



PITTSBURGH  
SOCIETY OF  
ILLUSTRATORS

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Editor: Anni Matsick

### Reporters this issue:

Fred Carlson  
Hannah Garrison  
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Molly Thompson  
Nora Thompson

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Yelena Lamm



## High Tech

This piece by **Andrew McAfee** is a reconstruction of *Mansourasaurus shahinae*, a new titanosaur discovered in Egypt. Using the recovered fossils with guidance from paleontologist Dr. Matt Lamanna of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, he built a model based on the skeletal reconstruction to use as a reference for the painting. Dr. Lamanna proposed a composition that would reference a conclusion of the paper — that *Mansourasaurus* was more closely related to Titanosaurs in Asia and Europe than to those in southern Africa. "This is why the dinosaur seems to be gazing across the ocean," Andrew explains. "I wanted to include other living things to complete the scene, so I used a flock of *Ichthyornis*, as well as some Cretaceous plants and a couple of ammonites." The piece appeared in the press to attend the [publication of \*Mansourasaurus\* in \*Nature Ecology & Evolution\*](#), along with the skeletal reconstruction and other figures. The painting was done in Photoshop over the course of a few months with regular input from the paper's authors. "I used a straightforward approach with no more than a dozen opaque layers and I avoided using blending modes

*Continued on next page*

## Dream Theme

**Rhonda Libbey** has been sharing an in-depth look into her process as she creates her art book *Visions From the Dream Diary*. "I'll Fly Away" (8"x10") is her print of the month, and there are a few pledge levels where you can [get one](#). The painting was also selected for inclusion in *Infected by Art - Volume 6*. The chosen entries can be viewed [here](#).



## Placekeeper

"Pittsburgh's New Horizon" appears in **Linda Barnicott's** bookmark collection featuring Pittsburgh scenes. You can see more of them [here](#), each individually hand-crafted in aluminum by Wendell August Forge. Linda will be in her customary spot, Booth #3146-8, at the beginning of Artists' Row at the 2018 Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show. It will run March 2-11 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center.



## My Spot

**Anni Matsick**

As PSI enters its 21st year, membership is at a new high. You can get acquainted with PSI's latest recruits on page 4. Samples of their art are sprinkled through the issue and one

piece made the front page. Reasons for attracting this surge are numerous, and become obvious when perusing these pages. Smiling faces appear in many of the photos taken at PSI's various events, some offered as beneficial to our careers (like the one on page 9), and others purely social (on page 7).

Our 20th year closed out with an evening gala

and awards ceremony celebrating our anniversary exhibit. Those volunteers most significant in steering the organization through its first 2 decades were acknowledged. Find them noted on page 5, then relive the evening in snapshots on page 6.

The annual Saturnalia was another night to revel in each other's company, this time with members bringing favorite holiday treats to share. If you missed it, you'll get another chance next December, but take advantage of the monthly Socials before then.

The pages are loaded with news on many accomplishments and artwork, created for clients, publishers, galleries, and personal pursuits. Page 10 covers details on an assignment considered a national honor. No doubt you've already opted to renew, but, if you haven't yet sent payment to our treasurer (who earned a special award noted on page 5), it's due by March 31.



or importing textures." The art was published in papers and websites all over the world including National Geographic, the Washington Post, the BBC, Reuters, and the LA Times.

## On Exhibit

**Anni Matsick** received First Prize in watercolor in the Art Association of Harrisburg's *Figuratively Speaking* exhibit. The show opened January 12 and ran through February 15 in their gallery in the historic Governor Findlay Mansion. Juror was former curator, Terrie Hosey. "Girl in White Hat" (14"x11") is included in *Splash 19: The Illusion of Light* from North Light Books, available for preorder [here](#).



"Time Travel" (19"x25")

by **Ron Thurston**

won Best of Show in the 9th Annual Signature American Watermedia International Exhibition. It opened with a reception on February 3 at Fallbrook Art Center in Fallbrook, CA, and will run through April 15. Eligibility requires Signature Membership status in one or more U.S. watercolor/watermedia societies or associations. Juror was Ratindra Das.



**Nora Thompson's**

show at Wigle Whiskey will open April 27 with a reception 5:30-10 pm, in conjunction with the downtown Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Q2 [Gallery Crawl](#) at the Wigle Whiskey [tasting room](#) at the Omni William Penn. A print of her Ruddy Award-

winning drawing (20"x16") graphite on bristol will hang there until the original is released from the Art of Facts Show at Heinz History Center.

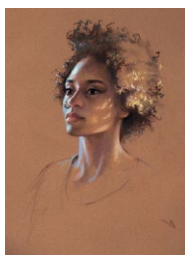
## Kudos

**Ron Thurston's**

"609 Main" was named "one of the 10 Best Watercolor Paintings of 2017" by Artists Network. See them all [here](#).



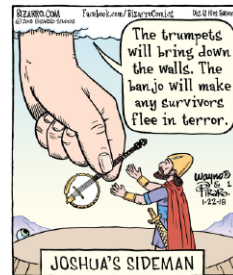
"Making Ends Meet" by **Christine Swann** has been included as a top finalist in the Members Only Competition of the Portrait Society of America in the "Out of the Box" Category. "Dignity" was selected as a finalist in the 13th Annual Art Renewal Center Salon International Competition, her 3rd year for this honor.



**Katya Greco's** "Fuoco Di Venezia," 48"x36" acrylic on canvas, received Second Place in the Colors of Humanity Online Competition.



Beginning January 1, **Wayno** started as the daily (Monday through Saturday) cartoonist for the nationally syndicated **Bizarro**. He and original artist Dan Piraro both blogged about it with **Dan's post** and **Wayno's post**. According to King Features Syndicate, more than 350 newspapers carry the strip, including the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, which ran this [announcement](#) by **Matthew Santoni**.



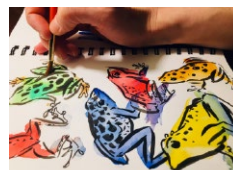
## Out and About



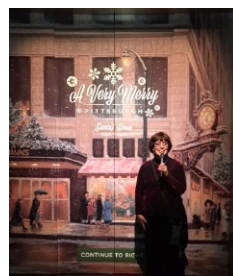
It was "a joyous moment" for **Ashley Cecil** when nursing her youngest child in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History breastfeeding room which is now outfitted with her Nursing Mammal wallpaper. The soft toile pattern was created from paintings inspired by dioramas in their Hall of Wildlife, during Ashley's artist residency. Order the eco-friendly 2'x12' roll in green, blue, or yellow in [Ashley's shop](#).



Ashley began a six-month residency January 3 at [the Richards-Zawacki Lab \(RZL\)](#) of the University of Pittsburgh. RZL studies "many aspects of the ecology, evolutionary biology, and conservation of amphibians." Ashley is particularly interested in their research on whether climate change "shape[s] present day patterns of biodiversity" among amphibians. More on her [blog](#).

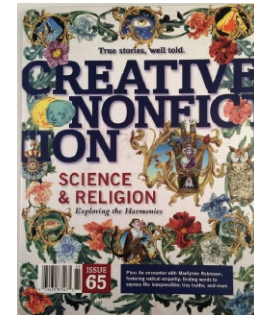


**Linda Barnicott** was honored at the Heinz History Center on November 16 for her painting "Waiting For You Under Kaufmann's Clock." Their exhibit, *A Very Merry Pittsburgh*, ran through January 15. It included ornate objects from

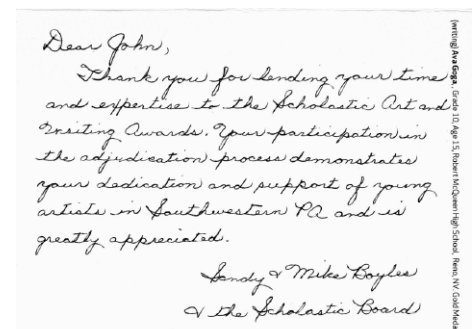


Kaufmann's Christmas window displays, their giant Mr. and Mrs. Claus ornaments and the Santaland mailbox. Read updates about her work on Linda's [blog](#).

A [new interview](#) with **Ilene Winn-Lederer** appears in Issue #65 of Creative Non-Fiction Magazine.

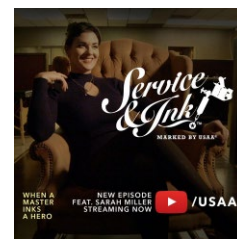


**Kit Paulsen** and **John Hinderliter** each received this thank you note along with Starbucks gift cards for helping to judge the *Scholastic Art and Writing Awards* January 20 at California University, California, PA.



John was recently interviewed by corps340, a weekly podcast that says it "features interviews with individuals from the communications, cultural, business, technology, health, educational and governmental sectors that explores two main themes with each guest: how you have honed your specific craft and why you've chosen to do it here in Western Pennsylvania." Listen [here](#).

Four-year-old Arianna wouldn't let go of her caricature **Vince Ornato** drew December 22 at the Mall at Robinson. "Her mom said they saw my display a few times when I wasn't there," Vince reports. "When Arianna saw me she insisted on coming over to be drawn. She climbed up into my tall, adult chair, crossed her legs, and posed perfectly for me."



Tattoo artist **Sarah Miller** is proud to finally be able to announce the project that she worked on with @usaa #serviceandink streaming now on YouTube. She writes, "Check out the first



episodes and subscribe for more as we pay tribute to our heroes in the service and help them tell their stories!" View it [here](#).



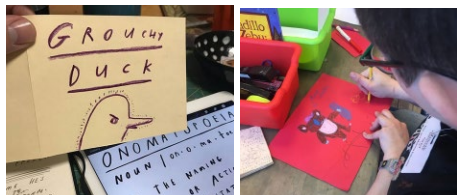
**Gregg Valley** designed The Holiday Terrible Towel this year for the Pittsburgh Steelers. "Sold out on Steelers site, but I've seen

them at stores and vendors around the city," Gregg reports.

**Fred Carlson** has entered into a merchandising relationship with the *Moulin Blues Festival* in Holland, the largest Blues Festival in northern Europe. The fest attracts music-lovers from northern France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Switzerland. 2018's edition will be out in early May and Fred's shirts are already on the online marketplace benefiting the festival budget and providing another source of income using the images Fred has been illustrating since 1984.



**Jeff Brunner** presented a workshop in January in the Art Studio at Pittsburgh's Children's Museum, asking participants to create an original story about a favorite animal, real or imaginary, and the world it inhabits.



This painting by **Ron Thurston** shows the original cabins at [Touchstone Center for Crafts](#) where he will be teaching an all-levels watercolor workshop the week of July 9. There are around 21 cabins plus modern dormitories. Other creative disciplines will be going on the same week and all summer.



## Worthy Cause

Here is **Nora Thompson's** skateboard design for the [Montana Skatepark Association](#) 2018 On Deck 11 skate art auction. She has participated in the auction 3 times before.



Artists can do whatever they want to embellish the provided board, which must be hangable. "I wanted to paint something that would fit well into the elongated shape, and have been painting a lot of monsters lately, so the sketch was pretty easy to figure out," Nora adds. It's done in acrylic on a wooden skateboard.

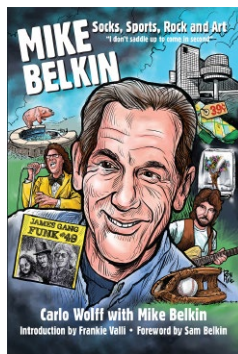
## Books



Two pieces by **Phil Wilson** are from a recently completed book assignment for *Bringing Back the Woolly Mammoth: The Great Debate*. The book deals with the idea of cloning a mammoth from elephant DNA. The originals were done in acrylic and measure roughly 15"x20" each.



Cover art for *Mike Belkin: Socks, Sports, Rock and Art* was done by **Ron Hill** on the iPad Pro with Procreate. The book was published for the client in October, 2017 by [Act 3](#), the media group Ron co-owns with two other creators. A reader's review describes it as "...a window into the promotional and business side of the golden age of Rock and Roll. Mike Belkin is an American success story who with creative hard work and staying true to strong childhood values made a difference in the world centered in Cleveland. The Belkin Production Co. he and his brother established nurtured the entertainment industries growth especially in the midwest in ways that offer problem solving lessons in good business." It's available [here](#).



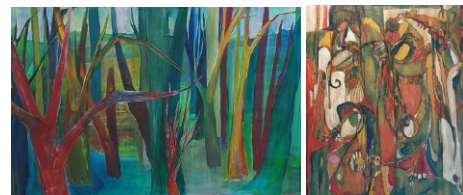
**Leda Miller** was invited to an event at the New York State Parks Department in Niagara Falls, New York, to hold a book signing and sale during their presentation on *The 80th Anniversary of the Collapse of the Honeymoon Bridge* on January 27. Leda's *Hecock Graphic Novels*, 1912 historical fiction steam punk, tell the story of her ancestor, 17-year-old hero Burrell Hecock, and the ice bridge at Niagara Falls. The books were for sale along with lapel pins and posters she designed. Read more on her [blog](#).



**Rhonda Libbey's** "Pixie Dragon" was juried into the art book *Tiny Dragons* by ArtOrderm. Now in production, the book is a collection of whimsical dragons from creatives around the world. More about it [here](#).



**Aimee Bungard's** work appears on the cover and in the interior of Hayden's Ferry Review, a journal by Arizona State University. "Patterson Lane" is featured on the cover.



"Moon Dancer" and "WordPlay" are a preview of illustrations from **Ilene Winn-Lederer's** forthcoming book, working title *Air Play: A Catch of Jugglers*, slated for publication under Imaginarius Editions later this year.





**Fred Carlson reports on...****2018  
Treasury & Membership***(Figures good through February 9, 2018)*

Income 2018: \$3,102.20

Dues Income through 2/9/18 represents 33% of expected revenue from dues for 2018

Expenses 2018: \$668

PSI Cash-On-Hand: \$12,563.14 (Citizen's Checking \$9,718.83; Citizen's Savings \$2,017.87; PayPal \$826.44)

**2018 PSI Dues and Membership**

Membership 2.9.2018: 167 members

Full members 2.9.2018: 136 Full Members

Affiliate members and affiliate comp members: 31 (25 Affiliate and 6 Affiliate Comp members)

New affiliate comp extended: 1 (James Mravec, new NOIS President)

Members deleted as of 2.9.2018: 5

Full members owing dues 2017-2018 2.9.2018: 2

Members Upgraded from Affiliate to Full 2018: 2 (Howard Bender, Dan Ekis)

Life Benefactors, all Full: 16

Comps: 1 full, 6 affiliate (7 total)

No dues owed 2018: 12 (9 affiliates, 3 full)

2018 Dues Paid through 2/9/2018: 47

2018 Dues payers using PayPal: 27

2018 Dues payers using checks: 20

PSI New Members 2018: 0

2018 PSI Prospects (NMA inquiries): 3

**March 31 Deadline for 2018 Dues**

PSI Dues for 2018 are due to the Treasurer by March 2018 according to our by-laws. Invoicing is done by email; please contact the Treasurer Fred Carlson asap (412-856-0982 or fred@carlsonstudio.com) if you have not received an email reminder about 2018 Dues, or have any questions. The certificate sent out with your invoice is to be printed out, signed, and KEPT by each member as proof of PSI membership for 2018. If you do not care to renew, please notify the Treasurer asap.

PSI always extends payment plan options to our members but you have to request an extension from the Treasurer.

All requests are confidential. We do not want to lose any members for inability to pay dues, so our deadline is a soft one.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

**10% OFF**

all non-sale items with PSI members card

**Artist & Craftsman Supply**

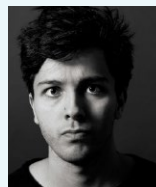
5603 Hobart Street, Squirrel Hill  
412.421.3002  
ArtistCraftsman.com

**New Members****Alex Hess**

Pittsburgh, PA

[alexhessoofficial.com](http://alexhessoofficial.com)

Alex is a Pittsburgh based illustrator and designer. His work focuses on what would be best described as an original reflection of pop culture. The dynamic influence stems from great classics from Art Nouveau, Pop Art, Art Deco, Street Art, and many contemporaries. His medium is digital painting which allows the work to develop strong tonal vibrancies and refined values. His illustration work has been exhibited at Penn State University, The Art Institute of Pittsburgh (where he earned a BS in Graphic Design), and local cafes. Current clients include the Pittsburgh Public Theater. Alex works full-time as a Graphic Designer at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Thomas Hoover**

Fishers, IN

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

Tom is a graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and a native of Vandergrift, PA. He has always been fascinated by the technical aspects of things. Tom has worked professionally as a graphic designer, photo retoucher, and illustrator in the sports and entertainment industry for over 20 years. Painting athletes and creating graphics for motor sports has been his main focus. While primarily a digital artist he still enjoys the occasional freelance airbrush project. A few of his past clients include Adidas, Reebok, NFL, NHL, NBA, Seattle Seahawks, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, NASCAR, and Mack trucks.



**Howard Bender** has been upgraded to Full PSI Member.

**Rejoined****Taylor Callery**

Millvale, PA

[www.taylorcalleryart.com](http://www.taylorcalleryart.com)**New Affiliate Members****Morning Bischoff**

Pittsburgh, PA

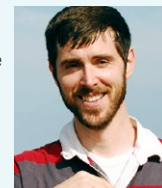
Following her never fading passion for visual art and literature, Morning is continuing her career as a freelance Illustrator, along with her acrylic painting and Mandarin teaching. Recently, her work has been focused on creating illustrations for a children's picture book. Her preferred mediums include acrylic paint, watercolor, and colored pencils. Additionally, she loves using Japanese paper to do paper-cuttings.

**Andrew McAfee**

Pittsburgh, PA

[AndrewMcAfee.com](http://AndrewMcAfee.com)

Andrew McAfee is a transplant to Pittsburgh from central Virginia. He is a graduate of the science illustration program at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), where he learned the importance of a color comp and the power of a white gel pen. Since school, Andrew has been learning to model and light maquettes in Blender for reference, and hand-drawing animation in TVPaint. Andrew is the Scientific Illustrator for the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History where he does a variety of work. But for simplicity, he usually just tells people he draws dinosaurs.

**(Mary) Colleen Halley**

Pittsburgh, PA

Colleen is a multi-disciplinary artist, dancer, writer, yogi and imagineer. Born in Pittsburgh and seasoned in New Orleans, she worked as a public school elementary teacher for 5 years post-Katrina, aiding in the rebuilding of the city's spirit and soul. She left 2 years ago to follow the call of becoming the spiritual designer of her own life as an artist, teacher and healer. She hopes to share messages of truth, love, forgiveness, peace, power, pain, culture, triumph, nature, wisdom, and unity, through her visual musings.

**Jade Tan-Holmes**

Pittsburgh, PA

<https://www.youtube.com/c/upandatom>

Jade has a physics degree and became an illustrator in recent months when hired as a tech employee at the YouTube channel Braincraft, doing animations. She joined PSI to meet like-minded people she could talk with on the topic of drawing.

**Kamara Townes**

Clairton, PA

[www.etsy.com/shop/ArtByWednesday](http://www.etsy.com/shop/ArtByWednesday)

Kamara recently graduated from California University of Pennsylvania. Her show of artwork in April was featured in YBPgh.

**Blanca Pifano**

Pittsburgh, PA

[www.blancapifano.etsy.com](http://www.blancapifano.etsy.com)

Blanca is a Venezuelan born freelance artist and illustrator. Her work is predominantly portraits and online illustrations. She has always been inspired by comics, and is now working with that style, incorporating it into her portraits, having fun with the messy lines and her favorite, drips and splatter. Blanca generally uses a mix of pencil, pencil colors, ink, watercolor and coffee.

Molly Thompson reports on...

## Art of Facts Reception & PSI's 20th Anniversary Celebration

On November 9th we celebrated two of PSI's recent achievements: the *Art of Facts* | *Uncovering Pittsburgh Stories* exhibit, featuring illustrations by 40 of our professional members, and our society's 20th anniversary.

We hosted our celebration in the Heinz History Center's Mueller Center, just steps away from *Art of Facts* in the Barends Gallery. This was a wonderful opportunity made possible by History Center staff, Common Plea Catering, our sponsors and our dedicated PSI volunteers.

Over 200 guests gathered in the ballroom with a view of the river and the city lights through a wall of windows.

**Kathy Rooney** took the lead on event decorations, collaborating with painter and sculptor, **Ray Sokolowski**, to bring a creative touch to the Mueller Center with torn paper tablecloths, fall colors and candlelight. The centerpiece of our space was, appropriately, another work of art — this one doubling as a traditional Pittsburgh cookie table! Drawing from *Art of Facts*, Kathy and Ray incorporated every exhibited piece (there are over 50) into a sculpted backdrop for an impressive display of cookies.

Throughout the evening, guests pored over our exhibit, nibbled on cookies and hors d'oeuvres and mingled, pausing only for our presentations and awards ceremony.

History Center CEO **Andrew Masich** kicked off our presentation by welcoming our guests and praising the collaborative effort between the History Center and PSI that led to *Art of Facts*.

PSI president, **Emily Traynor**, addressed that effort further, acknowledging the work of everyone involved in creating an exhibit that simultaneously advances the History Center's mission while featuring the profession of illustration.

I had my own words of thanks for all the teamwork and support I received as exhibition chair, before introducing past president and current treasurer, **Fred Carlson**, to highlight PSI's 20 years as a 501C3 organization. He rightly reminded us that we have much to be proud

of as we pass this milestone, and that exhibiting at the History Center is a wonderful opportunity to teach others about our ever-growing organization and our unique profession.

It was time then to recognize the past and present board and committee members that have made the last 20 years of PSI possible. Their volunteer efforts have created a professional organization and social network that is the second largest of its kind in the United States! Fittingly, PSI's very first president, **John Manders**, presented a special award that was the first of its kind, to **Fred Carlson**, for his 20 years of valuable volunteer service.

To conclude our ceremony, awards from the *Art of Facts* jurying were presented to the winners by **Emily Traynor**. All awards and illustration descriptions can be seen on our [exhibit website](#).

We eagerly introduced our featured entertainment, the "Handyman" Joe Negri Trio, who gave our guests a smooth and classy soundtrack for rest of our evening. It was definitely a night to remember.



History Center CEO Andrew Masich



PSI President Emily Traynor



Art of Facts Chair Molly Thompson



PSI's first President John Manders

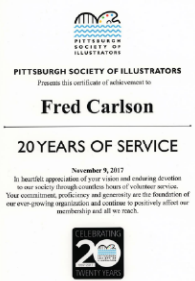


Joe Negri

Since the *Art of Facts* opening, I have learned of at least three pieces being sold from the exhibit and many prints selling from the gift shop. We've have several illustrations featured in articles, on television, and at events. The publicity has been excellent,

and the History Center plans to extend our show until at least April 29th of this year, with the strong possibility of further extension. Great news!

Photos by Alex Patho Jr.



PSI Presidents I-r: Fred Carlson (2000-04), John Manders (1998-99), Rick Antolic (2005-08), Evette Gabriel (2013-14), Pat Lewis (2015-16), Emily Traynor (2017-18)



PSI Vice Presidents I-r: Genevieve Barbee-Turner (2017-18), David Biber (2000-08), George Schill (1998-99), Ashley Cecil (2013-14), Amanda Zimmerman (2015-16), John Blumen (2009-12),



Treasurer Fred Carlson (1998-99, 2014-present), Secretaries Mark Bender (1997), Molly Thompson (2014-16), Hannah Luoni (2017-18), James Mellett (1998-2013)



I-r: Ron Magnes, Newsletter design (2013-18) and PSI logo; Anni Matsick, Newsletter editor (2008-present); Yelena Lamm, Newsletter design (2013-present); Kathy Rooney, Scholarships (2004-06) and New Member screening (2009-present); Rhonda Libbey, Scholarships (2007-present); Rick Antolic-PR Director (2001-06) and PCA Exhibition (2005-06)



AoF Award Winners I-r: Brian Dumm/HM2, Leda Miller/1st, Ilene Winn-Lederer/3rd, Mark Bender/Best in Show, Frances Halley/HM4, Gregg Valley/HM5, Bill Panos/2nd, Nora Thompson/Ruddy, Angela Fullard/Emerging Talent, George Schill/HM3

Continued on next page





The subject of "Temujin Ekuifeo: African Storyteller Elder" and Ilene Winn-Lederer stand near the work.



South Side Carnegie Library's Head Librarian Suzy Waldo and Kurt Praff with his painting, "Andrew Carnegie Never Anticipated Suzy."



Kennywood staff painters Lisa Thomas Hamilton and Jen Tomasic with Anni Matsick's "New Colors Go 'Round: The Refurbishing of Kennywood's Dentzel grand carousel."



Photos by Alex Patho Jr.



## Hannah Garrison reports on...

### Saturnalia 2017

Our end of the year party, held Saturday, December 9 at **John Blumen's** house, turned out to be a blast, as it does every year! We saw a lot of new members joining, especially in the 30 and below crowd. John's house was packed with an estimated 50 attending.

We announced some awards as thank yous to a few of our dedicated members, all of whom have helped the Society grow and maintain its standing as the 2nd largest illustrator's society in the United States. The members listed below received honoraria, with comments from Fred Carlson:

**Alex Patho Jr.** has been an affiliate member for at least 14 years. He has faithfully documented our major events and every PSI meeting he has attended. He supplied the tip top professional photography skills to our promotions, website, Facebook page, and print materials. Alex also prints our certificates for scholarships and for our recent awards night at the Heinz History Center reception.

**Anni Matsick** has been our PR Director and PSInside editor for over 10 years, beginning with the July 2008 issue. She has kept this commitment in addition to her volunteer efforts for other arts organizations and her busy freelance schedule.

**Yelena Lamm** has been the production designer for PSInside for nearly 5 years, beginning with the June 2013 issue. She has produced a beautifully designed online publication that has served the Society well for member communication and member retention, especially to our members who do not feel compelled to attend all our programs and socials.



**Molly Thompson** did an amazing job putting together the Heinz History Center show. Molly is our direct contact with the staff at the HHC, and was impressive in the way she handled every aspect of the *Art of Facts* show. Molly is also a past PSI board member.

Included in attendance: President **Emily Traynor** and Ron Persico, VP **Genevieve Barbee-Turner**, Secretary **Hannah Garrison** and Peter Cormas, Treasurer **Fred Carlson**, PSInside designer **Yelena Lamm** and son Nickolay Lamm, photographer **Alex Patho Jr.**, AoF Chair **Molly Thompson**, Past Presidents **Rick Antolic**, Sarah and **Pat Lewis**, Past VPs **George Schill** and **John Blumen** and a client, **Danielle Amiano** and guest, **Howard Bender**, John and **Judy Emerick**, Anthony & **Katya Vadim Greco**, John and **Frances Halley**, **Frank Harris**, **Rhonda Libbey**, **Ron Magnes**, **Vince Ornato**, **Sophia Pappas**, **Kurt Pfaff** and **Megan Bethel**, **Kathy Rooney** and Ray Sokolowski, **Dan Senneway**, **Gregg Valley**, **Phil Wilson**, Jeff and **Ilene Winn-Lederer**, **Lindsay Wright** and Joe Durko.

Photos by Alex Patho Jr.





## Autumn Seybert reports on...

# SCBWI 19th Annual Winter Conference

The first question illustrator friends asked when I returned from the SCBWI Winter Conference was: Is it worth attending? Toward that goal, a number of changes from past years have tailored it to maximize value. This year, the New York City conference was held March 3-4, without Friday Intensives. The schedule allowed for no wasted time, with conference goers racing from keynotes to classes in under 10 minutes. Registration was limited to 500, less than half of that accepted in past years.

The Portfolio Showcase was still an option for illustrators but the time was moved to Saturday instead of Friday evening, when the Golden Kite Awards took place for the first time in New York. **Chelsea Clinton** delivered the opening remarks and a signed copy of her new picture book, *She Persisted*, was on each seat. Champagne followed, where I caught up with fellow attendees **Pat Lewis** and **Anni Matsick**.

We met again in Digital Pre-Press Practices, where Simon and Schuster art director **Laurent Linn** and pre-press expert **Al Imparato** answered questions about the importance of preparing images properly. Where Does Your Art Fit In? featured a panel of art directors who commented on a selection of images sent in advance, portraying story book villains. Pat's was shown along with one by **Jeff Brunner**.

Some of the benefits to the changes were related to the size of the crowd and networking opportunities. With fewer attendees, one could hold a conversation with fewer interruptions. With fewer, longer sessions, an attendee could enjoy an in-depth presentation or workshop, and have ample time to ask questions. There didn't appear to be any less crowding at this year's Portfolio Showcase, however, where books were placed with little space between, all hoping to attract the attention of art buyers during an exclusive viewing.

Saturday's buffet dinner provides the opportunity to mingle with the entire group, with flags at tables for each region so you can find your peeps easily. Conversations begin while in line for the signature "mashtinis," mashed potatoes in a martini glass with all the toppings you care



PSI members attending (l-r): Anni Matsick, Jeff Brunner, Pat Lewis, Autumn Seybert credit: Jayne Rose-Vallee

to add. Not so wise this year was overlapping the following Portfolio Showcase viewing by attendees with the Saturday evening socials.

The Illustrator Social is typically an opportune networking event, but was set in the same room plus a cash bar, making it crowded and noisy. I learned too late that another PSI member, **Ashley Teets** was there.

The Grand Hyatt location (next to Grand Central Station) is ideal for New York sight-seeing. You can easily walk to major tourist spots and, being in the middle of winter, the sidewalks aren't too busy. (Tip: Make sure you get your black and white cookies from Junior's, not Zaro's. You'll have to walk a little farther, but it's worth it.)

Overall, the conference is worth attending. You'll need a strategy to make your work stand out in the Showcase, but other than that, relax; you're in the excellent company of other illustrators and writers from all over the globe.



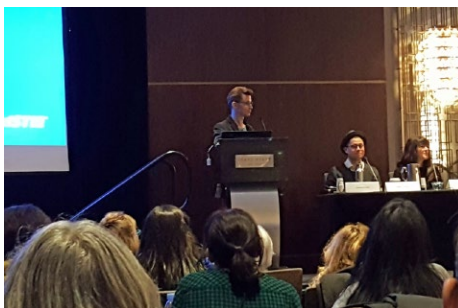
Ashley Teets



Illustration by Autumn Seybert



Illustration by Jeff Brunner



Digital Pre-Press Panel (l-r): Laurent Linn, Mike Curato, Renee Kurilla, Al Imparato



Illustration by Pat Lewis



Illustration by Anni Matsick

Photos by Autumn Seybert, Ashley Teets



**Illustrator Coordinator Nora Thompson reports on...**

## WPaSCBWI Picture Book Workshop April 20-21

From Idea To Bookshelf will be based on **Stacy Innerst's** Golden Kite Award-winning book, *The Music in George's Head*. Faculty will include Stacy, the book's author, Suzanne Slade, Barbara Grzeslo (Calkins Creek Art Director), Carolyn Yoder (Calkins Creek Editor), and Susan Cohen (Stacy's agent at Writers House). The workshop will be held at the Hyatt at Pittsburgh International Airport. In addition to workshops from all faculty, all participants will have the

option of receiving a written critique of their picture book dummy, portfolio (choice of website link or five jpgs) or picture book manuscript. The workshop will be limited to the first 50 registrants, and early registration will be limited to SCBWI members only. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the [Western PA SCBWI website](#).

- \$95 Early Registration begins on February 28 at 10 am
- \$115 Registration begins Tuesday, March 6 at 10 am
- Registration closes Wednesday, March 14 at 10 am.

**Hannah Garrison reports on...**

## January BOI

At the Business of Illustration meeting held the evening of January 25, PSI members attended a wonderful talk by **Mark Zingarelli** and writer **Gwyn Cready** to hear about the twists and turns during their collaboration on a graphic novel. The book will focus on the life of Gwyn's husband, **Lester Pyle**, who was also present. It was also described as a reflection on his parents, and a love letter to his siblings.

Mark and Gwyn have been close friends for over 10 years, and the idea for the novel sprung from the peculiar childhood Lester experienced. He was born in Chicago and lived in Fargo, ND for over 20 years. When Gwyn emailed Mark about the idea of bringing Lester's stories to life, he jumped at it. Seven pages and a few illustrations later, the pair, with the help from Mark's connections in the publishing industry, approached an agent with their project. It was well received and currently the manuscript is being pitched to various editors.

The pair talked about the wonderful collaboration they have achieved. Gwyn, a romance novelist, found the story arc coming much quicker

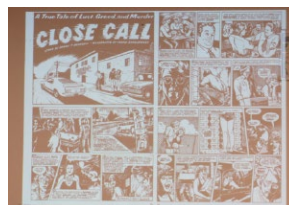
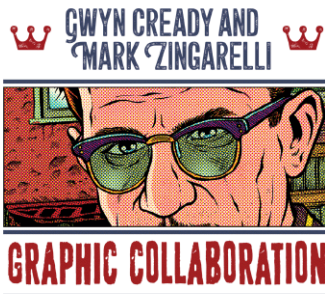
than it usually does. She found it relieving to leave the depiction of the scenes to Mark, who encouraged her to place a description in brackets next to a sentence if she felt it should be illustrated.

Gwyn had Lester fact check everything she wrote. He would also call his siblings throughout the process to help remember some of the stories. It became cathartic throughout the process, and some stories were hard to relive. Mark even spoke about the emotional impact he experienced after reading the introduction for the first time.

As it stands, the manuscript has an intro, prologue, and epilogue with Gwyn's thoughts. She describes it as hard to write, since it was fairly uncomfortable to share. The story is set in a car ride with Lester as he drives his 1965

Fastback Red Mustang from Chicago to Fargo, ND. He is telling the story to the passenger, the reader, as they drive. Finally, the pair described the reaction Lester's siblings had to the book, which was mixed. One even proclaimed she would not be friends with Gwyn any longer, but has become more relaxed about her feelings since then. The talk was left here, and was opened to questions from those present.

Additionally in attendance: President **Emily Traynor**, VP **Genevieve Barbie-Turner**, Secretary **Hannah Garrison**, Treasurer **Fred Carlson**, AoF Chair and guest Vince, past President **Rick Antolic**, past VP **George Schill**, **Kelly Ackerman**, **Howard Bender**, **Wendy Bennett**, **David Coulson**, **Vince Dorse** and guest **Michelle June Edwards**, **Andrew McAfee**, **Dave Nelson**, **Sophia Marie Pappas**.



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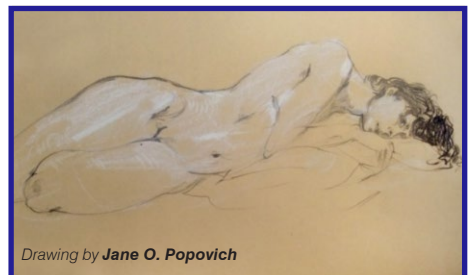
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[www.panzagallery.com](http://www.panzagallery.com)

**A report on February's BOI, Contracts & Copyright Issues, will appear in next issue.**

**Next BOI: March 29, topic and location TBA**

An exciting list of events for the year ahead is being finalized. Check PSI's website for [updates](#).

**NEXT PSI SOCIAL**

**Tuesday, March 13 6:30 pm**

The Abbey on Butler  
4635 Butler St, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

(Socials are always the second Tuesday of the month at same location.)



## Spotlight on... Jim Starr

*The assignment to illustrate the 2017 White House Holiday Tour Book started with a phone call Jim received out of the blue from a member of the White House Staff in late September.*

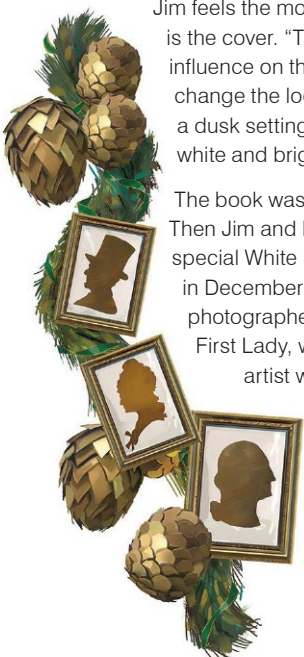
"I must admit I did have to ask if it really was the White House," Jim says. He found out later they had found him through his New York representative, MB Artists. The project called for 25-30 color illustrations for the annual tour book and, with the new administration, was on a tight deadline to be produced in time for the holiday season. The budget was pro-bono, but Jim felt honored by this call from "The White House" and was pleased to comply.

Jim and his wife, Karen, made a quick trip down to DC to shoot interiors. "Having a personal tour and shooting pictures of this historical building was a memorable event for us," he recalls. "So many beautiful paintings and portraits, detailed architectural adornments, and individually named and decorated rooms to see!"

Once photos were taken it was time to establish style and technique. First Lady Melania Trump and staff liked two other books Jim had done in a painterly style using Kyle's oil brushes in Photoshop. Painting in this technique, he worked on developing the character of a boy seen through the book's pages as he enters each of the rooms on the tour. Once they determined the boy's image, Jim followed the outline of the layouts the staff had assembled to work out the placement of the decorated rooms and holiday-themed spots. It became a flowing process through various stages; completion of sketches, edits, color art, and more edits. Once done, a snapshot of the color proofs spread on a desktop was tweeted to the public.

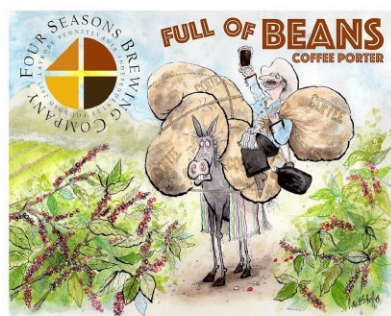
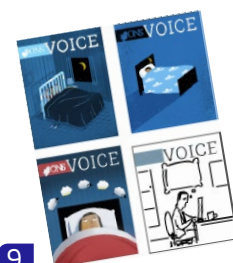
Jim feels the most memorable piece of art is the cover. "The First Lady had a positive influence on this piece. She had me change the look of the White House from a dusk setting and underlit building to the white and bright building in the final art."

The book was finished in early November. Then Jim and Karen were invited to a special White House Holiday Reception in December where they were photographed with the President and First Lady, who introduced him as "the artist who did the book." Jim and his family enjoyed a tour and will cherish memories of celebrating the special season in our nation's capitol.



Article by Anni Matsick  
Design by Yelena Lamm  
Photos courtesy of Jim Starr and the White House





1. **Kit Paulsen** finished this Christmas commission in early December. "I get some awesome assignments," she says. "The Saint Bernard, Charlie, is ancient; very flat on the floor in the photos I worked from, and dead asleep. The boy's hair and dog's hair mixing together is my favorite part of this one."

2. Kit's last commission for 2017. "My client has wonderful photos that tell a story; in this, the old Rottweiler is worried and trying so hard to keep up with his girls. That's Mom in the upper left corner."

3. **John Hinderliter** created this polar bear image as one of 89 line illustrations for a Penguin Random House book about climate change.

4. John did this oil painting portrait of a family dog with homage to Andrew Wyeth's "Christina's World."

5. Here is John's first in a series of safety posters for Eat'n Park.

6. John also did this woodcut style illustration for a gardening magazine.

7. Here's **Wayno's** annual poster for *Hell With The Lid Off 14 Barley Wine*

*Festival*. Tickets for the March 24 event at Kelly's Bar and Lounge in Pittsburgh are available [here](#).

8. Here's a pencil and digital combo image by **Dave D'Incau**.

9. **George Schill** shares his cover ideas and final illustration for *On-Voice Magazine* on the topic of sleep/wake disturbances.

10. **Mark Brewer** just finished this *Full of Beans* label for Four Seasons Brewing Company.

11. Here's a shot of **Phil Wilson's** latest

dinosaur acrylic painting, "Deinonychus pack attacking Tenontosaurus" (18"x24"). Phil adds, "It is based on actual fossil findings in which remains of Tenontosaurus are often found mixed with broken Deinonychus teeth. Must have been their favorite prey!"

12. **Yelena Lamm's** "Lavender Fields" painting is available on a dress or scarf you can order [here](#).

13. The WONE FM 97.5 illustration was done by **Ron Hill** on the iPad Pro with Procreate for a long-time radio station client of Act 3, the media group Ron co-owns with two other creators.



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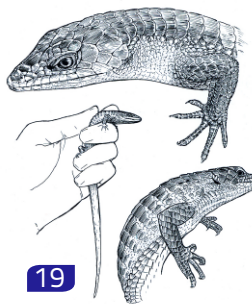
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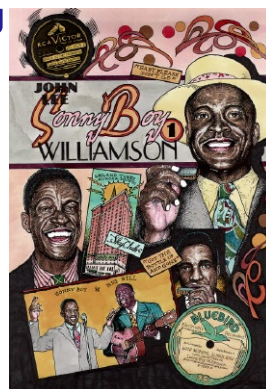
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## Check ... and Double Check

Compare these two pictures. Can you find at least 18 differences?



32 Highlights

Answers on page 36



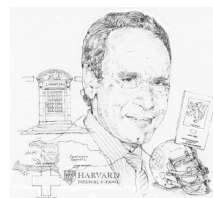
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14. The Children's Institute piece done by **Gregg Valley** was commissioned by Garrison Hughes, art director Debbie Regan. It was sent out as a thank you/fundraiser to over 5000 corporations and individuals.

15. "The Calling" (7.5"x9.5") is a recent work in watercolor by new member **Morning Bischoff**. It was inspired by a deer sighting in the woods behind her home.

16. This detail is from the 22"x30" painting shown, recently finished by **Ashley Cecil**.

17. This equine series by **Katya Greco** is titled "On the Way — My Horses." Each is a 30"x24" acrylic on canvas, gallery wrapped. The titles are "Grey Horse," "Palomino," "Red Horse," and "White Horse."

18. New member **Tom Hoover** is a

lifelong Penguins fan and wanted to paint portraits of some of his favorite players. This 16"x20" painting of Marc-Andre Fleury was done digitally in the Painter program, which he feels more closely replicates the traditional mediums.

19. *Abronia fimbriata* (11"x14") was done in pen & ink by new affiliate member **Andrew McAfee**.

20. New Member **Alex Hess** sent this sample of his illustrations.

21. Commissioned by LA-based performer and writer Rob Stone, this is the last of 5 Blues Harmonica All-Stars Posters that **Fred Carlson** began earlier this year. Fred shows the black & white finished drawing, and the finished color art. Horton was born near Memphis and migrated to Chicago when he was in his late teens. Despite health problems he played on some of

the most riveting blues performances of the 1950 through the 1970s. He played at the Evergreen Hotel in the North Hills around the time he died in 1981.

22. Here's a recent CD cover for the Australian band led by Troy Wilson. They are based out of Melbourne, Australia. Troy found out about Fred's work through the covers Fred does for Guitar Workshop. This job had a 4-day turnaround.

23. Commissioned by Chicago-based Bob Walesa, this is the second to last of 5 Blues Harmonica All-Stars Posters that Fred began earlier this year. John Lee Williamson was born in Tennessee and migrated to Chicago when he was 20 in 1934. He played with everyone in the pre-WW2 era and was the first harmonica blues soloist virtuoso. His career was derailed somewhat by the shellac rationing of the war years but just as he was

becoming known after WW2 he was killed in a mugging near his apartment in Chicago in 1948 at the tender age of 34.

24. Fred's portrait of Larry Paul, the largest minority owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, was commissioned for the Phillips-Exeter Table Talk interview profile column. The sketch and finished art is shown. Finished art took about one working day.

25. The Pittsburgh Quarterly ran another cover by **Mark Bender** on its Winter 2018 issue.

26. **Pat Lewis** shares this "Check and Double Check" puzzle, his most recent work done for Highlights for Children magazine., showing some ducks sharing a public fountain.

27. Pat supplied the cover art for the just-released February 28 issue of Pittsburgh City Paper.