

colors, while marveling at the wonders of nature.

As a teacher, I always encouraged my students to learn from observation and draw each studied specimen, noting its uniquely intricate design. Regardless of their artistic ability, my goal was to enable children to appreciate the vibrancy in all living things.

This educational philosophy of instilling a deep joy for learning, along with gaining an understanding and appreciation of the natural world, continues during retirement.

Since 2007, when I was elected Ecology/Horticulture Chair of the Hatboro Garden Club, I have been sharing my gardening knowledge and experience of 40 years through my "Gardeners of the Crooked Billet" electronic newsletters. In them, I use photographs of my garden as a resource to illustrate various themes for my readers, now located all over the country. Recently, I found another avenue to express my love of nature - watercolors.

This medium enables me to create paintings that embody the richness of nature's beauty with vibrant color enhanced by the unique quality of light and transparency. I am inspired by the brilliance of flowers, fruit in the market, seemingly insignificant objects, and the tiniest blossoms falling from the trees. For me, my watercolors express joy in all of nature's creations.

Some of my recent shows were at Art in the Park, Saratoga Springs, NY, Chocolate and Art Gallery, Lenox, MA in the Berkshires, Gratz College Photography Show, Tamanend Art Exhibition, Churchville, PA, the Upstairs Gallery in Peddler's Village, PA, and the Anna Maria Island Art League, Holmes Beach, FL.

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OCJAC

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"Tu B'Shevat - New Year for Trees"

February 5-24, 2010

Artists' Reception

Sunday, February 14th, 2010 from 2:00- 4:00 PM.

119 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-923-1222 www.ocjac.org

OCJAC is open Tuesday.-Thurs 1-6 pm (excluding religious holidays). This exhibition will run Feb. 5-24th, 2010.

Biographies & Artist Statements

Paulette Besignor

Paulette Besignor was born in 1948 in Philadelphia, PA. Ms. Besignor was awarded a scholarship to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the University of Pennsylvania where she earned a B.F.A in 1970. She went on to pursue graduate work at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA and the University of Paris, France. Since 1966, Ms. Besignor has exhibited her work primarily in the New York, New Jersey, and the Pennsylvania area. Her work was included in several exhibits in Japan. In 1985, her work was exhibited in a show at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and again in 2003. Since 1973, her work has been on continuous display at a number of well known New York City galleries. Her work can be seen in a number of public and private collections in the United States, England, France, Germany, Italy, South Korea, Belgium and Portugal. Ms. Besignor's work is in such corporate and museum collections as Dupont Corp., Fidelity (PNC Bank), Colonial Penn Insurance Co., the Delaware Trust Co., Green Tree Insurance, Verizon, Wyeth Pharmaceutical, Hilton Corp., NBC Offices, NYC., McGraw Hill Publishing, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia Museum of Fine Art, Delaware Museum of Art and others.

Susan Forbes

When I was a small child I felt sorry for anyone who could not draw and paint. Toys meant nothing to me as long as I had a sharpened pencil and clean paper. Color excited me. I attended classes at a neighborhood center as well as Tyler School of Art on Saturday mornings. At age ten, I won a chance to paint Gimble's windows in a Halloween Contest for neighboring elementary schools, winning first prize for my school. With the prize money, we bought mosaic tiles and I created a large picture for my school lobby.

In my twenties I produced drawings of album covers and sold them in a store on South Street in Philadelphia. This was the Sixties and album covers in shops was a viable commodity. Life happened and my art became eclipsed by the reality of a full time teaching job and my real job of being a single mother.

I retired from teaching in 2000 and plunged back into art lessons. I never had any formal training and I began taking courses at the Norristown Art League and the Woodmere Art Museum, first in watercolor with Jim McFarlane and then portrait painting with Paul Dusold. I am currently studying landscape, figure painting as well as

portraits and still life at Woodmere and PAFA. Along with my classes, I am a member of the Manayunk Art Coop, the Norristown Art League and the Woodmere Art Museum. When not painting and exhibiting myself, I visit art museums and read art books. My life is again, all about art.

I have shown my work in frame shops and in juried shows in the Philadelphia area, have won six prizes for my watercolors and have sold some of my landscapes. My favorite painting subjects are the cityscapes and scenes with figures going about their daily lives. I travel a lot with my camera and instead of waiting for the people to pass, I try to capture the within the scene. I'm also apt to photograph any animals, especially dogs, so I spend much of my trips at zoos and petting farms.

My work has been described as bold and I work intuitively, sometimes very quickly. Color is still very important and I love experimenting with color combinations and limited palettes. For me, the painting of a picture is a visceral experience and truly rewarding, and of course, I am making up for lost time.

Rachel Isaac

This unique body of work is created from all natural materials... leaves, flowers, petals, and found wings are combined using a preservation process that ensures color retention and stability. Each piece is matted with linen or silk rag mat, and Italian frame mouldings.

B. Leah Palmer

B. Leah Palmer is a local Philadelphia photographer for the past twenty-five years. She is a winner of the Jewish Exponent Israel Travel Photo Contest and has had her work published in Nature's Glory the International Library of Photography. Her work is exhibited in many area venues such as the Juried Art Show at the William Penn Charter School, Falling for the Arts in Chestnut Hill and the JCC Klein Branch.

Barbara Rosenzweig

It's funny how things turn out. After a rewarding career of 36 years teaching biology to middle school students, I finally picked up the brush again. As a youngster, I had studied at Philly's School Art League and Tyler School of Fine Arts. Then adulthood got in the way.

After attending Temple University (BA '67, M. Ed '69) and while teaching and raising a family, I found spiritual respite in designing and making gardens around my home. Using plants to generate wonderful palettes of color, gardening provided the additional creative outlet I thrive on. I photographed my flowers' unique structures, patterns, and