H is for Hops

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

Dino Prints

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

Light Reading

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

My Spot

Anni Matsick

Green signals spring, and it’s also the color of a mint julep, which you’ll read more about on page 5, where one of PSI’s top brass shows her art created for a commemorative litte bottle! These pages are packed, so here’s a short list of highlights: Member News shows many of us have been out and about, sharing talents on school visits and exhibiting in galleries. Four demonstrated their digital skills at PSI’s monthly meeting, covered on page 4. Seven took a road trip to a great art museum and gathered for the photo on page 3.

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

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

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

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

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

**Kudos**

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

“Determined,” by Christine Swann won the Maggie Price Award of Excellence at the 2014 International Association of Pastel Societies Exhibition at the Vose Gallery in Boston. The award honors the founding member of the Pastel Journal and IAPS. The painting is also featured in May’s Art Collector Magazine with a review of the show. “My son, Braeden, who works with me in my little studio, gets a very determined look on his face,” Christine explains. “I gave him some oil pastels and a piece of Plexiglass on an easel and began taking photos from below as he worked. I always start my paintings with an idea – to me it is the most important part.” Christine’s studio is described in an article on page 8 in May’s Pastel Journal, which includes a photo of her worktable. It also appears in the May issue of American Art Collector Magazine, with other winners in the show.

Pittsburgh. The Golden Quills competition recognizes professional excellence in written, photographic, broadcast and online journalism in Western Pennsylvania. Mark Bender was the winner in Feature Illustration for “Splashdown,” cover art done for Pittsburgh Quarterly. Wayno was a Finalist in same category, for "Ultimate Pittsburgh Zombie Hunt" done for Pittsburgh Magazine.

**Online**

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

**Out and About**

Anni Matsick dropped by Christine Swann’s pastel workshop held April 25-27 in State College and snapped this photo of new member Linda Barnicott. Linda is holding her work done from the model.
Stacy Innerst recently visited W.G. Rice school in Mt. Holly Springs, near Carlisle for a presentation and book signing. In his school visits, Stacy talks to students about how picture books are created and the relationship between the story and the pictures. “I show slides of illustrations that I’ve done to get their imaginations working and then ask them to be the ‘authors’ of a story and I’ll be the illustrator,” he says. “They give me the character, a situation, maybe a setting and I draw the story. They love it when their own ideas come to life in front of them.”

While most of the South Fayette students were beating a path to the school buses and trying to get out the door for spring break, a determined, serious group of young artists stayed to hear about working in the illustration profession from Former PSI President and current PSI New Member Contact Fred Carlson. Fred visited the after-school meeting of the South Fayette School District Art Club on Wednesday, April 16, at the invitation of Fred’s former illustration student Diane Garbus Lally. Diane is now an art teacher at the Middle School who also directs the Art Club for all the upper schools. Fred’s audience was a combination of high school and junior high school aged students. In his 90- minute talk, Fred covered his own history in the field and showed samples of work, and answered many questions about preparing for a future in the field including what to look for in college level professional arts education.

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

New Member
Linda Barnicott, Bethel Park
linda@lindabarnicott.com
www.lindabarnicott.com

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

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

Life Drawing at Panza Gallery
Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm $10
Coffee, pastries & drinks served.
Enter basement gallery on left side of building.
www.panzagallery.com

Illustration: Yelena Lamm

Illustration: Christine Swann

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

Hard at work planning exciting changes for the 2014 Fall Western PA Society of Children’s Writers & Illustrators (WPaSCBWI) Conference are Illustration Coordinator Nora Thompson (center), Regional Advisor Marcie Cantora and Assistant RA Kate Pohl Dopirak. Mark your calendars for November 7-8 and watch for details coming soon!
Molly Feuer reports on:

April BOI Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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Photos by Evette Gabriel
Spotlight on...
Ashley Cecil

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

The pre-mixed cocktail is the official drink of the Kentucky Derby, hosted at the famed Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky, which happens to be PSI Vice President Ashley Cecil’s hometown. Years ago, she sold several paintings to Brown-Forman for their corporate art collection.

Last summer, the bourbon producer had the curator create a list of artists in the collection whose styles would be fitting for the 2014 Early Times Mint Julep bottle artwork. Ashley was pleasantly surprised when contacted by Brown-Forman to gauge her interest in the commission and within weeks was notified that she had been selected to complete the artwork for their commemorative label.

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

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

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

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

Article by Anni Matsick
1. Ron Magnes recently designed and illustrated this map for Carnegie Museum.

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

3. This illustration by Mark Brewer appears in the May issue of Strategic Finance Magazine for an article on what is keeping CFOs up at night.

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

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

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

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

8. For the Wall Street Journal’s WSJ. com/Sunday Weekly Guide to Managing Your Money, Taylor’s art reflects the headline, “Should you Manage your Own Money or Hire a Pro?”
9. Cover art for Pittsburgh City Paper’s May 7 edition, 2014 Democratic Primary Election Guide was done by Rhonda Libbey. It portrays the four Democratic candidates who want to depose Governor Tom Corbett.

10. “Red Shoes and Brass Clock,” a 20”x16” oil on canvas, is the most recent painting in the ongoing series Kurt Pfaff has been working on.

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

12. Here is Craig Mrusek’s illustration for his latest column in the upcoming issue of Bachelor Pad Magazine.

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

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

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