

# PSI Inside

www.pittsburghillustrators.org



## This issue:

Member News	p.1
Meetings Recap	p.4
Spotlight	p.6
Behind the Brush	p.7

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## My Spot

Anni Matsick

Green signals spring, and it's also the color of a mint julep, which you'll read more about on page 5, where one of PSI's top brass shows her art created for a commemorative liter bottle! These pages are packed, so here's a short list of highlights: Member News shows many of us have been out and about, sharing

## H is for Hops

Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. has contracted with **Mark Brewer** to publish his first book, *Brewology, An Illustrated Dictionary for Beer Lovers*. In his primer on the topic, Mark presents an alphabet of terms and definitions, accompanied by his fanciful images. Release is scheduled for spring, 2015.



## Dino Prints

**Jeff Brunner** was awarded an Emerging Artist Scholarship to exhibit at this year's *Three Rivers Arts Festival* June 6-10. He will show new drawings and paintings and some older work as giclée prints. Included in Jeff's display will be "T-Rex," 7.5"x9.5" acrylic and watercolor on watercolor paper.

## Light Reading

**Culture Street** highlighted this illustration by **Nora Thompson** in their latest post: Reading in the air. "We came across your illustrations and absolutely adore them," was the message Nora received from the blog's creators. The weekly "picture perfect" feature is used to post images that reflect the site – books, film or theatre.

talents on school visits and exhibiting in galleries. Four demonstrated their digital skills at PSI's monthly meeting, covered on page 4. Seven took a road trip to a great art museum and gathered for the photo on page 3.

Page 2 tells about those who have won awards recently, both regional and national and, on page 3, an award winning artist who has spent years of recording Pittsburgh scenes joins the group.

Behind the Brush has the diverse mix we've come to expect, showing art from printed media including book, newspaper, CD and magazine covers, a map, commissioned paintings and personal projects. It's hard to decide what page to look at first. Take time to relax and peruse them all, with a beverage of your favorite color!



## On Exhibit

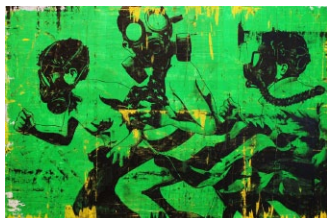
A retrospective show by alumnus **Mark Bender** will hang this summer at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). *Pencil Paint Pixel* covers art done over the 29 years since his graduation. It will hang June 7-July 26 at June 7 through July 26 at John Sutton Hall, where he interned as a student in their promotions department in 1983. Mark is an Indiana native and earned a BFA as a Studio Arts major in Graphic Design with a minor in Drawing. The opening reception is set for June 12. Museum hours are Wednesdays 11am-7 pm, Thursdays 3-7 pm and Saturdays 1-5 pm.



After experimenting with textile design, **Ashley Cecil** was invited to participate in this year's *Three Rivers Arts Festival* June 6-10 to sell her home decor products and fashion accessories printed with her artwork. Her post in Gateway Center will mark her first arts festival, and will include not only her new textile products, but original artwork and giclées.

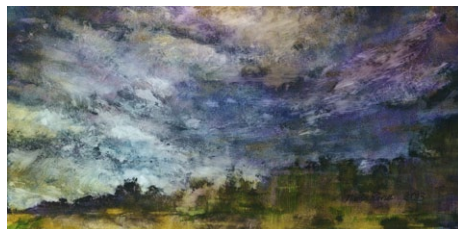


**Taylor Gallery's REACT** is a show of works from his ongoing series of images influenced by the bold and textural nature found in both street art and modern pop culture. It opens with a reception Friday, July 18 and runs through August 3 at **Gallery 788** in Baltimore. Application of the underpainting and main image is completed using acrylic paint, covering the underlying collage done on wood. This technique allows for a worn and textural feel that produces a form of layering found in wheat pasting and street art. Each image has its own depth of conceptual meaning on multiple levels behind the main image. His poster piece, "Recapture the Flag" is 24"x36." Another piece is shown in progress.



**John Hinderliter** was among the alumni exhibiting in this first Ivy School of Professional Arts show in over 30 years. Two of John's figurative paintings were included in the May 23-24 show at The Spinning Plate Art Gallery, 5720 Friendship Avenue, in Pittsburgh.

## Kudos



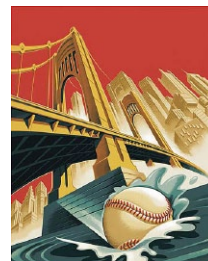
"Til it be Morrow," a 13"x26" watercolor on Yupo by **Nicole Renee Ryan**, was one of 121 pieces chosen from nearly 1700 entries for *Splash 16 - The Best of Watercolor: Exploring Texture* by Rachel Wolf. The 144-page hardback annual will be released July 25 by North Light Books.

"Determined," by **Christine Swann** won the Maggie Price Award of Excellence at the **2014 International Association of Pastel Societies Exhibition** at the Vose Gallery in Boston. The award honors the founding member of the Pastel Journal and IAPS. The painting is also featured in May's Art Collector Magazine with a review of the show.



"My son, Braeden, who works with me in my little studio, gets a very determined look on his face," Christine explains. "I gave him some oil pastels and a piece of plexiglass on an easel and began taking photos from below as he worked. I always start my paintings with an idea - to me it is the most important part." Christine's studio is described in an article on page 8 in May's Pastel Journal, which includes a photo of her worktable. It also appears in the May issue of American Art Collector Magazine, with other winners in the show.

The Press Club of Western Pennsylvania announced the winners of the **50th Annual Golden Quill Awards** during an awards presentation May 22 at the Sheraton Hotel, Station Square,



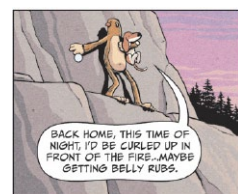
Pittsburgh. The Golden Quills competition recognizes professional excellence in written, photographic, broadcast and online journalism in Western Pennsylvania. **Mark Bender** was the winner in Feature Illustration for "Splashdown,"

cover art done for Pittsburgh Quarterly. **Wayno** was a Finalist in same category, for "Ultimate Pittsburgh Zombie Hunt" done for Pittsburgh Magazine.



## Online

"I just yammered about *Untold Tales of Bigfoot* for a written interview that webcomic creator Michael Dambold posted as part of a series on his site, **The Dambold Blog**," **Vince Dorse** writes on the *UTOB* website. In it, Vince tells a little about his work habits and lists some of his artistic influences. A nearly hour long, in-depth podcast interview with Vince (revealing the source of his phrases like "Crumbcakes!" and "Sweet baby corn!") can be listened to at **Comics Coast To Coast**. If you're a *UTOB* fan who can't get enough, hear a rave review (about 25 minutes in) at **The Grawlix Podcast**, which covers comics and other pop culture subjects and delves into what's behind the art and stories.



## Out and About

**Anni Matsick** dropped by **Christine Swann's** pastel workshop held April 25-27 in State College and snapped this photo of new member **Linda Barnicott**. Linda is holding her work done from the model.







**Stacy Innerst** recently visited W.G. Rice school in Mt. Holly Springs, near Carlisle for a presentation and book signing. In his school visits, Stacy talks to students about how picture books are created and the relationship between the story and the pictures. "I show slides of illustrations that I've done to get their imaginations working and then ask them to be the 'authors' of a story and I'll be the illustrator," he says. "They give me the character, a situation, maybe a setting and I draw the story. They love it when their own ideas come to life in front of them."



While most of the South Fayette students were beating a path to the school buses and trying to get out the door for spring break, a determined, serious group of young artists stayed to hear about working in the illustration profession from Former PSI President and current PSI New Member Contact **Fred Carlson**. Fred visited the after-school meeting of the South Fayette School District Art Club on Wednesday, April 16, at the invitation of Fred's former illustration student Diane Garbus Lally. Diane is now an art teacher at the Middle School who also directs the Art

Club for all the upper schools. Fred's audience was a combination of high school and junior high school aged students. In his 90-minute talk, Fred covered his own history in the field and showed samples of work, and answered many questions about preparing for a future in the field including what to look for in college level professional arts education.



Photos courtesy Diane Garbus Lally

Seven PSI members traveled to the Cleveland Museum of Art on May 21 to see the Van Gogh *Repetitions* show. The artist used this term to describe a distinctive genre of works in his oeuvre. It is the first exhibition to focus specifically on pairs or groups of works by Van Gogh that feature nearly identical compositions. The show has been extended through June 1. Left to right are **Rick Henkel, Amanda Zimmerman, Danielle Amiano, John Blumen, Vince Ornato, Kurt Pfaff** and **Jack Puglisi**.



Hard at work planning exciting changes for the 2014 Fall Western PA Society of Children's Writers & Illustrators (WPAS-CBWII) Conference are Illustration Coordinator **Nora Thompson** (center), Regional Advisor Marcie Canterna and Assistant RA Kate Pohl Dopirak. Mark your calendars for November 7-8 and watch for details coming soon!

## New Member

**Linda Barnicott**, Bethel Park  
[linda@lindabarnicott.com](mailto:linda@lindabarnicott.com)  
[www.lindabarnicott.com](http://www.lindabarnicott.com)

Linda has 39 years of freelance experience in illustration. Her work has been published since 1989. She has studied with portrait great Daniel Greene twice, early in her career, and recently with Pastel-Hall-of-Famer landscape artist Richard McKinley. A brochure of her many renderings of Pittsburgh landmarks and scenes can be downloaded on Linda's website.

Linda's clients include Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, LaRoche College, Macy's and Wendell August Forge. She has painted the American Cancer Society Holiday Cards every year since 1998. She was referred by **Christine Swann** and **Anni Matsick**.



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.

[www.panzagallery.com](http://www.panzagallery.com)



Illustration: Christine Swann

## NHAC Model Sessions

### North Hills Art Center

North Hills Art Center  
 has two spring sessions left:  
 Sunday, June 1 and June 22, 6-8 pm  
 If successful, more will be added. Contact  
[christine@swannportraits.com](mailto:christine@swannportraits.com)



Molly Feuer reports on:

# April BOI Meeting



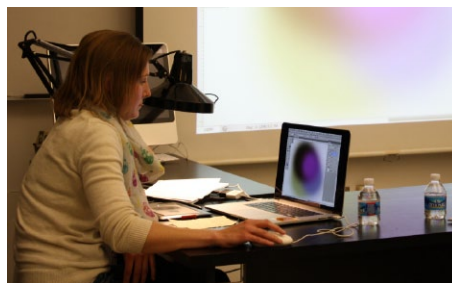
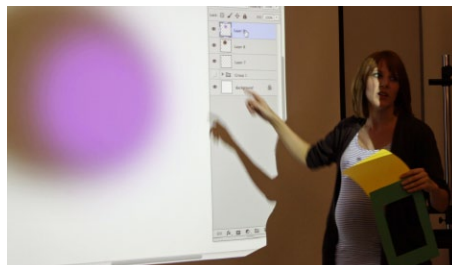
The April 25 Business of Illustration meeting was titled, "Digital Illustration – Beginner to Advanced" – the first of what could become a series focusing on digital techniques in popular Adobe Creative Suite software. The meeting was held in **Mark Bender's** classroom at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh – an inspiring and comfortable space with a great display of student artwork.

In response to last year's member survey, the board organized this condensed event to both introduce members to the basics of Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop and offer a preview some of the software's more powerful tools. Several members were asked to showcase their professional work and share a few of their more advanced tips and tricks.

President **Evette Gabriel** began the event with an overview of Adobe's Creative Cloud and some important concepts in digital work flow, including raster and vector graphics, image resolution and resizing. She and **Molly Feuer** then gave a basic tour of Illustrator and Photoshop tools and highlights for beginners. Members then had the opportunity to discuss additional topics such as RGB vs CMYK color space and document set-up. Part two of our event proved to be an excellent opportunity for education and entertainment! Members **Molly Feuer**, **David Coulson** and **Rick Henkel** shared examples of their Adobe Illustrator artwork and the techniques and shortcuts that have helped them streamline their creative processes and produce amazing results. This show-and-tell segment was such a hit, members were laughing and learning well past 10:30pm.

We actually ran out of time to showcase the Photoshop portion originally planned, and maybe that's just as well. Attendance was high and the expertise shown by our individual speakers so impressive, another event dedicated to Photoshop may be in order. Stay tuned!

In addition to the host and presenters, those attending were Vice President **Ashley Cecil**, past Presidents **Rick Antolic** and **John Blumen**, PSI members **Danielle Amiano**, **Joel C Boyer**, **Hannah Garrison**, **Charles Lucas**, **Kurt Pfaff**, **Lisa Rasmussen**, **Mark Zingarelli** and guests **Wendy Bennett** and **Paul Mahan**.



Photos by Evette Gabriel

## Next BOI Meeting:

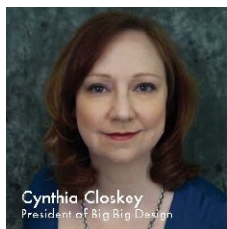
Friday, May 30, 7:30-8:30 pm  
7th floor meeting room of the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council**, 810 Penn Ave, Downtown  
(Street parking is free after 6 pm, or paid spots at the 9th and Penn garage across the street)

### DIY Websites 101

This event will cover two broad themes:

- The basics of building your own Wordpress website
- Creating compelling content to drive traffic to your website

Featured Speakers: **Cynthia Closkey**, President of Big Big Design, **Carly Schonberg**, illustrator and web designer



Cynthia Closkey  
President of Big Big Design



Carly Schonberg  
Illustrator & Web Designer

If you'd like to read more about some of the members featured in this issue, look for their interviews in past newsletters, available on PSI's website. Click on a name to open.



Mark  
Brewer



Ashley  
Cecil

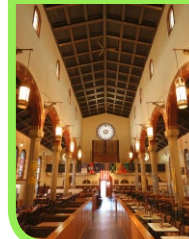


David  
Coulson



Vince  
Dorse

## NEXT PSI SOCIAL



**Tuesday, June 10**  
**Beginning at 6:30 pm**

**Church Brew Works,**  
3525 Liberty Avenue,  
Strip District

**Free parking!**  
**Free appetizers!**

## 10% OFF

all non-sale items with PSI members card

Artist & Craftsman Supply

5603 Hobart Street, Squirrel Hill  
412.421.3002  
ArtistCraftsman.com



## Web Offer

Hosting with 464 Media

Domain Hosting - 1 Page **\$125**  
Great Starting Point **\$275\***  
Self Sufficient Package **\$499\***

\*plus \$125 hosting fee

Website | 412.208.4892 | skowalski@464media.com

## SAVE 20%

on non-sale items with PSI members card

Top Notch Art Center

411 S. Craig Street, Oakland  
412.683.4444  
TNArtSupply.com

## SAVE 10%\*

with FREE Utrecht ArtSmart Card

Utrecht Art Supply

1930 East Carson Street, Southside  
412.432.1945  
UtrechtArt.com

\*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.



## Spotlight on... Ashley Cecil

*During this year's Kentucky Derby week, more than 120,000 Early Times Mint Juleps are estimated to have been served at the race track alone...with Ashley's art on every bottle.*

The pre-mixed cocktail is the official drink of the Kentucky Derby, hosted at the famed Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky, which happens to be PSI Vice President Ashley Cecil's hometown. Years ago, she sold several paintings to Brown-Forman for their corporate art collection. Last summer, the bourbon producer had the curator create a list of artists in the collection whose styles would be fitting for the 2014 Early Times Mint Julep bottle artwork. Ashley was pleasantly surprised when contacted by Brown-Forman to gauge her interest in the commission and within weeks was notified that she had been selected to complete the artwork for their commemorative label.

Ashley traveled to Louisville to present three concept sketches. The Early Times brand manager selected this iconic shot of the winner's circle, where the jockey is presented with the traditional garland and bouquet of roses.

She took reference photos at Churchill Downs before returning to Pittsburgh to get started on the 24" x 30" oil painting, which now hangs in their headquarters in Louisville. The trickiest part of the commission was creating a composition that squeezed the best part of the image into the small area designated for the front of the bottle while maintaining interest throughout the rest of the piece.

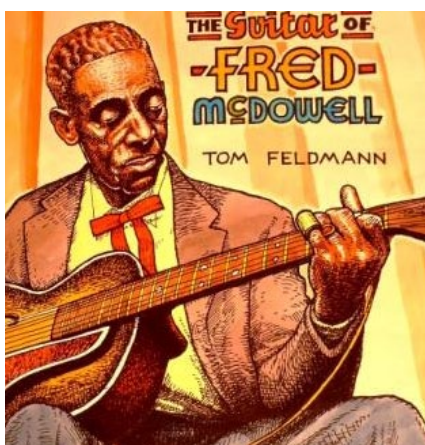
Ashley could hardly hold on to her magnolia-topped hat during the whirlwind week of promotional activities, which included an interview on the set of Louisville's WDRB-TV and a bottle signing. Adding to the fun was a taxi wrapped with the painting, signed by Ashley, of course. The taxi will be safely toting passengers who've had one too many mint juleps in and around Louisville for the next year.

More of Ashley's work can be seen on her website.

Article by Anni Matsick







1. **Ron Magnes** recently designed and illustrated this map for Carnegie Museum.

2. **Ashley Cecil** has completed the first of four quarterly editorial covers for the Nonprofit Technology Network's (NTEN) Change Journal. The publication is sent to 45,000 subscribers of nonprofit leaders.

3. This illustration by **Mark Brewer** appears in the May issue of Strategic Finance Magazine for an article on

what is keeping CFOs up at night.

4. Nationally renowned slide guitarist Tom Feldmann and the Get Rites of Minneapolis are recording their newest release and have commissioned **Fred Carlson** to do their new CD packaging. It's a tribute to Mississippi Fred McDowell, who penned the well-known Rolling Stones cover *You Got To Move*. Here is a crop of the front cover art, original art 10" square.

5. **Jeff Brunner's** client came through

social media (Facebook and Instagram). The client and her family recently relocated to Massachusetts from Oklahoma and wanted a picture of their dogs that incorporated items from their former locale. The original is 10"x10" acrylic and watercolor on paper.

6. **Taylor Gallery** has been busy providing artwork for numerous publications. Shown are two that accompanied stories for Advertising Age magazine.

This one was on a slow developing, conflicted merger between an American and French holding company.

7. Taylor did this one to show the power and influence of a recruiter in finding the best fit for your ad agency.

8. For the Wall Street Journal's WSJ.com/Sunday Weekly Guide to Managing Your Money, Taylor's art reflects the headline, "Should you Manage your Own Money or Hire a Pro?"





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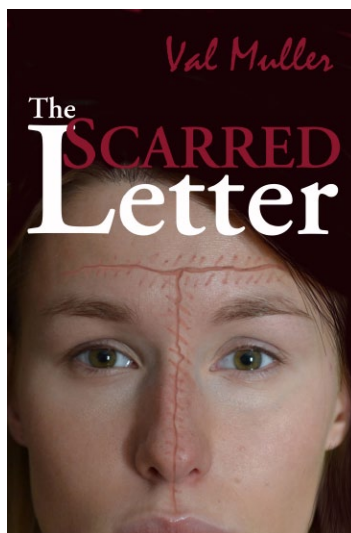


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9. Cover art for Pittsburgh City Paper's May 7 edition, 2014 Democratic Primary Election Guide was done by by **Rhonda Libbey**. It portrays the four Democratic candidates who want to depose Governor Tom Corbett.

10. "Red Shoes and Brass Clock," a 20"x16" oil on canvas, is the most recent painting in the ongoing series

**Kurt Pfaff** has been working on.

11. **Stacy Innerst's** illustration appears this month in OnEarth magazine, a publication of the Natural Resources Defense Council. The story is by a pastor who says the church needs to look to nature for its symbols.

12. Here is **Craig Mrusek's** illustration for his latest column in the upcoming

issue of **Bachelor Pad Magazine**.

13. This latest commission by **Charles Lucas** is a 9"x12" Hodigetria (Virgin and Child) icon done in acrylic on board. The client requested that their church be a part of the icon.

14. **Craig Jennion** did this book cover recently for Barkingrain Press.

15. **Yelena Lamm** was commissioned to paint a portrait of Sing-Sing, a cat who tragically died two years ago. The painting is 18"x24" oil on canvas.