

# News from *The Plastic Club*



*Former President, Cynthia Arkin at the "Rabbit"*

## **Cynthia Arkin - an Appreciation**

April 30th marked the end of Cynthia Arkin's second and last term as President of the Plastic Club. Much was accomplished during these four years. They were marked by membership growth, infrastructure improvement, and program development. First of all, Cynthia was fortunate to have a large bequest from William H. Campbell and another larger bequest from Jeanne Coryell come to the Club while in office. This enabled her to make significant improvements to the Shiekman Studio by installing a new ceiling and lighting. She had new front window shutters made and pointed the bricks, and painted the front and back of the building. She added a new "brick nook" in the garden. And, she had the kitchen completely renovated. She brought back the "Rabbit", the themed costume party that had been dormant for fifty years. During her Presidency, membership topped 200 and 10 workshops were meeting every week. Salons and concerts were funded and a new movie screen, skylight shade, and sound equipment were provided for the monthly free movie programs. She also inaugurated an annual "appreciation dinner" for the people who volunteer their time to make the club function. Cynthia is also our web master and general helper in all things to do with the Plastic Club. As a "retirement" gift, she was presented with a little dogwood tree for the garden that she spends many hours tending. But, she isn't retiring!!! She will remain on the Board of Directors as Vice-President and will continue to work to keep the Plastic Club the great place that it is. Thank you, Cynthia!

## **New and Old Board Members**

Joining the Board of Directors for the first time are **Roberta Gross** and **Bob Moore**. Both have been members of the Club for a number of years and are regulars at the workshops. Bob will be taking care of the Publicity Committee and Roberta is exploring outreach to encourage younger artist to become involved with the Club. We welcome them and thank them for volunteering to help out. We are an all-volunteer group and we can only function well if we can continue to find members willing to give up some of their free time for the betterment of the Plastic Club.

**Arthur Ostroff** and **Bob Jackson** have resigned from the Board of Directors of the Plastic Club. Arthur was the Publicity Chairperson handling announcements of exhibitions and programs held at the Club. Bob was a monitor for two workshops and built and rebuilt a great part of the interior of the Club. He was also a former President from 2008 to 2012 and he was our resident "caterer." We thank them for their long years of service and commitment to the betterment of the Plastic Club.

## **New President Rick Wright**

Cynthia is a hard act to follow, no doubt about it. However, we believe we have found a new President that will continue to lead the Plastic Club in the right direction. **Rick Wright** is our man. He is a self-employed professional photographer, specializing in architectural photography. He is also a teacher of old-school dark room techniques with which he makes the beautiful images seen at our exhibitions. Among other things, he makes beer, sour dough bread, and he can juggle. He is now learning improvisation techniques. (Sure to liven up the Board meetings!) Best of all, he has a level head and a good, friendly personality. We have every reason to believe that the next two years (possibly four) will be good ones at the 119 year old Plastic Club.



*President, Rick Wright*

## FIBER AND TEXTILES

We hadn't had a show about Fibers and Textiles in a while. So we had one in April, we did. Fifty-two examples of works using fibers, cloth, textiles, lace, stitchery, embroidery, and other mixed uses of material were on view. The juror of this show, **Daryl Lancaster**, picked **Karl Richard Olsen's** manipulation of cloth on an armature entitled "*Heartless Coward*" for First Prize. Second Prize went to **Marie Huard** for her printed fabric piece entitled "*The Flowering of Mary.*" Third Prize was awarded to **Sally Poulshock** for her lovely, large hand-pieced quilt that took up the entire wall behind the couch. Other awards went to **Jane J. Wilkie, Ellen Grenell, Bonnie MacAllister, Alyse C. Bernstein, and Laura Friesel**. In a few years we'll have another Fiber and Textiles themed show.

## 104<sup>th</sup> Members' Medal Show

Of all the exhibitions that the Plastic Club mounts every year, the Members' Medal Show is the most important. This isn't just because it is our oldest continuous show (104 years.) It's also the show in which most of our members participate because there is no theme or medium requirements to hinder them from entering their work. 109 members participated in the show this year. The juror, **Christopher Schmidt**, partner in the Schmidt-Dean Galley, chose **Jessica Barber's** mixed media print, "*Collaboration*" for the Gold Medal. **Robert Yong Lee** received the Silver Medal for his cyanotype, "*Avocado.*" Other prize winners were **Carol Tashjian, Carla Liguori, Idaherma Williams, Bonnie MacAllister, Charles Lenzi, Gail Zelikovsky, Ron Ploeg, Lorie Balistocky, and Tom McGinley**.



Medal winners Robert Yong Lee and Jessica Barber

## Tony Williams Concert

**Tony Williams**, the renowned jazz saxophonist brought his trio to the Plastic Club for a performance, Sunday afternoon, April 10<sup>th</sup>. It was just a very enjoyable performance by a legendary pro.

## Workshop Show

The annual Workshop Opening plus Party was held on Saturday evening, June 4<sup>th</sup>. The weather outside was delightful and the garden was in bloom. Many of the workshop participants came with their guests to see the show and have hot dogs, pizza, snacks, and drinks outdoors in our 'secret garden.' 96 examples of figure drawing and painting, and other works done here at the Club were up on the walls. Some were done by members and some by non-members, but, all that came had a nice time at the party. **Juliette Watts** won the popular vote. – a prize of five free workshops.

## Exhibition Schedule

**Susan Stromquist**, our exhibition chair, has announced the exhibition schedule for the rest of the year.

August 7-25 Members' Choice

September 4-25 Metamorphosis (watch web site for prospectus)

October 2-27 Photographic Society of Philadelphia

November 6-23 American Color Print Society

December 4-29 Theme Show TBA

## Spring Dinner/Summer Dinner

The first of our three annual dinners took place on Sunday Evening, May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Spring Dinner is the one with the "May" Wine that **Betty MacDonald** makes from white wine, sugar, champagne (for the 'fizz') and Sweet Woodruff, the little plant that gives the "Punch" its distinctive flavor. We also served two kinds of pasta, roast chicken, salad, breads, and little tarts (again made by Betty) for dessert. It was a bit cool so we couldn't go out in the garden. That didn't stop the party. It just went inside. It's always a nice way to meet and greet the members of the Club and their guests. We're planning another dinner, the *Annual Summer Gala*, that will be held on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to look out for the reservation form that will be online on our web site.

## Flamenco Show

**Mandy Wolman** brought her group of dancers, a singer, and a guitar player to the Plastic Club on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. It was an electrifying exhibition of great Flamenco dancing by the three beautiful women, Mandy, **Carol Basilio** and **Capucine Meurette**, in gorgeous dresses accompanied by **Gisele Assi's** vibrant singing and **Chris Scavello's** guitar playing. The studio was packed and the audience was thrilled by the performance. Some people were concerned that the dancing just might bring down the ceiling on the lower floor but, no cracks or broken plaster was found. That's good.

## In Memoriam

We sadly announce that one of our members, **Burton Greenspan**, passed away on April 17th at the age of 87. Burton was a former creative director at the Kalish & Rice Advertising Agency and a regular participant of our Tuesday morning portrait workshop. He worked in oils and produced finished portraits over the course of two sessions. We sent a donation to Sunshine Arts in his memory.