

Newsletter - Spring 2006 (text only)

Chair Care

The Plastic Club has been the recipient of many donations over the years and nowhere is this more apparent than in the collection of furniture that graces our rooms. However, many of the pieces are showing signs of their age and are in need of some TLC. Recently, club member Ed Allen, noticing the sad condition of two of our side chairs in the main room, offered to take them to a man he knows who repaired chairs with cane seats. Adding another chair that was in the basement with its seat completely broken through to the two upstairs, he went out to Blue Ball, Pennsylvania, to Isaac Musser's workshop and had the caning in the three chairs replaced and the wooden supports repaired. Now the chairs are as good as new and back in use at a very modest cost to the Club. Thank you, Ed!

It's That Time Again

The dues for 2006-2007 are due. If you have not paid them yet, please send your check as soon as possible. We thank you!

NEW SCHEDULE

The schedule of exhibitions at the Plastic Club for the rest of the year should be enclosed. Keep it handy. Although some of these shows are not "club shows," you are always invited to the opening receptions. Come and meet other artists and patrons and have a good time.

In Memoriam

With sadness we note the deaths of two former members. Grace Cooper died earlier this year. Alice Blakeslee died on April 12th in Florida at the age of 98. Although we have not seen them at the Club in a number of years, we regret their passing and send condolences to those who knew them.

Showbiz

The theme show "**All Fired Up**" opened on March 5th with our usual fine reception attended by a good crowd. 49 artists exhibited 70 pieces of work, all with some sort of "fire" portrayed. Sunsets, cook fires, smokers, states of energy, and symbolic and literal fire itself were among the subjects. Juror Deborah Curtiss awarded First Prize to Michelle McCaffery who actually burned the edges of the paper on which her "Prayer of Desire" drawing was done. Second Prize went to James Bongartz and Third Prize went to Mike Darr. Honorable Mentions went to Anne Hosie Katinsky, Daniel Fisher and Jeanne Kirchner. This "fire" theme was the complement to the "water" theme we had last year. Anyone ready for an "air" theme next year?

Our **Annual All Media Juried Show** opened on April 2nd. This time 72 artists showed 113 works; drawings, photographs, paintings, sculptures and many other mediums were represented. It was a beautiful show nicely hung, as always, by Betty and Paul. The noted watercolorist, James Toogood, was the juror. First Prize went to our own Greg Harvey for his painting "Black Moshannon." Other Plastic Club members winning prizes were Jack Gerber, 2nd Prize, and Marie Davis Samohod and Arthur Ostroff, Honorable Mentions. Louise LaFond, who has just joined since the show went up, also won an Honorable Mention. Congratulations to all!

Finally, The **94th Members' Medal Exhibition** opened on May 7th. For the first time in the history of this exhibition, a photographer won the Gold Medal. Eileen Eckstein's photograph, "New Window" was given the award by Juror Boris Putterman. He cited the way Eileen captured beauty in something commonplace. The Silver Medal was won by Michael George Jerista for his watercolor "Madame Butterfly." The Zeigler Prize was won by Hilarie Hawley for her "Last Supper." Honorable Mentions were won by Paul Clement, Irma Shapiro, and Alice Meyer-Wallace.

Our Newest Members

May is upon us and that means graduations. It also means that we have eight new members chosen by their schools to receive two-year free memberships in the Plastic Club through our annual Plastic Club Membership Awards. This year's winners are: Jessica Phelps and Connie Hill from Moore, Jessica Jenkins and Katherine Petronaci from UArts, Katherine Stanek and Jesse Whitacre from PAFA and Marcia Guerra and Stacy Ann Lenz from Tyler. We also welcome into membership Julia Safer, Louise LaFond, Reinhold and Henrietta Edelschein, Debra Campbell Goodyear, Ben Wilson, Jenna Hannum, Sally Ritter, Errico Gregory, Amanda Stevenson, and Greg Muller.

First Class Act

If you look in the vetrine on the first floor of the club, you will see an exhibit that Betty MacDonald has put together about a former member of the Plastic Club, Esther Althea Richards. Ms. Richards was the first woman to design a U.S. Postage stamp. In 1934 she designed the 10 cent gray Great Smokey Mountains stamp, the highest value and last stamp of the National Park series. Ms. Richards, a Philadelphia art professor, was a personal friend of Betty and her family, and they received many lovely hand made cards and gifts from Ms. Richards over the years that are included in the display.

Studio Notes

Ed Allen, Mina Smith-Segal, and Unada Gliewe are showing their work at the Art Institute Gallery, 1622 Chestnut during May. This is the same place where Alice Meyer-Wallace had her one person show during March and April. Also Sylvia Fein, Thelma Segal and Paul Davis Jones are in a show at the Philadelphia Center for Older People. Laura Pritchard has been busy. Besides showing in our club, she has exhibits at the Cheltenham Art Center, The Tyme Gallery and the Wayne Art Center. Mary Beaumont has a piece in an upcoming group show at the salon Des Amis Gallery. Syd Torchio had a show at Gould Frames in April and sold a "big one." Dick Goldberg exhibited his paintings and gave a talk about Degas and his vision problems at the Health and Wellness Center by Doylestown Hospital. Jo Owens Murray has a show of her work at the Pleiades Gallery in New York this month.

Esther Richards was the first woman to design a United States postage stamp, the highest value and last stamp of the National Park series. Ms. Richards, a Philadelphia art professor, was a personal friend of Betty and her family, and they received many lovely hand-made cards and gifts from her over the years that are included in the display. Take a look.

Luncheon

Betty MacDonald invites you to a luncheon at her house in Narberth, Wednesday, May 24th at noon. Please R.S.V.P. to Betty at 610-664-1997. Her house is easily reached by the R5 from town.