Pittsburgh area to attend Seton Hill University in Greensburg, where he will be graduating in May of 2014 with a BA in Studio Art.



Sean heard about PSI through the Internet and began coming to meetings almost two years ago. An avid self-starter, he also set up a studio visit schedule of PSI members that gave him college credit for his extensive work visiting working illustrators. He stepped in as an intern and helped with our google doc membership transfer of data last spring and with some tasks related to the large exhibition.

Fred Carlson reports on:

Saturnalia 2013

John Blumen once again hosted a rollicking end-of-year soiree!



The sixteenth Annual Saturnalia PSI Holiday Party was held Saturday, December 14 at the roomy estate of former VP **John Blumen**. Members, prospective members, clients, and significant others crowded John's warm home to partake of the culinary spread and beverage delights, and to celebrate another year of PSI friendship and excellence. The weather forecasts all day went back and forth between snow, freezing rain, and rising temperatures and kept some of our northern and eastern members at home, and might have kept some of the crowd down a little, but the ambiance was certainly on a par with past fests.

Jim Mellett was honored in absentia for his fifteen years as member secretary. Jim has been member secretary since our first board of directors was elected in January, 1998. He is a prime reason why our communications and member retention have been so easily managed and successful over the years. His years of service to PSI were noted to thunderous applause from the assembled crowd.

In the formal announcing of the recent online election results, President **Evette Gabriel** congratulated **Molly Feuer** for stepping up to take over Jim's secretary post, as well as announcing the re-election of **Gina Antognoli** to her tenth year as Treasurer. Thanks to Gina and Molly! Gina was vocally thanked in absentia as well.

The by-laws vote change allowing a dues increase for full members from \$55 to \$75 and affiliate members from \$25 to \$35 annually passed with 59 yes votes to 4 no. This represents a 50% response from our full membership, which is slightly better than most turnouts for registered voters in Presidential elections! Our membership understood the need for the increase and spoke with unity and purpose on this issue. PSI dues have remained the same level since 2003. VP

Ashley Cecil outlined the intended work on the website to happen in 2014 and her plan for filing an economic grant application to help with the website funding.

The upstairs jam session of the Phil-Harmonix (dubbed by the ever-humorous **George Schill**) featured three sets of classic folk and rock tunes played by lead singer **Phil Wilson**, guitarists **Fred Carlson** and **Craig Jennion**, bassist **Steve Dunn** (husband of Mary Dunn) and guest percussionist, our one ringer, **Chris Belin** (friend of the Dunns).

Besides the members' names mentioned above, PSI logo designer **Ron Magnes**, Scholarship Chair **Rhonda Libbey**, New Member Screening Committee Chair **Kathy Rooney** and Ray Sokolowski, ASIP rep **Ilene Winn-Lederer** and Jeff Lederer, and new members **Hannah Garrison**

and **Micah Benson** were in attendance. Other member attendees included **Kelly Ackerman** and Tim Robertson, former President/PR Director **Rick Antolic**, PSInside designer **Yelena Lamm**, **Pat Lewis**, **Nathan Mazur**, **Beth O'Neill**, **Vince Ornato**, photographer **Alexander Patho, Jr.**, and **Kurt Pfaff**.

Prospects **Devin Taylor** and **Marina Mozhayeva** mingled easily with the other guests and were in the presence of excellence as it was announced that Rick Antolic's famous apple pie would be placed in retirement status after this year's Saturnalia. (Thanks for sharing it over the sixteen years, Rick!) Finally, this author apologizes in advance for anyone I left out of the "seen" list; I was preoccupied for lots of the party, picking upstairs on my '57 Strat and 1907 F-2 Gibson mandolin... I may have missed seeing you!

Catch a [1:14 minute video](#) of the Philharmonics (l-r, Chris Belin, **Craig Jennion**, **Fred Carlson**, **Phil Wilson** and Steve Dunn) by Ray Sokolowski.



Photos by Alexander Patho Jr.

Voting Results

Last month, full members were asked via email to vote on 2014 board positions as well as a proposed dues increase. The results are in.

On board positions, **Molly Feuer** will serve as our new Secretary. A special thanks to our past Secretary, **Jim Mellett**, for his fifteen years of service! **Gina Antognoli** will continue her post as Treasurer.

The board also proposed a dues increase to \$75 for full members and \$35 for affiliates. Of the 61 participates, 57 voted yes while 4 voted no. With the overwhelming support, the dues increase will take effect for 2014 and on. Thank you for your support!

Increase In Member Dues and How You Benefit

The Board recently received five bids to redesign and improve the functionality of our organization's website to better serve you. PSI is hiring Lava New Media for the job because they offered an exciting product for the best price. Here's a sneak peek at some of the member benefits you can look forward to:

- As a full member, you will be able to login and update your own portfolio.
- A new content management system (CMS) will make the site easier and more cost effective to manage and promote.
- Clients will be able to use a new search tool to quickly find what they're looking for and save collections of their favorite PSI members.
- We will be able to track where visitors are going on our site, how they found us, and much more.
- Our site will be viewable on all mobile devices.

The 2014 dues increase will go directly to fund the website redesign and we are looking to secure the remaining balance through grant funding. Beyond 2014, the dues increase will offset future costs of events, shows, speakers, and more.

2014 PSI Dues Reminder

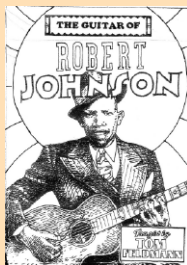
PSI DUES ARE DUE BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND MARCH 1 ANNUALLY.

The amount due is \$75 for full members and \$35 for affiliates.

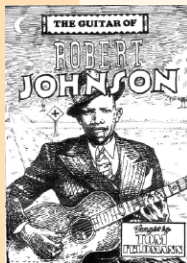
Anyone wishing to pay dues via PayPal can do so on the link on the home page of our website. The email address for making PayPal payments is treasury@pittsburghillustrators.org or mail a check payable to "PSI" for the amount due to Gina Antognoli, PSI Treasurer, 439 Lark Tree Circle, Bridgeville PA 15017. If you have questions about your dues amount, contact Gina at antognolistudio@gmail.com or gina@antognoli.net or call 412.320.9734.

Spotlight on... Fred Carlson

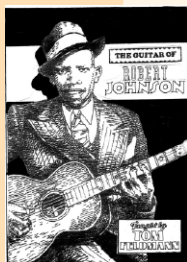
Fred's skill on the guitar is displayed annually at PSI's Saturnalia, when members have a chance to jam. That musical sense informs his work for the Guitar Workshop DVD series and led to a coveted assignment.



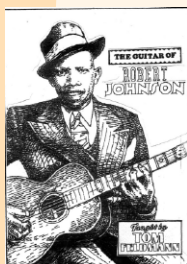
A



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Fred was awarded this assignment of the Robert Johnson 3-DVD cover art for Stefan Grossman's Guitar Workshop from a field of many illustrators vying for the job, presented to him on November 13 of this year. A number of earlier illustrations for the very satisfied client led to Fred being the one chosen. Although Fred heard about this project being in production as far back as September 2012, he knew there were lots of people angling for the host/teacher's role and the cover art assignment. Johnson's popularity guarantees a visibility in the market far beyond some of the other roots musicians Fred has illustrated.

Fred has illustrated Robert Johnson twice before and was familiar with the only two known photo references that exist of this legendary bluesman. Johnson's music being well-known throughout rock circles (Cream, the Stones, Led Zeppelin, and Lucinda Williams among many have covered his material) makes him a prime challenge as a personality portrait assignment.

After considering many options, Fred showed the client the four rough

sketches labeled here as A-D and idea A was chosen. It was also Fred's slight favorite.

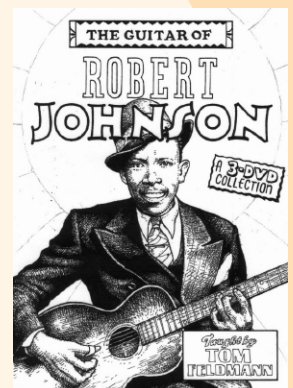
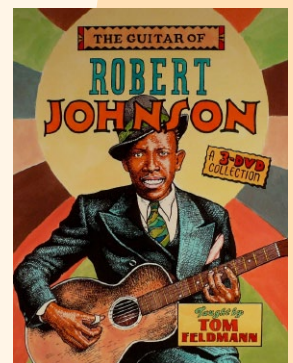
The tight b/w sketch was okayed with no changes. The full color finished job was completed on November 23, just ten days after it was assigned, and sent to NJ for scanning.

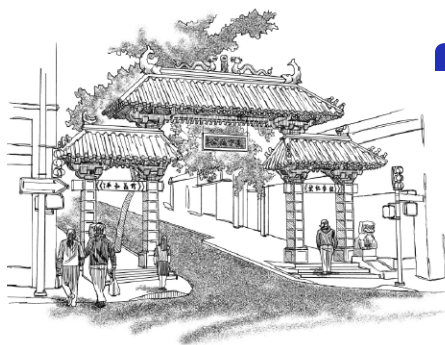
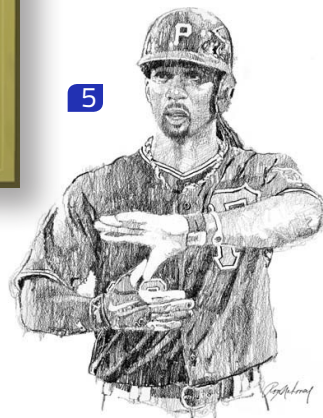
Fred shares his thoughts on the project: "I'm glad we could follow up on this direction of the background behind Robert – I wanted the art deco forms and colors to place him in his particular time in history. The design of the graphics emanating from the circle around him illustrate a few themes I wanted to convey – almost all guitarists are drawn like moths to a flame by Johnson's technical brilliance and songwriting, but watch it! As Eric Clapton states, some of his material is too powerful to be covered or copied. So the aspect of drawing things to him is manifest in this design, almost like the rays of emanation from the Jimi Hendrix portrait on *Axis: Bold As Love*. Robert was, in retrospect, almost as influential to modern guitarists as Hendrix although Robert was not known nationally during his own life.

I also was glad I could do an upbeat color scheme since I know Robert covered a lot of pop and swing tunes while playing his juke joint tours in the south (mainly in western Mississippi, eastern Arkansas, southeastern Missouri, and west Tennessee) so it wasn't all depressing blues and film noir darkness around him – though certainly that was the dominant theme that prevailed in his life – the loss of his first wife and child in childbirth when he was 19, the stunted recording legacy that only produced four session dates in his entire life, and his death by poisoning at age 27.

His death came at the cusp of being nationally discovered for the 1939 Spirituals to Swing series at Carnegie Hall. Al Lomax discovered a young McKinley Morganfield (later known as Muddy Waters) at Stovall's Plantation, Clarksdale, Mississippi, on that scouting trip and the delta blues baton was passed to a new generation of players who within five years amped up and urbanized the sound in Chicago."

All of Fred's latest music assignments are seen with other recent work at his new [website](http://www.fredcarlson.com).





1. **Vince Dorse** did the Thanksgiving week cover for Pittsburgh City Paper.

2. Completed in November, St. Dominic is **Charles Lucas'** latest icon commission. The 14x36 icon is done in acrylic on a wood panel, with the raised frame portion at 1.38" wide by 0.75" thick while the center portion is 0.5" thick.

3. "Barge on the Monongahela River" by **Susan Castriota** appears on a 2013 Christmas card being sold as a fund raiser for Operation Santa Claus and is available in many stores in Pittsburgh. The original art is a pen & ink base, with watercolor, Prismacolor

and acrylic.

4. This parody t-shirt of Cheech and Chong from *Up In Smoke* was done by **Brian Allen** for an apparel company. It's produced in two different color schemes for a dark and light shirt and set up for silk-screening in four colors. The shirt is available for [purchase](#).

5. This portrait of Andrew McCutchen doing the "Zoltan" was commissioned from **Ron Mahoney** by R.P.M. Auctions.

6. This commissioned portrait by **Judith Lauso** of a family pet is a 16x20 pastel on board, completed as a

Christmas gift.

7. "Visions of Sugar Plums" is Judith's holiday image printed for holiday card. The original watercolor was completed digitally.

8. **John Hinderliter** recently finished illustrating a book about Pompeii for Penguin Books and is working on two others. One is on the topic of the Statue of Liberty and here are two pieces from a book on Bruce Lee.

9. John sent this seasonal promo piece to clients.

10. **Fred Carlson** did this drawing of Albert Chu, a prodigy now attend-

ing Stanford wrote the FINIS column for the Winter 2014 issue. The b/w drawing is assigned to him quarterly for the Phillips-Exeter Academy alumni magazine.

11. Fred's portrait of Christine Walley, MIT anthropologist, is for the Table Talk extended interview column of the magazine, which tells of her creating a historical interactive website to gather history of the southeast Chicago steel mill areas now totally devoid of industry and populace, being reclaimed by wetlands and new use industry. The website's name, Exit Zero, comes from the exit to the area that is exactly on the Illinois/Indiana state line.



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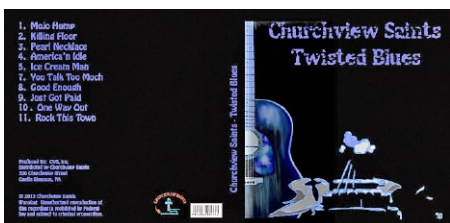
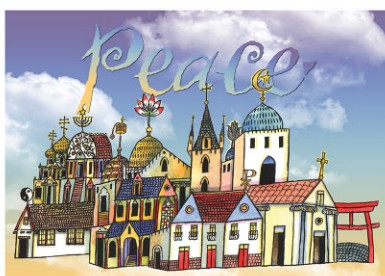
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12. The is first draft in an approval phase for **Patty Lipinski's** design for her local community garden within the Pittsburgh area to be implemented in Spring 2014. The project is currently in its planning phase with the company Grow Pittsburgh. Grow Pittsburgh aids each community in teaching people how to garden by growing food and therefore promoting the benefits of community sharing within the neighborhood.

13. For The Washington Post, **Taylor Gallery** created this art for "The Other Washington" – four companies thrive in work not tied to the federal government. The story asks, "Can they show the way toward a more diversified local

economy?" Art Director was Madia Brown.

14. Taylor created this cover for the December 9 issue of Advertising Age.

15. Here's more of Taylor's art, for The Wall Street Journal December Best Buys including items such as Barbie, Legos, DVDs, NFL gear and tickets, and gift cards. Art Director Mark Tyner has had him illustrate this column for the past year.

16. Recent greeting cards by **Ilene Winn-Lederer** are available online at **Greeting Card Universe**.

17. **Anni Matsick** completed this 14x14.5 watercolor portrait of young

siblings for a client, in time for Christmas giving.

18. One of the last two assignments **Mary Dunn** worked on for her class in graphic illustration was to create a CD or DVD cover. "I decided on the CD cover for the band my husband is in, Churchview Saints," she says.

19. **Christine Swann** is working on a 48x56 pastel painting showing the client's husband with their four sons, fly-fishing. The surface is UArt 500 grit, buff-colored. A gallery mounted the roll to a half-inch archival Gatorboard. "I was originally going to paint the surface on masonite, but since the UArt roll was 54" wide, I got it to fit. I began with pastels and then used a

brush with clean water to blend for the underpainting. A lot of dust tends to kick up so I wear a mask. At the end of the day I let the HEPA filter run for a bit without me being in the room." She is doing the painting in two "halves" finishing the top and spraying it, then working on the middle ground and figures in the second stage, to minimize dust transfer and falling particles.

20. New Member **Sean Smith** shares a few caricatures.

21. "Venetian Lace" is one of a series of floral still lifes **Yelena Lamm** is working on for an upcoming spring show at the International Images, Ltd. gallery in Sewickley.