



# Sketchpad

**POTTSTOWN AREA ARTISTS GUILD ~ December TO February 2012**

## Letter From the PAAG President

Dear PAAG Members, Patrons, Neighbors and Friends, Winter is a great time to center in with family and friends and to delve deeper into in the arts by attending this years Holiday Party on Tuesday December 20 and our fabulous January & February programs! Please, read all about the details in this newsletter and remember to keep it handy till March.

This will be my last letter as President since I will be moving to Ohio this January 2012. It has been my privilege to serve on the Board for the past 3 years and to have the pleasure of getting to know so many of you as fellow artists and friends. Please join me in welcoming Barb Tschantre as PAAG's new President who has already served as a dynamic and hard working Vice President for the past two years. Thank you Barb for being such a wonderful VP by contributed your time and talents to this organization. I know great things are in store with you at the helm!

I wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Suzanne Halstead, Board President

## Thank You to Our 2011 Sponsors! We appreciate your support.

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Relay for Life

Shorty's Sunflower Café

Stanley Boyer

Suzanne Halstead

Terry L. Souders

The Hill School

### Meetings:

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.

### PAAG Newsletter

Reminder: There will be a newsletter for every 3 months. Please retain your copy for meeting information. Issues will be released: (Sept., Dec., March, and June)

### PAAG Website

[www.paag.info](http://www.paag.info)

### PAAG Holiday Party

December 20, 2011

\*see details page 2

### Layers of Meaning

page 3



# Presentations

All meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M.

## December 20, 2011

PAAG Holiday Party!

7:30



### *Be Creative!*

This year for our annual PAAG Holiday party we'll be changing things up a bit. Please bring a handmade ornament (purchased ornaments are fine, too) or a very small piece of original art. We'll be playing a game that has some good natured "give and take." As usual, we'll be selling raffle tickets and we'd like everyone to bring a food or drink item if possible. So, if you haven't signed up to do that or would like to help with set-up, call Beverly Nuzzo. Our party will begin at 7:30.

## January 17, 2012

Anita Troisi

Born in Philadelphia in 1941, I have been interested in art since childhood. Excitement was receiving a box of 64 crayons! I majored in vocational art at Germantown High School, then went on to four years at Philadelphia College of Art (now part of University of Arts). I graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in illustration.

Over the years I have held jobs in the art departments of Honeywell, Univac and Boeing Vertol. I moved to Pottstown in 1969. In 1977 I found a job assembling leaded glass sun catchers in a local shop and found my calling! Finally an outlet for my love of color and light. I self taught myself, for the most part, the stained glass craft— design, cutting, soldering and finishing. After exhibiting and selling in local art shows, I became a juried member of the PA Guild of Craftsmen in 1982 and took part in many of their shows. I adopted the name of Prancing Pony Glass in 1987 and had successive shop locations at King Street and North Hanover Street in Pottstown. In 1992 the work load fell to zero because of

a recession and the Gulf War. I had to find a regular job until 1998 when I was able to return to glass full time. Eventually I became a vendor in the PA Renaissance Fair and did well for five years, then left and opened my own shop again in Pottstown, 2001.

Because of the increased exposure to the public in craft shows and the new shop, my work is now in half the States and a dozen other countries that I know of. Also, in July of 1985 a large decorative mirror with a peacock design won first prize in the glass division in a PA Guild craft exhibit at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. I did a "Rocky" dance on their top step that day!

Side interests, I hate to call them hobbies, are sewing, photography, reading, creative writing, painting and my guinea pigs (34 in as many years). Current pets are Truffles and Sophie. I love nature—can't wait for the leaves to turn in Autumn and can't resist baying at the full moon each month.

**Prancing Pony Glass**

**Stained Glass Studio**

**Anita Troisi**

**610-970-5003**

**1351 Second Avenue, Gilbertsville PA 19525**

Hours by appointment.

## February 21, 2012

Tour of the Hill School

Meet at our normal meeting

location, 7:30 P.M.

**The Hill School Center For The Arts**

**Boyer Gallery**



Above: Arline Christ and her painted giraffe at a Pottstown Carousel dinner. The Carousel is looking great!



# Photo Gallery



Left: Barbara Persing, sewing and quilting artist, amazed us at our September meeting with her outstanding quilts!



Above: Schuylkill River Festival, Saturday October 8 at the Schuylkill River Park, Pottstown. We had many volunteers at our tent that enjoyable day.



Above: Our October field trip to Taylor Backes, Inc. was an exciting night. A large project was worked on while we were in attendance. The patience and endurance needed to do glass art was evident.



Above: Alan MacBain once again did character sketches for us at our PAAG tent during the Schuylkill River Festival.



Above: We enjoyed hearing accomplished fine artist Peter Schnore speak about his art during our November meeting.

## Layers of Meaning by Mary Chisak

This fall while on vacation I saw an exhibit of work by the artist, El Anatsui. He used discarded metal tops from Nigerian liquor bottles and linked the material together to form a sculptural fabric. The use of this material has special meaning as the artist explains: "Alcohol became one of the items used in the Trans Atlantic slave trade... I thought that the bottle caps had a strong reference to the history of Africa." The fluid nature of the sculptural fabric adds another layer of meaning: Each time these pieces are exhibited they change. The artist works with the gallery to come up with a new and different installation unique to each space, in that way the work is not static but changes: "Human life is in a constant state of change; I want my art work to replicate that experience. Each time the piece is exhibited there is an opportunity for the piece to take on a new shape. By giving freedom to people to reconfigure my work it awakens the artist in them" Often our first appreciation of a work of art is it's beauty or the technical mastery of the artist, but with a little curiosity and introspection we can often find layers of meaning in both the thought process of the artist and in our own responses. I came across this passage while reading "Wherever You Go, There You Are: Mindfulness Meditation In Everyday Life" by Jon Kabat-Zinn, and I

immediately thought of these beautiful works of art by El Anatusui and added another layer of meaning: "Interconnectedness is a fundamental principle of nature. Nothing is isolated. Each event connects with others. Things are constantly unfolding on different levels. It's for us to perceive the warp and woof of it all as best we can and learn to follow our own threads through the tapestry of life with authenticity and resolve." For more information on this artist visit: <http://www.clarkart.edu/exhibitions/anatsui/content/exhibition.cfm>



Please send your interesting links to: [paag-email@comcast.net](mailto:paag-email@comcast.net)

**Check out these websites often for local show and event information!**

<http://www.paag.info/> Pottstown Area Artists Guild

[http://www.galleryonhigh.com./](http://www.galleryonhigh.com/) Gallery on High, Pottstown

<http://www.studiobb.org> Studio B, Boyertown

<http://www.yellowsprings.org/> Historic Yellow Springs/Chester Springs Studio

<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

<http://www.phoenixvillageartcenter.org/> Phoenix Village Art Center

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**Does anyone need a ride to the PAAG meetings?**

Call Dave Manak at 610-326-5415.

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**Please e-mail [paulas\\_studio@comcast.net](mailto:paulas_studio@comcast.net) to add your event or share a great art related website!**

## 2011-2012 PAAG Members

Alita Abruzzese	Jane Hewitt
Christopher Andrien	Joseph Hoover
Shelly Arthur	Pamela Jacques
Ruth Biles	Lawrence Knoellar
Stanley Boyer	Jo Kratz
Christine Burnley	Judy Lupas
Mary Chisak	David Manak
Arline Christ	Walter Mensch
Helen Dinnocenti	Gwendolyn Parrish
KenDiPretoro	Susan Ploppert
Pat Dorff	Terry Souders
Charles Dorff	Cindy Strunk
Gail Fronheiser	Barbara Tschantre
Alice Gerhart	Rosanne Turtle
Robert Hakun	Donna Unger
Suzanne Halstead	Dorothy E. Weikel
Jack Hanson	Edward Woltermate
Barbara Hess	Paula Ziegler



**Thank you to Suzanne Halstead for her leadership and energy as our PAAG President. We will miss you!**



**Welcome to our new PAAG President, Barbara Tschantre!**

*Please let Paula Ziegler (PAAG Membership) know if you are a current member and do not see your name. Thank you!*

### PAAG OFFICERS

**President:**

Barbara Tschantre  
610-495-5830  
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**Former President/  
Treasurer:**

Terry Souders  
610-970-9009  
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**Secretary:**

Mary Chisak  
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**PAAG Website:**

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**Sketchpad/Membership:**

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Paula Ziegler  
616 Highland Avenue  
Boyertown, PA 19512

**Programs:**

Ken DiPretoro  
610-326-6886

**Refreshments:**

Beverly Nuzzo  
610-323-6676

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**PAAG Art Screens  
Available to rent!**

Contact:  
Stanley Boyer  
610-326-7997

*Screens are \$2.00 each*