

Newsletter Summer 2005

A Reminder

Dues for 2005-2006 are due. If you haven't sent in your check, please do so. Thank you kindly.

Showbiz

On Sunday, May 1st the 93rd Annual Members' Medal Show opened with a reception and awards presentation. This year the Gold Medal winner, chosen by juror Bridgette Mayer, was John Schmiechen for his painting "Parade on the Parkway". The Silver Medal was won by Syd Torchio for his painting "Breaking Bread". The Zeigler Prize was awarded to Jerome Schwartz for his painting "Autumn Ivy -Cape Cod". Honorable Mentions were given to James Groody, Hilda Schoenwetter and Arthur Pielli. Congratulations to all the winners.

The Workshop show opened on Saturday, June 4th with an evening party for the participants of the four weekly workshops held at the Club. Although this was not a large show, the work was good and varied, and showed the value of these workshops for our members and the general public that attend them. The workshops (other than the Saturday workshop that runs all summer) will resume the first week after Labor Day. Try to attend at least one of these workshops this Fall.

Finally!

After many years of patching the roof only to have it leak again, we have finally gotten a completely new roof put on the building. Roofer Thomas Zimmerman, who came to us well recommended, gave us a shingled roof that was pre-approved by the Philadelphia Historical Commission. To do this we cashed in a CD that we had and also used \$1,000 from the Judy Shiekman Fund. The total cost of the roof was just under \$6,000. Thank you to those of you who have contributed to our restoration fund over the years and to the family of Judy Shiekman who set up the Judy Shiekman Fund in her memory.

Newest Members

Every year in May, the Plastic Club donates two, two-year memberships to the area art schools to be awarded to graduating seniors. This year's prizewinners are: Sheri Pray and Gillian Lydon from the University of the Arts, Amy E. Stevens and Kristy D. Moore from the Tyler School of Art, and Benjamin Ramirez and Lesa Chittenden-Lim from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. A hearty welcome to all. (Inexplicably, Moore College of Art was not heard from this year. We will correct this omission next year.)

Shows in Sight

A joint exhibition by the members of two groups, The Philadelphia Plein Air Artists and the Photographic Society of Philadelphia, opens on Sunday, July 10th with a reception from 2 to 5 PM. The exhibition will be on view through August 7th. Hours are Sundays from 2 to 5 and Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7. (Call the Club before going just to be sure.) There will be a closing reception Sunday, August 7th from 2 to 5 PM.

The dance group, Nostalgic Body has cancelled their performances and in their place we will have the annual New Members Show. This will open Sunday, September 11th with a reception from two to five. Come out and meet our newest members and see what they are doing.

In October, the P.A.F.A. Fellowship Show will open on Sunday, October 2nd with a reception from two to five. The American Color Print Society will have their annual show at the club in November. It opens on Sunday, November 6th.

Boooooo.

Has anyone seen a ghost at the Club lately? The Philadelphia Institute for Paranormal Research has asked us whether we would like to have their team come to the club and see if we have spirits dwelling within our walls. Researchers and psychic investigators use photography, audio recorders, and monitors that measure changes in temperature,

humidity and electromagnetic fields to compile data that is fed into a computer and analyzed. Adding their own intuition, they can then give an explanation (if need be) of what's going on. Betty says she doesn't know of any ghosts being reported in the archives although we certainly have a long history and hundreds of members who have passed on. But, PIPR doesn't charge for their services and it might be fun to have them come over. We'll get a complete report. Let's hope it is negative!

Who Are They?

The **Photographic Society of Philadelphia** is the oldest photography club in the U.S. and the third

oldest in the world. It was founded in 1862. The club meets on third Tuesdays of the month at 7 PM at the Plastic Club to discuss photographic techniques and see what members are doing. Membership is \$30.00 annually. Call Eileen Eckstein at 215-546-8177 for more information.

Philadelphia Plein Air Artists was started in 1999 by artists who wanted to go out on location and work in the company of other artists. They meet regularly on Sundays from March to November at locations all over the city. Schedule information is available by calling 215-977-8408 or by checking their website at <http://members.aol.com/philapap/>. Participation is free.

Spring Dinner

Once again, Betty picked a nice day and we had a very good Spring Dinner party. It started in the garden with drinks and hors d'oeuvres and then went up into the Judy Shiekman Studio for a dinner of Chicken Captain, rice, and salad, finished off with a blueberry tart, all put together by Betty. After the dinner there was a general meeting and general conviviality. We'll do it again with our **Summer Gala** on August 28th. (A reservation form should be enclosed) Reserve the date and be ready to come and make merry. Hope to see you there.

Photographs originally included had these captions:

Photo by Mary T. Williamson

Marta Bartolozzi with Donna and Arthur Ostroff in the Garden.

Meeting and discussion followed dinner in the Shiekman Studio

At the Medal Show: John Schmiechen, Jerome Schwartz, Michael Guinn, Arthur Pielli, Syd Torchio, James Groody and Hilda Schoenwetter