



Sketchpad

POTTSTOWN AREA ARTISTS GUILD ~ SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2010

Time to Join!

Plan to pay membership fee at the first meeting of the year
September 21, 7:30 P.M.
Membership fee is \$25.

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)

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.



Terry Souders will be the presenter for September!

Letter From the PAAG President

Dear artists and patrons, friends and neighbors,

Whether you are a dedicated PAAG Member or checking into the Guild for the first time, welcome to the fall issue of "Sketchpad"!

Please take a few minutes and read through all the wonderful fall programs we have lined up for you members and visitors alike. We are always happy to see new faces at our meetings every third Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm in the Center for the Arts (CFTA) Boyer Gallery at the Hill School, Pottstown. Many thanks to Dave Manak who has been our newsletter designer and publisher for many years. Dave will still be maintaining and updating our website www.paag.info. And welcome to Paula Ziegler who has taken on the mantle for the "Sketchpad" as well as continuing her role on the Board as Membership Officer. And don't forget 2010 is still our 50th year celebration of PAAG, so please renew your memberships - still only \$25 a year! If you haven't already, please consider becoming a member of this wonderful, friendly, informal, arts engaging organization. See you in September!

Suzanne Halstead

Pastel Society of America Show

Saturday, September 25, 2010

\$70 for BAA members

\$75 for non-members

Price includes transportation, food, beverages, tips. More information about New York shows, etc. provided

on bus. Please fill out the form (if attached by e:mail) or write your check payable to the Berks Art Alliance and mail to Barbara Post, 112 Harvey Avenue, Reading, PA 19606. Questions: (610) 779-4691 or barbarapost@comcast.net. You will receive a phone call or email upon receipt of your check.

Notice: November's Meeting will be a field trip to Greshville Antiques, located outside of Boyertown. Details on page 2.



Presentations

September 21, 2010

“Painting on the Paper” - A demonstration of my techniques, tools of the trade, and secrets that others won’t tell you.

Presented by: Terry Souders



“Good Morning America” © 2010

When I got my first real camera, a 35 millimeter Minolta SRT 101, back in the late 1960’s, it rarely left my side. When I was driving around and saw an interesting subject, I would jump out of the car and click away. The subjects always varied and my photo collection included scenes from the Pennsylvania countryside to the coast of New Jersey. I often returned both at different times of the day and at different times of the year because the subjects were ever changing and not always for the good. Some of the subjects, like this one, were “drive by shootings” because I was always reluctant to stop and disturb the homeowner and ask permission to take a picture. Of course being threatened one time by a farmer who came charging out of his house and said if I took any more pictures he would get his shotgun after me didn’t help my confidence! From then on, I didn’t stray too far from the car and a quick escape. But the image of this farmhouse at the intersection of Weisstown and Funk Roads near Boyertown, Pennsylvania, is exactly how it appeared one day many years ago complete with gladiolas, the wire fence, the dishrags on the line, and a rooster sitting right on top of that post silhouetted against the window. It never got any better as a subject for a painting.

Over the years I still checked on the site as I drove around but noticed, as time went on, that it was slowly slipping into disrepair. As the folks that lived there got older you could tell they were not capable of keeping ahead of what Mother Nature was doing to the property. Soon, it was put up for sale but by that time it was too far gone to merit anyone investing in its restoration. Nearby Martin Stone Quarries eventually purchased the buildings and surrounding property for open space around their business. They had someone dismantle the house to save important architectural elements and material that could be recycled to carry on a piece of history. Ironically, the very night, April 16th 2010, that I entered

the original painting in an art show at Studio B in Boyertown, and won first prize for Best Landscape, what was left of the structure was burned by the local fire company.

Fortunately, prior to the demolition, a survey was made by the Boyertown Area Historical Society. Their research suggested that part of the structure was built in the 1830’s. During the following 180 years it was owned by family names familiar to all in the Boyertown area including Eshbach, Ehst, Landis, and Bechtel. However, it was always known locally as the Gruber Farm since it was once owned by Irvin Gruber and later Alma and Ruth Gruber. I’m sure those were Alma and Ruth’s gladiolas that I photographed on that day so long ago.

October 19, 2010

Ray and Pat Oxenford



Ray and Pat Oxenford are master craftsmen and take great pride in being able to carry on the folk art and other traditions of their Pennsylvania German and Pennsylvania Dutch ancestors. Ray is a tinsmith, woodworker and clock repairer. Pat’s specialty is tole painting. Together, they design and create many items including German bride’s boxes, Weber-style chests, traditional tinware based on 18th and 19th century patterns, coffee and tea pots, document boxes and spice canisters. Ray restores old tinware. Pat also creates crafts in the style of famous folk artists, such as Peter Ompir and Joseph Lehn. And both teach and run workshops and appear at the Kutztown Folk Festival and other shows and exhibits every year. <http://www.paoxenford.com/>

November 16, 2010

Greshville Antiques (Field Trip)

Nestled in the hills of Berks County, Greshville Antiques is housed in a renovated Pennsylvania German 18th Century stone barn. Owned by Kurt Malmberg and Valerie Malmberg, we are the source for paintings by Berks County artists, such as Ben Austrian, Christopher H. Shearer, Frederick Spang, Earl L. Poole, and others.

Members can meet directly at Greshville Antiques at 7:00 p.m. or come to our meeting room at the Hill School between 6:00 and 6:15 to form carpools, leaving by 6:30 p.m. Greshville Antiques is located at 1041 Reading Avenue (Route 562) Boyertown, PA 19512. <http://www.greshvilleantiques.com/index.html>



Photo Gallery



Above: Jane Kim, the winner of the annual PAAG Area High Schools Art Contest



Above: Alexa Viscadi, winner of the Arthur Nuzzo Memorial Award



Above: Susan Ploppert



Above: Barbara Tschantre



Above: Alice Gerhart



Above: Christian Kopp



Above: Ken DiPreto

“Exercise Your Imagination”

An Editorial by Mary Chisak for the PAAG Sketchpad

Many of you know that I lost my Mother not long ago. The selling of the family home and the subsequent sorting through boxes of family memories is both heartbreaking and full of beautiful surprises. I would like to share with you one of those beautiful surprises. I had the good fortune of acquiring a set of children’s books my parents bought my brothers and sisters as children. Now, as an adult looking through the pages, I read the Introduction for the first time:

... “So far from the exercise of the imagination constituting a moral danger, it is perhaps the most important discipline leading to right relations among people. For most unkindness and injustice and cruelty and intolerance are the result of an inability to put one’s self in the other man’s place. These are the vices that poison our society and ruin our peace, and their roots are in the weakness of our imaginations. Thus it is fundamental for ethical as well as aesthetic development that the imagination should be given wide scope in youth and kept free and flexible as long as possible.” ...

The books are full of stories and poems that exercise the imagination and have left an indelible mark upon the way I look

at the world and instilled in me my continuing love for poetry and the arts. Often in my ongoing efforts to be a better artist, I can not help but ask myself: “Why bother?” I know that losing my troubles and cares in the act of painting is in itself a reason, but I always wanted for a better reason. Creating and viewing art exercises our imaginations, even if that art has an affinity towards a faithful representation of reality. How many times have we been surprised by a shade of color or a contour line that goes in a direction that humbles our powers of perception? I remember enjoying a Sergeant painting of a courtyard in the evening, in the center was a fountain in which he placed an impossibly thick impasto highlight. No! I thought, it cannot possible “read” right - but it did! And how alive it made the water seem! Looking through these books of my childhood has re-kindled a youthful enthusiasm for exercising my imagination and as an adult I see the profound need to do it.

M.C.

Introduction

By William Allan Neilson, L.L.D., Litt.D.

Former President of Smith College

Please send your interesting links to: paag-email@comcast.net
Check out these websites often for local show and event information!

<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

If any member needs a ride to a meeting or event, those of us with cars will do our best to try and give you a lift. Call Dave Manak 610-326-5415 starpoke@comcast.net or any PAAG Board member and we'll try to help you.

Schuylkill River Festival: October 9 from 11am to 4pm at Riverfront Park in Pottstown, PA.

PAAG plans to have our tent section at the festival for our members to display/sell our work. This is always a nice time to sit outdoors and represent PAAG in the community. A volunteer sign up sheet will be at our meetings.



Above: Bob Hakun



Above: Beverly Nuzzo

Schuylkill River Festival Vendors

The deadline for vendor applications for the fourth annual Schuylkill River Festival is September 11, 2010. This year's festival will be held on Saturday, October 9 from 11am to 4pm at Riverfront Park in Pottstown, PA. Please contact Erica at erika@galleryonhigh.com or call at Gallery on High 610-326-2506



Above: Gail Fronheiser



Above: Walter Mensch



Above: Pierre Roman

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Ken DiPreto
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Refreshments:

Beverly Nuzzo
610-323-6676

PAAG Art Screens Available to rent!

Contact:
Stanley Boyer
610-326-7997

Screens are \$2.00 each