

PAAG *Sketchpad*

WWW.PAAG.INFO

The PAAG meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month except for December, July and August at the Hill School Center for the Arts at Beech and Sheridan Streets in Pottstown. The Board Meeting is at 6:30 p.m. The General Meeting is at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Message from the president:

Happy New Year to All!

Dear PAAG members and friends. Thanks to everyone who helped make 2007 go out in style! The PAAG Holiday show opening at Gallery on High was another successful gala event. We had great food, music and conversation - to go with all the great artwork supplied for the show. We could not have asked for a greater variety of expression: everything from abstract to realistic, in all mediums. We once again had the lovely harp music provided by Betsy Scott Chapman, and this year there was even a horse-drawn carriage parading by the front door on High Street! (The carriage was part of Pottstown's downtown holiday program).

Thank-you to all the artists who participated in this year's show and also to all those who helped with the hanging and set-up and clean-up. Many of you helped sell advertising space in our brochure (or bought some space yourself) and many more donated food for the opening reception, and items for our raffle. Bev Nuzzo and Martha Murphy did a great job organizing the food. Bev also did an outstanding job in setting -up and organizing this year's raffle! Thank-you also to all the other people who quietly worked "behind the scenes" making sure every detail was taken care of to make this show a success.

Kalil's Printing once again generously helped with this year's printing of the brochure and invitations, and as always, Cathy, Erika and Julie at Gallery on High were gracious and welcoming hosts (and they even let us borrow some of their wine)!



Our holiday show really showcases all the talented members of PAAG, and we can all be proud of the professional way it promotes the local arts community.

Bob Hakun, PAAG President

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If anyone has any interesting websites or book titles they'd like to pass along to the readers just send them to <mailto:paag-email@comcast.net>

Check out these websites for shows and events!

<http://www.galleryonhigh.com/> Gallery on High, Pottstown
<http://www.gnal.org/> Greater Norristown Art League
<http://www.readingpublicmuseum.org/> Reading Public Museum
<http://www.philamuseum.org/> Philadelphia Museum of Art
<http://www.mc3.edu/> Montgomery County Community College
<http://www.michenermuseum.org> James A. Michener Museum

Do PAAG members know how to through a party?

WE SURE DO!

The night was perfect: friends, food and fun! The response to our request for donations of food brought out the best: shrimp, shushi, fruits, cheeses of every color, dips, meats, cookies, cakes, cream puffs, ciders, nuts, etc. And oh,oh, the wine - where did it all go? We drank all of ours (and some of the gallery's!)

Thank you all for sharing. The food was great and by the end of the night the tables were full of empty plates both upstairs and down. Also, thank-you to all of you who donated the raffle prizes. Many thanks to Paula, to arranged to have two cute girls help sell the raffle tickets (\$255!) If anyone did not get their food trays back at the end of the night - check out the food table next year!

Thanks,
Beverly Nuzzo & Martha Murphy

PAAG OFFICERS

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OPEN

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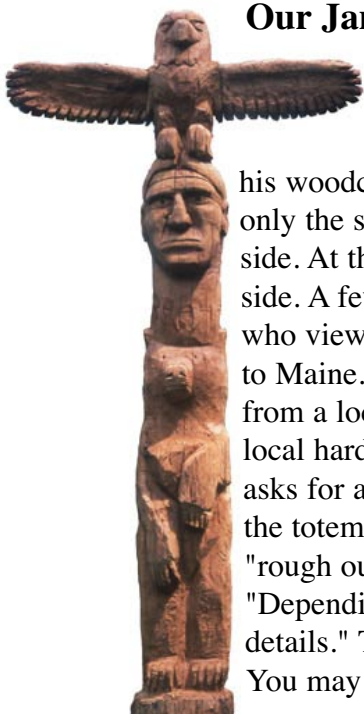
OPEN

Refreshments

Martha Murphy
610.326.9352

paulmurphy@dca.net

Beverly Nuzzo
610.323.6676



Our January 16th speaker will be Charles Eckenroth. He will discuss the carving of totem poles! Be sure to check out this unique event!

Following his heart, Charles Eckenroth pursued a bachelor's degree in fine art and photography and graduated from Kutztown University in the fall of 1998. He began his woodcarving earlier that year when a tree outside his Kutztown apartment was cut down and only the stump remained. While the stump waited to be removed, Chuck carved a face into one side. At the request of shop owners across the street, he carved another character on the street side. A few days later the piece was complete and was unanimously named "shorty" by those who viewed the work. Chuck then spent six months hiking the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. Upon his return, needing work, he accepted an offer to carve a six-foot tall totem pole from a local businessman who was impressed by his skills used to carve "shorty". Chuck uses local hardwoods, wherever he can salvage them and begins with a prayer and burning sage. He asks for a blessing upon the wood to bring peace, prosperity and inspiration to the recipient of the totem pole. He begins his work by making several sketches, and then uses a chainsaw to "rough out" the figures drawn onto the wood. Finishing is done with a hatchet and hand chisels. "Depending upon the desires of my client, I like to add accents of colored stain to bring out the details." Traditionally, totem poles were commissioned to tell a story or commemorate an event. You may see samples of his sculpture at www.americantotempole.com.