Cookin’!

The Red Beans & Rice Combo has released their debut CD, “Let the Joy Begin!,” with cover art by drummer Dave Klug. The trio includes Wayno on vocals and Tom Roberts on keyboard. CDs and downloads are available at CD Baby, Amazon, or iTunes.

Sushi To-Go

This iPad Tablet Skin is among the new Items available at Ilene Winn-Lederer’s Sushi Ala Carte Collection at Society6. Easy to stick on and peel off.

Tuned In

Fred Carlson recently completed 4 portraits for the promotional campaign for the 2019 European Music Workshops festival in Kleebach, France. Shown is Marie Fotiana (vocals). See the others on page 14.

My Spot

Anni Matsick

Who is not warmed by a friendly smile? That’s our spirit in assembling this fall issue, loaded with snapshots of happy PSI members enjoying a good time at many recent events. We’ve welcomed 7 new members since last issue, whose smiles appear on page 6. You’ll find many of the newcomers again in photos from PSI meetings, already taking advantage of our terrific offerings. (Samples of their artwork are mingled on pages 12 through 13.)

If you’ve hesitated or not had time to attend PSI’s monthly Socials, the photos of the food offerings on page 10 might be enough to tip your decision on future second-Tuesdays. More photos show the congenial atmosphere that prevails, so what’s stopping you?

You’ll be pleased to read the update on page 5 about PSI’s social media campaign to increase awareness of the talent bank on PSI’s website. It can be made most effective if all illustrators participate, so please don’t overlook its importance.

Our members always show a generous spirit in donating artwork and design services for worthy causes. This issue’s Spotlight subject on page 11 kicks it over the goal post with a sum nearing 20 grand, giving many less fortunate a reason to smile.

Any of these cheerful topics should make you want to start turning the pages, guaranteed to bring a smile to your face.
On Exhibit

Shown are 2 new works by John Blumen on display with 3 of his older images in the exhibit Convergence: Art in the Digital Age at the Stifel Fine Arts Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. John’s “Taylor of Blue Roof” (25˝x34˝), canvas giclee mounted on wood panel, has a custom built tabernacle frame he built using 90 separate pieces of wood. “Geisha” (54˝x47˝) is 3 framed panels. The show “celebrates the use of computers to bring artists’ imaginations to life through the conversion of binary data into incredible original art.” It includes digital imagery, manipulated photos, 3D installations, video, and more. Featuring over a dozen regional artists, it opened with a reception on September 6 and runs through October 26.

The reception for the George S. Gaadt retrospective exhibition was held Thursday, September 6, at the Wheatley Center on the Robert Morris University campus in Moon Township. Over 100 finished works and sketches and print posters were on display. George’s career since the early 1960s was in full display, including clients ABC TV (pictured here, “Inside the Third Reich” from ABC), WQED, National Geographic, NFL, NCAA and a host of others. Former VP David Biber and Christie Strub Biber are shown with the mural George created for the Monongahela Valley Progress Foundation that was featured in our 10th Anniversary Pittsburgh Recast exhibition. Additional PSI members at the reception were former secretary James Mellett, former president Rick Antolic, Treasurer Fred Carlson, David DiBella, and Vince Dorse. Associate member Colleen Halley had a show of her work this summer at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, New York. She recently sold this piece, “My Mended Heart Grows Flowers.”

Christine Swann’s painting, “Swan” (17˝x17˝), is included in the Enduring Brilliance Pastel Society of America International Exhibition on display September 4-29 in the historic National Arts Club at Gramercy Park, in New York City. Christine did a portrait demonstration.

Those who have attended Christine’s workshops will be familiar with her favorite “hacks” included in an article in the current Pastel Journal.

The painting is of her daughter, Lauren, from a moment shared in a small cafe in Nantes, France while Lauren was studying and living there.

“My Cosette,” a 15.75˝ square oil on linen painting by Judy Emerick, was juried into the Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts 23rd Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition at the Southern Alleghenies Museum in Ligonier. Jim Mellett’s “Made in America” jigsaw puzzle is shown in the first few seconds of this video, filmed at the White House on July 23 when vendors from all 50 states whose products are made in the United States displayed their wares. All of Jim’s puzzles, including U.S. Presidents (on left in photo) are available for purchase at this White Mountain Puzzles link.

The painting of her daughter, Lauren, from a moment shared in a small cafe in Nantes, France while Lauren was studying and living there.

“3,000 Hits” (18˝x24˝), originally created by Kelly Ackerman for submission to PSI’s Art of Facts. was not included in that show but has found a home at the Roberto Clemente Museum. In a visit to the museum with family members to celebrate her father’s birthday, Kelly noticed a corner display with paintings by local artists. She spoke with the director/curator who gladly accepted her offer to donate the pencil/colored pencil on paper piece for their permanent collection. Following was an invitation to attend the museum’s 9th Annual Fundraiser where the piece was put on display, and an opportunity to meet a few of the current Pirates. In the photo with Kelly, standing left to right are Kelly’s dad, Geno Ackerman, Pirates catcher Francisco Cervelli, and Pirates pitcher Chris Archer.

Vince Dorse snapped this shot of Dave Klug accepting the Best 2D award at Mt. Lebanon Artists’ Market on September 23. PSI members Mark Bender and Jim Mellett were on the jurors panel, but Vince attests that Dave’s display was, indisputably, winning work.

Long time Northside resident Karl Huber invites members to see his new gallery and solo-show at GalleryH in Allegheney West, 909 Western Ave. The current exhibit, which runs through October, is a series of BW pen & ink drawings inspired by (nerd alert!) the old pulp fiction fantasy and sci-fi stories and Dungeons & Dragons. Future reviewers are likely to include a collection of images done specifically for PSI over the years and the 7 Deadly Sins.

Call (412) 231-0938 for more information and to schedule a visit.

This sketch for “June” is a new work by Mark Zingarelli, done for a one-man show during October at Feathers Artist Market and Gifts, 102 4th Street, Irwin. It’s a mixture of new and old work, originals and giclee prints. Photo: Scot Noel

Continued on next page
MEMBER NEWS continued

Spontaneity, a show of oil paintings by Kurt Pfaff combined with ceramics by Donn Hedman, was on display in October. Kurt is shown with 2 of his paintings at the opening reception, which was part of the Ligonier Gallery Walk.

“Through the Gate” is from Lisa Rasmussen’s show, Out of my Eclectic Mind, at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh gallery through October.

The Associated Artists of Pittsburgh has partnered with the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council’s Art on the Walls program for this multi-year exhibition project in the administrative offices and chambers of the Mayor’s Office in the City County Building. The work in this rotating installation explores the theme of Pittsburgh: the people, places, and sentiments that make the city special and distinct. Currently on display are the works of 10 AAP members, including Yelena Lamm’s "Spring in Pittsburgh", from Pittsburgh Recast exhibition in 2008.

Pittsburgh Watercolor Society’s Aqueous Open 2018 includes work by 3 PSI members. Among the 62 pieces selected by juror Carol Carter are “Lunch Planning Committee” (19”x25”) by Ron Thurston, “Girl With Pink Ribbon” (14”x11”) by Anni Matsick, and “Bromeliad II” (15”x15”) by Lisa Rasmussen, which received the Frank Webb Award. The show opened October 6 at Spinning Plate Gallery, on Baum Blvd in East Liberty, and will run through October 27.

In Print

Ashley Cecil Paulisick’s article “Why Birds Matter” is in the current issue of Carnegie Magazine. The message asserts that “Birds matter because their condition foreshadows what’s to come for our own species. We should feel the same level of concern for them as we do our own family members...” Read it here.

Two paintings by Anni Matsick are included on a spread in Splash 19, The Best of Watercolor, available here from North Light Books.

Orville the Bumble Bee Who Didn’t Believe He Could Fly is a 10.5”x8.625” picture book written by Don Hasselrig with pastel illustrations by Judy Emerick. Judy designed the layout, and did the cover lettering and the Learn Dream Grow logo in illustrator. Purchase it here.

This cover and interior art for Hidden in Plain Sight were done by Mark Zingarelli, completed in July for Paradigm Portraits. Mark designed the book, and did all the illustrated comic’s pages and production using InDesign. The book is written by Zach Zafiris and produced by Drew Goldstein.

Out And About

Rick Antolic spent a 13.5-hour day on the set of Mindhunter July 16 as an extra, playing the role of a security guard in a correctional facility, for Episode 4, Season 2. “We weren’t allowed to take photos or have our cell phones on set,” Rick reports, “but they didn’t mention anything about sketching.” They portray a few members of the crew with noses to their cell phones, while the other prison guards were nose-deep in their books. “These are probably among the weakest sketches I’ve done,” Rick admits, “but I’m glad to have recorded these as part of my collective experience of 2018.”

This section is from a mural Lisa Rasmussen is working on at Heritage Public Library in McDonald.

Continued on next page
pool of a symbolic offering. Deposits were made on outside reflecting paper, and then participants were invited to read and make a finished piece. Following the poetry workshop and collage making, works were展出 and process at the exhibition in Kittanning PA. Artwork was inspired by the Fort Armstrong Festival art exhibition that the previous year (2017) was very well organized. The experience took a morning of time on July 31. Fred took a side trip to see his illustration of the Wetlands hiking area at Harrison Hills Park. The artist was celebrating its 25th anniversary, and the evening was filled with nature and science at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, and a side trip to see Harrison Hills Park.
The PSI Board has been implementing a social media campaign designed to draw more and more eyes to the PSI website, serving all our membership. The Board has been working with social media consultant Anne Marie Ellison Miller since July and we have work ongoing through November. Our plan has another 3-month lifetime to the campaign into next year. The Board decided on this marketing strategy after lengthy discussions last spring about the best way to market the Society vs using directories, mailings, postcards, etc. We wanted to try something different and get placed in the pond where everyone is fishing these days.

The purpose of this latest news (which is being presented on Basecamp, in the newsletter, and in e-blasts from our Board) is to relay the latest about this campaign to you. The more PSI members are involved in following some simple procedures of promotion, the more successful the campaign. This is not a top-down marketing campaign. The more seeds planted from all the membership, the more successful the campaign to drive eyes to our website pittsburghillustrators.org.

Although the strategy is designed from experience of our consultant, it requires as many of the PSI membership as possible who are using Facebook, Instagram, and other online tools for promotion. Perhaps sharing some of our consultant’s strategy here is useful in getting buy in from additional PSI members.

Anne Marie states: “My biggest concern is not having the PSI fee have too much representation from any single artist or only a few illustrators and with what I have now I’ll be posting second images from folks who’ve already been featured.”

What this means is that image content and brief information text from all our members is important for Anne Marie to work with. Directions for sending content to her Google Drive storage site have previously been shared on Basecamp, but they are repeated here so more illustrators can act on this need immediately.

Neither Anne Marie nor the Board want to see publicized should forward event info/link either via google docs, in FB messenger to the PSI page, and/or IG with the date(s) highlighted. Posting second images from only a few illustrators so soon isn’t great optics for that story.

“Also, many of the artists who have contributed and therefore been featured thus far are organizational leadership. That is not what the campaign is supposed to accomplish. We need all members to be a part of the effort and get up to speed on making contributions to this campaign second nature, reflexive. You can promote yourself and PSI at the same time.”

So, simply put, there’s a lot everyone can be doing to grow this campaign. We are planning to host a social media workshop in late January 2019 as the Business of Illustration program moves into 2019, and Anne Marie will be with us for this. Genevieve Barbee-Turner has volunteered to continue to be the direct contact for this campaign into 2019 representing our PSI leadership, and we thank her for her tireless work in bringing Anne Marie into the PSI sphere. The location of this workshop may be at Assemble or at a member studio — stay tuned!

Instructions:

- Jigs may be uploaded to the Google Drive here. Anyone with that link may add items to the file. To be featured, illustrators should be sure to put full name in the jgp’s file name as well as upload a text file with info about the piece: title, date, artist, media, and anyplace it was published/exhibited is sufficient but a bit of backstory much appreciated! Square format or 16:9 ratio is fine, 72 dpi the best.

- To be featured in PSI’s Instagram feed, please tag shareable posts #pittsburghillustrators (with a hashtag rather than just an @) so that Anne Marie is sure to see it and can share.

- Likewise, anyone with an upcoming event they’d like to see publicized should forward event info/link either via google docs, in FB messenger to the PSI page, and/or IG with the date(s) highlighted.

Fred Carlson reports on...

Social Media Promotional Campaign to Benefit ALL Members

A vital update from the PSI Board and Consultant Anne Marie Ellison Miller

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Fred Carlson reports on…

2018 Treasury & Membership
(Figures good through October 9, 2018)

Income: $9,708.65
Expenses: $5,205.64
2018 Net Proceeds or (-) Deficit: + $4,503.01
PSI Cash-On-Hand: $14,695.79 (Citizen’s Checking $12,531.19, Citizen’s Savings $2,017.87, PayPal $146.73)

Don’t be a scaredy-cat!
Dare to look back at some of our past years’ “Horrifying Halloween” issues:

New Members

April Brust
Pittsburgh
www.aprilbrust.com

April is a medical and scientific illustrator and animator with a Master of Science in Biomedical Communications (MScBMC) from the University of Toronto. Working in the field of medical and scientific visual communication allows her to combine her rigorous science background with her passion for art and design. Classical realism training at the Schuler School of Fine Arts has given her solid footing informed by techniques of traditional masters, while her MScBMC is an accreditation of skill in current digital 2D and 3D media. Her motivation is to put art and visual design into the service of science, to disseminate information to audiences, targeted or broad. Clients she has visualized for include physicians, research scientists, educators, and medical legal professionals.

Josie Norton
Pittsburgh
www.josienortonportfolio.com

Josie is a graphic designer, illustrator and Pittsburgh native. She holds a B.A. in Studio Arts & Japanese from the University of Pittsburgh. As a passionate visual artist, her experience includes poster illustrations, infographics, logos, and motion graphics. She has created designs and illustrations for local organizations such as Conscious Collaborative LLC, Amazing Books & Records, Three Rivers Screenwriters Conference, Japan-America Society of PA, and shows at Arcade Comedy Theater. Her style is characterized by crisp outlines and flat, eye-popping colors, inspired by the Superflat movement, Mammekko, and cartooning. Her work is primarily in a digital medium, but also includes watercolor and sculpture on occasion.

Andrew Pappas
Alquipa
www.acpillustration.com

Andrew is a recent MFA graduate of the Syracuse University Illustration Graduate program. He mainly does fantasy narrative based work and is looking to break into the entertainment industry, working in concept art and story development, as well as doing freelance illustrations for fantasy novels and board games. Mythology and folklore is a huge influence; he often uses mythological characters and theme in illustrations and character designs. Andrew is primarily a digital artist, though his process sometime incorporates scanned pencil drawings and is inspired by the traditional oil painting techniques of the Dutch Golden Age and the Orientalists.

Abby Winkler
Pittsburgh
www.abbywinkler.com
instagram.com/winkler_abby

Abby graduated from Edinboro University with a BFA in studio arts, concentrating in painting. She works full-time as a graphic artist for Giant Eagle Market District at the Township of Pine location in Wexford. In this position, she creates illustrations and paintings to enhance displays in order to drive sales and to create a unique shopping experience for customers. Her long-term goal is to become a freelance illustrator, particularly in the editorial market. Last year she started her #100daysofpittsburgh illustration project on Instagram, in which she draws 100 people, landmarks, and things unique to Pittsburgh. Abby is excited and honored to be a member of PSI and looks forward to learning from her fellow members.

New Affiliate Members

Leah Balsan
Pittsburgh

Leah is a current student at the University of Pittsburgh with plans to continue her education at Edinboro University in scientific illustration. She will be graduating this spring with a B.S. in biological sciences and minors in studio arts and creative writing. Her current job is taking care of poison dart frogs.

Alexander Neish
Pittsburgh
www.mvrcreations.com

Alexander is a freelance illustrator and comic book artist, born, raised, and currently living in Pittsburgh. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a dual degree in Studio Arts and Film Studies. From childhood, Alexander had always been a fan of the “older” animated films and tv shows, and today he incorporates the style of “cartooning” art into his own style giving it a touch of motion and life. His webcomic, My Roommate, The Internet, has rapidly risen on the independent comic scene. Its success led to Alexander and writer Andy Nordvall being featured as panelists for the Comic Creator Connection All Stars Panel at San Diego Comic Con 2017. Alexander is also collaborating with Ricardo Sanchez, who has written for DC Comics, on the upcoming urban fantasy series, Avalon, Inc. Issue #1 is currently available.

Sara Tang
Pittsburgh
smtang013@gmail.com
draw-me-in.com

Sara is a member of the #notwhite Collective of women artists and has also worked with those who have been affected by cancer and other life experiences in creative therapy excavation workshops. Her published illustration work has appeared in two children’s books with Marian Press, literary journals, and educational zines. She has studied the arts at the Rhode Island School of Design, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, and with Immanuel Icons. Her ink wash and watercolor illustrations are evocative of emotional experience with a focus on line work. She is currently expanding her portfolio and experience, and looks forward to learning more with the PSI!
Fred Carlson reports on…

June BOI: Going Digital, Part 2 of 2

In a 2-part BOI series, PSI members April Brust, Rick Henke, and Mark Bender headed a panel discussion about working in a variety of digital processes, moderated by PSI Vice President Genevieve Barbee-Turner. They shared their different approaches to creating digital art in order to decrease the barrier of “going digital.” Topics included the software artists use and how they decide upon certain tech over others, followed by open discussion. In this second session held June 28 at Assemble on Penn Avenue, we learned from 3 more illustrators how they use technology to their benefit.

We began with Mark Bender, who showed his process from traditional drawing to final digital piece. He talked about how teaching his students opened him up to using digital tools for illustrating. He showed the group an example of how he used to airbrush traditionally, and how what took him minutes to make now takes seconds. He expressed the importance of learning how to get over your fears of using a new tool.

Fred Carlson reports on…

July BOI: Newcomers Meeting and General Description of PSI committees

The July Business of Illustration Meeting took place at David Coulson Studio on Wilkins Avenue. After social time, the meeting was called to order at 7:50pm. Everyone received copies of Mike Fleshman’s book if they did not have one already. We also handed out the new PSI 2018 Responsibilities and Benefits booklet. Kathy Rooney handed out a new instruction sheet on how to set up a web presence on the PSI site. The topics flowed, as follows:

- John Ritter spoke about Mentorship and new directions aligning particular mentees with smaller groups of specific mentorship leaders who could help those particular young artists.
- Kathy Rooney spoke about the instructions for placing a web presence, and the procedure for affiliates requesting upgrading to full and how to submit new work after one year.
- Mark Zingarelli suggested PSI offer another conference.
- John Ritter spoke to third Thursday mixers that AIGA and some artists have been attending.

Q&A followed, then more socializing. At 9pm, David Coulson led a studio tour, first showing off his rows of published hardcover and softcover books for which he has done cover hand lettering, then leading everyone to his basement studio to show a brief history of his career including stints at Neal Adams studio in NYC, various comics companies, to Hawaii to work in the t-shirt market, then to Pittsburgh in 1991. Recent projects shown included work for Highlights and puzzles he has done.
Hannah Garrison reports on…

August BOI & Summer Party!
(plus ICON 10 recap)

A lively group of close to 30 gathered for the monthly Business of Illustration meeting, held August 30 at Nancy and Fred Carlson’s home in Monroeville. The program focused on the takeaway of 4 member’s experiences at ICON 10. The Illustration Conference, held in Detroit this year. All convened on Fred’s backyard patio where he presided at the grill, producing a variety of hot, tasty items that fit nicely on rolls alongside the salads and sides on everyone’s plates. The community spirit prevailed as all enjoyed the warm summer evening, until all gathered inside for precisely 8:00 pm when the Powerpoint began, prepared by the 4 members who attended ICON.

Fred Carlson, Sophia Pappas, Jeanine Murch, and Vince Ornato, all with varying backgrounds and areas of expertise, described the very welcoming illustration community to be found there. The conference made a point to include the music and ethnic history of Detroit, intertwined with presentations and workshops from illustrators nationwide.

The Center for Creative Studies’ campus hosted the event July 11-14 at the Detroit Westin Cadillac Hotel, which featured aBecause of that, he offered a piece in the juried exhibit. Each member who attended had a different experience; for instance, Jeanine attended as a mentor to the ICON board, and saw behind-the-scenes workings of the event. This was her 7th time to attend. She observed a lot of community events that could be implemented in Pittsburgh. Sophia, a native to the Detroit area, commuted from a nearby location each of the 3 days. She felt creatively refreshed and met a lot of new people. Vince and Fred made a variety of new connections and gained potential clients, while also attending workshops offered at the event by master illustrators.

Some names to look up who were mentioned are: Betsy Cordes, James Yang, Vanessa Brantly-Newton, Robert Newman, Robert Hunt, Vandana Taxali, and Marti Golon. A complete list of speakers and more information on the event, can be found here.

Attending (as shown in photo) were (l-r): Sara Tang, John Manders, Hannah Garrison, Emily Traynor, Pat Lewis, Vi Scapone, Tom Hoover, Ilene Winn Lederer, Phil Wilson, Kathy Rooney, Ron Magnes, Frederick Carlson, George Schill, Vince Ornato, John Blumen, Andrew Pappas, Anni Matsick, Gary Ritchie.

Members not present at time of photo: Liz Beatty, Dan Ekis, Frances Halley, Jeanine Murch, Sophia Pappas, Gary Ritchie, Ian Oz Snyder.

Fred presiding in his backyard. (Ashes later used for igniting tinder for the fire pit.)

remaining Thursday evening Business of Illustration Meetings in 2018

Kim Fox Presentation
October 25, 7:30, Mount Lebanon

Pittsburgh-based artist Kim Fox shared her work and process in her home art/music studio. A report and photos will appear in the next PSInside. Read about Kim in this September 19 Pittsburgh Magazine article.

No meeting in November (holiday)
No meeting in December (holiday)

Save the date for PSI’s Annual holiday celebration!

SATURNALIA will take place Saturday, December 15, at John Blumen’s studio/home in Brentwood.

Watch for details via email.
Hannah Garrison reports on…

September BOI

Members gathered on September 27 in Bellevue at the home of Marlene and Bill Vrscak for a studio tour and painting demo. After refreshments, highlighted by Marlene’s freshly baked iced pumpkin cake, all trooped up the stairs to Bill’s studio. He talked about his career at an ad agency for 17 years, as well as his time as a watercolor instructor.

Back downstairs, we sat in his living room while Bill demoed a watercolor piece, and the experience was very authentic and intimate. His dog, Riley, sat close by. He talked about his time sketching in Market Square while waiting for his wife after work. Using a photograph of a seated woman, he starts out sketching in pencil. After he has established her gesture, he continues onto the detail, using nothing harder than a 2B pencil. 6B pencil is his preferred tool.

Bill describes working in a limited palette, and gradually working in more color, and tosses out a quote: “Value does all the work, color get’s all the credit.” He brought out a color map of various mixes. His greens are his favorite, mixing phalo blue with aureolin. His basic colors must be as untainted with complimentary colors as possible. Ironically, he does not consider himself a great colorist.

Bill shows his limited palette: 2 yellows, 2 reds, 2 blues, mixing makes all the tones in the middle.

Bill often has 2 to 3 brushes in his left hand as he paints with his right. He wants to make as few brushstrokes as possible. He uses all flat brushes. This comes from his work as a sign painter when he was a teenager, and is now his preferred brush. Bill loves letterforms, and considers himself a graphic designer. He recommends the longer bristle brush because they hold more water.

As he works, Bill throws more water on the paper. He allows bleeding to occur throughout the painting. He begins by covering the largest areas with color to get rid of white areas he will not save. He does consider areas to leave bare for later in the piece but does not use masking fluid, preferring unexpected results. As he paints, he uses his elbow and shoulder to achieve more fluid and spontaneous strokes. After he has painted for a bit, he has to dry the piece. He will then go back in to achieve the hard edges. Cold press gives nice even washes, hot press stains quickly. Bill prefers painting figures on hot press because he has to work fast, and he prefers a lively painting.

After Bill has laid out his color, he will start to lay out his values and add dimensions. He will work throughout the painting, and never finished one area before another. He will use a hairdryer to dry the painting in between washes. “Negotiate with the painting,” Bill advises, and “the order of importance” is how Bill designs his pieces, citing Nathan Goldstein’s The Art of Drawing.

Members attending (as shown in group photo) were (l-r): April Brust, Rick Antolic, Emily Traynor, Anni Matsick, Judy Emerick, Bill Vrscak, Liz Beatty, Christie Biber, David Biber. Back row: Andy McAfee, Josie Norton, Hannah Luoni Garrison, John Blumen, Fred Carlson.

Front: Bill Vrscak and his dog, Archie. Photo: John Emerick

Bill sent this message as an update on his demo, with images to show what further steps he took after the meeting: “FYI: I did a little more work on the Thursday night demo. See before and after pix. The only wiping I did was to wash out the yellow color on the face a bit and then washed over it with a light wash of Alizarin Crimson to cancel out the yellow. Otherwise all I did was work on top of my original layers. I didn’t wipe out anything else or use any opaque gouache. I probably spent an hour and a half, maybe two.”

Photos by Fred Carlson, Rick Antolic

Features continued
The rains held off to let people come unimpaired to the August social at The Abbey on August 14. “I knew the night was going to be a full house when, after setting up the PSI merch table around 6:00 pm, members began streaming in early!” Fred Carlson reports. As treasurer, he knows a good deal: “This was the first time PSI needed to order a 5th appetizer to handle the crowd. A great problem to have, especially with The Abbey’s reasonable pricing.”

Attending (22): President Emily Traynor and Ron Persico, Treasurer Fred Carlson, Secretary Hannah Luoni Garrison, Former President Rick Antolic, Former VPs John Blumen, George Schill, ASIP rep Ilene Winn-Lederer, Full members Kelly Ackerman, Vince Dorse & Daryl Godfrey, Frances Halley & John Halley, Vince Ornato, Sophia Pappas, Gary Ritchie, Gregg Valley, Phil Wilson, Mark Zingarelli, new members Alexander Neish and Josie Porter, and new member prospect Cassie Bolan.

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!

Next Second Tuesday Social: NOVEMBER 13!

"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)

"I find the social meetings to be stimulating, talking shop and sharing a few laughs with fellow illustrators. It’s also nice to have a few drinks with the younger talent who are about the same age as my own kids, and not feel the need to badger them with questions like, ‘How many is that?’ or ‘Are you driving?’"

George Schill (Vice President 1998-1999)

Photos: Hannah Garrison

Photos: Fred Carlson

Photos: Hannah Garrison, President Emily Traynor

Photos: Fred Carlson

Josie Porter, Alexander Neish

George Schill, John Blumen

Vince Ornato, John Halley

Ron Persico, Mark Zingarelli

Cassie Bolan, Kelly Ackerman

Gary Ritchie, Emily Traynor, Vince Dorse, Daryl Godfrey

Gary Ritchie, Rick Antolic, George Schill
Followers of Larry's Facebook page were recently treated to images of him posing with some well-known — and much loved — faces from the Pittsburgh Steelers. The photos were taken at the 13th annual Bus Stops Here Foundation Caring for Kids Gala, held at the Champions Club at Heinz Field on Thursday, September 27. Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Ryan Shazier was this year’s guest of honor and recipient of the the Courage Award, presented to Ryan for his unwavering dedication to overcoming his serious spinal cord injury, incurred during a tackling attempt in last year’s game vs. the Bengals. “Never once did he ask, ‘why me?’”, Larry shares. “He only persisted in his positivity and faith and when he was well enough to train, he attacked it with unparalleled energy and vigor.” The 40” wide triptych of Ryan with arms extended was one of three pieces Larry created that were live auctioned at the event, raising $8,500.

Bids for the evening’s commemorative football were driven upward by the bantering of auctioneer Joey Porter, another legendary Steeler, who came straight from his job as the team’s line backers coach. It was down to Jerome Bettis in a bidding war with another potential buyer, when Joey asked Larry if he would paint another to satisfy both patrons and double the income.

Larry’s participation in the fundraising events all occurred in a span of a few months. Earlier ones were Bowling With The Bus in April, The Celebrity Care Fest in August, and Caring For Kids Gala in September. He painted live at each, creating the popular footballs that helped raise a total of $19,500.

Word went out when the football was shown during NBC’s national telecast of the September Steelers vs Ravens game. WPXI-TV Channel 11 coverage includes a glimpse of the Shazier painting. Larry is an art teacher with Kiski Area School District and has been successfully running Larry Klu Sports Art for over 10 years. “Klu” is an NFL licensed sports artist via the Deacon Jones Foundation and his work is on permanent display at Heinz Field.

He wrote and illustrated cover and interior art for a story about his childhood hero, Steeler great Rocky Bleier, titled Rock Solid: The Courageous Journey of Rocky Bleier. It achieved Amazon Best Seller status twice and can be purchased here. A portion of the sales proceeds are donated to the Veterans Center at Duquesne University.

More fundraising efforts lie ahead, and Larry is ready to contribute his time and talent. In his words: “It’s an honor and privilege to use my art to assist in raising funds for worthy causes, particularly when children are involved.”

* The Foundation’s mission states that it accomplishes this “by providing financial resources, educational and recreational programs and mentoring that will assist youth in learning to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy choices.”

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Spotlight on...
Larry Klukaszewski

“All his art has raised an impressive $19,500 this year for Jerome Bettis’ Bus Stops Here Foundation, dedicated to improving the overall quality of life for troubled and underprivileged inner-city youth.”

Larry’s participation in the fundraising events all occurred in a span of a few months. Earlier ones were Bowling With The Bus in April, The Celebrity Care Fest in August, and Caring For Kids Gala in September. He painted live at each, creating the popular footballs that helped raise a total of $19,500.
1. Phil Wilson composed this (18”x30”) acrylic painting of an Australian sauro-
pod dinosaur Diamantinasaurus from a human eye-level perspective, to put the viewer in the midst of the herd and to emphasize the size of the animals.

2. Phil’s second painting (18”x24”) is the duck-billed dinosaur Maiasaura, meaning “Good Mother Reptile,” discovered by Dr. Jack Horner. It proved through fossil remains that some dinosaurs continued to care for their young long after they hatched.

3. Here’s a travel poster Jim Zahniser created from elements of a mural project for a new bar in East Liberty called Lorelei. Jim did the original mural illustration as an Illustrator file, then local artist/sign painter Anthony Purcell painted it on the wall of the restaurant. The restaurant then gave Jim permission to convert the design to a poster.

4. From new affiliate member Alexander Neish, this frame features the main cast of his ongoing webcomic series, My Roommate, The Internet, posing victoriously due to the series’ rising number of followers. The series follows the weekly misadventures of the ever-suffering Larry and Linda (center) and their irritable roommates who personify everything terrible about the internet (left and right). The series updates every Thursday on Instagram and Webtoon and can be read here and here.

5. Hilary Schenker designed and illustrated this bus ad for the Smell Pittsburgh app. The ad ran on buses in the Pittsburgh area this summer. Smell Pittsburgh is a mobile phone app that makes it easy to report pollution odors to the Allegheny Country Health Department and displays all local smell reports on a map. The final ad was 21”x22”. The illustration is watercolor and digital.

6. Vince Dorse did the September 5-12 cover and some interior spots for the Pittsburgh City Paper’s Football issue. “Just a job drawing tailgating fans, no football knowledge required (or learned),” he reports. “The gag with the wandering P was art director Lisa Cunningham’s idea, and I asked if I could mingle him with the gang on the cover to give him more of a presence.” Vince posted an animated gif of the process for the cover here.

7. Vince added another “dumb Headless Horseman” cartoon to his nearly-annual potshot at Washington Irving. Continued on next page
8. This was a “fun to do” black and white illustration by Ron Mahoney for Art Rooney, Jr. depicting him as The Ringo Kid in the 1939 movie Stagecoach starring John Wayne. The image was printed on a postcard to send to his friends and former players and coaches.

9. Look for this What’s Wrong? puzzle by Pat Lewis on the back cover of the September 2018 issue of Highlights for Children Magazine.

10. Taylor Callery’s full page for Scientific American illustrates “Moment of Truth — How Fake News Will Only Get Worse.” The article reports on how artificial intelligence is making it possible for anyone to manipulate audio and video. Taylor worked with Jason Mischka and Michael Mrak.

11. New member Josie Norton did this doodle in watercolor and gouache of soda cans you can typically buy from vending machines in Japan. She was inspired by a recent trip.

12. George Schill designed these covers for OnsVoice Magazine. This one is on the topic of Oncological Emergencies. The second is about phone triage.

13. New member Abby Winkler shares “Pennsylvania,” a self-promotional piece measuring 11”x14”. All elements are illustrated with gouache and ink, and arranged digitally.

14. Greg Valley did a piece for the latest University of Pittsburgh magazine about renewing wedding vows at Heinz Chapel.

15. “Watering Can In The Window” (19”x25”) is the first of 4 watercolor paintings Ron Thurston worked on at Touchstone Center for Crafts in Farmington, where he teaches each summer.

16. “Touchstone Lodge” (19”x25”) portrays the Blaney Lodge porch where students hang out and get WiFi and phone connections, avoiding distractions in the painting studio.

17. Kit Paulsen took a 2-day pastel class recently at the 3rd Street Gallery with instructor Christine Swann. Here is her painting of the model, Hunter.

18. New affiliate member Sara Tang shares “Amusement” (5”x5”) and “Dreams Fly” (4”x10”), from her daily SaraTonin page you’ll find here. Both were done in ink with digital editing.

Continued on next page
19. This editorial image by Jim Prokell illustrates “Leadership is not for WHIMPS” for International Business magazine.


21. Here’s another editorial illustration Jim did to illustrate “Explosive Culture Development” for the National Legal Journal.

22. New Member Leah Balsan sent this work done in graphite, depicting a juneberry or serviceberry tree clipping. They are edible plants found around Pittsburgh.

23. Here are the additional portraits done by Fred Carlson for the European Music Workshops 2019 promotions for the annual festival in Kleebach, France: Dave Goodman (guitar), Marc Breitfelder (harmonica—the only European ever to win the International Blues Challenge), and Martin Rottger (cajon percussion).

24. Fred is working on two new DVD covers for Guitar Workshop — presenting here the first set of sketch ideas. The 2 projects are The Slide Guitar of Blind Willie McTell and The Guitar of Tommy Johnson. The layout process combines tight pen sketches, tight lettering indications, xeroxing elements, and then scans of the collages.

25. Three recent projects for Fred came from Australia — 2 were from the Wilson & White blues duo commissioning Fred to do their new CD cover “Keep On Trucking” and also a promotional poster using the same image for their upcoming appearance and guitar-harmonica workshop happening the end of October. From start to finish, Fred received the assignments, presented layout variations, got approvals, finished the color art, and finished the hand lettering production within 1 week of time. The third project received from Australia was the CD cover illustration for Troy Wilson solo and his new project “Play the Hand You’re Dealt.” The turnaround was 3 days for sketches and one day for painting once the b/w art was OK’d.

26. This 10”x15” digital painting by new member Alexander Pappas is called “Old Fenrir.” It was done for a short story he plans to self publish.

27. Anni Matsick was busy this spring illustrating readers in full color for an educational publisher’s program. This piece is from line artwork done for a publisher creating elementary readers for children in Liberia.

28. Mark Brewer did this art about Warlock, from Southern Tier Brewing Company. It’s one of his favorite stouts to drink this time of year.