President’s Message

Dear members,

The Pastel Society of New Jersey was established in 2005 and this year marks our 10th anniversary. We plan to celebrate it throughout the year in a variety of ways, aiming to enhance our presence and raise awareness of the pastel medium, all while having fun and strengthening our friendships.

We started the year with our 2nd Annual Holiday Party, with a nod to PSNJ history and a surprise announcement, revealing exciting news about our upcoming gallery exhibitions in Bernardsville during the month of June. Yes, two galleries, two exhibitions, one art walk. Do you feel it? □ Read more about it in the “Annual Holiday Party” article on pages 2 and 3.

We are in the process of gathering ideas and forming a committee to plan for and make this 10th anniversary year special for all of us. We want you to be part of the thinking and planning process, sharing your vision and contributing your ideas and wishes. How would you suggest we mark the occasion? See some of our suggestions in the “10th Anniversary – Share Your Ideas!” article on page 5. I’m looking forward to hearing from you.

The board continues to work diligently to ensure the PSNJ smooth operation and your continued satisfaction. Here are some examples of what we have been doing recently.

We are re-introducing monetary awards in our Members Show. We added an out of schedule “Exhibit and Sell” opportunity for members at Old York Cellars in March. Aiming to improve our Annual Juried Show income/expense balance, we have revised the award structure and will distribute future show prospectuses mainly via e-mail.

We are in the process of revising our juried show eligibility clause and guidelines with the purpose of improved clarity. We are in the process of forming a budget and are considering using budget software. We have updated our Bylaws and will present them for your vote and approval in our April General Meeting.

Our General Meeting on April 26th will feature a demo by Connecticut pastelist Gigi Liverant and will take place in a new venue in Madison – the Madison Community House. See more details on our website, www.pastelsocietynj.org, under “Programs”. I hope to see you all there!

Wishing us all a Happy 10th Anniversary!

Michal Barkai, President
PASTEL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

Dates for 2015 shows:

PSNJ Juried Members Show
Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery in Bernardsville
RECEIVING: Sunday, May 31st, 10:00am to 11:30am
RECEPTION: Friday, June 5th, 6:00pm to 9:00pm
PICKUP: Sunday, June 28th, 10:00am to 11:30am
JUROR: Tim Gaydos

PSNJ Signature and Board Members Show
Gallery W in Bernardsville
RECEIVING: Wednesday, June 3rd, 10:00am to 11:30am (hanging to follow receiving)
RECEPTION: Friday, June 5th, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
PICKUP: Wednesday, July 8th, 10:00am to 11:30am

PSNJ Juried Members Show
Crane’s Mill Towne Square Gallery in West Caldwell
RECEIVING: Sunday, November 1st, 10:00am to 11:30am (hanging to follow)
RECEPTION: Saturday, November 7th
Either 2:00pm to 4:00pm or 1:00pm to 3:00pm (awaiting confirmation of time)
PICKUP: Monday, November 30th, 10:00am to 11:30am
JUROR: Ellen Eagle

You will need to submit JPGs with entry for the PSNJ Members Show and the PSNJ Juried Members Show. More detailed instructions to follow.

If any members would like to participate and need help with JPG submission or with dropping off paintings for the Members Show or the Signature and Board Members show, they may contact Paula Pearl at (908) 346-0575.

PSNJ Members Show and PSNJ Signature and Board Members Show 2015 are in galleries, so please submit your best, professional quality work for these shows. Entries must be for sale.

WWW.PASTELSOCIETYNJ.ORG · WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PASTELSOCIETYNJ
Our Annual Holiday Party in January

We continued our newly established tradition with our 2nd Annual Holiday Party and Pastel Exchange, which took place on January 18th at the Montville Senior House in Montville. The room looked festive and was decorated in blue and purple – the colors of our new logo. Kathie Sheridan, who chaired the holiday party committee, opened the event and introduced President Michal Barkai.

Michal greeted our members and guests and announced the party was the beginning of a yearlong celebration of our 10th anniversary. She noted our organization has grown from 90 Charter members to about 170 members today, and shared that our goal at this milestone and celebratory year was two fold: to raise awareness of pastel art and the PSNJ in New Jersey – and – to host enjoyable events for our members to celebrate and enjoy together. To that end she asked members who wished to take part in the planning and coordinating of these events to approach her later.

Michal proceeded to reveal some very exciting news: the PSNJ has secured two prominent galleries for our coming Members Show plus the Signature and Board Members Show. She then called Kathleen Palmer from Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery in Bernardsville to share the good news: these two shows will run concurrently in June 2015.
The Members show will be hosted by Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery and the Signature and Board Members Show by Gallery W (aka Wallflower Gallery). The two Meet the Artists receptions will be part of Bernardsville’s June Art Walk, scheduled for Friday, June 5th. Kathleen Palmer’s emotional connection to the PSNJ history was evident when she shared that some of the artists who established our society were among her first gallery artists, including our first President, Mark deMos. Michal thanked Kathleen and, addressing the audience, asked “Can you imagine? PSNJ taking over Bernardsville’s Art Walk!” This was very exciting indeed.

Mark deMos was then called to the podium and shared some of his memories from the first years of the PSNJ. Three members of the original board joined Mark for a photo opp. A letter from Louise Woodcox, our former President, was read including some of her reflections of the past and thoughts for the future, and our history book, which was maintained in the earlier years, was displayed by Annette Lange for our members to browse and enjoy.

After a short lunch break, when everyone enjoyed the delicious foods and desserts we all contributed, the crowd gathered around the display of small pastel paintings to be exchanged. Numbers were called, small painting “gems” found new homes, and recipients cheered in delight.

Kathie took a moment to thank Louise Woodcox and Rachel Conte, who participated in planning the event, as well as Rita Feeny and Laurie Harden, who took care of beverages, and the party was over.

See you all in our upcoming celebrations!

Michal

Many thanks to Terri Forester for sharing the photos she shot at the Holiday Party.

ALAN GORELICK, EDITOR
Our members received awards and recognition at shows, fall 2014 and winter 2015

Colorful Connections
- is a group comprised of Margaret Cohen, Anita Gladstone, and Carol Clemens, that will present a show in the Gallery@Metuchen Library, 80 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen, from April 2nd to 29th. Please call the library at 732.632.8526 for their hours, or check their website: http://www.metuchen nj.org/library.html.

Rita Agron
- has the honor of being selected as the online featured artist of the American Artists Professional League Grapevine which includes a brief biography, awards, arts memberships and paintings.
- received the Carlee and Woodie Walker Memorial Award at the West Essex Art Assoc. juried show at The Crane’s Mill Towne Square Gallery, West Caldwell.
- was awarded Third Place at the Alfa Art Gallery juried show in New Brunswick.
- received the Best in Show award at the “Art on the Avenue” juried art show, Caldwell.
- was given the Pastel Society of America Award at the Allied Artists of America juried show at the Salmagundi Club in NYC.
- The Tewksbury Historical Society gave 1st Place for Pastels in their juried show in Oldwick.
- received an Honorable Mention at the West Essex Art Association juried show and the Pastel Society of New Jersey juried show.
- was given the High Achievement Award in the Pascack Art Association juried show at the Ridgewood Art Institute, Ridgewood.
- received an Award of Excellence at the Livingston Arts Assoc. show in Livingston.
- was given the Allan J. Smith Memorial Award at the American Artists Professional League juried show at Salmagundi Club in NYC.
- was elected a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America.

Debbie Cusick
- received an Honorable Mention for her painting, “Back From Birding”, at “Well Worn”, the winter show of the Art Guild of Orange Park, FL. The show will hang at the Wehner School of the Arts in Middleburg, FL through March.
- Her acrylic painting, “I’m a little Teapot”, is currently hanging in the “Cat’s Meow” show at the 1037 Gallery in Jacksonville, FL. This is part of a fundraiser by the Jacksonville Artists Guild to raise money for the “No More Homeless Pets” group.
- joined with five other local pastelists in “Pastel it to the World”, a show celebrating the beauty and vibrancy of our chosen medium. The show will hang at the Park Avenue Bistro in Fleming Island, FL, through the middle of April.

Jeni Greenberg
- has two paintings in the Jack Richeson 75 Small Works Show, “End Of Summer” and “Cape Dunes.”
- is teaching The Pastel Still Life class at the Contemporary Art Center in Bedminster, and Passion For Pastels at Union County College.

Annette Hanna
- is displaying at Artetc Gallery, 2 Main Street, Hamburg, in “Feral”, a wildlife exhibit including several of Annette Hanna’s paintings. The show runs from January 17th through March 15th, 2015. For more information call Artetc at 973.600.9301.
- is exhibiting with members of the Morris County Art Association, at the Mayo Performing Art Center, South Street, Morristown. The show is in the Art Upstairs Gallery from January 20th to March 10th, 2015. The gallery is open to the public two hours prior to performances and by appointment. Call Charles Miller at 973-539-0345 ext. 6583.
- is exhibiting in a group exhibition at the Zufall Health Center, 18 West Blackwell Street, Dover. The exhibit “Home” is from December 15th, 2014 to March 31st, 2015.

Laurie Harden
- Six of her oil paintings will be included in a group exhibition called Feral at Artetc Gallery, 2 Main Street., Hamburg, from January 19th through February.
- Her pastels of musicians will be included in “JADE” (Jazz Art & Dinner Evening) at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship on Saturday, March 14th.
- Her oil painting “Alice” will be included in the Morris County Art Association Winter Show in the Art Upstairs Gallery at the Mayo Performing Art Center, South Street, Morristown. Dates are January 20th through March 10th.

Judy Leeds
- was honored four times for her painting “Hit That Note”. (See following).
- In September she was elected a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America.
- The painting was accepted into the 2014 PSA annual juried show.
- The painting received the Pastel Society of America award from the PSNJ for their 2014 juried show.
- The painting was accepted into the 2014 Catherine Lorillard Wolfe juried show.

Marge Levine
- Her painting, “A Walk in the Woods/Colchester” was accepted into the show, “Layer Upon Layer”. Signature 2015, Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod. The show will be held at the Cotuit Center for the Arts, from February 28th to March 29th, 2015.
- she was awarded the Connecticut Pastel Society Award for a Pastel, at the December 2014 Catharine Wolfe Art Club annual exhibit.

Carol Livingston
- has three paintings in the Rutgers University book, The Raritan River - Our Landscape our Legacy, just published in December, 2014. They are: “Poppies in the Field at Duke Farms,” “Autumn Morning - Basking Ridge” and “The Footbridge at Leonard J. Buck Gardens.” The works will be on display at Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery in Bernardsville beginning February 6th.

Dannielle Mick
- is presenting an exhibition featuring the work of her Lakeside Art Studio students. The show will be on display in the Art Upstairs Gallery at the Mayo Performing Art Center from April 20th to June 9th, 2015. Reception for the artists will be held on Sunday, May 3rd from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. It is free and open to the public.

Olya Powzaniuk
- participated by showing her painting “Solitare” in the 2015 Season opener, the Artsbridge Member Show, held in February at Prallsville Mill in Stockton.
Please follow these procedures when you submit your information for the June issue.

General members
If you have news items that you want published in the June issue, please submit your news items in a MS WORD document directly to Debbie Cusick no later than the 6th of the month prior to the publication month. Debbie’s email address is dcusickart@gmail.com.

Board members and committee members
If you have news items that you want published in the June issue, please submit your news items in a MS WORD document directly to Alan Gorelick no later than the 6th of the month prior to the publication month. Alan’s email address is alangorelick@comcast.net.

AWARDS:
Please include the name of painting and which organization gave the award, when, etc.

SHOWS:
Please include name of show, location, dates, times, etc. so our members can plan to attend!

Looking for an uninstructed studio space?
Members who cannot paint at home and are looking for a “non-classroom” alternative may consider taking advantage of “open studio” sessions offered by local art schools. These are usually low priced, are acceptable as independent work by PSNJ (for our juried show), and you can enjoy the company of fellow artists.

Uninstructed figure sessions throughout New Jersey can be linked from this list, including:
- Rahway Art Guild
- Ridgewood Art Institute
- Noyes Museum of Art
- Hunterdon Art Museum
- Ocean County Artists Guild
- and others

If you are already taking advantage of open studios please share your experience with other members on our Facebook Page.

Helpful Information:
Tutorials for preparing your digital images
Do you need help with preparing your digital files?
Check out the Pastel Society of America website. You will get some guidance on how to prepare your images by beaming into Image Preparation Tutorials by Christine Ivers, PSA (a new PSNJ member).

There are four PDF files:
- iPhoto 11
- Photoshop CS6
- Photoshop Elements 12
- Picasa 3.9

Follow the instructions for the software you are using and you will be creating beautiful digital images of your paintings in no time! Also while you are there, take a moment to look at the Pastel Society of America website to learn about their exhibitions and events.

Photographing your artwork for the web
Two 3-hour workshops are currently offered by the Montclair Art Museum’s Yard School of Art:
- on April 18th and August 9th.
Please see: https://montclairartmuseum.org/

Our 10th Anniversary... Share Your ideas!

So, how long have you been a member of the PSNJ?
Were you one of the Charter Members or joined us later? Did you take part in shaping our young society? Do you have thoughts of where we should go from here?

Do you marvel at some of our wonderful demos? Do you feel proud when you participate in our beautiful exhibitions?

Did you meet new pastel artists who later became your friends?
Think about it. What did we do before the PSNJ was established? Aren’t we lucky to be part of this wonderful society?

We are celebrating our 10th anniversary this year and we want our members to enjoy and actively share in the celebrations. We at the PSNJ board have some ideas but would love to hear from you as well.

How would you suggest we mark the occasion?
- Can you think of a way we can enhance our presence in NJ? Make the PSNJ, pastel medium, and art more known and sought after?
- Do you wish we held more events where we can have fun, enjoy art and get to know each other a little better?

Share your ideas with us, share them with your friends and, if you like, take part in making it happen by joining the 10th Anniversary Committee.

One focal point in this celebratory year is our dual show and Art Walk in two of Bernardsville’s prominent galleries, Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery and Gallery W, which we announced recently at our Annual Holiday Party (see article on pages 2 and 3). Here are additional ideas that were suggested during our recent board “brain storming” session.

Which of these appeals to you?
- Monthly paint-outs (plein air) at high traffic locations such as Branch Brook Park, the Presby Iris Garden and similar.
- A “paint-around” event and auction.
- An “Around the State” painting project where participating artists create a small section of a famous painting, to be assembled together at a party.
- A gala party for members and their guests, with food, dancing music, and perhaps a dancing performance or lesson or both. (In late fall, tickets)
- A slightly used material fair where members can sell/exchange their surplus materials.
- Promotional materials and articles highlighting our celebration and history.

Call me with your ideas and feedback at 973-994-7449 or e-mail me at: mbarkai1@comcast.net

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Michal

NEWSLETTER OF THE PASTEL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY • MARCH • 2015
A POPULAR QUESTION OFTEN ASKED IS, "CAN I EXHIBIT A PAINTING DONE IN A CLASS OR STUDIO WITH AN INSTRUCTOR?"

We are in a competitive art world. There are many art instructors offering classes. As artists we must ask ourselves, is our work truly ours if it is accomplished in someone's studio, under someone's instruction or helpful suggestions.

National and international art associations restrict any work done under anyone's help or supervision. Usually a prospectus states that even if the instructor does not help, comment or touch your work, but if he or she is in the studio, then your work is not eligible to be entered into competition.

PSNJ has adopted this criteria and therefore many artist/students are shy and discouraged to step into a studio to continue their studies. I see it in my own Debarry Studio Ten... the question is always the same, "Can work done here be exhibited?"

Preparation for a painting has always been a tried and true method for many successful artists to embrace. I believe that a studio, class or workshop is for instruction. In my own studies I have been trained in the academic/traditional approach to painting. This meant that all floral, still life or figurative setups were to be painted from direct observation with the light and shadows controlled, observation being of key importance. Students planned their paintings by working up thumbnail sketches, compositional sketches, black and white and monochromatic value studies. These were preparations for the 8"x10" or 9"x12" painting done in class/studio... all our design or value problems were solved in the small format. These small paintings along with the small studies were then taken home and a large painting was created. When working with one's own photo references of landscapes, same steps were taken such as small studies in black and white as well as color sketches.

My solution is simple... in the class/studio under some guidance, the artist should take time to plan a larger painting. Back in the home the artist is encouraged to work from the preliminaries to create a larger painting for a special exhibition. I feel this would meet anyone's criteria of working on their own painting and would keep everyone honest and true to him or her self.

Small paintings and sketches worked on in the studio with an instructor can be exhibited locally in libraries, boutiques, out door shows and also given as gifts on special occasions. The paintings done at home then could be entered into competition in PSNJ and other larger exhibitions. Again this would keep everyone honest. A studio space at home can be a small corner of a den, a bedroom or a kitchen table. Where there is integrity, honesty and will, there is a way... no excuses.

Debarry Studio Ten now has an expanded area "OPEN STUDIO" that can be isolated to accommodate up to 8 artists who wish to work without an instructor. This area is open at the same time as the class, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening.

Critiques and open studio could be scheduled in the studio but only the peers of the artist will observe and suggest changes if invited. The instructor will not see the painting until the exhibition or it is already framed with no changes possible.

Christina Debarry PSA