

Andovers Artists Guild

A Community of Artists in the Greater Merrimack Valley

www.andoversartistsguild.com

P.O. BOX 254, ANDOVER, MA 01810

MAY, 2009



Presidents' Letters

What a fantastic weather we are being blessed with, after the difficult winter I feel energized with the warm sun. This will be the last newsletter until September so I am trying to include all important news in some of the attachments.

First and foremost, the website is proving to be a good marketing tool for AAG. In just a couple of weeks we have had over 3,000 "hits" (visitors) ranging from the Museum of Fine Art in Boston to other institutions, schools and corporate headquarters. I am pleased that many of you are taking advantage of the offer to be AAG Members and to be part of our website. This is one of many other benefits of membership! You may have noticed that I also included poetry. All suggestions are welcomed to make our website more exciting.

June and I are trying to organize the membership. We must apologize if we seem overly enthusiastic but we want to be organized as we move into the 2009/10 season. We NEED your COOPERATION! Please communicate with us either via e-mail or by phone. We will try to help in whatever issue you may have. We are getting closer to appointing a treasurer for the 2009/10 season. More help with the multitude of Guild chores is needed, so let us all increase this level of cooperation.

At the last board meeting we discussed a few topics. One was the topic to increase the fee for admission to the AAG demonstrations from \$2 to \$5. There is not much enticement to join if a person is charged \$2! We pay our demonstrators and that money comes from memberships and if memberships are low we cannot afford to bring in good artists. We also discussed new ways to bring more "buzz" into the monthly meetings. One way is perhaps to bring art items we do not need or use and sell them. A 50/50 cut between member and AAG or a full 100% donation to AAG. This is similar to what Valerie Borgal did at the last meeting. We did raise \$80 for the scholarship fund as an aside!

The May 17 luncheon is fast approaching! June and I (and we hope you as well) are looking forward to dining there! A few nights ago June and I took a walk on the grounds of the estate. While there was a gathering inside the aroma of food coming out from the open windows was "gustoso" and made us hungry! We

are attaching the menu for the "Glimpse of Europe" plein air affair. At the annual luncheon we will be awarding the scholarships to the 4 art students. This is a good way for the kids to thank the members of the Guild for these monetary gifts and that through volunteer work from "Art in the Park" make all of this possible.

E-mailing is an easy method for June and me to stay in communication with all of you. It is inexpensive and hopefully it reaches everyone, but if you do not want any e-mails please let us know and we will take you out of the list.

I hope to see you all at the luncheon, and I hope this newsletter reaches all of you in good health and spirits.

Ciao!

Nella

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Spring has arrived, everything is blooming and is it ever so welcome! The April meeting was well attended and I think everyone enjoyed Joan's watercolor demonstration. Thank you Joan! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member who joined us on Sunday, Jane Lovey.

The Annual luncheon is only weeks away. Nella and I hope to see you all there. Please sign up as soon as possible. The deadline is May 1st for RSVPs, however, if you forgot and still wish to attend, please contact June or Nella. Sandra Roche will be our guest speaker and will be presenting a slide show and botanical illustration demonstration. The menu will be posted on the web site and e-mailed to you as soon as possible, and there will be a vegetarian alternative available.

Nella and I would like to thank you all for your participation and help with our new Chapter in the Guild. We are excited for the next two events and we have many new ideas and wonderful artists signed up for demonstrations next year. Remember!! There are many benefits to being a member with the Andover Artist Guild — your dues will make you eligible to advertise on the new and updated website, to meet other artists, to exhibit as a group and to enjoy the inspiring demonstrations that we have in store for your pleasure and education. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

June Munro

Member News

Congratulations! to **Maureen De Sisto** for winning 2nd place in E W Poore Manchester NH art show for the Acrylic "Farm in Hollis NH.

Congratulations! to **Steve Lush** for becoming a Signature member of the the prestigious American Society of Marine Artists (ASMA) and being accepted in the 2009 Northeast Prize Show at the Cambridge Art Association for his painting the "Larenberg".

Congratulations! to **Carol Groezinger**, for her show at the Lincoln Street Center Artist-in-Residence 2008 -that ran through April 30, 2009. This residency and exhibition were made possible by the Davis Family Foundation.

The 12th Annual Juried Regional Show at Newburyport Art Association features works of our members: **Nella Lush, Steven Lush, June Munro, Rosalie Sidoti, Betty Pogor**. The art show runs from May 22nd to June 14th with a reception on May 23 from 7 to 9 PM

Nella Lush's piece "The Air Feels Good" is at the Salmagundi Art Club, 47 Fifth Ave, New York, NY - National Association of Women Artists 120th Annual Exhibition - from May 11 to May 29, 2009 - reception May 17th 1 to 4 p.m.

On Sunday, April 26, **Alix Porras** was one of the artists invited by the Copley Society to participate in the Fresh Paint Day. About 85 artists painted all day in Boston and at 4 pm. returned to the Copley Society to frame the paintings for the week long silent Auction and the May 2nd Black Tie Gala when all the paintings were to be sold. Alix painted from the public Garden looking towards Commonwealth Ave. and the Prudential Building in the background.

Alix Porras will be one of the artists featured at the exhibit "When there are Flowers" at the Lorica Gallery in Andover. Opening Reception will be Friday, May 8th, 2009. Refreshments will be served.

Valerie Borgal received an honorable mention award at the Tewksbury Community of Artists Member Show. Valerie is also exhibiting in the Spring Fling Art Show and Sale at the Greater Salem Artists Association, Woodbury School, Main Street, Salem, NH on May 9, 2009 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

North Andover portrait photographer **Ed Pedi** went the full cycle at the recent annual convention of Professional Photographers Association of MA, held February 20-23, 2009 in Natick, MA with his impressive achievement of five first place blue ribbons for his diverse body of work submitted to their annual print competition. His highest scoring entry was an illustrative image titled, "Hoo you looking at" which also received the prestigious Court of Honor award. The Court of Honor is recognized as the highest level of award achievement in professional print competition and the most difficult award to attain. This beautiful nature image depicts two pygmy owls photographed during a visit to Manuel Antonio National Park in Costa Rica. The image also received the Tom Tedesco Nature Award... a people's choice award presented to the best nature print.

His remaining four entries are portrait images that show the diversity of Mr. Pedi's storytelling photographic style and demonstrate his creative ability to capture real slices of American life. The portrait entries include, "Reflections of Youthfulness"; a classical children's portrait of four siblings enjoying a fun moment together feeding fish at his water pond. This entry also received a judge's choice ribbon representing their favorite entry in the entire competition. "The Lighthouse" depicts the talent of a 95 years young, master craftsman who is shown in his workshop, quietly creating a custom made wooden replica of a famous lighthouse. "Coffee Talk" features a local man enjoying his daily cup of coffee at his favorite coffee shop hangout and the final image titled "Tune to the Wild Roses" depicts a musician peacefully strumming music on his dulcimer, surrounded by a beautiful mountain scene. Ed is a longtime resident of North Andover who owns and operates Ed Pedi Photography, specializing in family portraiture. To see more of Ed's work and award winning images, visit his website at: www.edpediphotography.com.

The Plein air event and Plant Sale will be held on May 9th - From 10-2pm. at the Stevens-Coolidge House on Andover St. in North Andover.

If you have any questions, please call Louise Small at 978-475-2835 or Louise Anderson at 978-684-3159

"It's a beautiful house and garden just to stroll through on a spring day — the iris are spectacular — and the sale has lots of healthy, interesting plants for not a lot of money, and knowledgeable people to talk with about them. You can sit at a little table, and have a cup of coffee, and just take it all in, or you can go on a house tour, and a butterfly tour of the gardens.

If you're a member of the Trustees of Reservations, or are ready to become one, you can come to the Friday night preview sale where, in addition to a lovely, long, spring twilight, and fabulous plants of course, there'll be wine, cheese, and music!" By Joan Canterbury

At the May 17 AAG annual meeting/luncheon **Sarah Roche** will be demonstrating and also do a slide show of her work.

About Sarah:



“In my mind, botanical art and science share an almost symbiotic relationship. The work of a botanical artist must have one foot firmly planted in science. That said, if I can produce a drawing or painting that is beautiful as well as being accurate, then I may have created a true piece of art rather than a lackluster illustration.

When I study a plant before I paint it, I spend time observing it from all angles, looking, touching, feeling, smelling. I try to find the soul, the spirit of the plant.

What makes it unique? Why choose that particular branch, flower or seedpod to portray? As I learn the plant’s character and become familiar with its personality, a relationship develops between us and has a marked effect on my finished painting.

Throughout my life, the challenge of recording the intricacies of nature has been all consuming. I gain satisfaction from the process of translating observations into the complexities of line, tone, shape and color while learning about the beauty of the world around me”

Sarah holds a degree in Graphic Illustration from the University of the West of England where she majored in Botanical Illustration. Her work is included in many collections in Europe and the United States. She is the Education Director for the Wellesley College Friends of Horticulture’s Certificate in Botanical Art and Illustration, the Education Chair of the American Society of Botanical Artists, an artist member of the Copley Society and a Gallery Artist at the South Shore Art Center in Cohasset, MA.

She is Founding Director of the New England Society of Botanical Artists and teaches botanical art at Wellesley, the South Shore Art Center and at the Copley Society

Resurrection

On Friday, Paul Caruana of Valletta, Malta, wrote, “I’m tempted to do another painting of a watercolour I recently sold, this time in oils. Would I be cheating the buyer? I’d like to do it just the same as the watercolour as far as composition and colour scheme are concerned. I’ve considered changing things around but I think it might lose the impact if I did.”

Thanks, Paul. Evolved collectors know that artists refine from one painting to the next and frequently redevelop work from an exemplary one. Further, there’s the tradition of the watercolour sketch and the final oil. Resurrection is part of our game, but it can be a tricky wicket.

Artists often notice a slippage of quality or loss of focus when they repeat. Here are a few thoughts:

Repeated works should be of a different size, preferably larger.

Repeated works often work out better in a different medium.

When going from smaller to larger, do the same with your tools.

See the “big picture” in the small one and don’t fiddle the big.

Avoid the boredom of back-to-back repeats — let some time pass.

As you work, try to reinvent the second one as a new one.

It’s pretty difficult to copy a work stroke by stroke — just one of the reasons to change media. One of the most effective resurrection ploys is to lay in the general areas in a cursory way, take a good long look at the original, then face it against the wall and proceed to paint. If you don’t have the original nearby, do the same with the reference or a digital image. This keeps your strokes honest and in the moment. In other words, you don’t want to be constantly referring to the original to see if you got small elements the same.

Even though your plan may be to repeat a previous success, you have to look at the project with new eyes. When you take this approach, you’ll find the resurrected one may have a fresher spin than in its previous life. Always ask “What could be?” An artist’s personal evolution is a playground of unending curiosity and abiding strength. **By Robert Genn**

“To copy oneself is more dangerous than to copy others. It leads to sterility.” (*Pablo Picasso*)

“A Glimpse of Europe”
Rolling Ridge Retreat To Host Open House
Celebrating Art, Artists and the Natural World
*June 7, 2009 * 10 am -3 pm*

Menu options!

Artist Lunch Boxes

Van Gogh's Lunch Box 17
 Pastrami Deli Sandwich on Rye bread, with sauerkraut salad and Swiss cheese
 Kosher Pickle
 Rolling Ridge German Potato Salad
 Red Delicious Apple
 Potato Chips
 Bottle of water

Monet's Lunch Box 19

Lobster Roll on Brioche
 Mixed green salad with walnuts, apple and maple lime vinaigrette
 Macintosh Apple
 Cape Cod Potato Chips
 Cranberry Juice

Picasso's Lunch Box 17

Grilled Vegetable Wrap in sun dried Tomato tortilla
 Pickled cucumbers with dill
 Marinated Tomato salad with pine nuts and aged balsamic
 Slices of granny smith apple
 Dried fruit chips
 Bottle of water

A la carte Menu options

Cappuccino Station

Selected coffee drinks:
 coffee* 2
 Cappuccino 3
 Café latté 3
 Chai tea 3
 Frappocinos 3
 Hot chocolate 2
 Soft drinks and juices 1

* refill available

Cannoli Station

Fresh made cannoli	Mascarpone filling **	2	10 (1dz)	
	Ricotta vanilla filling **	2	10 (1dz)	
	Chocolate custard filling **	3	15 (1dz)	
	Vanilla custard filling **	3	15 (1dz)	
	Strawberry filling **	3	15 (1dz)	

Rolling Ridge Chocolate Chip Cookies ea 1 ½ dz 4 1 dz 7

** 2 per portion

Pizzedelli Sandwiches

Pizza bread with	Arugula and prosciutto	11
	Brie and salami	8
	Smoked salmon & crème fraiche	10
	Hummus & Mediterranean vegetables	9
Three cheese pizza by the slice		3

**DIRECTIONSTO
 ROLLING RIDGE**

660 Great Pond Road, North Andover,
 MA

From Boston:

Travel north on I-93. Take exit 41 for Rte. 125. Turn right off exit and follow Rte. 125 to the junction of Rte. 114. Turn left onto Rte. 114. At next traffic light turn right onto Rte. 125. At next traffic light (Bertucci's) turn right onto Andover Street. Continue on Andover Street to Olde North Andover Center. Go across traffic circle onto Great Pond Road. Unitarian Church will be on your left, "Top of the Scales" Restaurant on your right. Stay on Great Pond Rd past church, go through next intersection (a Y intersection, bear right) and continue straight. At stop sign turn left, this is where Great Pond Rd continues. Follow Great Pond Rd for approximately 1/2 mile to Rolling Ridge on the left, just past North Andover Country Club.

From the North Shore of Boston:

Travel west on Route 114. In North Andover turn right onto Johnson Street. Continue on Johnson St to 4th right. Turn right onto Marbleridge Rd. Continue on Marbleridge Rd which becomes Great Pond Rd for approximately 2 miles. Rolling Ridge is on your left.

From Rte. 495

Take Exit 43 (Mass Ave). If coming from the south, go right off the end of the ramp. If coming from the North, go left at the end of the ramp. Go thru 3 sets of lights to the Rotary in Olde North Andover Center. Go 3/4 around the Rotary and exit onto Great Pond Rd. (Unitarian Church will be on your left, "Top of the Scales" Restaurant on your right.) Go thru the next intersection (a Y intersection, bear right) Follow on Great Pond Rd. to a stop sign. Turn left, this is where Great Pond Rd continues. Follow Great Pond Rd for approximately 1/2 mile to Rolling Ridge on the left, just past North Andover Country Club.

UPON ARRIVAL TO ROLLING RIDGE:

Proceed down the driveway & bear left to park in the "Guest Parking" and follow the signs to the Conference Center entrance.