

inside
www.pittsburghillustrators.org



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Reporters:
Rick Antolic
Fred Carlson
Molly Thompson
Autumn Seybert

Design & Production:
Yelena Lamm



Over the Rivers

Mark Bender's cover art for the Winter 2015 issue of Pittsburgh Quarterly Magazine shows the "serendipity portal", Pittsburgh's portal bridge to the Point, combining a view of tree-laden holiday traffic passing over a view of the Point's Christmas tree.



Collector's Piece

This image crop is from **Linda Barnicott's** pastel painting, "Shhhh!", the first in her "Jolly Old Elf" series of five holiday Santa paintings, offered for sale on her [website](#) as a limited edition giclée print.



Deck the Walls

Gregg Valley was asked by Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto to create the art and design for his holiday card. "The image consists of a star shining its light upon the city of Pittsburgh," Gregg relates. "The city sits atop North America showing how far-reaching Pittsburgh's influence is. The bridges reach out across the oceans signifying how Pittsburgh is tying itself to the global community. Above everything is a dove with an olive branch, a symbol of peace and hope for the future. Finally, the whole design is done in shades of black and gold, the colors of Pittsburgh!" **Limited edition prints** are being offered with a small number signed by the mayor and artist. Half of the proceeds will be donated to The Homeless Children's Education Fund of Pittsburgh and Northern Area Multi Service Center's Community Assistance and Refugee Resettlement department.



My Spot

Anni Matsick

PSI members have the town covered! Page one news shows what Pittsburgh's mayor has hanging on his office wall, along with a magazine cover now popping on area

newsstands, and art prints sold to eager collectors from a "chalet" in the heart of the city! Our outreach continues on page 2 where you'll find info on where to buy a just-released coloring book with the city's favorite scenes, and a link to KDKA-TV coverage of a member's product to be offered soon on QVC! Even more far-reaching is the subject of our Spotlight, a member's artwork being shown internationally in a traveling exhibit. PSI's budget and membership updates appear on page 4, showing both in excellent standing at year's end, so it is, indeed, good tidings for all and a happy new year ahead!

On Exhibit



Two pieces by **Anni Matsick** were included in an invitational member's show *Pro Femina: Women's Voices*, on display December 4-10 at the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania gallery in Lemont. An [article in the Centre Daily Times](#) tells more about the project. It features Anni's 9" x 11"

watercolor, "A Nod to Virginia Woolf," a portrait of Bucknell's **Erica Delsandro**, who teaches Women's and Gender Studies. Anni's 11" x 16" charcoal and dry brush figure drawing, "Thursday Evening Reverie," was done during the AACP's weekly open model session. The exhibit, a local version of the national art



movement, "Women Painting Women", features works by 24 female artists and has been relocated at a State College venue through February.

Works by **Monique Luck** and two other artists were shown at Le Meridien in Charlotte, NC, November 18.



Works by **Yelena Lamm** and **Jane O. Popovich** are a part of "Women in Art" exhibit at the Lost Dog Coffee in Shepherdstown, WV. The group show includes six other female artists and will run through January 3.

Susan designed the layout for the product insert. The lids have sold well on Amazon and received many positive reviews. Here's an [advance look at the video](#) QVC will show during her appearance. It's followed by an interview on KDKA TV telling what led to her invention.



Pittsburgh native **Rick Antolic** stands near a rack holding copies of his new coloring book, mentioned in [October's PSInside Spotlight](#) on the Pittsburgh Sketch Crawl (page 6). Rick has added 27 line illustrations, including the area's neighborhoods, people, businesses and events. Copies are available at [online](#) and in various local spots. Dragonfly Castle Toys and the 43rd Street Gallery, both in Lawrenceville, are now carrying the book, as is Stangle's Bakery in Ambridge. The Visit Pittsburgh store in 5th Avenue Place, downtown, will stock it by the end of December, and the CMU Art Store will carry them as well. Rick will make a third appearance on the television show, *Pittsburgh Today Live*, on CBS, 9am on January 13, to talk about the book.

Here's January art from **Ron Thurston's** 2016 calendar done from a photo taken during lunch break while hanging



Watercolor Authority: Three Masters of Watercolor show in Greensburg. Ron says, "Frank Webb and **Bill Vrsack** sitting together was a photo op for sure. Frank's grandson, Luther, far left, helped hang but was ghosted in the painting for creative design purposes. Also added blue to the background and squiggling just for fun." The painting was done as a demonstration at Latrobe Art Center.

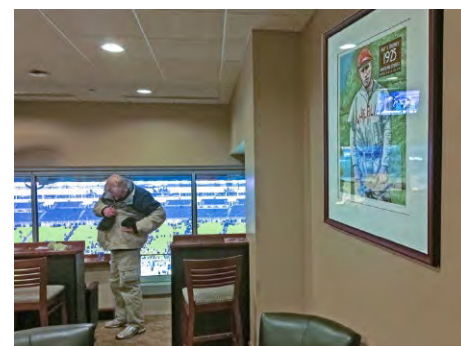
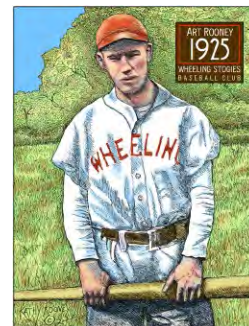


Stacy Innerst did some sketching for the class while visiting the Ezequiel Tafoya Alvarado Academy in Madera, California. He

showed spreads from his upcoming picture book, *The Music in George's Head: George Gershwin Creates Rhapsody in Blue*.



Kathy Rooney's drawing of Art Rooney as a 1925 Wheeling Stogie baseball player, done for the PSI Play Ball show, is on display in the Pittsburgh Pirates box at Heinz Field. Prints of this artwork are available in [Kathy's Etsy Shop](#).



"Cavey," the Pittsburgh Make-A-Wish Foundation's mascot, stopped for a caricature at **Vince Ornato's** spot at the Mall at Robinson where he was set up through Christmas.



Just Released



Susan Castriota will appear on QVC television in late January to promote and sell her new product, the Cuchina Safe Universal Glass Lid. In early December, she spent a day in their studio at West Chester, rehearsing.

Out and About



Gathered for this snapshot are four PSI members who exhibited at the *Wings and Wildlife Art Show* at the Pittsburgh Aviary in November, l-r: PSI's former VP **Ashley Cecil**, VP **Amanda Zimmerman**, **Kelly Ackerman** and **Hannah Garrison**.

Linda Barnicott spent most of her time between Light-Up Night and Christmas selling paintings and prints at her chalet downtown at the Holiday Market in Market Square. Laurie's Hallmark invited Linda and a major celebrity to appear at their store at Fifth Avenue Place where he posed for free selfies and signed her giftware and prints.



The painting, "Santa's Newest Reindeer" is a smaller, open edition companion print to "Shhhh!" on page 1.



Kudos

Sarah Miller was named Tattoo Artist of the Year at the twelfth annual *Atlantic City Tattoo Expo* held November 6-8 at Bally's Casino and Resort on the Boardwalk.



Nora Thompson has signed on with the Erin Murphy Literary Agency, a leading children's book agency headquartered in Flagstaff, Arizona. Tricia Lawrence will be her agent.

New Members

Jim Prokell, Pittsburgh
Jimprokellstudio.com

Jim is an award winning creative director, art director and businessman and at one time had a full service design firm in Pittsburgh, where **John Manders** was employed. He has taught at Pitt, Edinboro U and AIP in various capacities. Jim heard about PSI recently through **Kathy Rooney**.



Elizabeth Claire Rose, Pittsburgh, PA
www.erosegallery.com

Elizabeth earned her BA cum laude in Fine Art with a minor in Wilderness Studies from the University of Montana. Her works on paper explore landscape, migration, ecology, and place. Elizabeth has received numerous awards, including an Emerging Artist Grant at this year's Three Rivers Arts Festival.



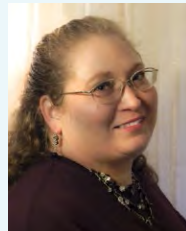
Upgrade from Affiliate to Full Member

Robert Sage, Irwin

New Affiliate Members

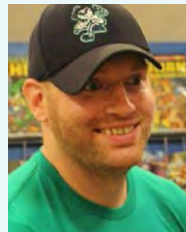
Terri Adams, Tarentum
www.TerriAdamsDesign.com

Terri is an illustrator/graphic designer currently earning her bachelor of science at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh where she recently was honored with the Thomas J. Ruddy Scholarship Award from PSI for outstanding illustration work. She enjoys creating traditionally as well as digitally and likes to incorporate both in her designs.



Chris "Chance!" Brown, Homestead

Chance is a freelance animator, comic artist and illustrator, as well as an educator, currently working with the Toonseum and various ad agencies nationwide.



Colleen Hopper, Pittsburgh

Colleen has been a freelance illustrator in Pittsburgh for over 20 years with a degree in Graphic Design from The Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Her illustrations have influences from Art Nouveau, Naturalism, folk art, Celtic and Art Deco. Her creative images have been incorporated into a variety of portraits, murals, logos, CD covers and posters.



NEXT PSI SOCIAL



Photo: Jeff Swensen for The New York Times

Tuesday, January 12
Beginning at 6:30 pm

Church Brew Works*
3525 Liberty Avenue, Strip District
*Featured in the **New York Times**

Free parking! Free appetizers!

PSI Store Open for Business



Drawing Under the Influence:

An Illustrator's Guide to Mixing Drinks

only \$5

Spiral bound, soft cover, 128 pages. PSI's 2011 Directory featuring 59 illustrated recipes.

Introductions by mixmaster Craig Mrusek, Kathy Rooney and brief history by George Schill. Concept: George Schill & Ron Magnes. Design: Steve Cup

Play Ball!

PSI Illustrated baseball card sets of 12

less than
10 sets
left!



\$10/set

Printed originally to promote the 2001 Play Ball! show of baseball illustration at AIP.

Illustrators represented in the set of 12: David Biber, Fred Carlson, George Schill, John Manders, Ron Thurston, Larry Tinsley, Greg Valley, Ilene Winn-Lederer, Ilana Finocchi, James Mellett, Kathy Rooney, Lynn Cannoy.

Sales benefit PSI general treasury.

Please contact Fred Carlson
412.856.0982 or fred@carlsonstudio.com

2015 Year-End Treasurer's Report and Membership Report

from **Fred Carlson**,
Treasurer & New Member Contact

Membership Overview

We started the year with 163 members and currently stand at 160 members exactly. We had 17 members who dropped membership for a variety of reasons, moved, retired, or changed careers over the past year. Some of the places our members moved away to include: NYC, SF, LA, Columbus, Nashville, and an original member moved on to retirement to Florida.

The 14 new members who came aboard this year include full members **Nathan Mazur**, **Erin Leight (Thomas)**, **Emma Krull**, **Eric Luden**, **Susan Reagan**, **Genevieve Barbee** and **Jim Prokell**. The new affiliate members are **Richard Coble**, **Hilary Schenker**, **Colleen Hopper**, **Chris (Chance) Brown** and **Terri Adams**. Two potential members await screening — Kathy Neiswanger and Elizabeth Rose. The year started slowly with few inquiries about membership until June, then 12 new joiners came aboard the second half of the year! Coble, Luden, and Mazur are former members who have rejoined the Society.

For the curious among you: 5 members who are "friends of PSI" have complimentary affiliate memberships, 19 are affiliates (\$35 annually), 2 new members are in screening process, and 134 are full members (\$75 annually) including 15 with life memberships.

A reminder to all affiliates — you may apply for full member status after one year as an affiliate by presenting new work to our screening committee Chairman **Kathy Rooney** and her committee. Please ask me if you are unsure of how soon you can do this. During dues season January-March is a good time to initiate this process with Kathy (me@krooney.net)

Treasurer's Perspective 2015

Our Society maintains its status as the second largest Illustrators Society in the United States after New York City. The dues collection season went pretty effortlessly last spring. Remember that I will be sending out dues notices after January 1 and they are due by March 1. Payment plans are encouraged if finances are an issue — just let me know when you get your statement by email if you need that option. With my invoicing I will be sending out an attachment that you should print out and use for identification for art supply discounts, admission to PSI events, and as proof of paying dues for 2016.

A lifetime benefactor membership of \$500 gets you membership for LIFE; please advise me if you would like that option. We currently have 15 lifetime benefactor members. At current Full Member dues levels you would spend that amount over the next 8 years anyway, so it's an affordable way to keep a membership for a long

period of time if you can swing it.

Income: We had a healthy \$10,249.90 of member dues received, product sales, and send a thank you once again to **Marsha Ruddy** who supported our T. J. Ruddy Scholarships awards with her donation of \$1000. We had no unusual grants received this year. Last year we received the Fine Foundation Gift (\$3000) that helped with our website redesign, through the grant writing efforts of former VP **Ashley Cecil**.

Expenses: We had no unusual income or expenses related to exhibitions or conferences. The major expense was the balance due of \$4130 to Lava New Media for final work on the website architecture. Our scholarship awards totaled \$1,950 given to award winner students at AIP, Bradford School, and CCAC. Other expenses included retreat costs, socials and business programming needs, and other administrative tools (like Basecamp).

We currently have \$12,887.93 cash-on-hand. I expect some expenses related to Saturnalia but we will be over \$12,000 at year-end, which is approximately where we started this year (\$12,598.34 at year-end 2014).

A Final Comment: Get involved!

As I maintain the new member rosters, I see many members who check off committees they would like to work on: Exhibitions, Socials, Programming/Education, PR, Fundraising, Website, etc. It would be great if everyone out there contacted our Board, especially President **Pat Lewis** patnlewis@gmail.com, or our Program Chairs **Danielle Amiano** dnaartistsstudio@gmail.com and **Lisa Rasmussen** lisa.illustrator.bookdesigner@gmail.com, and find out where the Society can use your help! We have a blast working together and it's time to be involved! I know Scholarship Jurying, and monthly Program Commission management are two huge needs. And the Board always appreciates programming ideas for 2016. We will need lots of fundraising assistance during 2016 with our upcoming 20th anniversary show at the Heinz History Center so I look forward to doing my own coordinating outreach to the membership.

November Social

Church Brew Works was remarkably uncrowded on November 10, even for a Tuesday night, but our group grew to a pretty respectable turnout as the evening progressed. Attending were PSI President **Pat Lewis**, Former President **Rick Antolic**, Former VP **John Blumen**, Secretary **Molly Thompson**, Scholarship Chair **Rhonda Libbey**, members **Danielle Amiano**, **Vince Ornato**, **Alex Patho**, **Kathy Rooney**, **Hilary Schenker**, **Emily Traynor** and guest, Gregg Valley, **Phil Wilson**, **Ilene Winn-Lederer**, new member **Jim Prokell**, affiliate member **Kelly Ackerman** and prospective member Andrew Schubert (referred to us by **David Coulson**). Jim Prokell attended AIP with **Phil Wilson**. They saw each other for the first time last night since 1968. Jim knew **John Blumen** and he worked with **John Manders** in the past.

PSI Worked for... Rick Antolic

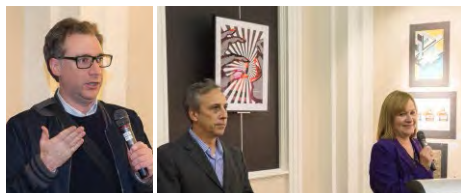
Rick recently completed two oil paintings for Chatham University for a Christmas Card for their board of Directors. Rick says, "They wanted a painting of their barn in Butler County in winter for the front of the card, and then the same barn in the summer with students working in the field — and a specific beekeeper from the 1800s for the inside of the card." **Dave Klug** sent Chatham University Rick's way when Dave had to decline the job.



The client was very pleased and requested this last-minute project for a December 23 Chatham University Christmas party, held in the building in lower left. The original art is a 24"x30" oil on canvas and the snow was put in digitally. "The woman pictured in the sleigh with Santa writes Chatham-specific songs every year. Her dog and cat are in the sleigh too, since they make an appearance in her songs," Rick relates. "It's so nice, so close to Christmas, to hear 'no revisions, we love it as-is!'"



2015 AIP Scholarship Awards



Jurying for this year's PSI Scholarship Awards for students at Art Institute of Pittsburgh took place November 23 at the AIP gallery, with **Mark Bender**, **Amanda Zimmerman**, **Alex Patho** and **Rhonda Libbey**, Scholarship Committee Chairman as jurors. **Nadine Josephs**, Vice President/Dean of Student Affairs organized the show, and was present at the ceremony held December 3 to give comments. Also attending was **Andrew English**, Photography Department Chair. Rhonda had this to say about the event: "Everyone who had work in the AIP student show should be very proud, it's a really great looking show. You can see that all of the students love what they do and are willing to dedicate the time

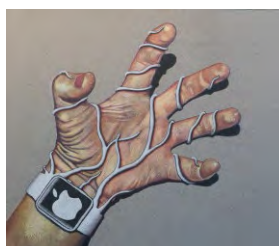


necessary to master their mediums. It's too bad we couldn't award excellence in photography or graphic design because there was some stunning work in these categories too."

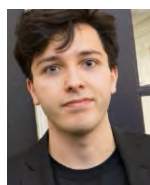
Thomas J. Ruddy Award for compelling use of figure or landscape (\$250):



Terri Adams,
"iWatch"



First Place (\$150):
Alex Hess, "What
Dead May Never Die"



Second Place
(\$125):

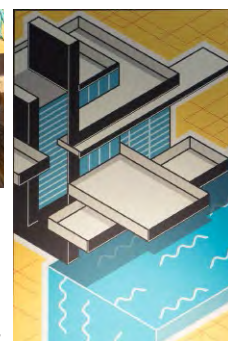
Jerod Shreckengast, "Apple Studies"



Third Place (\$75):
Ashly Pepple,
"Strawberries"



Honorable Mention (\$50):
Molly Spinos,
"Fallingwater
Deconstructed"



Photos by Alexander Patho Jr

2015 PSI Bradford School Awards



Jurying was done Tuesday, November 17 by Scholarship Chairman **Rhonda Libbey** and Treasurer **Fred Carlson** with **Alexander Patho Jr.** as tie-breaker at the Bradford School campus on Pittsburgh's South Side. Rhonda handed out the scholarship awards on Friday, November 20, with President **Pat Lewis** in attendance. PSI Affiliate Members **Richard Coble** and **Sara Tinnick** who are also Bradford School faculty set up the illustration exhibition for the jurors.



Thomas J. Ruddy Award for compelling use of figure or landscape (\$250)

Emily White,
"Portrait of Girl"



First
Place
award
(\$150)

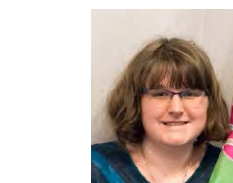
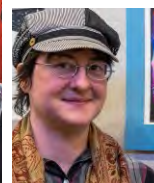
Samantha Scott,
"Falcon"



Second Place Award (\$125)
Brad Cowden, "Christopher Lee"



Third Place award (\$75)
Brittany Wieland,
"Flaming Wolf"



Honorable Mention (\$50)
Sadearah Golgan,
"Batik Bird"



Autumn Seybert reports on:

2015
WPaSCBWI
Fall Conference

The Western Pennsylvania region of Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators held its annual *Fall Conference* November 6-7 at the Pittsburgh Airport's Hyatt Regency. Friday night



Maria Middleton, Associate Art Director from Abrams Kids.

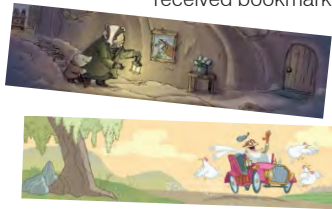
was a time for socializing and intensives. I attended the Illustrator's Intensive, a workshop focusing on the elements of book covers with **Maria Middleton**, Associate Art Director at Abrams Kids. The rest of the evening was spent sketching and critiquing the work done

that evening. Other faculty attending for the benefit of illustrators was **Rotem Moscovich**, Senior Editor at Disney-Hyperion.



Rotem Moscovich, Senior Editor at Disney-Hyperion.

Saturday was conference day! Attendees all received bookmarks illustrated by this year's winners of the book mark challenge, myself (first place) and **Pat Lewis** (2nd place). The contest's challenge this year was to



depict a scene from *The Wind in the Willows*.

The conference was set up like a "choose your own adventure" book. Attendees had to choose four workshops to fill the morning and afternoon slots. With a variety of topics covering writing, illustration, and just the nuts and bolts of the business, one could pick and choose and feel that the time was well spent. Personal critiques for book dummies, manuscripts and portfolios were available to register for at an additional cost. The faculty chose the best manuscript, picture book dummy or portfolio from each of the one-on-ones they reviewed. I was pleased to have my portfolio chosen for that award by Maria Middleton.



Autumn receiving the award for best portfolio reviewed by Maria Middleton.



A question I often am asked after these events is, "Is it worth it?" This is a professional networking and learning opportunity, not a job fair. If you attend with the expectation of meeting some really nice people, learning about the industry, and getting some feedback on a few pieces of your work, this is the event for you! As a conference attendee, there is a window of time given to submit manuscripts, dummies and art to the visiting faculty, which is a big deal as most of them come from houses that only accept submissions from agents. Overall, this conference was an enjoyable experience, and well organized by Regional Advisor Marcy Canterna, Assistant Regional Advisor Kate Dopirak, and Regional Illustrator Coordinator **Nora Thompson**. PSI members attending in addition to myself and **Pat Lewis** were **Judy Emerick**, **John Hinderliter** and **Stacy Innerst**.



Photos by Nora Thompson and Autumn Seybert

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Nostalgia

Look back in these December issues for memories of Saturnalias past and "Young at Art," featuring photos and samples of member's early inclinations as children.



2008

2009

2010



Illustration: Yelena Lamm

Life Drawing at Panza Gallery

Long Pose Monday: Mondays 6-9pm \$10

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

Coffee, pastries & drinks served.
Enter basement gallery on left side of building.

www.panzagallery.com

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Molly Thompson reports on...

Saturnalia 2015



The 2015 Saturnalia event was a return to our familiar host-with-the-most in Brentwood, **John Blumen**. Attendees gathered for the 18th year in a row to catch up with friends, make some new ones, play some music and tune in to brief announcements from PSI Board and Committee members. Unusually warm weather made travel and parking a breeze, and high membership turnout kept the food and festivities going strong.

PSI President **Pat Lewis** was sorely missed, but we wished him a very happy birthday and look forward to hearing about his travels at our next meeting. He diligently left us a message, read by Vice President **Amanda Zimmerman**, to wish us all a good time at Saturnalia and a happy holiday season. They both expressed their gratitude to PSI members for the outstanding group participation and support of their leadership in 2015.

We are all eager to enjoy another year with our wonderful leaders, volunteers and growing membership, and additional announcements were made to keep everyone in the know. Treasurer and New Member Contact **Fred Carlson** shared his annual treasury and membership tally reports (which appear on page 4). Our numbers are looking good, thanks to our volunteers' efforts to keep costs down by expertly designing and facilitating our yearly programming. The continued quality of our social events and business meeting content successfully retained and attracted new members all year long.

Our former President and Vice President, **Evette Gabriel** and **Ashley Cecil**, received a round of applause for their ongoing work as Web Team Co-Chairs, developing the new PSI website

with Lava New Media, LLC and dedicated PSI volunteers. Members were encouraged to complete their profiles as soon as possible so the site can go live for the new year and a survey to satisfy our grant requirements can be completed. All agreed the website's flexibility and user experience are first-class, with the ability to maintain profiles with instant access.



Secretary **Molly Thompson** shared the latest news on PSI's upcoming 20th Anniversary Show at the Heinz History Center. The Center has been working with our Exhibition Committee to finalize the details for an anticipated June, 2017 start date. More details around the planning, participation and volunteer needs will be available very soon. Time will fly, and we want to make this our best show yet!

As we returned to our refreshments and chatter, the noise level returned to its peak and only dwindled well after midnight. Routinely, a few of us night owls stayed even later to gab.

Saturnalia is a gathering many of us look forward to all year, where we can really settle in and spend time together, celebrating the year's achievements and forecasting what's next for us individually and as a group. Thank you to all of our volunteers for an entire year of camaraderie and education. And special thanks to our host, **John Blumen**, and to our Programming Committee members, **Danielle Amiano** and **Lisa Rasmussen**. Happy New Year!

In attendance: Host and former VP **John Blumen**, his son Ross, and clients Ellen and Loren Roth; VP **Amanda Zimmerman**, Former Presidents **Rick Antolic** and **John Manders**, Former VP **David Biber**, **Christie Biber**, Former VP and Web Team Chair **Ashley Cecil**, Treasurer and New Member Contact **Fred Carlson**, Secretary and Exhibition Coordinator **Molly Thompson**, Programming Committee member **Danielle Amiano**, PSInside Designer **Yelena Lamm** and husband Edward Lozovsky, Scholarship Chairman **Rhonda Libbey**, Screening Chairman **Kathy Rooney** and husband Ray Sokoloski, Programming Committee member **Lisa Rasmussen**, guitar and vocalists **Craig Jennion** and **Phil Wilson**, photographer **Alex Patho Jr.**; members **Kelly Ackerman**, **Genevieve Barbee**, **Chris "Chance" Brown**, **Rick Henkell**, **Nathan Mazur**, **Robert Sage III**, **Autumn Seybert**, **Hilary Schenker**, **Greg Valley**; **Vince Dorse** and guests Daryl Godfrey and Michelle Miller, **Hanna Garrison** and guest Peter Cormas, **Stephen Haynes** and wife Trina Haynes, **Kurt Pfaff** and guest Megan Kelly, and **Ilene Winn-Lederer** and husband Jeff Lederer; guests bassist Steve Dunn and wife Mary Dunn, former member.



PSI President Pat Lewis, celebrating his birthday at the Golden Tiki in Las Vegas.



Photos by Alexander Patho Jr., Pat Lewis

Spotlight on... Ilene Winn-Lederer

Ilene received an invitation to be one of 54 Jewish women artists, worldwide, who would create an original painting for a portion of the Torah, to be displayed in Jerusalem.

Honored by the request, Ilene chose to do the story of Noah, with the added challenge of depicting it on animal parchment. "Parashat Noach" (Noah) was on exhibit at the 2015 Jerusalem Biennale, held September 29 through November 5. According to their website, "The main mission of the *Jerusalem Biennale* is to allow different creative forces to manifest themselves, in Jerusalem, within the framework of Contemporary Jewish Art. The *Biennale* strives to exhibit the most updated, challenging, creative and varied selection of exhibitions and events under that framework." The works in the show, titled *Women of the Book*, will eventually be combined and stitched together as a "scroll" and will travel on



Spread from *Between Heaven & Earth: An Illuminated Torah Commentary*, the source from which Ilene's *Women of the Book* illustration was adapted.



to several countries. They will also be available as limited edition prints and published in a book by The Jerusalem Publishing Atelier. Ilene submitted this statement with the work:

At first glance, the images in this interpretation seem prosaic as they relate the story of Noah, his ark and the Deluge. However, on further examination, other elements become visual commentary suggesting that story's deeper concerns for our environment, Jewish history and the moral codes embedded in Torah.

Noah and his wife Na'amah flank the central figure of the Shekhinah (the female aspect of G-d) who holds a flaming sword and an



Studies for Noah and Naamah

olive branch. These items signify the attributes of Justice and Mercy, two of the three pillars that support the metaphysical Tree of Life. Suspended from her ears are the initials of the Hebrew words for these qualities: *tzedakah* and *rachamim*. Her veil covers only one eye, teaching that judgment and mercy must objectively temper each other. The double eagle on her crown underscores this duality as the underlying theme for the book of Noah.

Since legend suggests that Noah and Na'amah were over 600 years of age at the time of this story, I've portrayed them as the dignified ancient couple they might have been. They are dressed as Sumerian citizens

to reflect Noah's legendary association with Utnapishtim, the Babylonian flood hero. He is

holding a model of the ark and wears a belt fitted with carpentry tools that were used in this era. Na'amah carries a clay birdcage containing a dove, whose mate will be sent to scout for dry land after Noah's raven fails to return. The cage is based on one found at Harappa, in the Indus Valley, an ancient city dating back to 3300 BCE. When Noah's ark is generally depicted, it is shown with a large collection of animal couples, however, for economy of design, I felt that including just a few of those species would suffice to tell the story.

Finally, as the dark sky above the figures portends the coming supernatural storm, I have imagined its shape as suggestive of the mountain peaks of Ararat, the mountain formation in Turkey and the place where the ark allegedly came to rest. As such, it can be seen as an abstract symbol of hope with which humanity has been gifted to guide us through the best and worst that life has to offer.



Study for the Shekhinah (Female aspect of G-d)

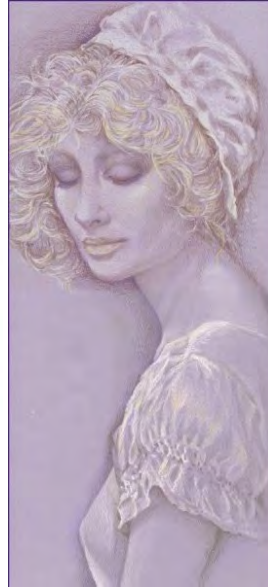
More information on Ilene's painting is available [here](#) and [here](#).



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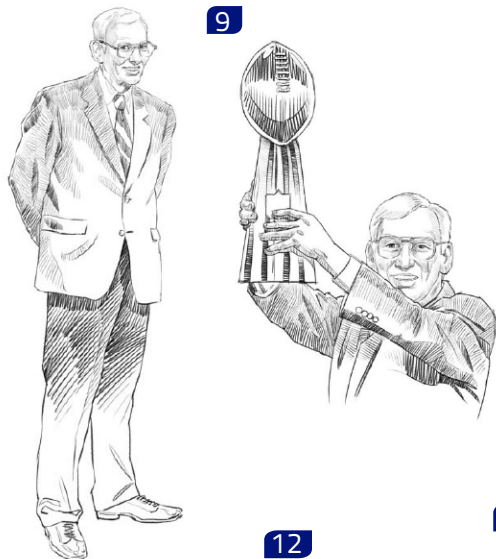
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1. **Dave Klug** did this cover art for the magazine section of a New England newspaper. It's his take on the story about twenty non-toy gifts for kids. "I'm sure kids would hate to get most of them, but this one was kinda cool, a museum membership," Dave says.
2. Especially "for crazy cat ladies who like wine, and for the pet lover with a sense of humor," Dave offered this new print at Handmade Arcade held December 5 at the Convention Center.
3. Here's a sample of recent work from new member **Colleen Hopper**.
4. **Phil Wilson's** most recent painting depicts a small group of Compsognathus maneuvering through a herd of Brachiosaurs, showing the vast difference in sizes between the two species. This 18" x 24" acrylic painting took seven days to complete.
5. Phil sent these images from *When the Wind Begins to Blow*, the second book in a series featuring human-like fireflies and their adventures. Shown are dragonfly "watchers" who are "sort of spies" according to Phil, and Durgeon's Cave, a place where the story's villain keeps fireflies captive in jars. The book series is written by Barbara Ann Price, and this one is the 87th book Phil has illustrated. "Only 13 more to get to an even 100!" he crows.
6. "Pulcinello's Masks" was inspired by a performance of Commedia del Arte on a visit **Ilene Winn-Lederer** made to Venice. It's one of a series she has been working on for a new book project called *The Book of Jugglery*.
7. Model studies from "another fun, challenging figure session at **South Arts Pittsburgh** on November 11," writes **John Hinderliter**.
8. John did the art for this holiday card for Nemaacolin.

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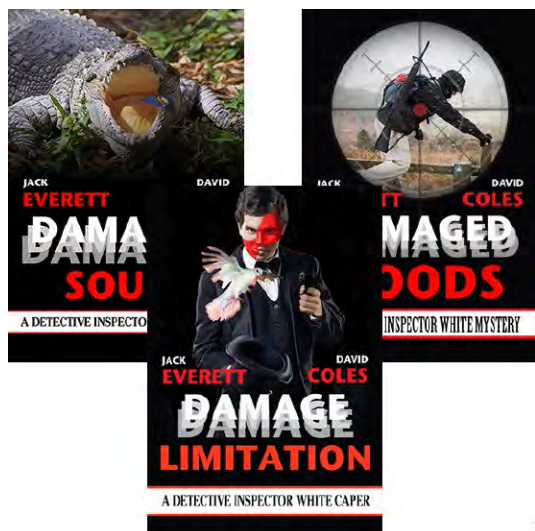
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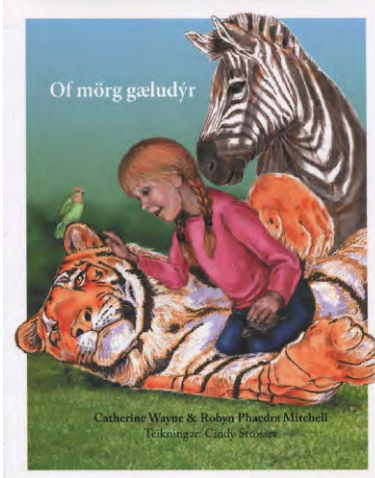
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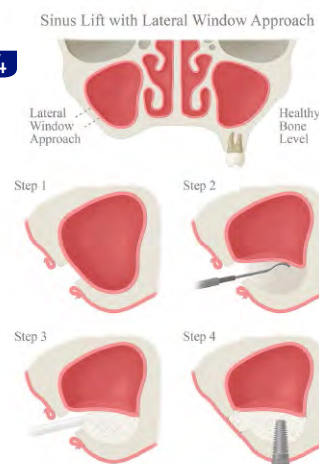
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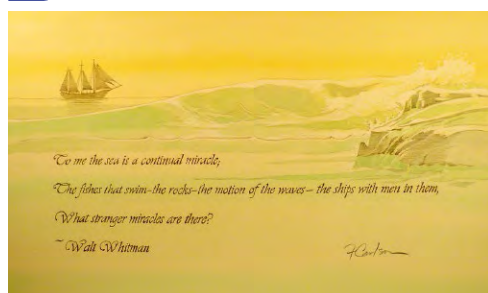
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9. The two sketches of Art Rooney were done by John for some UPMC ads.

10. Here's John's holiday card, done in Photoshop.

11. This Prismacolor colored pencil rendering from a recent project titled "Robotis" was done by new member **Terri Adams**, for an Intermediate Illustration class at AIP. The illustration was built in Photoshop, combining five separate photographic elements to create a composition with attention to light source and perspective.

12. **Craig Jennion** designed these covers for three in a series of five books by Jack Everett and David Coles.

13. **Cindy Mayer-Strosser** illustrated another book by authors Catherine Wayne & Robyn Phaedra Mitchell, published in Iceland. Cindy is credited on the cover as *Teikningar*. The book is also available in English, titled *Too Many Pets*. It be ordered from the author along with the earlier title, *So Many Rainbows*, at globalgrammas.org

14. Here's an illustration done by **Molly Thompson** for an organ and transplant procurement company. The purpose of the image is to show a lateral window approach sinus lift using bone graft material to add sufficient space for a dental implant.

15. **Fred Carlson** mixes illustration with his hand lettering of a Walt Whitman verse for a just-completed private commission for a client's summer home on the Maine coast. The original area is 14" x 8", using graphite, water-colors, dyes and gouache on 3-ply

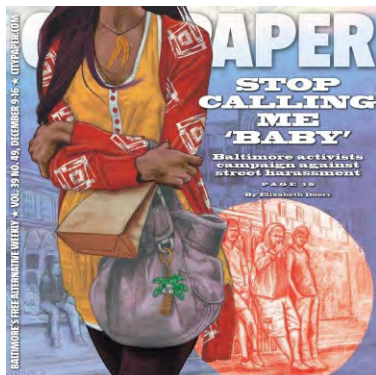
Strathmore Bristol.

16. **Genevieve Barbee** has finished 85 portraits for her ongoing series, "That's What You're Good At!"

17. A new *Untold Tales of Bigfoot* 2-pager along with updates on *UTOB* merchandise was posted recently on **Vince Dorse's UTOB blog**. Vince has posted a one-page comic as his holiday card, including a breakdown of his process using MangaStudio and Photoshop, on his [process blog](http://process.blog).

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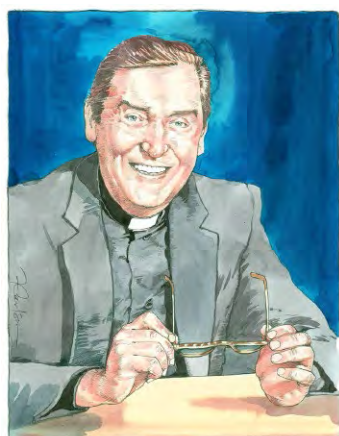
RON THURSTON
The art of watercolor is an exploration of transparent spirit possibilities.
www.ronthurston.net



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18. Cover art for the December 9-16 Baltimore City Paper was done by **Dave D'Incau Jr.**

19. **Wayno's** weekly comic panel **WaynoVision** celebrated its first birthday on December 1. Here is the cartoon from that day.

20. Here's a sample of **Sarah Miller's** recent work in ink.

21. **Mark Bender** did this piece for the Wharton School of Business magazine, for an article on the topic of the Federal Reserve's control.

22. **Ron Thurston** designed this ad for December's Southwest Art Magazine.

The free 1/4 page space was a prize he won in a recent national show.

23. These characters were drawn by **Vince Dorse** and **Pat Lewis** for a Star Wars Post-It fundraiser at the Pittsburgh Toonseum, held December 16.

24. *Secret of the Mangroves: From Salt Crocs to Mud Skippers* is the title for a book **Amanda Zimmerman** is writing and illustrating. She is finishing the first draft this month and then will begin pitching to young adult non-fiction publishing houses. Amanda tells us that the book illustrates how mangroves, while often overlooked, are critically important to a healthy

planet and how mangroves exemplify the interdependency across ecosystems and between species. The text is aimed at readers ages 10-12, but with the use of illustrations and tiered information blocks, has limited accessibility to beginners readers and can be enjoyed by adults as well.

25. The George W. Hunt Institute and America, The National Catholic Review magazine in New York City sent **Fred Carlson** this photo reference on Friday, November 6. Although out of focus, most main features are discernible. The portrait was needed for magazine cover use and PR materials for awards for Literature, Arts and Letters. Fred sent America Art

Director Nick Sawicki a quote that was approved by Monday, and emailed him a sketch that afternoon, receiving immediate approval. Fred painted the full-color watercolor finish in two 3-hour sittings, finishing on Saturday morning, November 14. Once sent, he got the appreciative reply from the AD, "This is magnificent! You certainly did Fr. Hunt justice!"

26. "Butterfly Girl" is a small piece done in oil and gold leaf by **Rhonda Libbey**. She finished it days before this year's *IlluXcon* and it sold at the show. The signed 12"x16" giclee prints, done by Patho Photo studio in Glenshaw, are available in her shop on Etsy.