

News from The Plastic Club

DRAWING MANIA

Last year's **Drawing Marathon** was a great success. So we're going to do it again. Sunday, April 23rd from 10 AM to 10 PM. There will be models posing, both clothed and unclothed, throughout the Club all day. A still life will also be set up in the Tea Room. Food will be available for purchase. The fee is \$15.00 for the day or any part of the day. There is no pre-registration. Come with your materials and be prepared for a long day of drawing and a good time.

Music and Art

Last year, Beverly Shin brought her string quartet to the Club and gave a wonderful concert in the Shiekman Studio. At that time an idea for an activity which would be beneficial to both Beverly's string quartet and our members who like to draw was brought up. What if they used the studio for free to practice while our artists drew them practicing? In November and again in January the idea became a reality when the four musicians sat down in the middle of the studio while about 15 of us sat around them in a circle and sketched them as they played. It was a very nice experience for all concerned. We will do it again on Sunday, February 26th. Check website for details.



Beverly Shin rehearses with her friends before an appreciative audience

THE CENSUS

There are currently 215 members of the Club in six categories: Full, Associate, Long Distance (50 miles from the Club), Student Awardees, Board Sponsored, and Honorary. We thank all of you for being part of the fabric of the Plastic Club. We hope you can continue to enjoy the activities and programs the Club has to offer. You are always encouraged to volunteer to do something. It's actually fun and it helps run the Club. Call President **Rick Wright** to see what you can do.



Jane J. Wilkie receives the plastic "Club" award

Holiday Dinner

Along with colder weather and shorter days, the holiday season brings with it the Plastic Club's annual Holiday Dinner. Always festive and fun, this year's dinner was no different. Roasted pig, turkey breast, assortments of breads, vegetables, pastas, salads, and delicious desserts were set out before the 45 guests in the Shiekman Studio. This was *after* they had sampled all kinds of hors d'ouvres, wines, beers, mulled cider, and egg nog down in the Tea Room! A feast! As always, the awarding of the Plastic "Club" was the featured event at the dinner. This year's recipient was **Jane J. Wilkie**, the Club's Treasurer and a Board Member. The treasurer's job is probably one of the most demanding jobs at the Club. Reports have to be made, taxes and bills paid, money collected and deposited and all of these things need to be done in an accurate and timely manner to make sure we comply with various laws and regulations. She also needs to monitor our budget and know about our investments. Jane does all this and more as a volunteer. And, she's fun to work with. No wonder, she received the plastic "CLUB"! Thank you, Jane!

More to See

The Bob Jackson Gallery, which is located in the basement of the Plastic Club, was developed as a member's gallery. This is a place for members either solo or with a few others, to show their work or a related series of works. In December and January, the monitors of our various workshops each got a chance to show a single sample of their work. In February, we mounted a memorial show of works by a dear member of the Club who passed away in 2016, **Robert Allen**. Robert was a true "outsider artist". He did drawings in ball point pen without any preliminary sketches that revealed a very personal world of fantastic creatures and bizarre landscapes that only Robert could see. They are extraordinary and compelling images. The show ends on February 23rd. Come see it!

The **Photographic Society of Philadelphia, (PSOP)** the oldest photographic club in the U.S., meets at the Plastic Club on the third Tuesday of every month. So it is fitting that they hold their annual Members' Exhibition at the Club. This year's show opened on October 5th with about 135 examples of the members' work in a variety of techniques and formats. After it closed, it was the turn of another organization long associated with the Plastic Club, the **American Color Print Society (ACPS)**. Their annual Members' Exhibition opened on November 5th. Out of 62 prints that were in the show, Elizabeth Osborne, the juror, selected twelve for prizes. Our own Mark Ciocca was one of the prize winners. **The Dry Show** opened on Sunday, December 4th. 58 artists, members and non-members, used the theme to produce artwork using only "dry" media, i.e. chalk, graphite, color pencil, charcoal, mixed dry media, etc. The Juror, **Anda Dubinskis**, picked **Bob Bohne's** sensitive drawing, "*Top Hat*" for the First Prize. Second Prize went to **Anders Hansen** for his landscape, "*Premonition of Naxos.*" Third Prize went to **Richard C. Meyer** for his sketch "*The Model.*" There were four Honorable Mentions. In addition Ms. Dubinskis gave us a written explanation of her thoughtful decision making. The reception was notable for what wasn't there. In keeping with the theme, we didn't serve any wine. There was mulled cider, punch, sodas, and bottled water, but no wine. No one seemed to miss it and, going forward, at least for a while, we are going to continue this policy. Now it's the beginning of the New Year and the first Plastic Club Show of the year was our annual **New Members' Show** which opened on January 8th. This year 27 new members took part in the show. It was a strong and lovely show that proved once again that we are continuing to attract high quality artists as members. The "class" of 2017 included painters, printmakers, illustrators, ceramic artists, and, for the first time, a video artist. We welcome them and hope they will find what they're looking for at the Plastic Club. Our second exhibition of 2017 is the "**Out of the Box Show**. This unusual theme was considered to be a way to challenge artists to think "outside the box" and do something different with their work. Perhaps they could use a new medium or use a medium in a different way or choose a subject that they normally don't put in their work. 87 of our members and other artists from the area took the challenge and their results are now on the walls and tables of the Plastic Club. The Juror, **Jacob Rivkin**, chose **Susan E. Ellis's** 3dimensional figure of Stephen Douglass for the First Prize. **Peter Petraglia** won Second Prize for his "*Shoe Monument*", and **Andy Hoffmann** won Third Prize for his animated short "*13 Drawings of Tamiera.*" **Claudia Eckel, Roberta Gross, Barbara Mimnaugh, and Michael DiPrinzio** won Honorable Mentions. Congratulations to all.

Shows in Sight

Susan Stromquist, Our Exhibiton Chair, has announced the **Exhibition Schedule** for the remainder of the year. Please take note.

March 5-23 Small Worlds. This is an open show of works that are less than 13" including frame or base

April 2-27 Daily Life and Community. A theme show. Works reflecting your point of view, experience, outlook, homelife, neighborhood, or political identity. Or, a view out your window.

May 7-25 105th Members Medal Show The BIG one. Please take part!

June 3-22 Workshop Show Showcasing work done in the workshops by their participants

July 2-27 Models as Artists Creative work done by the models who pose at the Club

August 6-27 Members' Choice Whatever you want to show. No entry fee, no prizes, no size limit

September 3-21 Music A theme show. Musician portraits, street scenes of venues, buskers, instruments or just the abstraction of sound

October 1-26 Photographic Society of Philadelphia Members' Show

November 5-25 American Color Print Society Annual Members' Show

December 3-January 1 Fire in your Belly Emotions of all kinds. What moves you?

The prospecti for these shows will be available online on our web site plasticclub.org and at the Club in the month preceding the show.



Prize Winners at the "Out of the Box" Show. LtoR: Michael DiPrinzio, Susan E. Ellis, Roberta Gross, Andrew Hoffmann, and Barbara Mimnaugh

In Memoriam

Long-time member, **Joan Taubel** passed away on November 25th. She was 90 years old. Joan had joined the Plastic Club in 1985. She worked in several mediums but her favorite was enamel work. She had been absent from the Club for a number of years but she had kept up her membership and interest in the Club. Dr. **Morton G. Schaeffer** was a very new member. He joined last year. Two of his works were in the recent New Members' Show. He was a retired psychologist and did strong abstract paintings. He died on January 27th also at the age of 90.