This newsy issue is packed with photos and reports on the many events held by our organization over the summer months. The last-Thursday-of-the-month Business of Illustration meetings continue to inform, and the first-Tuesday Socials provide a looser atmosphere for open exchange. New and established members closed out the season at the annual August picnic, enjoying a hearty spread while learning about the organization’s many offerings.

Many of our illustrators are showing their framed art in galleries, filling a page with listings of exhibits and awards, and one artist has covered an entire outdoor wall with his colorful imagery.

Under Kudos, you’ll find a variety of accomplishments. And coming up next year is one distinguished member’s contribution to the next volume of PEGs, invited due to his long successful career, described on page 4.

The Spotlight is on several Sharpie-wielding members who filled their summer calendars entertaining appreciative crowds. A selection of the happy faces appears on page 13.

In addition to all of this, the main buzz is on PSI’s new show opening this week at the Stifel Fine Arts Center! Everything you need to know before hitting the road to Wheeling appears on page 12. Read up on everyone in these pages then join the crowd at the reception!
On Exhibit

Nora Thompson is part of a 3-person show with artists Brian McCall and Johnny Dismal at You Are Here Gallery in Jeannette at 406 Clay Avenue. Titled “Bat Country,” the exhibit opened with a reception on August 17 and runs through September 28. Nora’s works are painted on old cabinet doors, wear and tear intact, most of which she found at Construction Junction. (“No need for framing!”). The works shown are acrylic on cabinet doors, including hardware.

Ron Thurston, Bill Vrscak and Anni Matsick are among the 100 artists whose works are included in the 2019 Pennsylvania Watercolor Society’s 40th International Juried Exhibition. Juror of Selection was John T. Salminen. The Opening Reception will take place Sunday, September 8, 1-4 pm, at the Lancaster Museum of Art. Show dates are August 31 - October 26.

A selection of paintings by Anni Matsick was on display at Kish Bank on S. Allen Street in State College for the month of June. Gathered for this exhibit were 18 recent works in watercolor highlighting the artist’s career as an illustrator and painter. An opening reception during the Downtown’s First Friday events drew record crowds to see her work, not shown previously in the area.

Kurt Pfaff’s “Andrew Carnegie Never Anticipated Suzie,” (36”x48”) oil on canvas, took Best in Show at the Westmoreland Art & Heritage Festival. June Linowitz was juror. Prizes were announced at the opening reception June 29 at Twin Lakes Park. The Festival ran July 4-7.

Christine Swann’s life-size painting “Abundance” is now in Albuquerque, New Mexico as part of the International Masters Circle Exhibition at the Convention for the International Association of Pastel Societies. Christine’s painting “Dignity” was selected for the 47th Annual Pastel Society of America’s National Exhibition: Enduring Brilliance on display September 3-28 at the National Arts Club in New York City. Fewer than 180 works were selected from 1,627 submissions by jurors of selection, Jimmy Wright, Michael McGurk, and Debora L. Stewart. Christine will demonstrate a portrait using her son as the model at the Materials Fair. Christine’s article in the June issue of Pastel Journal gives a checklist of 9 criteria to consider when assessing the process of a painting.

“Reverie” (15”x15”) by Anni Matsick won 1st Place in Art in Common’s 2019 Artists in Our Midst, on display at Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Altoona. The 15-minute charcoal drawing was done in a group session at the Art Alliance of Central PA center in Lemont. Anni has 3 pieces in the 56 2D works accepted by juror Stuart Thompson. The show opened August 23, with a reception set for September 18 during the monthly “Wicked Wednesday.” It runs through December 7.

Kudos

The Winter 2019 Pittsburgh Quarterly cover, “Snow Angel,” AD Anita DuFalla and illustrated by George Schill, won the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania’s Golden Quill in the Cover Design category. “Work Disrupted,” by Gregg Valley for Pittsburgh Quarterly was a finalist in the category of Craft Achievement — Illustration: News or Feature.
Lindsay Wright’s illustration of “Flying Foxes Pollinating a Durian Tree” was chosen as the artwork for the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Annual Conference Poster.

Lindsay’s submissions, “Swimming African Penguin,” and “What is a Dinosaur?” were accepted into the 2019 GNSI and AIMBI Members Exhibit. A slideshow was shown on screens in the foyer at Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, July 1-7, beginning with an opening reception at Queensland Museum. It was also viewed online and at Women’s College, University Of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane.

Ilene Winn-Lederer’s book, Bestiary: An Imaginary Menagerie (Imaginarium Editions, 2016) was selected for a Merit Award in this year’s 3x3: No.16 Professional Show. The cover and several interiors will appear in their show catalog.

Dave Klug won the very first Reuben Award for Variety Entertainment, “defined as any newspaper, magazine, or online comic feature that contains puzzles, games, activities, trivia, history, or instruction.” Vince Dorse, a 2014 Reuben winner, was a nominee for the second year in a row for Online Comics-Long Form for his Untold Tales of Bigfoot graphic novel. Awards were given at the National Cartoonists Society’s annual ceremony on Sunday, May 19 in Huntington Beach, California.

This 2019 White Mountain puzzles catalog “Top Picks” spread features some of Jim Mellett’s 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles, including his latest in the decades series, “The New Millennium.” Several are marked as best sellers and “The 1980’s” is in their top ten.

Another spread with entertainment themed puzzles shows “Television” also in top ten.

“The Holidays” is part of their new “Seek & Find” series. Jim has created over 40 puzzles for the company and 30 can be found for sale here.

Out and About

This summer Lindsay Wright participated in art festivals all around the city including the Millvale Music Festival, Squirrel Hill Night Market, Polish Hill Arts Festival, and Goat Fest in South Side Park. She has one more event this year, the Squirrel Hill Night Market on September 28, starting at 6 pm on Murray Avenue.

Phil Wilson was July’s featured artist for the Artist Guild at Sweetwater Center for the Arts Group in Sewickley. An estimated 60 people attended Phil’s presentation, where he discussed his career starting with his animation work in commercials, TV specials, feature films, and music videos. Phil then talked about his work for Disney, book illustrating, and dinosaur illustration working with renowned paleontologist Jack Horner. The presentation and Q&A session that followed lasted about 2 hours. Many original pieces as well as several printed and published works were on display. Read press coverage here.

Finished in under a month, Gregg Valley’s latest public art project is an enormous painting at the Fox Valley Mall in Aurora, Illinois, about 30 miles west of Chicago. The Fox River runs through the town. “The client wanted a River scene, and I naturally thought that a Fox should be the main image. I added local flora and fauna from the region,” Gregg reports. The mural is approximately 215 feet long by 35 feet high, covering approximately 6400 square feet, by far Gregg’s biggest work to date. The fox itself is 70 feet long. “I’ve done large murals, but this is SO huge that getting the proportions of everything correct was quite a challenge!” Video here.

Ashley Cecil has been “blissed out” learning about the power and benefit of urban forests while serving as an artist in residence at Tree Pittsburgh. From her blog: “The aim of the residency artwork was to shed light on what we stand to gain by protecting and expanding urban forests — easing childhood asthma, putting money in our wallets, preventing crime, taming storms. It also repeats a theme of reciprocal service — when we plant and care for trees, they generously give back to us.”

June 27 was the opening of the resulting exhibition of work at Tree Pittsburgh’s new and sustainably-designed building along the Allegheny River. Guests celebrated trees while enjoying cider made from fruit from a serviceberry tree on Stanton Avenue as well as print-making with fresh leaves. Ashley is shown here with a participant in an August Pattern Printing workshop. Also shown is a print done by a student.

Continued on next page
Yelena Lamm will display her paintings at the 50th Fair in the Park at Mellon Park, September 6-8. Presented by the Craftsmen’s Guild of Pittsburgh, an estimated 20,000 visitors will enjoy this opportunity to interact with over 100 regional and national artists working in a variety of mediums. Yelena will also show her work at Mt. Lebanon Artists’ Market September 21-22.

Among those attending Are Annie Matsick talk on August 26 for the Arts Guild at Sweetwater Center for the Arts in Sewickley were 10 PSI members. Annie outlined her 3 decades in illustrating for major publishers of children’s literature, and the transition into “fine art” painting.

Fred Carlson to be Featured in PEGs16

One of the new features of the next 16th Edition of the Pricing and Ethical Guidelines, in stores by Fall 2020, will be a chapter featuring self-employed graphic artists who have successfully utilized practices and such as unique marketing and self-promotion, using creativity to maximize income, creating a niche market, collaborating with other professionals to increase business opportunities, protecting intellectual property, etc.

Fred Carlson was chosen as a featured artist because of his long successful career as a self-employed illustrator and his advocacy efforts on behalf of our profession. Fred was selected along with 3 others from literally thousands of creative professionals by Deborah Kantor, PEGs 16 Project Manager & Editor.

In addition to an interview, there will be 3 samples featured and a portrait. The PEGs is published every 3-4 years and is read by over 65,000 professionals in the trade each edition.

Here’s an advance scoop on Fred’s answers to 3 vital questions as they will appear with many others in the next PEGs — an exclusive to PSIinside readers a year before they appear in print nationally!

You’ve been a long-time member of both the Graphic Artists Guild and the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators, and you’ve held offices in both organizations. How important has this involvement been to your career?

Professional organizations are absolutely crucial to career longevity. More importantly, being committed as an officer leads to the vast increase of “on the ground” knowledge of the business that is so valuable. I counsel young illustrators all the time to not just join, sit on the sidelines, and listen, but get in the middle of the action. It always pays off in the long run. Serving others always seems to be very connected through social media and know how to use it to promote their work. Do you think it’s still important for them to join professional organizations?

Absolutely. Social media tends to be too fragmented — participating in social media for promotion only does not equate with learning everything about the broader market. Remember, knowing the broader market gives you better options in your career planning. Hence, longer career! As creative businesspeople, we also need a sense of challenge to DO better work.

And Share with other professionals leads to constant inspiration (provided by the environments of professional organizations). And, very importantly, creative professionals NEED organizations to speak on behalf of their profession on larger issues that effect everyone.

The communications marketplace is packed with ideas, strategies, techniques, and basic different ways to make images — who speaks for the profession of Illustration and design if it were not for ASIP, GAG, AIGA, and my own local Pittsburgh Sol?

Based on your experience of being successfully self-employed for almost four decades, what advice would you give to graphic artists (those just starting career or have a staff job) who want to work for themselves?

Start with this question: Can you wake up and go downstairs to your studio space and unceasingly work, promote, and pay attention to the details of business management? Every day? With vigor and excitement? There are a lot of distractions at home. Do not spend money (like studio rent, cars or exorbitant source book expenses) unless you already have it saved away. I tell young illustrators that this is the Creative Survival Fund that is only for the growth and care and feeding of your own company.

Next question: Can you communicate your personality and reliability AND your imagery in your promotions? There are a lot of easier ways to make a living. Are you a self-learner and do you know where to go to answer business and creative questions? Do you own (not borrowed) your own copy of the Pricing and Ethical Guidelines?? Last question: Are you ready for the challenge of adjusting to the cycles?

Books

Ashley Belote illustrated 3 books recently released by HeadlineBooks.com. She did a signing at the American Library Association (ALA) conference June 23-25 in Washington D.C. where she met and traded books with Henry Winkler and his co-author, SCBWI President Lin Oliver. The titles are I Would Love You Even If You Were A Pickle, by Bucleigh Kernodle, The Wonderfully Wild Ones by Adeline Schneid and Ollie and The Egg-spllosion by Kim Wilson. See them at AshleyBelote.com

Members, get your work on the PSI website home page by changing your gallery samples often!

Sign in at pittsburghillustrators.org and click on “My Profile” then “My Work Samples” to update.

Yelena Lamm

Illustration by Ray Tobias

MEMBER NEWS continued

PSInside Summer 2019

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New Members

**Kelly Blevins**
Brentwood

A charcoal Artist, Kelly works in a world where you will find a host of magical creations. All completed in a black white finish, animal imagery merges with the human body including a wolf hybrid, and an elephant hybrid meditating inside a nest. Crows often appear in her work as well, as an animal totem. Kelly’s work has been internationally recognized and published, including places such as the UK, New York and Los Angeles. Drawings have been exhibited in Pittsburgh galleries, including Modern Formations and the Juried Art Show at Three Rivers Art Festival. Over the years her work was included in numerous group exhibitions across the country. In 2016, Kelly and her work traveled to London for a group show at the Exhitionist Hotel in Kensington. Since then, she has worked closely with the Art of Treason Gallery in Brighton, England which represented her and aided in her career. With a following of collectors from the U.S. and the UK, Kelly has been steadily working towards inventing new ideas and expressions to broaden her drawing skills.

**Kim Fox**
Pittsburgh

Kim earned her BFA in Printmaking from the College of Charleston in SC, in 1994. Her childhood in rural western Pennsylvania informs her aesthetic, subject matter and choice of materials. She has been making art and showing work for 17 years—beginning with more traditional painting and collage when she lived in Florida. After moving back to Pennsylvania, she started to explore the regional arts and crafts market and began working with vintage tin and salvaged wood and patchworking tin in a way that felt unlike quilting. Currently she is researching traditional quilting and the stories behind the patterns. Her tin quilts have been shown in galleries in Pittsburgh, Wheeling, WV, Providence, RI, and Brooklyn, NY. In addition, Kim is a designer and illustrator.

**Katya Malkin**
Pittsburgh

Katya is a freelance illustrator and artist working in traditional media, primarily marker, colored pencil, ink and acrylic. Her areas of focus/experience include portraits, children’s illustration, whimsical animal characters, and fanciful cityscapes and houses. You can find her prints, greeting cards and t-shirts at art fairs, in local shops, and online. She also enjoys participating in public art events like Art All Night and the First Night Art Car parade. Katya looks forward to developing her skills and understanding of the business by making connections through PSI.

**Jessica Heberle Pena**
Pittsburgh

Jessica is an artist, illustrator and designer. She makes mixed-media watercolor paintings and is working on a 3-part graphic memoir titled This Book = A Body. Currently she is conducting Botanical Watercolor Workshops at local farms including Garden Dreams.

**Paul Roden**
Pittsburgh

Paul spent the first decade of his art career working solely in woodcut printmaking. He enjoyed his meditative time pouring details into intimately scaled works on paper. Now he is interested in the opposite — large, public, colorful murals.

**Nina Zivkovic**
Pittsburgh

Nina is an illustrator, designer, and art director at ocreations as well as freelancer to musicians, actors, filmmakers, and more. "Utilizing my conceptual skills along with traditional and digital mediums to convey emotion through portraits and unique layouts." Pre-college, Nina studied at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center in Brecksville, Ohio and became Tech Prep Certified in Digital Design. After graduation, she moved to Pittsburgh and graduated in 2012 from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design in. Nina says she has worked with “dozens of fantastic clients,” including actor, Alan Ritchson, and his team for illustrated posters and designs for their Kickstarter campaign. For Stage AE, she illustrated exclusive concert posters and utilized social media, which cultivated her freelancing career. She gained additional connections with other actors, musicians, and filmmakers where she illustrated album covers, book covers, promo materials, and even beer label designs.

**New Affiliate Members**

**Madyson Amitrone**
Washington, PA

Madyson is planning a web comic series as well as other projects. She is a senior at West Liberty University studying illustration and Graphic Design. Her passion for art began with reading comics as a kid that manifested into a want and drive to one day illustrate her own comics.

**Anna Wagstaff**
Pittsburgh

Anna is a designer, illustrator, and model maker who is also passionate about storytelling. Her art is driven by her love of stories and a desire to bring to life the worlds and characters she imagines. She graduated in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a major in Communication Arts (commercial illustration). During her time at VCU, Anna designed an issue of a paper on campus, The Stall Seat Journal, and had a design included in a show on the library jumbo screen (50: A Measure, A Marker, A Milestone). She was a freelance intern at Generator Interlock Technology, LLC in Richmond where she illustrated 40 of their electrical panels. You can view that work on their website where she illustrated 40 of their electrical panels. You can view that work on their website.

**Sam Webb**
Pittsburgh

Sam is the owner of S C Webb Galleries, currently located in Whitehall.
Molly Thompson reports on...

April BOI: To the Point

April 25th brought PSI’s first To the Point critical review session, with reviewers John Blumen, George Schill, Molly Thompson and Phil Wilson.

To the Point is a new PSI series designed by John Blumen to provide members the opportunity to have specific pieces in their portfolio critiqued by working illustrators with decades of combined experience in commercial illustration, design and animation. The focus is on helping illustrators at any stage in their career to identify potential areas for development in their work, so they can take it to the next level.

John Blumen hosted the event in his home in Brentwood, and six reviewees participated by signing up for the session weeks prior, after notifications were sent out via the PSInside newsletter, Basecamp posts and membership emails from President Lindsay Wright.

Breaking into two groups of two reviewers and three reviewees, members utilized large monitors in separate rooms to display art for discussion. Each reviewee received about one hour of focused feedback on their individual collections of roughly 10-15 pieces.

From my perspective as a reviewer (and a future reviewee) the benefit to this series is clear. I have personally created commercial work for clients just to meet their specs and deadlines, and we all do this. Our clients are happy and we get paid. But occasionally we want to push our product or our personal work to another level, and we strive to advance our current techniques or try out a completely new style. How do we measure our progress? We can market the work and see what sells over time, but with a program like To the Point we can get immediate action items from esteemed illustrators, in a professional setting that promises an honest critique. We don’t always get the kind of critical feedback we really need from a client who is not an artist themselves, or even from our peers in a more informal social setting.

Here is what some of the reviewees had to say about their experience at To the Point:

“Jen Martino
“I am really glad I signed up for this critique. I am a newer member and I found it really beneficial to meet both veteran and new members in a smaller, more intimate setting.”

“This was a great refresher course for those of us who have been out of art school for a few years, and have forgotten a few things! I entered the critique anxious, but went home energized.”

“I really appreciated your careful look at my work and valuable feedback. I have some new tools in my toolbox now.”

If you are interested in signing up for the next To the Point session, scheduled for September 26, email John Blumen to reserve your spot on a first come, first served basis: john@johnblumenillustration.com

Lindsay Wright reports on...

May BOI: Phil Wilson at Assemble

Phil Wilson started by presenting cells from old animations, and told a great story about how his career started with a ball of lightning. Phil talked about how he started working as a contracted freelance illustrator for Disney and how fussy they are about the depiction of their characters. Over his 18 years of working with Disney, Phil was able to create 9 original character designs. He also brought the artwork and talked about the process of creating 80+ Bradford Exchange plates with Disney and Looney Tunes characters over a 15-year period. Phil also talked about other projects, such as working with Jack Horner on dinosaur books, pop-up castle and dollhouse books, murals, jigsaw puzzles, and more. Phil also brought in many of his original watercolor/airbrush paleo-artworks and described how he likes to establish lighting and color with a background before adding detail to his pieces. Phil is continuously researching and sketching ideas for new illustrations.

Attendees: President Lindsay Wright, VP Gary Ritchie, Secretary June Edwards, Treasurer Fred Carlson, Exhibitions Co-Chair John Blumen, Programs Chair Andrew Pappas, former President Rick Antolic, presenter Phil Wilson, Mark Bender, April Brust, Frances Halley, Naomi Lees-Maiberg, Jen Martino, affiliate members Andrew McAfee and Alex Neish, new member prospect Cynthia Lee.

Phil Wilson answers questions brought forward by (l-r): Naomi Lees Maiberg, Andrew McAfee, Andy Pappas, Rick Antolic, John Blumen

Photos by Lindsay Wright
Lindsay Wright reports on…

June BOI: Out of the Gate

We started the June 27 meeting at the West View Hub with a roundtable discussion of how we all generate ideas and some words of advice any of us might have for each other. Idea generation suggestions included: Random Generators (online, books, etc.), Mind Maps, Lists, Daily Sketching, Unrelated Hobbies, Technical Exercises, # Challenges, Behance’s Discord, etc.

Then we started our sketching session! It was great to use the resources at the West View Hub for this meeting. It was very fun and relaxing to look for ideas in the books, magazines and internet cafe available. We listened to blues and jazz music, snacked on angel food cake with whipped cream and fresh berries, and sketched out our ideas. There were four categories and at the end of the meeting we voted (using fuzzy pom-poms) on the winner of each prompt category. The winning sketches will be featured on the PSI’s Social Media, and the winning illustrator of each category received a $5 gift card to Artists and Craftsman.

Attendees: President Lindsay Wright, VP Gary Ritchie, Co-Host with West View Hub Frances Halley, members Kelly Ackerman, Dave Biber, affiliate members Laura Garvin, Annie Vaughn, Kat Bureman

Story behind the creation of The Hub here.

Winner, Character Design - Laura Garvin

Winner, Infographic - Gary Ritchie

Winner, Something Funny - Dave Biber

Winner, Editorial Design - Dave Biber

Winner, Editorial Design - Dave Biber

Mural done by affiliate member Colleen Halley, painted in the coffee nook at the recently opened West View Hub.
Digital Show and Tell

This highly anticipated Business of Illustration Meeting met July 25 at Assemble. Fred Carlson began the evening by providing membership and treasurer’s information: we are in a very positive position at this point. John Blumen let the attendees know that the jurying process is underway for the Stifel Museum Exhibition with an even 60 PSI illustrators submitting work to the juror.

PSI members George Schill, Molly Thompson, Lindsay Wright, Gary Ritchie, and Jen Martino presented information about their art and digital techniques, and the software and hardware they like to use. A variety of computers and tablets were available for attendees to experiment with.

George Schill presented examples of the cards he creates for American Greetings. He demonstrated how he creates a character directly in Photoshop by drawing loose shapes with the lasso tool and filling the areas. George uses many tools and techniques to adjust his characters and backgrounds, and has refined a method to add unique textures. The ability to work quickly and skip the usual thumbnail stage has many advantages. His characters retain the loose, fun and wacky quality that comes from working spontaneously. He is able to keep his production level high and to meet tight deadlines, and still have time to experiment with new ideas—a real advantage for this corporate client.

American Greetings is headquartered in Cleveland, OH, and George would like to gather a group to travel there for a tour of the impressive new building. Also, the Golden Age of Illustration exhibition from New York City is currently there: plenty of enticements to visit! Information about this possible excursion will be on Basecamp soon.

Molly Thompson presented a close-up illustration of gums and teeth to explain the steps and techniques she developed to create this beautifully convincing medical illustration. In this example Molly first scanned her graphite illustration into Photoshop, adjusted the greyscale artwork in a series of steps, and eventually colorized it. To create her detailed and realistic artwork Molly uses vector- and raster-based software as needed, as well as traditional drawing media. Molly’s process allows her to create accurate illustrations very efficiently, with details, colors, highlights and shading that simulates the best colored pencil techniques.

The main focus of Gary Ritchie’s presentation was Expresii, a software program he used to create a wide range of wonderful digital watercolor illustrations on his Cintiq 16 for the Penn Forest Burial Park. Expresii is a relatively new software created by a Japanese developer modeled after Japanese and Chinese brushes. Gary demonstrated some of the tools and effects that can be achieved. The attractive watercolor illustrations he created were perfect for this client. His maps of the cemetery, natural areas and hiking trails are inviting, informative and easy to use. Gary also discussed many other aspects of this commission, including the many sources he used to begin this project and the web version so visitors can access the maps on their phones.

Jen Martino presented a slide of an impressive array of sophisticated and expressive character illustrations, and focused on one character to demonstrate how she uses PaintTool SAI (a raster-based program) and a Monoprice Graphic Drawing Tablet. She begins with a scan of a refined graphite sketch and retains the fluidity of that sketch while adding textures, colors and details to the inventive figure and costume. She demonstrated how she can quickly explore the possibilities and make refinements to the character as she works. Jen explained her step-by-step process as well as other features of this software and tablet.

Lindsay Wright set up her high-end Cintiq tablet for people to experiment with. She explained the advantages of the Cintiq and briefly compared it to other devices. She was enthusiastic about how the device is perfect for her illustration work, including atmospheric landscapes, technical illustrations, illustrations for children, and her detailed and beautifully rendered illustrations of animals and nature.

Each presentation was packed full of information and recommendations, with time for attendees to ask questions and compare other techniques, software and devices. After all of the presentations of specific illustrations and techniques were complete the attendees gathered around each presentation area to examine the artwork closely and to try out the software and hardware. This was a very informative and productive meeting!

Attendees (in addition to presenters): Exhibitions Chair John Blumen, Treasurer Fred Carlson, Secretary June Edwards, Programs Chair Andrew Pappas, Screening Chair Kathy Rooney, members Kelly Ackerman, Rick Antolic, Mark Bender, Tom Gallovich, Vince Ornato, affiliate members Annie Vaughn, Anna Wagstaff

Upcoming BOI Meetings

Business of Illustration meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month from 7-10pm.

Attendees should bring a beverage and/or a snack to share. Details on locations and featured artists are posted under Events on the PSI website and distributed via email.

September 26: “To the Point: Part 2” Continuation of critiques at reviewers studios.

October 31: “Death and Taxes” Costume party and workshop on business accounting and taxes, hosted at Karl Huber home studio on North Side.
Fred Carlson reports on...

**August BOI: Annual Summer Picnic and Newcomers Orientation**

What everyone considered the most perfect day of the summer greeted arrivals on Thursday, August 29, at a picnic hosted by Nancy & Fred Carlson at their home/studio in Monroeville.

Grilled burgers & dogs, fried chicken, and a host of side dishes fed the assembled between 6 and 8pm, followed by an orientation agenda for the benefit of newcomers led by President Lindsay Wright. Held in the living room presentation space, the program continued as committee structures were described and new volunteers were encouraged to step into action. Andy Pappas described the Program committee goals. Exhibition team co-Chairs Molly Thompson and John Blumen described the upcoming Stifel PSI Collected Works show. VP Thompson and John Blumen described the Discord communication platform that we are investigating. Fred Carlson took the audience on a field trip to Greensburg on October 2 to hear designer/illustrator John van Hammersveld at the Westmoreland Museum.

Winners of the creative side dish competition were Alex Neish (potatoes au gratin), Ilene Winn-Lederer (Israeli cole slaw), and Andy Pappas (home-made grape leaves, both vegetarian and lamb filled with special Greek dipping sauce)

Other members and guests attending were:

Secretary June Edwards, new intern Madysen Amitrone, Cassie Bolan, Chris & April Brust, Frances Halley, Tom Hoover, Jen Martino, Jim Mellett, Jeanine Murch, Vince Ornato, Joe Wright, Nina Zivkovic, Joe Durko, Jeff Lederer, and new member prospect Caleb Coleman.

Photos: Lindsay Wright, Nancy Carlson

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**PSI Welcomes Our New Intern!**

PSI is pleased to announce that new student affiliate member Madysen Amitrone has signed on for academic credit to be a PSI intern for the period mid-August to mid-December 2019. Her academic credit has been approved by West Liberty State University for the fall term. The internship will involve these activities: Newsletter assistance as assigned, scholarship outreach, 6 studio visits with PSI members, mentorship critique, and our PSI officers may assign her other duties as well. Madysen’s internship will benefit her future professional career goals. Her work commitment is for 12 hours of service to PSI per week. Her work on behalf of our PSI Scholarship Program would be involved in outreach to western PA colleges with art/design programs to gather a list of faculty contacts that PSI can approach with a new scholarship outreach using art submission software (ArtCall).

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**2019 Treasurer’s and New Member’s Report**

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

(Figures good through July 25, 2019)

**Income 2019**

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**Expenses 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$6,014.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2019 Net Proceeds</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,303.53</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSI Cash-On-Hand</td>
<td>$18,612.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Citizen’s Checking $16,213.69; Citizen’s Savings $2,322.14; PayPal $76.31)</td>
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**PSI Dues and Membership Report 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>179 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full members</td>
<td>137 full members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate members and affiliate comp members</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Members still TBA by screening</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members deleted as of 7.25.2019</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members Upgraded from Affiliate to Full 2019</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PSI New Members 2019</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9 Full, 5 Affiliate, 1 TBD)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 PSI New Member Application inquiries last 12 mo:</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Life Drawing at Panza Gallery**

- **Long Pose Monday:** Mondays 6-9pm **$10**
- **Life Drawing:** Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm **$10**
- **Saturday Sessions:** Saturdays 10am - 1pm **$10**

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

[Link to www.panzagallery.com]
SECOND TUESDAY SOCIALS AT THE ABBEY!

April Social

It was a great time, and there was a good amount of discussion about our committees, and the Social Media Committee even had a nice pow-wow about their goals for the month. They are planning to be the main picture takers of our events to share our smiling faces on our sites.

Attendees: President Lindsay Wright, Exhibits Co-Chairs John Blumen and Molly Thompson, Social Media Chair Genevieve Barbee-Turner, Scholarship Chair George Schill, Programs Chair Andrew Pappas, ASIP Rep Ilene Winn-Lederer, Mark Bender, Frances Halley, Tom Gallowich, Rhonda Libbey, Jen Martino, Jeannine Murch, Vince Ornato, Phil Wilson, affiliate members Laura Garvin, Andrew McAfee, Alex Pathos Jr, Sara Tang.

May Social

“You (can) talk about drawing and painting for 2 hours without anyone telling you your little kid is a ‘great artist.’”

Vince Ornato

“PSI’s Tuesday socials have long been a source of fun and inspiration! I love the opportunity to speak with new/old members, catching up on projects in progress, sharing experiences and of course, the great food!”

Ilene Winn-Lederer (ASIP Representative)

“I find it very valuable to bring my finished work with me to our socials. I get specific and substantial feedback from our veteran illustrators. Usually that means the work that I thought was finished turns out to be a work-in-progress still. But their feedback always makes my work better, and that’s really what I’m after.”

Rick Antolic (President 2005-2008)

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

Photos: Hannah Garrison
June Social

The second-Tuesday social held June 11 brought more new members out as the weather was perfect. The “Illustration 101” program set for June 27 at Fran Halley’s was discussed. This is the perfect program for improving your square one ideas and presentation sketches to sell provocative concepts to clients. The upcoming Stifel survey show was also discussed. More table sketching was accomplished and every morsel of the 4 appetizers were finished off!

Attendees included: President Lindsay Wright, Treasurer Fred Carlson, Exhibition Co-Chair John Blumen, Social Media Chair and former VP Genevieve Barbee-Turner, Programs Chair Andrew Pappas, Mark Bender, Frances Halley and husband John, April Hartmann, Jen Martino, Sophia Marie Pappas, Jim Prokell, Gregg Valley, Phil Wilson, Abby Winkler, new full member Nina Zivkovic, new affiliate member Jen Wagner, and new member prospect Julianna Zito.

July Social

Members, from newly joined to some OGs, participated in creating another fun collaborative sketch while discussing the upcoming PSI exhibit, trends in requested illustration styles and updates on our new and ongoing projects.

Attendees: President Lindsay Wright, VP Gary Ritchie, Secretary June Edwards, Exhibit Co-Chair John Blumen, Programs Chair Andrew Pappas, Presenter Phil Wilson, Judy Emerick, Frances Halley, Yelena Lamm, Rhonda Libbey, Jen Martino, Jeanine Murch, Vince Ornato, affiliate member Alex Pathos Jr.

Fred Carlson reports on…

August Social

The Abbey was sporting a new look on August 13 in the counter/serving area near our reserved space, and this was widely appreciated by everyone present! More room for everyone = more fun and less cramping! A rainy Tuesday did not deter socially-minded PSI members as the conversation revolved around new markets (some being expressed in our new show opening on August 29—and Phil Wilson verified that the Phil-Harmonix PSI pickers will be present at the picnic.

Attendees included: PSI Exhibition Co-Chair John Blumen, Treasurer Fred Carlson, Former President Rick Antolic, members Frances Halley, April Hartmann, Karl Huber, Rhonda Libbey, Alex Neish, Andrew Pappas, Gregg Valley, Phil Wilson, affiliate members Alex Patho Jr, Anna Wagstaff
Join us September 5 at the beautiful Stifel Fine Arts Center to honor our award winners and view our latest group exhibition with an enthusiastic local audience.

PSI is displaying over 50 framed pieces, including personal art as well as examples of illustrations applied to products present in our everyday lives. Our goal is to engage with Wheeling residents and expand PSI's reach to budding illustrators and art buyers alike, by highlighting the breadth and impact of illustration as a profession.

Sponsored by United Bank of West Virginia, with financial assistance from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and the National Endowment for the Arts, our exhibit will showcase traditional ways of working alongside newer techniques and applications.

Stifel draws large crowds for these events, which are free to the public and include refreshments. We hope you will join us to celebrate, and also to vote for the People's Choice Award winner!

The Collective Works exhibit features 51 pieces by 38 artists accepted from 158 pieces submitted by 61 artists. Submission was open to full members of PSI. Juror for selection and prizes was Brian Fencl, a Professor of Art at West Liberty University.

Prizes to be awarded:
1st: $1,000
2nd: $750
3rd: $500
Peoples Choice: $300

List of accepted Artists (38):
Rick Antolic, Keith Bastianini, Liz Beatty, Ashley Belote, Mark Bender, John Blumen, April Brust, Fred Carlson, George Gaadt, April Hartmann, Tom Hoover, Karl Huber, Bernadette Kazmarski, Larry Klukaszewski, Ed Kuehn, Naomi Lees-Malburg, Rhonda Libbey, Ron Magnes, Ron Mahoney, Anni Matsick, Jim Mellett, Leda Miller, Mike F. Miller, Jeanine Murch, Bill Panos, Andrew Pappas, Kurt Pfaff, Jim Prokell, Gary Ritchie, Rachel Arnold Sager, George Schill, Dan Senneway, Christine Swann, Molly Thompson, Bill Vrscak, Phil Wilson, Ilene Winn-Lederer, Lindsay Wright

Watch for a PSInside Special Issue covering the show's opening reception, winners, and all entries, coming in September!
Some of the numerous recent public events pictured are long-standing gigs for seasoned caricaturists John Manders, Howard Bender, and Vince Ornato. But you’ll also find them popping up at weddings, proms, and other private occasions offering the popular souvenir.

John Manders uses a Sharpie and a sketch pad to capture a likeness in around 4 minutes. It’s a performance that entertains his audience while waiting in line (which moves fast). John is well established as an illustrator of over 30 children’s books, and his fanciful style carries over in these take-home treasures. “John Johns’ work is the benchmark,” he says, citing his work for the Pittsburgh Press Roto section. Recalling his time in the ’70s as a student at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh while Johns was an instructor, John says, “He taught me so much — even how to behave at a gig.”

Howard Bender is a professional comic book illustrator who has worked for many of the top publishers including Marvel, DC, Disney, Harvey, Archie and Heroic. Imagine the delight of patrons at this year’s Pittsburgh Wizard World Comic Con who found the sponsor had commissioned him to draw caricatures free to them for an hour each day, portraying each as their favorite super-hero. “Not only was it great fun, it helped me up my speed!” he says. The event was held July 26-28 at David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Vince Ornato has been drawing caricatures at events for 37 years. He started out this part of his career by managing the sketch portrait stand at Kennywood Park. He also conducted training sessions at theme parks including Busch Gardens, Sea World, Geauga Lake, and Idlewild. Additionally, Vince worked in advertising as a graphic artist, and developed his skills as a painter. Vince is hired regularly to draw caricatures a social gatherings, including weddings, schools, senior facilities, business functions, and more: “Anywhere people have faces.”
1. These charcoal on paper drawings by new member Kelly Blevins are titled “Larry” (36” x 48”) and “Portrait of Jeff” (60” x 80”).

2. Rick Antolic did this on-site sketch at the St. Nicholas Greek Food Festival Friday, May 10, across the street from The Carnegie Museum in Oakland. “It started to rain soon after I sat down, so I rushed. I’m not one of those artists who works well under pressure.”

3. This new painting by Phil Wilson’s is titled “Sarcosuchus attacking a group of Ouranosaurus.” Done in acrylic and measuring 18”x24”, it depicts the 39-foot crocodile Sarcosuchus with its 6-foot-long jaws attacking a group of 27-foot-long Ouranosaurus. Both were found in Africa and lived during the early Cretaceous period there.

4. In this scene, Phil depicted the vicious circle of survival by ocean-going reptiles of the mesozoic era seas. It’s done in acrylic and measures 18”x24”.

5. Tom Hoover created this illustration for shirt graphics for the 145th Running of the Kentucky Derby offerings by Fanatics.

6. This map production was done by Gary Ritchie for 35-acre Penn Forest Burial Park in Penn Hills. The watercolor-painted basemap includes roads, buildings, and walking trails. A printed version is offered on-site; web version available here.

7. This piece by new associate member Madyson Amitrone was made digitally with the program Paint Tool Sai. It is a character she designed and plans on using in future projects.

8. “Implementation” by Jim Prokell is an editorial illustration for The McKenna International Review, legal magazine targeting executive Directors of major law firms.

9. Jim created this promotional poster for Sungate glass, PPG Industries.

10. This editorial Illustration titled “Holi-Color” was done by Jim for University magazine.

Continued on next page
11. New member Kim Fox shares the story behind this first small-scale narrative mural to be applied to tea towels, prints and tees: “I have created narrative murals on-site for private homes, Sapling Letterpress Studio, Earth Inspired Salads restaurant, and a gallery exhibit at the Pittsburgh Glass Center, but I wanted to find a way to scale them down for my product line. This one includes some obvious Pittsburgh favorites but also a lot of my personal loves like the Banjo Club and Peregrine Falcons.”

12. “This was a fun one to do,” according to George Schill, for AD Anita Dufalla. It’s a 2-page spread for the Pittsburgh Quarterly accompanying a funny story about a fire station’s much anticipated steak night invariably being interrupted by fire calls.

13. This series of covers was done by George for ONSVoice Magazine. The issue is about home care and treatments.

14. This cover art relates to a story titled “A Rising Wave: The growing role of caring for older adults.”

15. This one is on the topic of Psychiatric Disorders.

16. New Member Paul Roden shares this photo of a mural he did in June, in Easton.

17. Taylor Callery provided cover art for the Sunday, June 2 New York Times Arts & Leisure section. It headed the story “Brutal Injustice” — As a Netflix series revisits the Central Park jogger case, a writer who covered the original trial looks back on what led to the five boys being wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for years.

18. Here’s a spread Taylor did for the Forbes investigation, “The Truth Behind Trump Tower Moscow,” by Dan Alexander and Richard Behar. The project at the core of the Mueller investigation wasn’t a well-planned conspiracy. Instead, an unprecedented look inside the deal reveals a stunning degree of risk, with Putin at the center of it, for relatively little potential reward.

Continued on next page
19. This whimsical interpretation of the city of Pittsburgh was created by new member Katya Malkin. It is featured on greeting cards and kids’ t-shirts. The original was done in watercolor, marker, and ink.

20. “Tell Me Lies, Tell Me Sweet Little Lies” (watercolor, pen, ink, color pencil) was done by Mark Brewer for an article on little white lies.

21. Here are 2 more of Mark’s “Brewer’s Birdz,” shown on the front page.

22. Kit Paulsen’s recent commission was “An absolute joy to paint. My client wanted realism, so I took my time and worked as much detail as I could into this.”

23. New affiliate member Anna Wagstaff shares these samples of recent work. The portrait of Spencer Reid from Criminal Minds was done using Prismacolor pencils. The other illustration was inspired by Sammy Keyes books, done digitally in Procreate.


25. You can find the Cheshire Cat and Rick Henkel’s other designs at his Threadless store.

26. Here is Anni Matsick’s 2019 t-shirt design, done annually for the Children & Youth Sidewalk Sale at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts. This year’s event took place on Allen Street in downtown State College, Wednesday, July 8, preceding the 4-day Arts Festival.

27. “Winter is Coming” by new affiliate member Jen Wagner is done in colored pencil, acrylic paint, and pen. Its purpose is to comically represent the stress involved with an impending winter storm.

Continued on next page
28. The flower is a botanical which new affiliate member Jessica Heberle has been using to self-produce eco cards and prints.

29. Jessica sent this sample of the graphic memoir *This Book = A Body* that she will self-publish in the Fall.

30. Lindsay Wright recently completed 2 new color pencil drawings to sell at art fairs and in her online store. The Wolf portrait is 5”x7” and the Goat Tree is 8”x10”. According to Lindsay: “Goats are historically used to harvest the fruit of argan trees in Morocco. By eating the fruit they make it much easier to extract oil from the excreted nuts. Check the ingredients list of your shampoos, lotions, and other ‘hydration’ products to see if a goat helped with the making of your cosmetics!”


32. “Girl Gang” is Nina’s poster design for Women Who Rock™’s Stage AE Concert.

33. Here is Fred Carlson’s latest project for Troy Wilson, musician from Australia who has used Fred Carlson Illustration for his last two “Wilson & White” covers as well as his last 3 solo CD covers. Troy finds that using Fred for his music packaging and advertisements is creating brand recognition in the music industry in Australia and he is one of the busiest performers in Australia these days. The b/w drawing was sent and approved July 16 and the finished color art was sent 2 days later.

34. Fred’s Skip James book cover was completed in late July for Mel Bay/Guitar Workshop after 3 weeks away in Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and northern Italy. “Nothing more American than Skip James,” he says.

35. This Hidden Pictures scene, including some mischievous cats among those gathered for a class photo, was drawn by Pat Lewis for the September 2019 issue of Highlights for Children magazine.

36. These recent 18”x24” watercolor paintings by Yelena Lamm are the largest she has ever created using this medium.