

PSI Inside  
www.pittsburghillustrators.org



This issue:

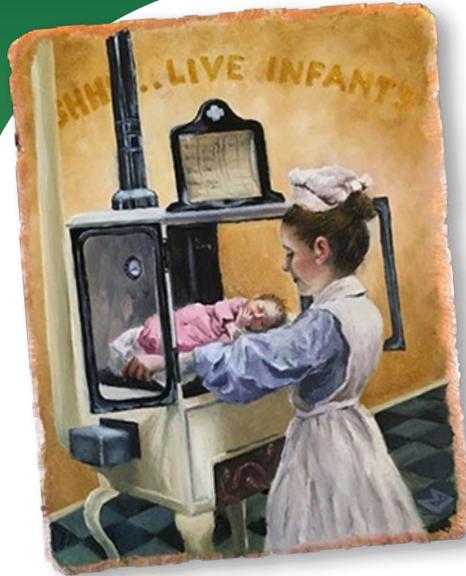
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- Behind the Brush p.12

Editor: Anni Matsick

Reporters this issue:

- Fred Carlson
- Hannah Luoni Garrison
- Rhonda Libbey
- Molly Thompson

Design & Production:  
Yelena Lamm

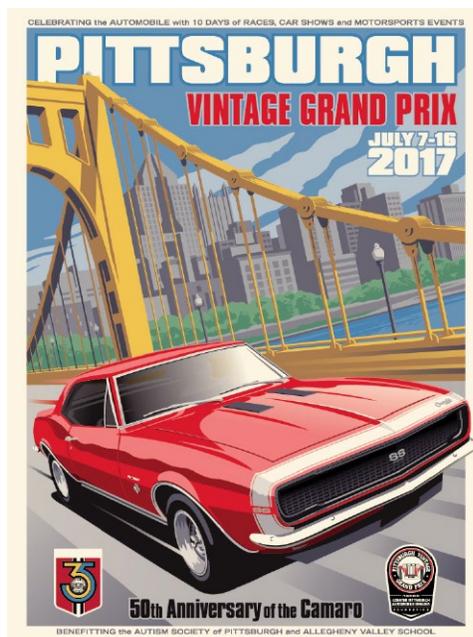


Wee Winner

*Luna Park - Shhh...Live Infants!* received First Prize in PSI's upcoming *Art of Facts / Discovering Pittsburgh Stories* opening in July at Heinz History Center. The 2.5" x 2" miniature, done in oil on copper by **Leda Miller**, illustrates the weird permanent exhibit at Luna Park, Pittsburgh in 1905-1909. Premature babies were displayed and members of the public paid a nickel to see them in their cumbersome incubators. The painting is featured on a full page in a new book by Brian Butko, published by the Center this spring.

Top End

**Jim Zahniser's** image for the 2017 *Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix* poster has been released to the press to use in promoting the annual event. The event is scheduled for the week of July 7-16 and posters will be offered for sale. A [video](#) was filmed of Jim creating the poster.



Group Share

**Rhonda Libbey's** painting was created for "Keys," Month of Love's February 6-10 inspiration. The weekly art challenge invites everyone to interpret an assigned theme, then share online. Learn more about it [here](#).

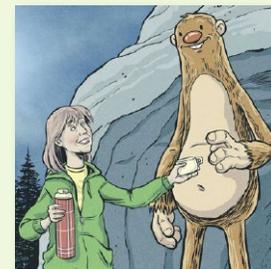


Illustration (crop)  
by Vince Dorse

My Spot

Anni Matsick

Many late nighters went into completing this newsy quarterly issue! If you've lost touch with other members over the winter, it will fill in the gaps on what a

lot of us have been working on. Check the snapshots for some wise members who didn't want to miss a trick attending the monthly Socials and Business of Illustration presentations. Then read about 2 members who reaped assignments from PSI contacts! Committees have been busy with the membership renewal drive, handing out PSI Student Scholarship Awards, completing final stages of the postcard campaign, and getting ready for PSI's upcoming 20th anniversary show! The weather's great, so come out of your caves. See inside for opportunities to get involved and become better acquainted with your fellow members.

## On Exhibit



This work in progress by **Jeff Brunner** will be part of his show at The Flying Squirrel in Carnegie. The opening will be held during the Carnegie Crawl, Friday, June 9, 5-9pm. A family friendly workshop is planned for Saturday,

June 24. Watch for details on the shop's [site](#).

This 10"x10" pencil and charcoal rendering by **Joe Winkler**, *The Most Illustrious John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough*, was featured in a solo exhibit at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library main gallery space, held during the month of March.



**Kit Paulsen** just finished two small studies for larger paintings, commissioned by her veterinarian. She will have prints made for her two offices and frame the originals for her home. "How lucky am I to get to paint kids and their dogs?" Kit asks.



**Anni Matsick's** painting, *Third Floor Walk-Up*, received Honorable Mention in the *Florida Watercolor Society's 2017 Online Exhibit*. Juror for the show was **Ron Thurston**. Another of Anni's paintings, *The Mirror Within*, was awarded Third Place in the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania's 2017



*Figurative Exhibit*. The 12"x18" watercolor was done for the invitational *John Riegert* exhibit at SPACE Gallery last summer.



## Kudos!



*The Music in George's Head: George Gershwin Creates Rhapsody in Blue*, written by Suzanne

Slade and illustrated by **Stacy Innerst**, has received the The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators 2017 Golden Kite Award for Picture Book Illustration. The awards ceremony will take place at SCBWI's 45th Annual Summer Conference on Writing and Illustrating for Children in Los Angeles, California, July 7-10. The publisher is Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyd's Mills Press.



This painting from the book was accepted into the *American Illustration 36 Annual*.

Stacy can be heard in this [radio interview](#) with Jim Cunningham at WQED, recorded last November.



**Jeff Brunner** was awarded an Artist Opportunity Grant from the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council to attend the Midwest Craft Conference in

Columbus, Ohio, in February.

**Sophia Pappas** just finished printing an 18"x24" two color poster for Signal Return, a letterpress shop in Detroit. They held a competition and her design was one of three selected. Sophia letterpressed the design with direction from Lee Marchalonis at Signal Return and it will be available for purchase through their shop.



A clean sweep for the Pro Team Artists at the *Taiwan Tattoo Convention*, held March 24-26, with **Sarah Miller** taking 3rd place in Friday's Best of Day.



## Worthy Cause

*The Hunt* by **Jeff Brunner** is one of two pieces he donated to Persad's Art for Change auction planned for May 8 at the Westin Convention Center. The work is acrylic and wax pastel on paper.



## Out and About

**Rachel Arnold Sager** serves on the board for **FULLTIME**, a five day, city wide collection of individually planned events created by separate hosts and promoted unilaterally as a single unit — with the goal of highlighting the wide array of creative culture and entrepreneurial spirit modern Pittsburgh has to offer. This year's FULLTIME took place April 19-23, its third year. Past events have included art shows, concerts, lectures, panel discussions, dinners, and table shows. Learn more [here](#), or feel free to [contact Rachel](#) with questions.



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist Brian O'Neill sat down with **Kathy Rooney** and two of her brothers in a North Side brewery with plans to write an article for the January 29 issue. They had taken a walking tour guided by her *North Shore Then & Now* map, which Kathy originally researched and created for her *Art Rooney Pioneer of Pittsburgh Sports* poster displayed in PSI's tenth anniversary *Pittsburgh Recast Show* held at Heinz History Center in 2007-08. The piece, which reminisces about places long gone, can be found [here](#).



Pittsburgh Dad is seen shopping in *Hills Is Where the Toys Are*, a pastel painting by **Linda Barnicott**. Kurt Wooten [stopped by Linda's booth](#) at The Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show where she has shown for 22 years. Giclée prints are available on her [website](#).

**Vince Ornato** has completed 9 of the proposed 12 episodes of *The Creative Process with Vince Ornato*, a monthly television show. He is interviewed in the first two by the show's producer, Allen Levine. Vince did interviews with local jazz singer/musician Jessica Lee, and John Amplas, a professor in Point Park U's theatre department. The next topic is caricatures. The shows are broadcast on Public Access channels 32 (Verizon) and 7 (Comcast). You can find them on YouTube under the series title.

**Alert from Fred Carlson...**

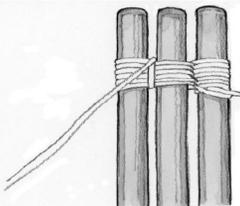
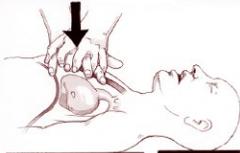
**ICON10**

Even closer than Philadelphia! Detroit is a mere 300 driving miles away! ICON 10 (the national illustration conference) is coming to the Motor City July 11-14, 2018. PSI members now have been warned! These conferences are career-changing events . . . for the experienced and novice alike. PSI presented a program at the 2003 ICON in Philadelphia (we had almost 20 members at that conference), and Detroit is closer than Philadelphia!! Save about \$35/month for the next 15 months and you'll be all paid up to attend this wonderful illustration networking/inspirational event. There are various special rates that are available after January 1, 2018 so stay tuned. PSI members registering in groups of 6 together get a 10% discount.

**PSI Worked For... Fred Carlson**

Fred is wrapping up a project forwarded to him late last fall for a client in Texas by **Anni Matsick**, whose schedule would not allow her to take it on. According to Anni, "Once I read the specs, I knew that if I couldn't do it Fred was the man for the job, which called for roughly 170 educational drawings and 23 portraits. His top-notch drawing skills and ability to size up a project and carry a client through the process were main considerations. And, I had seen his watercolor portraits of religious subjects, indicating familiarity with depicting the subject matter." Substantial guidance was needed since the client had never commissioned a job of this size. After going back and forth on suggested logistics, showing his watercolor portraits and numerous drawings, and rigorous negotiation, he received the contract for a series to illustrate the revised *Field Guide and Leader's Guide for the Troops of Saint George*, a Catholic denominational organization similar to the Boy Scouts.

The assignment for the field guide revisions included 18 small drawings about CPR, 35 on splints for broken limbs, 14 instructing on safe sanitary field dressing of deer kill in the field, and 105 illustrating how to tie 16 different knots. Fred calls these smaller pieces *technical/educational guide drawings*



and 105 illustrating how to tie 16 different knots. Fred calls these smaller pieces *technical/educational guide drawings*



*Egeus (Machinery and Tools)*

and he does them in graphite and watercolor on 5"x5" pieces of Strathmore. The saints portraits are done on scanner sized Strathmore 8.5"x11". At press time, he reports, "I am finished with the CPR and deer kill field dressing artwork, and the 23 portraits of saints that represent the different achievement patches that the young people earn, all now approved by the client. I am offering the client the black & white finishes as duotones as well and they are considering that option."

Fred said in summary, "The bottom line is that this is the biggest commission I have had come into my studio from a single assignment since 2007, and it came through a PSI connection. The contract and deposit came in February 9th and the plan is to spend about 60 days working on the project. Thanks Anni . . . and thanks, PSI, for the network!"



*Thomas Aquinas (Scholarship)*



*Thomas More (Patriotism)*

**PSI Worked For... Sophia Pappas**

Members of PSI's mentorship team met on February 6 with new members **Sophia Pappas** and **Ashley Kenawell** at AIR (Artist Image Resource) on Pittsburgh's north side. Mentors present that night were Committee Chair **John Ritter**, **Phil Wilson**, **Mark Zingarelli**, **John Blumen** and **George Schill**. For Sophia, the meeting resulted in an actual assignment. "Both Sophia and Ashley have talent to spare and gave great presentations of their work," George reports. "Sophia gave her bio in a comic form filled with wonderful, quirky spot illustrations and hand lettering. Since American Greetings is always looking for fresh art styles to connect with Gen Y, I thought her work would be a perfect fit. I asked her to work up more samples with situations appropriate for the card market, such as friendship, woman-to-woman, birthday, etc. I asked for three or four, and she sent me a sheet of twenty or so spots six hours later." George sent

those along with Sophia's website links to two art directors he regularly works with. "They loved what they saw and one happened to be working on a new program and assigned Sophia two designs. The other art director also wants to use her work when the timing allows."



Sophia added, "I showed a sample of my work and a small autobiographical comic. George was really interested in the little comic and sent that on to his art director at AG who ended up contacting me, resulting in the two cards. It was a really great experience and I'm so grateful to George for passing my work along." Sophia can't share the results until printed, but sent these pencil and gouache samples from her comic.

Ashley's presentation was equally impressive. Her work focused on interactive storybook apps that she conceived and produced. The mentors put her in contact with past PSI President **Eve Gabriel**, who has extensive experience with this type of work and offered to set up a meeting .



*Painting by Kurt Pfaff*

**Life Drawing at Panza Gallery**

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

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

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

## New Members

### David Flynn

New Cumberland, WV  
[www.mrdfflynn.com](http://www.mrdfflynn.com)

David majored in Applied Media Art with a concentration in traditional animation at Edinboro University. From there he went on to obtain a Masters Degree in Multi-media Interactive Technology at Duquesne University. He soon found a unique opportunity to test his creative prowess within the e-commerce division of a small, privately owned, company. Focusing his efforts in Web Design, Graphic Design, Production Photography, Email Marketing and Front End Development, he found himself being drawn back to his artistic roots. He is currently focused on his illustration career. He heard about PSI from **Kit Paulsen**.



### Dan Senneway

Pittsburgh  
[www.dsenneway-afterdark.com](http://www.dsenneway-afterdark.com)

Dan is a 2013 Slippery Rock University grad. His current style was developed from his love for print making before he became self-taught in Photoshop where he applies the techniques of lino block carving with the layering system. He is also self taught in video/audio editing and animation and included all in his senior show. Dan markets his work under the name of After Dark Illustrations.



His prints are sold at The Bottle Brush Gallery in Harmony. His ultimate goal is to open a studio center or start an annual art walk. "I want to help develop art communities where ever I can and help people develop themselves as artists." He was encouraged to join by **June Edwards**.

## New Affiliate Members

### Dan Ekis

Greensburg  
[www.danekis.com](http://www.danekis.com)

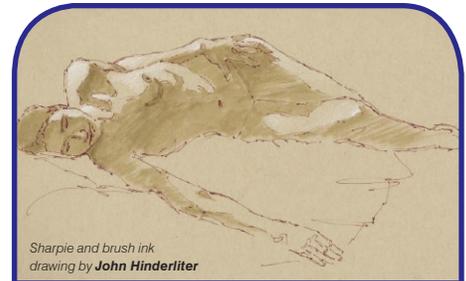
Dan Ekis is the writer, director, and animator of the animated feature film Grey Island and a creator of indie comics. For the past two years Dan has worked as a freelance animator and illustrator with several video production, marketing, and design companies as well as tech startups nationwide. He studied animation at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, where he received a B.F.A. in Applied Media Arts.



### Vivian Obermeier

Pittsburgh

Vivian Obermeier's technical foundation is based on traditional painting and drawing methods, and she is also influenced by Impressionism, Modernism, Expressionism, and Tibetan Art. Her subject matter includes landscapes, portraits, still life, and botanical studies. Vivian's work places emphasis on color, light, and design.



Sharpie and brush ink drawing by John Hinderliter

## Figure Group at South Arts Pittsburgh

Wednesday evenings 7-9 pm

**\$10**

The Historic Schoolhouse,  
 2600 South Park Road,  
 Bethel Park, PA 15102

Contact Chuck at

[chuck@westpennart.com](mailto:chuck@westpennart.com)

## SAVE 20%

on non-sale items with PSI members card

### Top Notch Art Center

411 S. Craig Street, Oakland

412.683.4444

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

## Treasurer's and New Member's Report

by Treasurer/New Member Contact Fred Carlson

(Figures good through March 12, 2017)

### Income

Dues received 2017:	\$7,578.50
Jury Fees received 2017:	\$550
Exhibition contributions received 2017:	\$145
<b>Total Income/2017:</b>	<b>\$8,273.50</b>

### Expenses

January-March (3 months) website promo mailing costs:	\$841.07
Webhosting expense until Jan 2019 (Go Daddy):	\$155.51
Socials Jan & Feb/The Abbey:	\$154.93
Space rental pre-paid (Glitterbox — March, April, May BOI meetings):	\$135
Scholarship Awards, AIP:	\$900
Program handouts/Kinkos	\$233.42
Artists & Craftsmans Supply Gift Card for Ashley Kenawell, winner of survey drawing:	\$25
Juror's Stipends/Art of Facts Exhibition:	\$700
Expense/15 volunteers lunches and parking Heinz History Center:	\$165.15
Bank Fees:	\$12
<b>Total Expense/2017:</b>	<b>\$3,322.08</b>

**PSI Cash on Hand: \$19,142.53**

**PSI New Members 2017 (6):** Kimberlyn Curtis (Full), Vivian Obermeier (Affiliate), April Hartmann (Full), David Flynn (Full), Dan Senneway (Full) Daniel Ekis (Affiliate)

PSI Prospects, last 12 months: 9

### PSI Dues Report 2017

Membership 4.4.2017: 159 members  
 Full members 4.4.2017: 139 members  
 Affiliate members and affiliate comp members: 20 members  
 Members deleted or dropping membership 2017 as of 12 March 2017: 6  
 Affiliate members owing partial dues 3.12.2017: 2  
 Full members owing dues 3.12.2017: 23

The Treasurer would like to thank everyone who has paid their 2017 dues so far. It has been a very smooth dues collections season. As you know, March 1 is our "deadline" for dues payments and of course we are able to extend payment plans or extend the deadline if you need that relief, but members who want the courtesy of these extensions must communicate with the Treasurer of their desire asap so I know you are staying in the Society. The Treasurer or other designated leadership will be calling delinquent members who have not communicated with us yet this dues season to find out your plans over the next two weeks.

## Saturnalia 2016 Installation of New Officers

A spirited group met at **John Blumen's** house for an exciting seasonal occasion which included the passing of The Torch by outgoing President **Pat Lewis** to PSI's new President, **Emily Traynor**. Outgoing Secretary **Molly Thompson** welcomed our new Secretary, **Hannah Luoni Garrison**. **Fred Carlson** will stay on as Treasurer. Outgoing Vice President, **Amanda Zimmerman** and new Vice President, **Genevieve Barbie-Turner**, were not able to attend. PSI extends thanks to the outgoing team for their dedicated service! Here is a brief introduction to the officers.



L-R: Fred Carlson, Molly Thompson, Pat Lewis, Emily Traynor, Hannah Luoni Garrison

**Emily Traynor (President)** has been pursuing her career as an illustrator in Pittsburgh since she returned to the area in 2012, previously having lived in Vermont where she had been an assistant to a chainsaw-carving sculptor while also coordinating programs and events at the Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts.

While Emily's work is often inspired by mythology, folklore, and nature, she has recently been exploring a more conceptual path to her imagery. She chooses to work primarily in traditional media such as watercolor, gouache, pen, and ink. Emily is most often commissioned for magazine editorial illustrations, including the cover of Pittsburgh City Paper's 2016 Summer Guide.

Emily graduated with a BA in Studio Arts from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010, and while not native to the area, has deep familial roots in the history of Pittsburgh. While not working on illustrations she practices as vocalist with her band, and is in the process of writing their first album. She has been a PSI member since 2014 and currently works out of her home studio in the Greenfield neighborhood.

**Genevieve Barbee-Turner (VP)** began her career in fine art and the non-profit sector before transitioning to illustration in 2015. Working in human services, print publishing, and marketing and communications she has become a Swiss Army knife of print and digital illustration for small nonprofits with tight budgets and even tighter deadlines.

From 2012 til 2015 she interviewed over 200 people in the region for her podcast, *The AP Collection*. Her work is inspired by the creative landscape in Southwestern PA and creating a modern visual language to illustrate life in this

strange burgh. She is currently producing a tarot deck utilizing those audio conversations with her collaborator, writer and poet Erin Nilhizer, called *Bridge Witches*.

Genevieve earned a BFA in Art from Carnegie Mellon University in 2007. She has been a PSI member since August, 2015 and currently works out of her Lawrenceville home and studio.

**Frederick H. (Fred) Carlson (Treasurer)** has been serving as PSI Treasurer since 2014, was the first treasurer of PSI 1998-1999, and was its second President 2000-2004. He currently serves the Society as New Member Contact and Budget Director for next summer's 20th Anniversary exhibition *Art of Facts / Uncovering Pittsburgh Stories* at the Heinz History Center. He also served as the National President of the Graphic Artists Guild 1991-1993, the first non-NYC artist ever elected to that post. Fred's work has appeared in the NY Society of Illustrators annual exhibitions and on over 400 music packaging projects. He has been a PSI member since a few months after the founding of the Society in late 1996.

**Hannah Luoni Garrison (Secretary)** is an illustrator, painter and visual designer from northeastern PA. She moved to the 'Burgh in 2013 after earning her BFA in Illustration from Moore College of Art & Design in Philadelphia. A trip to Alaska in her early teens expanded her view of the

natural world, and she has been captivated by changing landscapes ever since. Her illustrations are heavily influenced by the Hudson River School painters, scientific illustrations and nature, and she works primarily in traditional media such as oils, watercolor, and ink pens.

Hannah has worked as a botanical illustrator for the Ruth Bancroft Garden, illustrated for BikePGH and created the artwork for *Little Leaf, Clever Leaf*, published in 2015. Recently, she has been working with digital illustration techniques as well as web and graphic design for the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh. Her work also expands into UI design, specifically in Wordpress. While not working on creative projects, she enjoys fossil hunting, hiking, and biking around Pittsburgh and West Virginia. Hannah joined PSI in September 2013.



Photos by Alex Patho Jr.

**Fred Carlson reports on...**  
**January 26 BOI**



The group met in room 432 of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh for this year's first Business of Illustration meeting, reserved by **Lisa Rasmussen**. After some housekeeping details about financials on dues and jury fees the recent allmember survey was reviewed by the illustrators. Hard copies of the survey results were distributed to everyone attending.

Ideas submitted for 2017-2018 included: workshop/demos/artist presentations by our most-requested society members, a re-showing of The Pricing Game, a possible retreat, marketing presentations, socials with live music, reviving the PSI Conference idea for 2018, and some minor suggestions for the website. The exhibition *Art of Facts I Uncovering Pittsburgh Stories* will dominate the first half of the year. Questions about such ongoing programs as mentorship, young member orientation and retention, nights for meetings, and figure drawing sessions were also discussed. Some of the attendees brought work in for the exhibition jurying happening the next Monday. The surveys showed that members preferred Tuesdays and Thursdays for meeting, so members should look for those nights being programmed this year!

Attendees: PSI Board-President **Emily Traynor**, VP **Genevieve Barbee-Turner**, Secretary **Hannah Luoni Garrison**, Treasurer **Fred Carlson**. Exhibition coordinator **Molly Thompson** and husband Vince, former VP **John Blumen**, new member **David Flynn**, **Frances Halley**, **Adam Teslevich**, **Gregg Valley**, **Vince Ornato**, **Sophia Pappas**, **Rachel Arnold Sager** and **Lindsay Wright**.

Photo by **Hanna Luoni Garrison**

**Fred Carlson reports on...**  
**February 23 BOI:**  
**The Crooked Road to Success/  
 45 Years of Storytelling**

How does a haircut in Oil City, PA relate to a successful long-term career as an illustrator?



Phil Wilson shared this anecdote in a wide-ranging talk about influences, background, struggles, successes, and more along the yellow-brick road of an illustration career. A chance encounter at an Oil City barber

shop led Phil to a contact where he did almost 30 LP cover designs for a Boston client in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

These printed visuals expanded Phil's portfolio and led to connections where Phil, and eventually business partner Jim Allan, did animation shorts that moved Phil out of his 10-year job at the Allegheny County graphics department (where his duties included map making) and into independent business. The animation projects included various Boston clients, a Christmas Special, vignettes for the movies *Creepshow 1* and *2*, and a music video for Tom Petty that won many awards. Their staff grew to 25 employees! Even the familiar airbrush that defines Phil's current style had been in storage after his AIP days of schooling in the late 1960s, until the needs of the animation studio backgrounds helped Phil rediscover the nuances of the airbrush and helped start his current trajectory as an artist of bright, colorful, and detailed subject matter.

There's nothing like the discipline of the animation process to define a style, and Phil's illustration career played off this discipline. Book projects for Disney began crowding Phil's schedule as the 1990s opened, and these samples helped him get work from the Bradford Exchange, Little Mermaid magazine, Mickey Mouse magazine, and Innervisual 3-D books. Phil's work featuring bright colors and detail began to draw in assignments for Phil's most wellknown work as a dinosaur artist: including jobs for paleontologist Jack Horner, Falcon magazine, Wild Outdoor World, and on to numerous dinosaur book projects where some of his illustrations are the standard for the paleontology world and are re-used often.

Phil's career has continued to expand into the markets of mural development for children's rooms and interior spaces, and a new self-published venture called "Baby Santa," contracted by a writer from the Carolinas. Other clients for Phil have included Warner Brothers, foreign publishers, Winnie-the-Pooh merchandising, and many ad agencies around the country. Phil Wilson



becomes the sterling example that the dreams of a small-town kid from Oil City, PA, who saw the Beatles at Shea Stadium in 1966 as a high school senior, can bear fruit in venues that were always there in his heart.

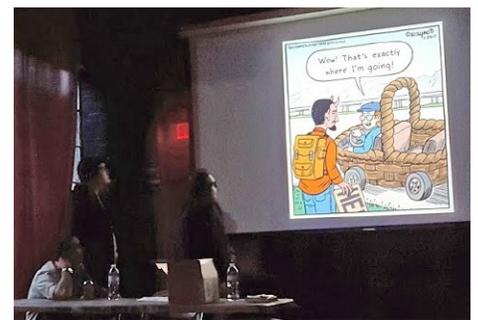
The meeting was nicely accommodated in room 432 at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Announcements were made concerning upcoming talks by former VP **Ashley Cecil** at the Pecha Kucha creative forum, and former VP

**Amanda Zimmerman** at the Phipps lecture space on Scientific Illustration, both set for March 2.

Attendees: President **Emily Traynor**, VP **Genevieve Barbee-Turner**, Treasurer **Fred Carlson**, former VPs **George Schill** and **John Blumen**, Exhibition Coordinator **Molly Thompson**, **Kimberlyn Curtis**, **Lindsay Wright**, **Ashley Kenawell**, **Patty Lipinsky**, **Vince Ornato**, and **Gregg Valley**.

**Hannah Luoni Garrison reports on...**  
**March 31 BOI:**  
**Cartoons & Comics**

Members gathered at the Glitterbox Theatre in Oakland to hear **Wayno**, **Pat Lewis** and **Vince Dorse** speak about a field in which all 3 excel, cartoons and comics. Wayno began first, showing his process from sketch, to text layout, blue pencil sketch with ink, and then to final color. He keeps a spreadsheet of dates with his future comic strips, and working 6 months in advance of the publishing date. Wayno started out by writing gags for the Dan Piraro's daily cartoon, *Bizarro*, and Hillary B.



Price's comic strip, *Rhymes with Orange*, which led to his career illustrating his own comics. Some reoccurring themes in his work include the devil and art history. Enjoy his daily cartoon at **WaynoVision**.

Next, Vince focused on his online comic strip, *Untold Tales of Bigfoot*. It started off as a sketch that he slowly worked into a personal project, which grew to a larger and more lucrative endeavor. At the outset, he did a lot of research about writing and creating comics. He recalls struggling to finish pieces quickly without having concrete deadlines. His solution was to start

Continued on next page



Society in 2012, and a printed version was funded through a successful Kickstarter.

Finally, Pat told how he started working as an editorial cartoonist in college. He created the World's Smartest Baby comic strip. He sent about 2-3 dozen strips to syndicates and signed a development deal, which allowed him to make strips for a living for a few months. In 2002 the Pittsburgh City Paper published a story about a woman making mini comics, whom he contacted and consequently started making his own. He sold small photocopied comics at SPX. In 2003 Pat participated in 3 conventions: Small Press and Alternate Comics, MOCA, and SPX. In 2007 he signed his first book deal, titled *The Claws Came Out*, with IDW Publishing. Questions were answered by the speakers for the next hour.



posting the adventure as a weekly sequel on a Wordpress website, writing his story as it unfolded and gaining a fan base. He then began marketing through Twitter. The project received a Ruben Award from the National Cartoonists

Attendees: President **Emily Traynor**, VP **Genevieve Barbee-Turner**, Secretary **Hannah Luoni Garrison**, Treasurer **Fred Carlson**, Former VP **John Blumen**, Screening Committee Chairman **Kathy Rooney**, Exhibition Chairman **Molly Thompson**, **David Coulson**, new member **David Flynn**, **Stephen Haynes**, **Dave Klug**, **Sophia Marie Pappas**, **Robert Sage III** and **Nora Thompson**.

### Hannah Luoni Garrison reports on... PSI January Social

The monthly social night tradition that helped



launch the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators 20 years ago continues on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, now at a new venue: The Abbey, in Lawrenceville on the 4600 block of Butler Street. Previous to the meeting, newly elected PSI Board members President **Emily Traynor**, VP **Genevieve Barbee-Turner**, Secretary **Hannah Luoni Garrison**, and returning Treasurer **Fred Carlson** met for a business meeting from 5:30-6:30pm. The 4 officers moved over to the front of the Abbey to join what became our largest social night in years — 27 members and guests!

Discussion during the evening included plans for the upcoming *Art of Facts | Uncovering Pittsburgh Stories* jurying, an online member survey, planning for news and features on the website, fundraising planning, and programming ideas for the Business of Illustration evenings.

Attending, besides our newly elected officers, were new member prospects Vivian Hartmann, Colleen Halley, and Bradford School recent graduate Cassie who was brought by instructor and affiliate member **Richard Coble**. Also in

attendance were Exhibition Coordinator **Molly Thompson**, Program Committee member **Danielle Amiano**, Scholarship Chairman **Rhonda Libbey**, ASIP rep **Ilene Winn-Lederer**, former President **Rick Antolic**, former VPs **John Blumen** and **George Schill**, **Kelly Ackerman**, **Jeff Brunner**, **Frances Halley** and husband John, **Ashley Kenawell**, **Vince Ornato**, **Sophia Marie Pappas**, **Alex Patho, Jr.**, **Elizabeth Claire Rose**, **Gregg Valley**, **Phil Wilson**, and **Lindsay Wright**.

NEXT PSI SOCIAL



**Tuesday, May 9**  
**Beginning at 6:30 pm**  
**The Abbey on Butler**  
**4635 Butler St, Pittsburgh, PA 15201**

10% OFF

all non-sale items with PSI members card

**Artist & Craftsman Supply**  
**5603 Hobart Street, Squirrel Hill**  
**412.421.3002**  
**ArtistCraftsman.com**

Volunteer **Terri Adams** has added more issues to the newsletter archive on **PSI's website!**  
 Read these members' interviews recorded back in 2010:



**Craig Mrusek**  
pgs. 5-6



**John Hinderliter**  
p. 4

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NEXT BOI MEETING

**PSI Business of Illustration Meeting:**  
**Jeff Brunner presents his Work and Process**



*Driving - colored pencil on paper - for The Glassblock, a web magazine about Pittsburgh*

**Jeff Brunner** self-published the book *Armadillo to Zebu: an Alphabet Book for You and Me Too* in 2012. Afraid to lose the creative momentum, he started an illustration-a-day project of which he published another book, *365 Critters*, and in 2014 was awarded an Emerging Artist scholarship at the Three Rivers Arts Festival.

Come join in the discussion as Jeff presents his work, process, and insights (bring along a sketchpad and pencil)!

**Thursday, April 27, 7:30-9:30pm**  
 The Glitter Box Theater  
 460 Melwood Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
 (near Pittsburgh Filmmakers)

**Free on-street parking**

As always, please bring along a snack or refreshment to share.

## Art of Facts Jurying

Jurying of submissions for *Art of Facts / Uncovering Pittsburgh Stories* took place January 30 at the Heinz History Museum. 53 entries out of 81 entered were accepted. 40 artists out of 55 who participated will have art hung in the show. The volunteer committee present 8am til 4pm was comprised of Exhibit Chair **Molly Thompson**, VP **Genevieve Barbee-Turner**, Treasurer **Fred Carlson**, **Rick Antolic**, **John Blumen**, **Frances Halley**, **Kurt Pfaff**, **Greg Valley**, **Kathy Rooney**, **George Schill**, **Greg Valley**, **Phil Wilson**, and **Ilene Winn-Lederer**.



L-R: Frances Halley, Kurt Pfaff, Molly Thompson, John Blumen, Rick Antolic, Gregg Valley, George Schill wait during the more than 3 hour jurying process.



Treasurer Fred Carlson



Committee members L-R: Ilene Winn-Lederer, Genevieve Barbee-Turner, Kathy Rooney



Jurying in progress

Photos by Kathy Rooney

## From Exhibit Chair Molly Thompson... Countdown to PSI's 20th Anniversary Exhibition

The Senator John Heinz History Center has once again called upon the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators to artistically relate our region's unique history. The result is an exhibition of illustrated stories that go beyond the famous landmarks and personalities to reveal the lesser-known narratives of Western Pennsylvania.

*Art of Facts / Uncovering Pittsburgh Stories* will include over 50 topics, researched and rendered by 40 of our artists. The collection will showcase the roots of Pittsburgh as well as promote the profession of illustration in tandem with our society's 20th anniversary.

January's jury event was a logistic success, and I would like to thank our membership for their ongoing participation and cooperation as we count down the final months before showtime!

**Get a Sneak Peek!** Our online version of *Art of Facts / Uncovering Pittsburgh Stories* is in progress, and a gallery of exhibitors' work can be viewed [online](#).

**EXHIBITORS** mark your calendars with these important dates:

### Monday, May 1

Hanging Fee and Information Deadline:

- Please pay your \$40 hanging fee (per entry) by utilizing the Donate button at the upper right corner of the PSI website or by mailing a check to Fred Carlson (see note from Fred below).
- Final, framed dimensions of artwork and a 75-150 word write-up are due to the History Center for their exhibit design. Please don't wait for this deadline. The sooner dimensions and write-ups are sent to me, the better!

### Tuesday, June 27

Framed Art Drop-off at the History Center:

The History Center will allow exhibiting artists to utilize their bus lane from 8AM to 11AM to drop off ready-to-hang artwork with D-ring strap hangers securely attached.

**BOXHEART**  
4523 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
P. 412.867.8858

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

BoxHeart Gallery is offering  
**20% OFF CUSTOM FRAMING**  
to all PSI Members  
with artwork selected for exhibition  
at the Heinz History Center.

**Congratulations!!**

GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAYS: 11 AM - 6 PM / WEDNESDAYS - SATURDAYS: 10 AM - 6 PM / SUNDAYS: 1 - 5 PM

**ALL MEMBERSHIP** mark your calendars with these important dates:

### Thursday, July 20

History Center Press Preview: The History Center will invite members of the press to preview our exhibit before it opens to the public. Press events are typically scheduled to begin at 10:30am, and members are welcome to attend. If you would like to invite nonmembers (clients, etc) that you feel would enjoy a preview, email me, and the show committee will compile a list for invitations.

### Saturday, July 22

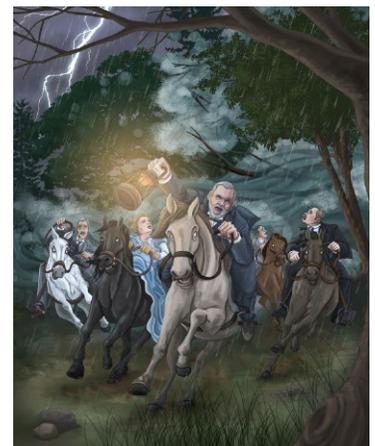
Exhibit Opening to the Public: This is the official start date of our show that will be promoted to the public. Attendance by membership is not required.

### October/November

PSI Reception and Awards (exact date to be determined): The History Center is working to coordinate a date for our catered show reception. They have communicated that this event will be on a Wednesday or Thursday.



Serendipity Portal by Mark Bender



Escape from the South Fork Hunting and Fishing Club by Brian Dumm

Continued on next page

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

**\$1,000**

Sponsors will receive recognition on introductory and exhibit signage, as well as in programs and advertising.

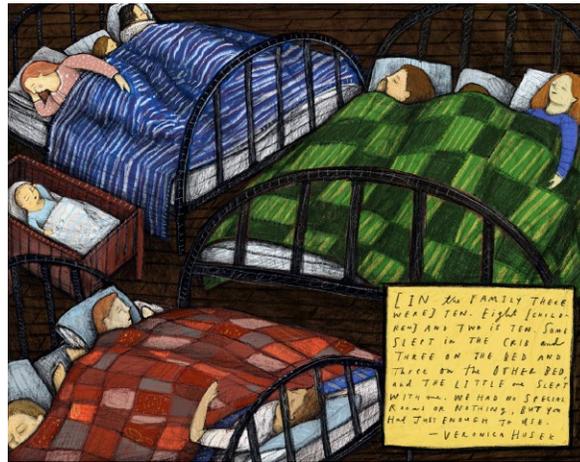
**\$5,000**

Sponsors will receive the above as well as two advertorial spreads in the exhibit catalogue and prominent signage.

**\$10,000**

Sponsors will receive four advertorial spreads in the exhibit catalogue and sole name recognition or exclusive sponsorship of the show reception with large banners, in addition to all of the above.

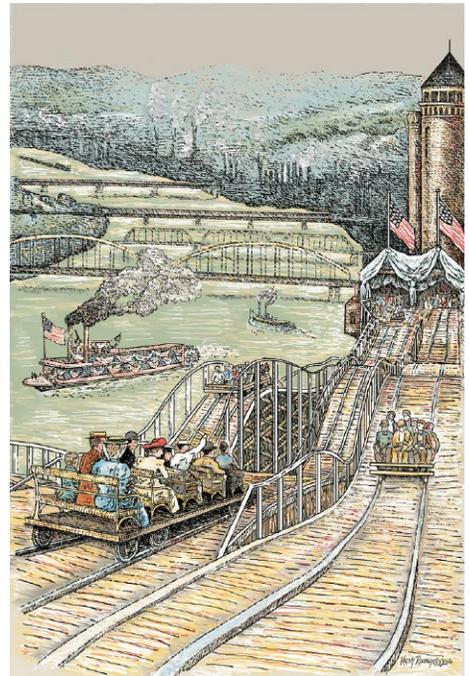
All of our sponsors' names will appear on all exhibition graphics, including show programs, introductory signage at the show entrance, print ads and more. The online version of the show (to be marketed nationally) will also feature sponsors' names, logos and a live link. There are additional opportunities for representatives of sponsor organizations to make remarks at the opening reception. For Sponsorship and Fundraising Questions and/or Suggestions email or call PSI Treasurer and Sponsorship Coordinator, **Fred Carlson**, 412-856-0982. For General Questions and/or Suggestions email or call PSI Exhibition Chair, **Molly Thompson**, 412-353-9278



From the series Women's Lives, Women's Work by Jeff Brunner



Philip Wigle and the Whiskey Rebellion Fire by Nora Thompson



Switchback Railway at Pittsburgh Exposition Park by Kathy Rooney

**Fundraising (All Members)**

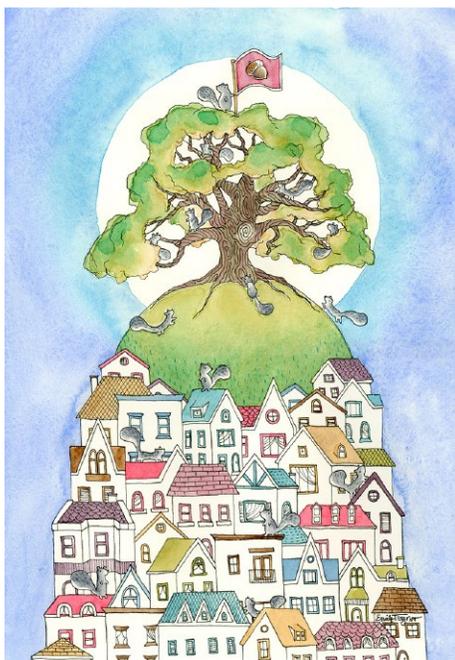
PSI is urging ALL members, not just those in the show (because this exhibition helps promote illustration all across the marketplace) to assist in a united fundraising effort — personal and

small scale. More coming in from member outreach means less pressure for PSI grant writers to guarantee anything from foundations and corporations. *If 50 of our members raise only \$160 each, that would underwrite the \$8000 goal for that budget line!* Ask friends, family, clients, patrons, people who relish the chance to support the arts in a personal way because they know and trust YOU! Use these talking points:

- PSI is a 501c3 educational organization; all contributions are fully tax-deductible.
- The exhibition and catalog will be a high visibility opportunity for recognition.
- Donors will be recognized in banners, signage, labels, and the catalog (if published).
- Donors can designate where they want their gift to be spent: catalog, reception, educational programs, operating expenses for the show, etc.
- The 20th Anniversary is a milestone to be celebrated within the entire creative community of Pittsburgh.
- PSI and the History Center will offer programming educational opportunities for communities involved in writing, journalism, art, and design through many high school field trips and associated programs.
- PSI remains a charitable Society funding

scholarships and is open to the community for every program, and is always interested in the education of the next generation of practitioners as well as the professional needs of our members.

Charitable gift checks for the exhibition should be made to "PSI" (memo "2017 20th Anniversary Show") and sent to Treasurer Fred Carlson-118 Monticello Drive, Monroeville PA 15146. Donors can also easily give on the **PSI Website** by clicking the DONATE button to donate by PayPal. There is a space in this function to mention your donation to go to the Exhibition.



Retainment of Squirrel Hill by Emily Traynor

# PSI Student Scholarship Awards

## Bradford School

Jurying was done by Rhonda Libbey on Nov. 29, 2016. **Fred Carlson** joined Rhonda at the 3pm presentation on December 3. Also present were staff members **Sara Tinnick** and **Richard Coble**.



First Prize: \$150 **Kyla Chow**



Second Prize: \$125  
**Ashley Landers**

Honorable Mention: \$50  
**Katrina Kaufman**



Photos by Rhonda Libbey



Thomas J Ruddy Award: \$250  
**Bethany Rhodes**



Third Prize: \$75 **Joel Kelly**

## Art Institute of Pittsburgh

Jurying was done by **Fred Carlson** and Scholarship Chairman **Rhonda Libbey** on January 19. Awards were presented February 8, at 5PM. Alex Patho Jr. also attended and took photos. Two Tom Ruddy awards were given this year.



Tom Ruddy Award #2: \$250  
**Adam Nzita**  
3-D Model RC Boat/Game & Toy Design



Second Prize: \$125  
**Emily Polkabila, Lollapalooza**



Tom Ruddy Award #1: \$250  
**Carolynn Elo, Dragon in the Moonlight**



First Prize: \$150  
**Yata Niramitsotham, Mechanical Still Life**



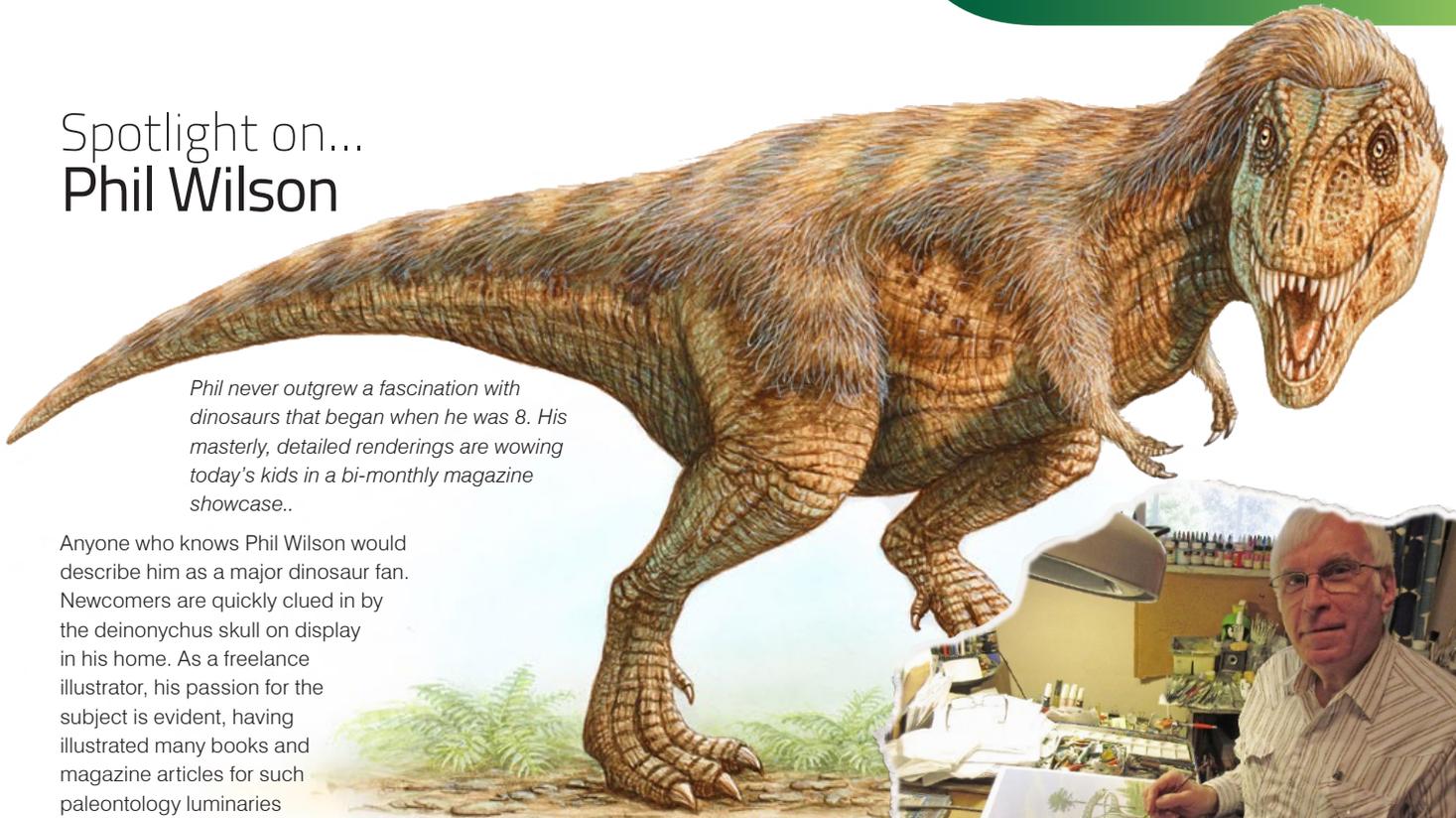
Third Prize: \$75  
**Michael Lotenero**  
Self Portrait

Honorable Mention: \$50  
**Emily Mahlon**  
10 Facts about Meditation

If interested in participating on the Scholarship Awards Committee please email Rhonda Libbey for more information.

Photos by Alex Patho Jr.

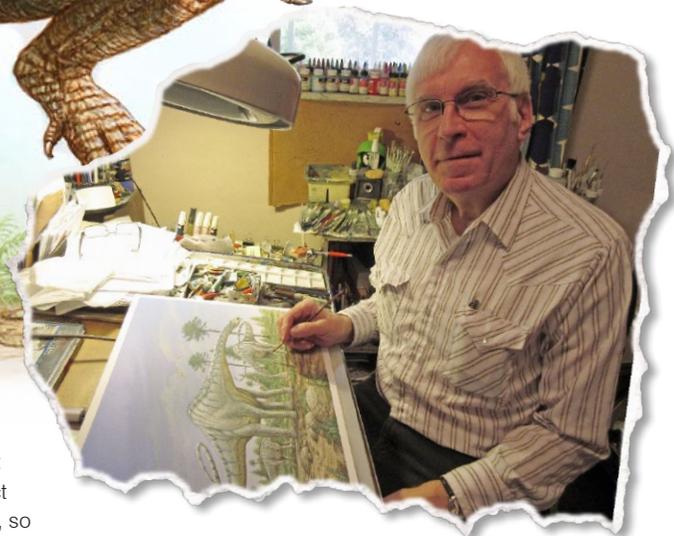
# Spotlight on... Phil Wilson



*Phil never outgrew a fascination with dinosaurs that began when he was 8. His masterly, detailed renderings are wowing today's kids in a bi-monthly magazine showcase..*

Anyone who knows Phil Wilson would describe him as a major dinosaur fan. Newcomers are quickly clued in by the deinonychus skull on display in his home. As a freelance illustrator, his passion for the subject is evident, having illustrated many books and magazine articles for such paleontology luminaries as Dr. Jack Horner, Dr. Robert Bakker, and Dr. Peter Dodson. Phil's agent, Cliff Knecht, recently found a perfect match for him in a contract to illustrate the new children's publication *Zoodinos*, a subsidiary of the ZooBooks company. The magazine for ages 5 and up features a particular species of dinosaur in each issue, where Phil can display his expert skills in high realism. Each spread is a fascinating, richly detailed reward for young dino-loving subscribers, and it's very likely adults are lured to the pages as well!

Phil calls it a labor of love, saying, "It keeps me very much up-to-date on all of the latest findings, since each issue and all



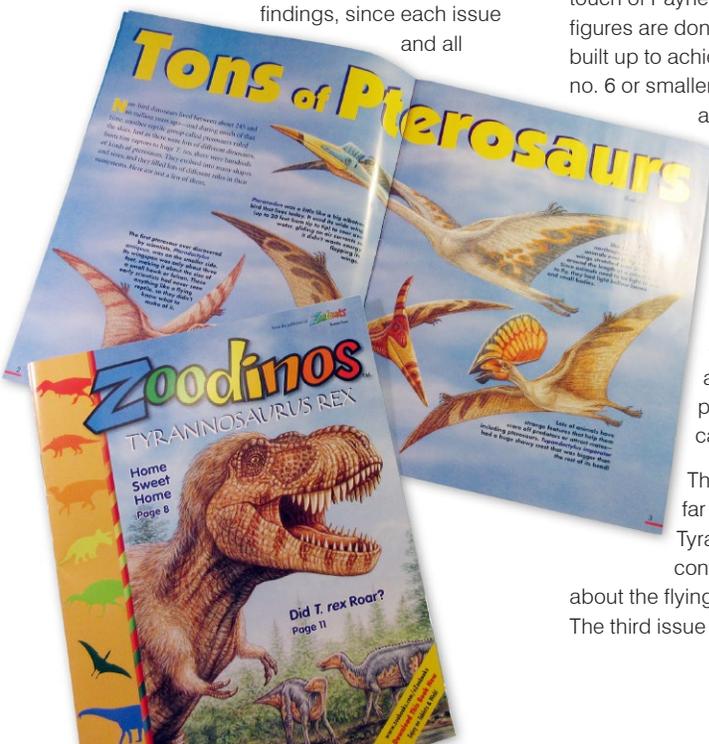
illustrations are reviewed by a panel of paleontologists. If you get the slightest detail wrong, they'll let you know!" Fortunately, this subject is practically second-nature to him, so sketch approvals have been swift and largely correction-free, "although sometimes even the panel of paleontologists don't agree among themselves on specifics!"

"The art is done in acrylic, airbrushing in the skies on full bleed illustrations, generally using ultramarine blue with a light overspray of cerulean blue, and adding white clouds with a touch of Payne's gray for shading. The dinosaur figures are done traditionally with light 'washes' built up to achieve the final color value, using no. 6 or smaller brushes to apply the washes and 20/0 liner brushes to do the detailing (creases, wrinkles, scales, bumps, etc.). I do the art at about 150% of the final printed size, and then have our own photo ace [Alex Patho](#) do the scans at high-res. The scans are sent directly to the client and I retain the original art in my files. I usually do 3 to 4 pieces in each issue, although that can vary."

The first of three issues done so far began with with the mighty Tyrannosaurus rex. The second contains all you'd want to know about the flying pterosaurs (pteroactyls). The third issue features sauropods, the long

necked species. Phil is currently working on issue #4, dealing with ceratopsians, the horned herbivores. Anyone would conclude that the 8 year old boy has, happily, realized his dream.

*Zoodinos* print and digital subscriptions can be ordered [online](#).



Article by Anni Matsick; Design by Yelena Lamm  
Photos and images courtesy Phil Wilson © 2017



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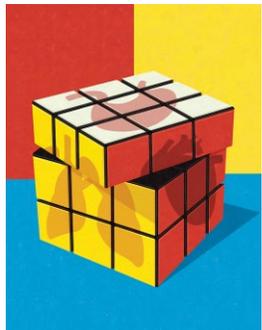
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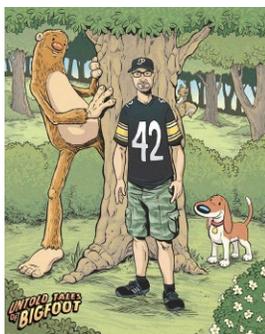
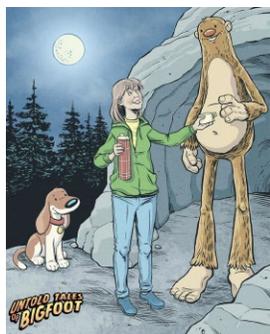
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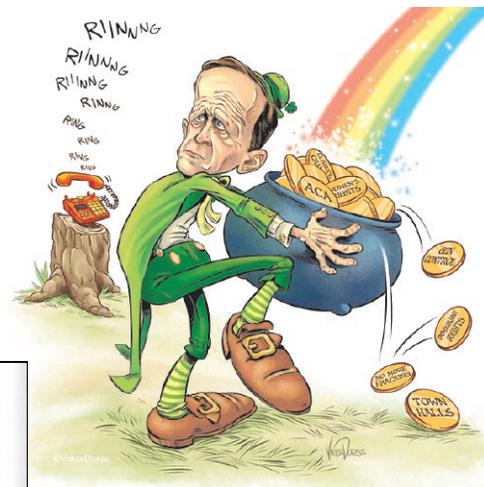
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1. This cover and the full wraparound art was done by **John Blumen** for the upcoming novel *Roar*, by Cora Carmack, published by Tor Books.
2. Images and hand-lettering were done by **John Manders** for Pittsburgh Public Theatre's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* for the 2017/18 season brochure. The figures were done in gouache and colored pencil. The lettering is in ink.
3. **George Schill** sent artwork done for *onsVOICE*, a magazine for the

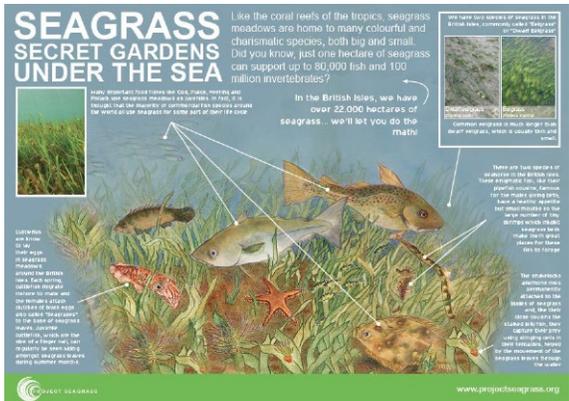
4. Northern Perula is the subject of this 2"x3" miniature oil on board by **Leda Miller**. It's title is *Make a Joyful Noise*.
5. **Vince Dorse's** Thomas Edison and Advice Guru illustrations were spots for a science-based trade magazine.

6. *Untold Tales of Bigfoot* fans **Jim Mellett** and **Anni Matsick** received caricatures of themselves with the online strip's star as part of the book's Kickstarter offer by **Vince Dorse**. Vince is working day and night on the remaining requests. More night scenes can be seen in quick rotation on his April 5 [blog post](#).
7. Buy the book, then color it! Available now in the [Vince Dorse Online Store](#), *Wish On A Halloween Moon* is the second book published under Vince's

8. Vince portrayed PA State Senator Pat Toomey as a leprechaun for the cover of the Pittsburgh City Paper's St. Patrick's Day issue. "Doing political caricatures jump-starts my anxiety, but usually the art director's concepts are so wacky that I have a ton of fun with it," Vince wrote.

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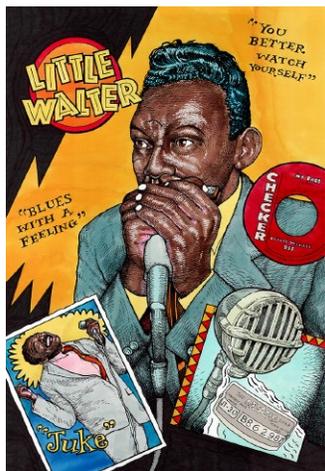
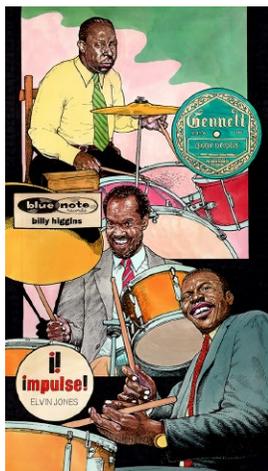


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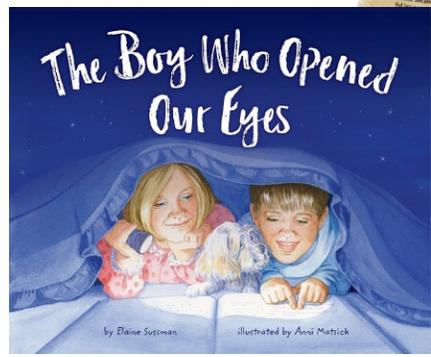
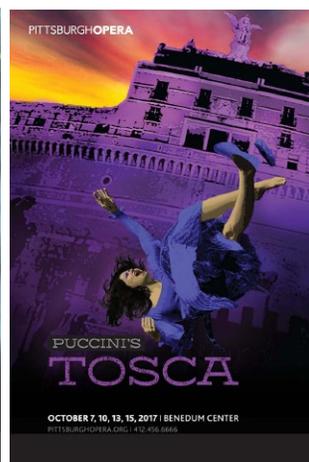
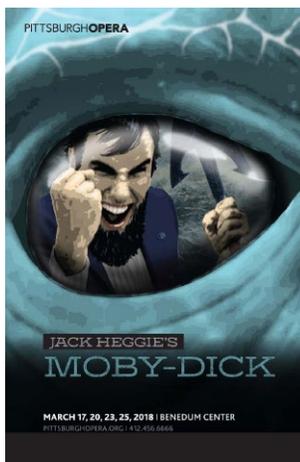


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- 9. **Amanda Zimmerman** reached out to Project Seagrass in 2015: "We both had the common goal of protecting ocean ecosystems and I was curious if we could work together on a project." The resulting art is watercolor and watercolor pencil on board with some tweaking in Photoshop. This image is now being used as a poster and postcard educational piece for their members in the UK.
- 10. **Rachel Arnold Sager** provided the cover art for the Pittsburgh City Paper's Winter Guide. She illustrated one of her favorite Pittsburgh icons — Dippy, dressed for the cold — and

- also provided an interior spot showing an ice skating squirrel. Read her interview [here](#).
- 11. Rachel did a daily project in December counting down to Christmas called "Holidailies", in which she shared a new tree ornament each day on her [@r.a.sager\\_art](#) Instagram.
- 12. **Fred Carlson** reports that January 2017 is the first month that his new poster business drew more income than assignments. After 18 months, the retail poster/placemats/postcards business from his online store is beginning to get some traction in the

- market. Two of his latest projects are pictured here: *Little Drummer Boys* was a Christmas-titled poster highlighting the all-time drumming greats "Baby" Dodds, Billy Higgins, and Elvin Jones, suggested by West-Coast percussion master Kendrick Freeman. *Little Walter* was commissioned by harmonica virtuoso Rob Stone of LA. Posters, placemats and postcards can be seen at Fred's [online store](#). The coverage of Fred's new work is seen even in this Spanish-language website *ES Blues* (España Blues, or Blues of Spain).
- 13. **John Hinderliter's** white line draw-

- ings on blue are part of a print ad campaign for a New England hospital, meant to look like a blueprint.
- 14. The Cobblestone magazine page is one of a series of portraits John did for an article about the development of the railroad in America.
- 15. The Pittsburgh Opera posters are 2 of a 4-poster series John illustrated.
- 16. **Anni Matsick** illustrated a new picture book, *The Boy Who Opened Our Eyes*, written by Elaine Sussman. It was released in February by Light-switch Learning. Order it [here](#).

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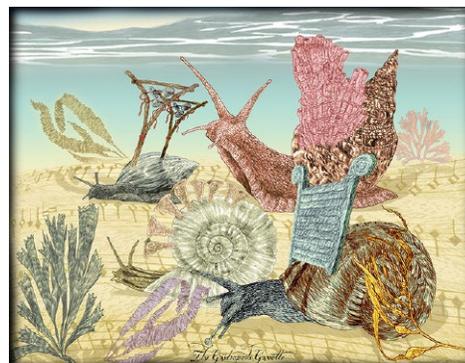


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17. New affiliate member **Vivian Hartmann** shared this recent landscape, 24" x 36" oil on canvas.

18. The owl was painted by **Rhonda Libbey** for the #BirdWhisperer project, a group of artists who all work from a reference image chosen each month and then post the results on the same day with the [hashtag](#).

19. This Barcelona travel poster by **Jim Zahnizer** was based on actual events from last year's trip.

20. **Vince Ornato** did this logo for the newly formed Pittsburgh Casting Club, hired by its president, Ed Matuizek. It will be used on letterhead, and other print materials. Vince will do caricatures at their summer events.

21. This art is from *Growing Up Lilly Roo!*, a children's book **Ashley Teets** is illustrating. It's written by Rachelle Wilfong and will be released in July by Headline Books Inc.

22. **Yelena Lamm** completed this 50"x20" oil on canvas commissioned

piece. The client wanted a painting of lavender fields and a sunset, in bright colors to compliment the details of their interior. They loved the result.

23. **Sarah Miller** is working on a Superman theme sleeve for a client.

24. These samples are from a board game new member **Ashley Kenawell** is working on for Xtronaut: An educational games company. *Constellations: The Game of Stargazing and the Night Sky* is a board game based on astrology and the science behind

stars. Ashley created all design and illustration for the project. The Kickstarter is already well past its goal in pledges.

25. This new drawing, *The Gastropods Gavotte*, is from **Ilene Winn-Lederer's** current book project, *Codex Gastropoda*. Ilene is offering 20 new lines of products, each with 37 items based on her illustrations and adaptations of their details. Find them on her new [Imaginarium shop](#) at Society6.