Member News

Game On

John Blumen just completed two illustrations of the goddess Athena for a game app company in Tokyo, Japan. One is the base character and the other is an enhanced version. John adds, “The art director told me I could do whatever I wanted, they don’t like to interfere with the artist. Except for a few minor tweaks, they were true to their word.”

Good Taste in Art

On September 30, Eat It! Food Adventures with Marco Polo hits bookstores nationwide. Using an adventure story to attract young readers to the fun of cooking and eating more fruits and veggies, the book follows a young member of Marco Polo’s famous expedition as he discovers wondrous foods through the rich cultural traditions of people along the old Silk Road. As the child journeys from Venice to the Middle East, cooks and readers learn 30 easy-to-follow recipes inspired by the trip. Shown are Rustic Mushroom Tarts.

The 160-page book’s author is philanthropist Gracie Cavnar, founder of Recipe for Success Foundation (RFS), the book’s publisher. It has 122 watercolor illustrations by Anni Matsick, and is the first in a series of three planned. A preview and link for ordering the book can be found at http://recipe4success.org/programs/eat-it-food-adventures.html.

Worthy Cause

Victoria Lavorini contributed this painting, titled “Nature King,” for an auction to help raise money for the Robert Villamagna Jr. Memorial Scholarship for Art Therapy at West Liberty University.

My Spot

Anni Matsick

Fall is here, with its annual display of color we artists find so appealing. The season also brings a new selection of television shows, including a particularly colorful one of special interest. It features a PSI member making a national debut, competing with others’ skills in weekly challenges. See details on page 3 and plan to tune in!
Mark Brewer reflects on:
2013 Election of Officers

Nominees for the offices of PSI President, Vice President and Treasurer are unopposed, making an election this time around unnecessary. PSI’s new President, Evette Gabriel and Vice President, Ashley Cecil Paulfack will assume the office on January 1st, 2013. Current President Mark Brewer shares some closing thoughts before handing over the reins.

You know what? It’s actually hard to say goodbye...a little bit. But we’ll then have one more president who will always be there for a backup. It’s been a great ride full of many life lessons that have made me a better person. A truly wonderful experience. I’d like to thank my friend John Blumen for being the most supportive Vice President I could have asked for. Thanks for having my back, John! We produced four successful years of growth for PSI that I’ll always be proud of. We all make PSI successful by volunteering when we can. I’d like to thank a number of volunteers and apologize in advance to anyone I foolishly forgot to mention.

Thanks to Gina Scanlon for keeping the books while we invested your dues in PSI projects and functions. Gina and Steve Cup were also instrumental at many of our behind-the-scenes meetings where we figured out what was next for PSI. Thanks to Steve, our newsletters continue to look fantastic. A thank you to Beth O’Neill and Zach Beresh for their roles in designing our newsletters as well. I’m grateful that Ron Magnes put our newsletter together for as long as he could, in addition to contributing some fantastic ideas to PSI while I carried out the role of President. For those who don’t know, it was Ron’s idea to do a cookbook directory which ended up becoming the mixed drinks book version we have now. (I have a feeling we might see another one!) Thanks to Vince Dorse for contributing his whimsical thoughts to our newsletter and to his assistance on chairing an exhibition for our directory publication. Thanks to Jim Mellett for keeping the membership together, especially as we saw an exponential growth over the last four years. Thanks to Zach Beresh for volunteering his time for four years now for the sake of our web site updates. Thanks to Kathy Rooney, Lynne Cannoy and Kurt Pfaff for volunteering their time to making our Review Committee a success. Thanks to Rick Antolic and Fred Carlson, both past Presidents of PSI were always there when we needed guidance, and graciously allowed us the space to grow PSI the way John and I had envisioned. Thanks to Rhonda Libbey for taking over the Scholarship Program and making us look good in front of students, artists and future members. I am also grateful to Ilene Winn-Lederer and John Ritter for keeping PSI up-to-date with ASIP while that was happening. And, last but not least, John Blumen and I would like to thank Anni Matsick, who keeps the fabric of PSI intact each month as the editor of our newsletter, PSInside. We could not afford to be without Anni. Besides doing a terrific job coordinating this newsletter which keeps us all wrapped together, Anni has assumed the role of being another set of eyes for me. She has sent multiple emails on my behalf in addition to editing my own emails and assisting me with getting the word out to you. She continues to gracefully work behind the scenes all while serving as an inspiration to me. Perhaps this is how I can contribute to PSI once I am no longer President.

Here are just a few of the many accomplishments John and I saw come to fruition with the help of many volunteers in the last four years...

- Established a new website
- Marketed PSI and raised considerable awareness of our group and efforts through postcard and email promotions
- Set up an official portfolio review committee in which new members work would first be reviewed before acceptance into PSI
- Established PSI on Facebook
- Offered a PSI illustration Conference at PTI
- Produced the PSI mixed drinks directory, Drawing Under The Influence
- Produced two gallery exhibitions of art from Drawing Under The Influence
- Enabled dues payment via Paypal
- Moved social gatherings to Church Brew Works
- Budgeted for food during our monthly gatherings at Church Brew Works
- Created new informative structure to our monthly business meetings now called the Business of Illustration

John and I would like to thank the membership for allowing us to share our vision with PSI from 2009-2012. For the next three months we will be helping Evette and Ashley make a smooth transition into their new roles as President and Vice President of PSI.

Yours Truly,

Mark Brewer
President, Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators
On Exhibit

Three members have had entries accepted in the 66th Annual Aqueous Open exhibit, Pittsburgh Society of Watercolor’s annual juried show. Shown here are “Freckles Wants to Hurt Someone” by Kit Paulsen, “Cape May Credential” by Ron Thurston and “Imps” by Anni Matsick.

Juror for selection and awards is Miles Batt, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A public reception for the show’s opening will be held on Saturday, October 6, 5-8 pm at the 3rd Street Gallery, 220 Third Street, in Carnegie. The show will run through November 3.

John Hinderliter’s “Farm Truck” sold at the 19th annual Art in the Garden, held September 9 at the Washington County Historical Society in Washington, PA. The event featured more than 60 acclaimed regional artists.

Paul Leroy Gehres is shown with his Lucky LeRoy’s Pet Portraits available at Domain Home Accessories & Gallery, Gulfport, Florida. “Persephone” by Nicole Renee (Nicole Ryan) was not shown among the winners for Wyld Chyld’s Legends exhibit in the August issue. It took second place. PSI members swept all four awards!

Standing with her work on display in Animalus at Shaw Galleries is Victoria Lavorini. The solo exhibition ran in August.

Photos by Robert Villamagna

Reality TV

“I wanna be Ink Master!” states Sarah Miller, in the trailer for Season 2 of Spike TV’s reality series of the same title. Ink Master will premier two one-hour episodes Tuesday, October 9, beginning at 10 pm. Sarah will compete for a $100,000 prize with 15 other artists demonstrating their talents with ink on skin. Viewers will be able to vote to determine the winner. See the trailer, read the artist bios and find out more about the show at: http://www.spike.com/shows/ink-master/

Preview Sarah’s bio and gallery at: http://www.spike.com/shows/ink-master/bios/sarah-miller

A Premiere Party is planned at Wyld Chyld, 734 Brookline Boulevard, beginning at 8 pm, with food and drink specials at Brookline Pub next door. Meet the artist and see the first two episodes. Street parking is available.

Kudos

Read the August 23 interview with Mark Brewer for Writer’s News Weekly in their “Best of the City” themed 100th issue. According to their website, the 100th issue is “dedicated to the authors and poets, the playwrights, journalists and illustrators that make the Steel City a fascinating place to live.” The nine illustrators among the 100 individuals named as "The Best of Pittsburgh" are: John Blumen, Taylor Callery, Fred Carlson, Stacy Innerst, Dave Klug, John Manders, George Schill, Phil Wilson and Ilene Winn-Lederer. Future issues will feature their interviews.

photo by Erik Johnson

The Indie Spotlight is on Nora Thompson’s Twisted. Read the interview at: https://www.kirkusreviews.com/blog/fiction/indie-spotlight-nora-thompsons-twisted/

Upcoming Meetings

Business of Illustration: September 28th, 7:30pm
Happy Hour: October 9th, 6:30pm

see our website for more info!
Wayno and his wife Kim are sponsoring Barktoberfest, a Halloween benefit event for Animal Friends on October 13. Kim is planning, organizing, promoting, selecting and buying prizes, and lining up additional sponsors. Wayno has done postcards and posters, and is helping line up the musicians. The event is set for Saturday, October 13, 7-10 pm at Orbis Cafe, 675 Washington Road, Mount Lebanon. Admission is $25 at the door. Wear your scariest, funniest or best animal-themed costume to compete for prizes!

Some of Downtown’s scenic plazas, Rick will be on hand at each scheduled location to assist with sketches as needed.

The event is presented by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust’s Education and Community Engagement Department.

Events

Steve Cup and June Edwards, along with six other artists, created woodblocks for Steamrolled Pittsburgh, an art event at Construction Junction’s Steel City Big Pour on Saturday; September 8. The eight 2’ x 2’ woodblocks of Pittsburgh neighborhoods were finished in August and editions of each block were printed at Artist Image Resource. At the Big Pour event, a roadroller was used to print four of the eight blocks together on a large sheet of rice paper. In the evening session, the roadroller printed the remaining four neighborhoods.

The subject of June’s woodblock is East Liberty. Steve’s woodblock is based on Oakland. Both were shown in our August issue. The eight prints will be sold by Construction Junction and can be viewed at this site: http://steamrolledpgh.wordpress.com/order/

Photos by June Edwards

Announcements

Emerging Arts Leaders Convene

Join fellow arts leaders for drinks and conversation at Verde Kitchen & Cantina, 5491 Penn Avenue. Talk goals and current projects, share success stories, and make connections with other folks helping to shape Pittsburgh’s art scene. The event, sponsored by Pittsburgh Emerging Arts Leaders Network/Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, is planned for Monday, October 1, 6-8 pm. Verde’s normal happy hour specials will be extended past 7 pm and appetizers will be 10% off.

WPA SCBWI Lapel Pin Competition


October Sketch Crawl

Mark your calendar now for the Pittsburgh Sketch Crawl, led by Rick Antolic!

There’s no charge for this six-hour drawing marathon! 10 – 4 pm, on Saturday, October 13.

Participants will gather 10 AM at the Trust Arts Education Center, 805/807 Liberty Avenue to get a list of locations. All ages or experience levels are welcome. Children 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Bring a sketch book, art supplies, lunch and a chair. Draw what you see on a journey through

Life Drawing Sessions

Thursdays 6-9pm • Short – 30min poses • $7

Panza Gallery
Sedgewick Street in Millvale off Route 28
Enter basement gallery on left side of building

continued on page 5...
PSI Group Exhibit Op

Fred Carlson reports:

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh gallery staff has recently offered to host a PSI show of our own design and theme, scheduled for July/August 2013. This makes for a nice 60-day show exposure in their beautiful downtown gallery. The AIP Gallery can hold around 70 average-size works.

The install period would be anytime between July 3 to 7, an opening date of July 8, and closing date of August 23. We can schedule a breakdown for anytime between August 24 through 27. The reception could be early in July, perhaps Friday, July 12 or Saturday, July 13.

I’d like to open up possible themes to all members of PSI. New work or greatest hits? 2013 will mark 16 years for our organization—Sweet Sixteen?

The show must be self-funding; in other words, a show fee will be necessary to help with publicity, possible program and opening with budget tbd, based on what exhibitors can and wish to afford.

An exhibition team must be identified asap. I have circulated the details to all members who have volunteered recently to help with exhibition committee.

Ideally, we should assess interest this month and get an answer on details back to AIP before November so we can set the PSI creative machine in motion! How can PSI put its best foot forward and publicize our tremendous talent once more, across all disciplines? Ideas, people! Thanks!!!—Fred

Respond with your ideas, comments and suggestions to: fred@carlsonstudio.com

Rhonda Libbey reports on:

2012 PSI Bradford Scholarship Awards

I am so happy to have the opportunity to encourage these young artists. Bradford School’s graphic design program is relatively new and the classes aren’t as big as other schools in the area. Though a few of our members (including myself) have been invited as guest speakers, this is the first year that PSI has been invited to present their students with scholarship awards. (The other two schools that PSI presents scholarship awards to are CCAC and The Art Institute of Pittsburgh). This is also the first year that they have put together a student show and they have even added a new assignment to their curriculum—one that encourages them to explore illustrating what fascinates them. The students were buzzing with excitement as they created their new pieces for the show and they were full of very good questions, and I was happy to answer them. The Bradford instructors in the photo who worked with us during the awards are Richard Coble and Sarah Tinnick.

When the big day came on August 31 to see their work I was accompanied by two guest jurors: Fred Carlson and John Blumen. I think we all agree that by their work we could tell that some of the students were really taking some initiative to do work on their own, and all of the students showed us their best. They should be proud of their work; I hope that they continue to find inspiration and create. Some of the students voiced an interest in joining PSI, so look around at the socials for some new faces!

First Place $150
Jenna Williams / “Watercolor Butterflies”

Second Place $125
Kyle Findley / “Imagine Creativity”

Third Place $75
Jerrod Warrington / “Keenan”

Honorable Mention $50
Marc Held / “Tied At Two”

Tom Ruddy Award $250
Victoria Hall / “That One Day”

Photos by Rhonda Libbey
Spotlight on...
Susan Castriota

Susan’s adopted poodle Wilson’s latest adventure took them to the National Smithsonian Museum of American History for a signing of their latest book on presidential pups!

Susan Castriota’s third book in the popular Wilson series was swept up by eager buyers in the nation’s capital! In Wilson and the White House Pups, Wilson meets many of the dogs who have had the rare opportunity to live in the White House alongside our presidents and their families. From Rover Washington to Bo Obama, Wilson goes back in time and learns some very interesting historical facts about the White House pups to share with young readers.

The series is written and illustrated by Susan and has received lots of attention nationwide. The White House Historical Association edited the latest book and sold them in their stores, which opened the door for the Smithsonian to purchase a supply and invite Susan to do a signing (a sellout!). The appearance was listed on DC’s Cultural Tourism site under “Things to Do and See.” The books were also offered for sale at The Kennedy Center.

After photo ops in front of the White House, Washington Monument, Smithsonian, WWII Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, Wilson offered a book reading to the children at the National Museum of American History on Friday, a day before assuming his spot there at the book-laden table with Susan. A continuous stream of admirers made purchases, many posing for photos with the patient poodle to post on their Facebook pages.

Since its publication in Spring 2012, every living president received a signed copy of the book. Three presidents, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama sent autographed photos with notes back to Susan, and the others sent acknowledgements.

The Wilson book series has its own website where you can buy the books and keep up with Wilson’s latest exploits, at: www.wilsongetsadopted.com

Photos courtesy Susan Castriota
Article by Anni Matsick
Victoria Lavorini reports on:

The Business of Illustration: August Meeting

For our August BOI meeting, PSI members returned to the Mount Lebanon home of Kathy Rooney. As much as I love getting welcomed into a different illustrator’s home every month, I was very much looking forward to returning to Kathy’s house. She and her husband, artist Ray Sokolowski, use their living quarters not just for living, but for art making as well. Nothing fuels creativity more than seeing other artists’ work in progress and the processes that they use. But Kathy and Ray’s work were not the only pieces displayed. This month’s featured artist, Stacy Innerst, brought a fascinating boxful of his illustrations to share with the group. Some pieces were created for books, some for editorial purposes, and some to “keep him sane.” Regardless of their purpose, each one exhibits a visual touch that can only be associated with the hand of Stacy. But even though his style belongs to no one else but him, it is still perhaps one of the most versatile you will ever see. The maturity of his work combined with his creative interpretations translates perfectly into serious editorial pieces for the nation’s leading publications, and yet aesthetically his art is universal enough to beautifully illustrate children’s books.

Stacy’s artistic process is just as versatile as his style. As his pieces were being passed around from member to member, it was hard to guess what type of surface the next piece would be on. One of Innerst’s favorite surfaces to utilize is tin, to which he applies oil paint. He acquired a love of using tin while living out west and seeing the material used by many folk artists. He also works on illustration board, and sometimes even chooses a surface based on the content he is illustrating. For example, to illustrate the children’s book, Levi Strauss Gets a Bright Idea: A Fairly Fabricated Story of a Pair of Pants, Stacy used acrylic on denim in order to visually encompass the story. Stacy is a perfect example of an artist who is not just impressively creative, but impressively skillful with the tools of his craft.

As we continued to look at his work, PSI President Mark Brewer brought up the topic of the monthly group discussion – the importance of having a website. Everyone present at the meeting has their own personal website or web space, and updates it fairly frequently. All were in agreement that in today’s industry, possessing a web presence is crucial, and makes getting one’s work seen quick and easy. Aside from hiring web designers, some online services that members use include Coroflot, Carbonmade, Cargo, and WordPress.

After finishing up with the group discussion, members enjoying socializing and drinks on Kathy’s scenic deck, some snacks, and speed reviews. Kathy even gave a tour of her personal upstairs studio and gave us an inside look at some of her exciting works in progress.

Those who attended in addition to myself, Stacy, Kathy, and her husband Ray were: Mark Brewer, Evette Gabriel, John Blumen, Beth O’Neill, Vince Ornato, Kurt Emch, and new member prospect Seth Miller.

Next BOI meeting: Friday, September 28, 7:30 pm at Mark Zingarelli’s home in North Huntingdon. Featured Artist: Mark Zingarelli

A list of locations and speakers in this series through October is posted on PSI’s website at: http://pittsburghillustrators.org/

Photos by Kathy Rooney

September Social

September’s Tuesday night social at Church Brew brought out PSI President Mark Brewer, past Presidents Rick Antolic and Fred Carlson, PSI Presidential candidate Evette Gabriel, VP John Blumen, DUI Directory designer Steve Cup, John and Fran Halley, Rick Henkel, Josh Perry, George Schill, new member Victoria DiGiacomo, and new member prospect Brianna Church. Thanks for coming out and supporting this 16-year tradition!

Behind the Brush

See what PSI members have been up to this month

Here are two more images from the current book project Phil Wilson is working on. The previous working title, The Secret Place, has been changed to The Adventurous Tales of Philip Wells, in honor of the author’s father to whom the

Portrait Painting Sessions

Mondays 6-9pm • One Pose • $10

Panza Gallery

Sedgewick Street in Millvale off Route 28

Enter basement gallery on left side of building

continued on page 8...
Mark Brewer’s monthly newsletter is no longer just for clients! His Whimsical Perspective will be emailed each month to all those who subscribe. The newsletter will continue to include assignments recently completed for publications in addition to other artful postings. Click the link or visit www.markbrewer.com to subscribe.

http://markbrewer.us5.list-manage1.com/subscrib?e=dd5b3b713812f0db88bf9c5066&id=f1956b4280

Here’s a new icon and a change of direction for Jim Zahniser; his first icon of the silver screen.

Here’s another design in tattoo art by Sarah Miller.

“Denny,” a commissioned pencil portrait, is part of a new project by Judy Emerick.

Kurt Pfaff created this barbecue sauce illustration for a soon-to-be released package label.

Kurt’s painting, “Megan’s Flowers” is 24” x 30,” oil on canvas. “Practice/gift,” he says. “I took a photograph that inspired me... and Megan’s birthday was coming up... and she had the perfect place for a painting over her desk.”

This private commission in stained glass by Deb Giancola is done in three parts that will be framed as a triptych. The Tiffany, glass furnace and Chihuli panels shown line up left to right. Deb incorporated sand, a major ingredient in glass making, into the artwork.

Here is Fred Carlson’s finished b/w drawing in graphite of interview subject Tal Birdsey for Phillips-Exeter Academy Alumni magazine. Art Director is Dave Nelson.

Story is dedicated.

The site http://steeltownanthem.com/ offers a Pittsburgh-inspired wallpaper each month for download. Here’s the one designed by Rachel Arnold Sager that was featured for August. It is available for download here: http://steeltownanthem.com/2012/08/02/pittsburgh-desktop-wallpaper-series-4/
Another sketch montage for the same publication shows Jen Holleran, the head of new educational venture “Startup: Education” to rehabilitate the Newark, NJ school system with new technology and students having more time of supervised homework with teachers. Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg is the main philanthropist behind the endeavor, which is endorsed by Oprah Winfrey, Newark mayor Corey Booker, and NJ Governor Chris Christie.

Fred’s Bukka White DVD cover is another in the teaching series for Stefan Grossman’s Guitar Workshop taught by Tom Feldmann. The b/w version of this cover that was out for approval was shown in an earlier PSInside. This color finished product was released September 11.

This image of Starling Marté by John Hinderliter is one of six more Pirates renderings for the player intro films shown on PNC Park’s Megatron. “Road Trip” is John’s most recent email promo piece.

Here’s the cover for the fourth in the series of I Wanna Be Me books illustrated by Rose Gauss, released this month. I Know Who I Am is the fourth book in the I Wanna Be® series of children’s books that validates a child’s uniqueness. www.RoseGauss.com The text is by writer, speaker and artist Joanne Fairchild Miller, wife of author and career coach, Dan Miller http://www.48Days.com.

In PittGirl, illustrated by Wayno, Virginia Montanez’s October Pittsburgh Magazine column comments on badminton as an Olympic sport, and other unusual athletic pursuits.

Rhino Resurrected is a poster image Wayno did for former Pittsburgher Keith Shapiro’s documentary film about the legendary Los Angeles record store, which grew into a major label. http://www.kwsfilms.com/reel/Rhino_Resurrected.html

Ilene Winn-Lederer is working on a new book project. It will be called An Illumination Of Blessings. More info as it develops. Meanwhile, here are a few concept images.

Ilene’s book, Between Heaven & Earth, An Illuminated Torah Commentary (Pomegranate, 2009) will no longer be in print by year’s end. She will be receiving a generous supply for sales and will offer a generous discount. Please contact Ilene via email (ilene@winnlederer.com) or phone 412.421.8668 mobile: 412.657.3607 if you would like to purchase a signed copy.
“When Can I Retire” is recent art by **Taylor Gallery**, done for Wells Fargo. Taylor created these images for the University of Pittsburgh:

“Plant2Plate” illustrates an article on an urban gardening program run by students who donate the fruits of their labor to local food banks and those in need.

Dave Zucca is back from vacation with a new beach-themed Moleskine entry, “Day at the Beach, 1983.”

Joe Wos is tired of hearing the word “amazing” to describe his efforts for getting into Guinness World Records by creating the world’s largest maze. He’s already made the Wall Street Journal’s front page in an article covering the quest.

The September 17 issue tells about the 35’ x 4’ maze, which contains Joe’s drawings that provide dead ends, turns and intersections, all done freehand in non-erasable Sharpie ink. He hopes to have it finished by the end of this month. The WSJ link offers links to three mazes by Joe so you can try your hand at one of his less-ambitious pieces. So far, he has no volunteers willing to solve the maze, a Guinness requirement.

Read the article and see a video at:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444023704477649493050836010.html?mod=ITP_AHED

---

Supporting Pittsburgh Artists Since 1971

PSI members receive a 20% discount on all non-sale in-store supplies plus custom framing

411 S Craig Street, Oakland
412.683.4444 www.tnartsupply.com

---

PSInside newsletter items are due during the first seven days of each month for that month’s issue.

Send any images you’ve completed or are working on for **BEHIND THE BRUSH**. Send news on exhibits, awards, book signings, art donations and other announcements for **MEMBER NEWS**.

Got an assignment or commission through PSI’s website gallery, PSI eblast, exhibit, or other PSI contacts? Send details for the new **PSI WORKED** feature.

Images must be low res jpeg 72 dpi, max 600 x 600 pixels. Send your info to:

annimatsick@mac.com