

News from *The Plastic Club*

Bob Jackson An Appreciation

The Roman Emperor, Augustus Caesar, said that he “had found Rome a city of bricks and had left it a city of marble.” Bob Jackson found the Plastic Club interior needing some TLC and now, after four years as President, there are few parts of the inside of the building that haven’t been changed or modified. Yes, it’s still made of bricks and the only marble in the Club are the marble fireplaces. But look around. In the Shiekman Studio he rebuilt and reorganized the closets and made a new model stand. On the first floor, new ceilings and new lighting were installed and everything was painted. A new hanging system was implemented. Also, a screen door was added to the back and illuminated exit signs were installed. But it is the basement that has undergone the most radical change. The former “office” (basically a storage area) has been changed into a printmaking studio. The kitchen has a new 6 burner stove and refrigerator. The kitchen cabinets have all been redone and new shelving and new closets have been added. But the greatest change that Bob ushered through was the development of the old dining room into a members’ gallery. So far 105 members have shown their work in this space and Bob continues as its curator.

If this were all that Bob did it would be enough for us. But, it’s not. Bob started and is the monitor of two workshops, the Friday Evening Workshop and the Moving Model Workshop on Saturday morning. Bob had the idea for the Models As Artists show which is now a regular show at the Club. He also hosts occasional multiple model sessions on Sundays. Naturally friendly, Bob has brought many of his old friends into membership in the Club. And his long association with Dirty Frank’s Bar has given us a close relationship with the Off The Wall Gallery (inside the bar) and its curators, Togo Travaglia and Jody Sweitzer. But, wait, there’s more! No one who’s been to our receptions and dinners in the last six years or so can help but notice the improvement and variety of the food that is served. This is because Bob is also a very talented



Bob Jackson at the Summer Casual Show reception in July of 2011.

caterer and cook and loves doing it. And we love eating it! There’s more that can be said. This list is incomplete. Suffice to say that Bob Jackson was a very good President and accomplished many things during his tenure. Traditionally, an outgoing president is given a gift in appreciation for all of his work. The Board of Directors has decided to rename the Downstairs Gallery in Bob’s honor. From now on it will be named the **Bob Jackson Gallery**. Thank you, Bob for all that you have done for the Plastic Club and all of its members.

New President

The ballots have been counted and ...surprise, surprise!...all the candidates for the Board of Directors have won by a landslide. Your new President is **Cynthia Arkin**. As much as Bob Jackson has accomplished, there are many other things that still need attention and Cynthia promises to attend to them as long as we have the resources to do them. The outside of the building, front and back, needs repairs. Security needs to be strengthened. New programs can be developed and existing ones enhanced. Your input is welcomed and appreciated.

Showbiz

100th Members Medal Show

The Plastic Club marked a milestone in May with the 100th edition of the **Member's Medal Show**. The tradition of awarding Gold and Silver medals began in 1912. There is a list in the Boardroom of all the winners over the years. This year the Gold Medal went to **Jack Gerber (his third one!)** and the Silver Medal went to **Jessica Barber**. Other awards went to **Robert Yong Lee, Theresa Lee, Rick Wright, John Benigno, Michael Tantaros, Mina Smith-Segal, Debora Weber, and Carole J. Meyers**. The juror was **Joan Becker**.

The Workshop Show

The opening reception of the **Annual Workshop Show** was held on Saturday evening, June 2nd in the garden. It was a party for the workshop participants and their guests with hot dogs, drinks and other assorted party flavors. 94 works done at a workshop or from something done at a workshop were on view. That total makes it one of the largest turnouts we've ever had. Bob Jackson bought out his little "house" that serves as a ballot box. When the ballot box was opened, it turned out that **Kim Martin** had won Third Prize, 2 free workshops, **Jenna Peters-Golden** had won Second Prize, four free workshops, and **Terence Smith** had won First Prize....six free workshops. We had a good time at the workshops last year and hope everyone is ready for more in the future!

Models-As-Artists Show

In appreciation for our models, we offer them a chance to show the rest of us what kind of creative work they do when not posing at the Plastic Club. The **Models As Artists** show opened on Sunday, July 1st, with a reception that featured lots of food and drink and flank steak a la Bob, on the grill. **Stephanie Hyland** did an interpretive dance in the Board Room. **Jym Paris** read his poetry. For the first time at the Plastic Club, a video that was submitted was shown on a recently purchased monitor and player. As more artists use technology in their work, we feel it is a necessity for us to be ready to show this kind of work at our exhibitions. The show was juried by **Alison Stigora**. She picked **Jenn Walpole's** "Self Portrait" for First Prize. **Nick Brown** won 2nd Prize for his glazed ceramic vase. **Rob Willis** won 3rd Prize for his "Hand To Mouth" made out of chalk and foam. **Alexandra Thomas** won 4th Prize. **Alice Ray Cathrall, Joseph De Fay, Robert Reinhardt, and Wayne Urffer** showed their works in the Bob Jackson Gallery in July.



Members' Medal winners: Back Row: Robert Yong Lee, Jessica Barber, Dorothy Roschen, Carole J. Meyers, John Benigno, President, Bob Jackson. Front Row: Exhibitions Chair, Susan Stromquist, Mina Smith-Segal, Theresa Lee.

Dinner Bells

The **Spring Dinner** in May was fun as always. We were out in the garden to for drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and Betty's famous May wine, and then went upstairs for Bob's Gazpacho soup and Betty's Chicken Captian, rice, pasta, and salad and dessert. If you missed it, you have another chance. The **Annual Summer Gala** will take place on Sunday, September 23rd. It benefits the Restoration Fund and is only \$25.00. A reservation form should be included in this mailing or you can download it from the [Plastic Club web site](#). We promise a good time.

2012 Exhibition Schedule

Exhibitions Chair, Susan Stromquist has announced the exhibition schedule for the rest of the year:

- August** Members' Choice. Whatever you want to exhibit. A casual summer show.
- September** Collage and Mixed Media. This is an open, juried show. The title says it all.
- October** American Color Print Society. For members of the ACPS.
- November** Photographic Society Of Philadelphia. For members of PSOP.
- December** Interiors. This is an open, juried show. Interpret "interiors" however you would like. Prospecti will be available on our web site.

Works in Progress

If you come to the Club later this summer, you will see that we are renovating the exterior front of the building at long last. The shutters and wood trim have been deteriorating due to age and weather and need to be replaced and painted. The brickwork will also be given some new pointing. This is being done using funds raised from our dinners and other donations. We are proud of our clubhouse and we're determined to keep it in good shape.