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## A Time for Reflection

From Lisa Gressen, President, AGTS-DV



Lisa Gressen,  
president

The seductive lure of summer beckons: lazy days at the beach, book at the ready, toes buried in the warm sand, cool azure tides lapping at the shore. Weekend excursions to museums or to visit loved ones. No homework. No buses. The chauffeur's hat (be it for children or grandchildren) retired for a few months. It is time to slow down, to take a moment to recoup from the vigorous school year and to reflect on another successful year of AGTS.

I am proud of and grateful to the board of directors for the great strides we made over the past year. Like a ship upon the waves, we steered the organization forward. We updated our bylaws, streamlined the board, set our support component up and running with six liaisons and thanks to Janice Miller, our New Chapter Development Coordinator, we added a **new chapter—Oxford Area School District!** Additional support elements such as letters for chapters to request funds from HSA/PTA/PTO were added to the preexisting recruitment materials online and we refashioned the Member Opportunity section of our website into a Member Bulletin Board; you'll still find all of the important information for members along with a **NEW password protected secure section to share presentation ideas.** (Look for more details about this exciting new component in the article "Member Bulletin Board: Sharing Presentation Ideas Is Here!" in this newsletter.)



John Kensett, "Sunset", 1872

Charting new waters, nine chapters participated in the digital database project with an additional chapter poised to join this year. Our Fast Facts Vetting Committee is looking for more members to help with the vetting of the reports submitted online for this project. Please contact me if you are interested in helping with this most important project. Also, the addition of a Donate button to our Facebook Page and our website will allow supporters of AGTS to donate using a credit card; clicking the button directs supporters to our website page where they will find the option to donate by credit card, PayPal or check and also to designate Art Goes To School of Delaware Valley as their nonprofit organization of choice on Amazon Smile.

It was not all seas of glass and sunsets—we traversed some rocky waters over the past year. The loss of several cherished members gave pause to reflect upon the bonds we forge and the connections we make with fellow chapter members, other chapters, schools, teachers, administrators, districts, communities and, most importantly, the students. Our impact is far reaching and enduring. I have always felt the best part of AGTS is how our volunteers from different backgrounds and generations become fast friends with fellow chapter members, whom they might not otherwise have been friends, based solely upon a love of art and of children. What we do is truly a labor of love—paid forward—often in ways in which we may never know or realize the true impact.

*continued on next page*



### “Women Artists in a Man-made World: Violet Oakley and her Circle”

A Lecture by Associate Professor of the History of Art & Director of the Fine Arts Division for Elizabethtown College

*Dr. Patricia Líkos Ricci*

**Monday, September 17, 2018**

**10:00 AM Chapter Chairman Meeting**

**- ALL MEMBERS WELCOME -**

**\*Violet Oakley Lecture will immediately follow the Chairman meeting**

**Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel  
8339 Old York Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027**

**Please join us for this special presentation!**

**RSVP with your Chapter name & number of attendees to:**

**Tina Whitlow ([tina.whitlow@artgoestoschool.org](mailto:tina.whitlow@artgoestoschool.org))**

**LIMITED SEATING! RSVP Required by August 15<sup>th</sup>**

Dr. Patricia Likos Ricci is the Director of the Fine Arts Division of Elizabethtown College, Associate Professor of the History of Art, and a member of the Women and Gender Studies faculty. She teaches courses in 18th and 19th century European and American art and a seminar on the Italian Renaissance. She has written and lectured extensively on the American Renaissance muralist Violet Oakley and was a commentator in the documentary film A Palace of Art: The Pennsylvania State Capitol produced by WITF. Her research focuses on late nineteenth-century American culture, American and European landscape painting, and the interaction of artists and scientists.

Violet Oakley (June 10, 1874 – February 25, 1961) was the first American woman to receive a public mural commission. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, she was renowned as a path breaker in mural decoration, a field that had been exclusively practiced by men. Oakley excelled at murals and stained glass designs that addressed themes from history and literature in Renaissance-revival styles.

The opportunity to make a positive contribution to the lives of hundreds of thousands of children each year is a privilege and an awesome responsibility. Our dedicated volunteers are special—passionate, committed and inspiring. I have had the privilege of visiting several of those amazing chapters over the past year and in previous years, and I am always impressed by their ingenuity and devotion to AGTS. Be sure to check out our new “Acknowledgements” section in this newsletter where memorials and honorariums are posted. **A heartfelt thank you goes out to the generosity of the Yohn, O’Connor and Selzer Families who designated AGTS as their choice for memorials and honorariums.** Their largesse is greatly appreciated.

Steering engines full throttle into the great blue, eyes on the horizon, a vast ocean behind us, there is so much more yet to do. We will continue to support our chapters, bring continuing education to our members and to encourage the bonds of connection between our chapters, the community, the professionals and the students in the districts we serve. I hope many of you were able to attend the June 15th dedication of the mural we painted at our October Event with the Mural Arts Program! In addition, there are several board support and board of directors positions needing to be filled, chiefly Vice President. Joining the board is the best way to have a say in how AGTS is run, the events offered to our membership and the future of our organization. Other positions needing to be filled include: New Chapter Development Co-Coordinator, Chapter Support Coordinator and Co-coordinator, Chapter Liaisons, and Technology Coordinator. Please consider stepping up, pitching in and taking on one of these positions!

Have a safe summer filled with sun, fun and John Kensett “Sunset” seas.

Artfully yours,  
*Lisa*



**Art Goes to School of Delaware Valley receives state funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.**

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Submit newsletter articles and photos to  
[colettehearn@artgoestoschool.org](mailto:colettehearn@artgoestoschool.org)

*A 501 (c) (3) organization providing art appreciation to elementary school children in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Central and Southern New Jersey*

## Art Goes to the Senior Center

*Submitted by Cindi Kimmel, Lititz*

**Painting discussed - Portrait of the Infanta Margarita (1653)  
Painted by Court Painter and Portrait artist, Diego Velázquez (1599-1660)  
Spanish - 27 x 22” Oil on Canvas - This painting resides in the Louvre in Paris**

After we finish presenting in the four local elementary schools each spring, the Art Goes to School members are able to take the portfolio to a few retirement homes in Lititz. This gives us the opportunity to share our knowledge and make connections with the older crowd. Their perspectives are sometimes different but many times similar to the school children - which is an interesting parallel of how art is enjoyed throughout life.

One of our visits recently was to the Lititz Senior Center by request of director, Kathy Ross, who is familiar with the benefits of our program. For this presentation, we have two volunteer presenters, both former Kissel Hill Elementary teachers - Sharon Riegel and MaryAnn Seitz. As they set up the art on display easels, the seniors are busy arriving, greeting one another and getting coffee. Several of them start playing card games or simply chat. At 9 am, Kathy introduces the program and Sharon begins using a microphone so all can hear. It is a larger crowd than the normal classroom size - about 45-50 seniors attend this Center three days a week. Some continue to play cards - it looks like an intense game - but most stop what they are doing and give their attention to the newcomers. Sharon asks them to vote on their favorite based on what they see first. At the end, she will request another vote to see if they’ve changed their minds.

Some have definite sight disadvantages but most can see better if we come closer, so the presenters walk each painting around the room as it is discussed. One gentleman describes what he sees to his totally blind companion, “you would like this one, its of the ocean.” Many hold the picture on either side and pull it near - “That is pretty,” says one woman. She is referencing a masterpiece by one of Spain’s greatest portrait artists and court painters, Diego Velázquez - of a little girl with blonde hair named Princess Margarita. Our presenters ask them the same question as we do the children - “how does a painter make eyes or jewelry sparkle?” We point out to the seniors the light and dark contrast of the subject and background. This little girl draws viewers in and later, it gets the most votes. One woman would like a framed picture of it to have at the center on the wall. The children in the schools have enjoyed this painting as well - the photographic quality makes her seem alive and this is appealing to both generations. The children see themselves but the seniors see their grandchildren as well as their own childhood memories in the image of the young child. We bring up some of the things we discuss with the children - including what it was like to be a princess in the 1600’s. Princess Margarita did not lead the life of a Disney Princess for sure! She was taught etiquette, history, language and thinking about the amount of time it would have taken her to have help to get dressed in multiple layers makes both the seniors and children gasp! Her destiny was most definitely pre-determined and she led a life fitting of the Queen she would become from the time she was little. “Captivating” comments one senior - as he views the beautiful color and gaze of her eyes.

Sometimes a painting will evoke a particular memory in a senior - which is neat to hear about. One man speaks of his Father, a history teacher, and is particularly interested in our mythology based artwork because of this connection. Another gentleman talks about his time in the Korean War based on a picture that reminds him of how he passed the time painting when off duty. A woman at one of the tables is busy coloring one of the now popular coloring books - she connects with one of our pieces that is hand-drawn in black ink and colored in. There is also a comment from a woman who use to take art lessons - painting both flowers and birds. The cost of a stamp today versus years ago comes up since one of our artists had a U.S. postage stamp made to honor his work - at the time it was 37 cents. “Now we have the Forever stamp and we don’t really know what the postage is,” comments our presenter MaryAnn and this draws a chuckle.

Art Goes to the Senior Center wraps up in about 45 minutes - a little shorter than in the schools. They’re a busy bunch with games, exercise class and EMT’s from Lititz who visit once a month and now walk through the room giving each of them free blood pressure checks! As we end, several seniors get up and walk closer to the paintings - it truly is like a museum - and many thank us for being there.

# What is special about AGTS?

Submitted by Jeana Mastrangeli, Methacton

"I am surprised that AGTS exists since art appreciation is built into the Pennsylvania art curriculum," mused a friend as we were chatting one afternoon. Oh, did I ever want to return a strong rebuttal—that AGTS serves a unique role in the school district because of A, B, and C. But because I had too many thoughts swirling through my mind, instead I muttered something like: "AGTS is an institution in Methacton. Parents tell me, when they learn that I am an AGTS volunteer, that their children always talk about the picture that wins the voting contest." I am glad that our students enjoy voting for their favorite picture, which then our chapter buys, frames, and gifts the winner to their school. Yet it takes a step into our sessions to gain an understanding how AGTS gives to the children and school district.

As children enter the classroom, the visual display of artwork, representing various cultures, time periods, and styles, grabs and captures their attention. Eyes light, imaginations spark, questions bubble forth, and ideas flow. Carla Tuhacek's open ended questions stir creativity, and here are a few of her favorites. After a compare and contrast of this year's portfolio's two townscapes, she asked "What would you do if you visited one of these towns?" A second grader replied that he would go shopping for sunglasses if he visited the Natalia Goncharova's *City Square*, because the colors were so bright! A few years ago she had asked the students, "Who would you rather meet walking down the street, Lady Teshat (whose mummy case was in our collection) or William Hogarth's *Shrimp Girl*?" A boy shot up his hand, "Lady Teshat...because how often do you get to meet a 3,000 year old girl?" And then there are the prints that elicit thoughtful responses. Last year, she inquired whether Ann Northup's mural, *One World*, a landscape with hundreds of people from every continent, was a fitting subject for its site, a school playground. The children explained that it's a good idea to have a mural like that on a playground because it reminds us that we should all get along and play together.

Years ago, as a new volunteer, I witnessed the power of art to reach out, touch, and engage. At that time our school district was almost homogenous white, and in my class, a sweet, little black face sat silently in a field of white. I picked up our Horace Phippen print and remarked, "This picture was painted by a special artist, a black artist born in West Chester. He is special in two ways. He wanted to paint so badly that he taught himself. Then, after his right hand was wounded in World War II, he continued to paint, by holding his right hand in his left, using the left hand to guide his right." When I segued into discussion, the little girl raised her hand. Then after, with the other prints, she continued to participate. This year, the same thing happened when discussing the public art sculpture, *El Grand Teatro de la Luna*. I asked for a Spanish speaker to translate the title that is inscribed on the sculpture. A little boy, who had been quiet, raised his hand and translated. Thereafter, he participated in our group discussion.

Our diverse portfolios offer the opportunity for students to share and show off their heritage. In one class, a Chinese-American student read the character symbols on a Chinese scroll, and in another, a student of Indian background told the story of Ganesha, the elephant headed Hindu Deity, to his classmates. One year our portfolio contained a Korean silk wall hanging with an ink drawn puppy. I had been wondering why a puppy; was it significant? When I displayed the picture to a third grade class, a young boy of Korean descent excitedly exclaimed, "That's a Jindo dog!" He informed us that a Jindo dog is a special dog in Korea that protects children and people.

For the extroverts, raising a hand takes too much time, but, without too much effort, even the shy students are willing to talk. One year, I picked up a print of an abstract artwork, an artwork not too colorful, and the children reacted negatively. I then pointed to a realistic artwork and explained, "This picture, this realistic scene, tells you what to see, for example, this is a dog, this is a house, and no one disagrees. On the other hand, an abstract print lets you see what you want to see." I then asked them, "What do **you** see in this print?" Every child raised an arm, and one by one, I listened to each one's imaginative visualization. I taught several classes in that school—all with the same scenario. When that picture won the voting, my chapter's reaction: "How did that picture win?!"

In an AGTS session, whatever the method the volunteer uses, the children look and talk. When we encourage the children to look closely, wonder, and articulate, we waken their minds and foster visual thinking skills. Whereas our one hour sessions, once a year, cannot imitate in depth the methods that Amy Herman uses in her course, "*The Art of Perception*," (see winter 2018 newsletter), our classes demonstrate that art is an excellent medium to kindle highly desired observational and assessment skills. For example, a favorite game, opening doors of a poster board that covers a print helps the children focus on details and then invites deduction. Underneath this year's poster board cover for Thomas Nast's *Christmas Eve '62*, the doors hid an American flag, a snowy tree branch, a ship at sea, and a snow covered town. Carla Tuhacek asked a group of second graders what they thought the picture might be about, given those few visual clues. A boy guessed that it was about the Revolutionary War, because of the flag, ship, and snow. When she removed the cover and revealed the print, they saw the words "Christmas Eve '62" and changed their guess to the Civil War.

Very importantly, there is the fun aspect, as Methacton's newest volunteer, Kellie Gehring learned. The day after she taught her first class, she was helping her daughter's teacher when a first grader sidled up to her and gushed, "AGTS was really fun yesterday when you taught." Donna San Felice summarized, "We enjoy art. I did have the cutest boy in one of my classes - he got so excited and said –*This is GREAT!...AI I I could think was that he would be a future curator*"

How do we accomplish so much when we are in the classroom once a year? The key is that our sessions are voluntary. The children relax and have fun with the art, without an exam looming. Consequently barriers lower. The children talk, play games, and share their perspectives. Besides, our portfolios touch on many aspects of life, giving something for everyone. Our typical questions– What do you see? What do you think? Why do you say that? How does this picture make you feel? – encourage our children to see, assess, justify, and articulate. Moreover, we are fortunate to have a volunteer force from varied walks of life that brings unique experiences, knowledge and points of view. Think about it. Under the umbrella of art appreciation, we enjoy art, expand cultural horizons, encourage personal expression, and promote important lifelong skills. AGTS is special!

# Upcoming & Current Board Positions Needing To Be Filled

## Vice President (2019-2021)

Board Position, Officer; Two year term; Expected to assume presidency at end of term

Requirements:

· Attend board meetings, events and two mandatory chairmen meetings (September Chairman's Council Meeting and June Portfolio Exchange)

Responsibilities:

· Work collaboratively with the board to Schedule and plan yearly Calendar of Events including:

· September Chairman meeting speaker

· October lecture/activity

· November Networking Meeting in conjunction with the portfolio committee

· May lecture/activity

· June Portfolio Exchange (scheduling with KI only—the portfolio committee is in charge of organizing the event)

· Represent AGTS-DV at events when the president is unable to attend

## Technology Coordinator (immediate need)

Board Position, Non-Officer

· Attend all board meetings and two Chapter two mandatory chairmen meetings (September Chairman's Council Meeting and June Portfolio Exchange)

Events attendance encouraged

· Technology integration, education and training for chapters and organization

· Provide Social Media content, online presence, updates and other technological assistance

· Daily content for Facebook posts and create events

· Website updates as needed

· Digital database integration—assist Fast Facts Vetting Committee to compile reports

· Organize and Maintain AGTS-DV Google Drive

## New Chapter Development & Support—Co-Chairmen; SUPPORT (2 positions open)

Board Position, Non-Officer

· Convene bi-yearly meetings with Chapter Liaisons and yearly regional meetings

· Field chapter requests for help

· Train and oversee Chapter Liaisons

· Report progress and status to the board of directors

· Compile and archive documentation

## New Chapter Development & Support—Co-Chairman; DEVELOPMENT (1 position open)

Board Position, Non-Officer

· Train under current New Chapter Development Co-chairman

· Attend bi-yearly meetings with Chapter Liaisons

· Field requests for new chapters and assess need

· Facilitate establishment of new chapter with administrators, teachers and staff

· Give presentations to show what we do

· Train new chapter chairmen and volunteers

· Report progress and status to the board of directors

· Compile and archive documentation

## Chapter Liaisons/Regional Reps

### [3 Positions open—one each in region 3 (Northwest), region 4 (Southeast) and region 5 (Southwest)]

Non-Board Support Position

· Attend bi-yearly New Chapter Development & Support Meetings and one regional meeting

· Touch base with chapters in your region on a yearly basis

· Assess chapter needs

· Help facilitate a solution and plan of action for the chapter

· Document interactions

· Report progress to the New Chapter Development & Chapter Support Chairmen

## Fast Facts Vetting Committee (4 positions open)

· Review/fact check submitted fast facts reports for inclusion into the Digital/On-line Database

· Attend one board meeting per year to report on progress

· Work with other members of the vetting committee to avoid duplication of efforts—good communication a must!



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018 - 2019

### Monday, September 17, 2018

#### **Chapter Chairman Meeting ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**

"Regional Chapter Representation"

**10:00 am Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, PA**

\* Fall Lecture immediately following the meeting

#### **"Women Artists in a Man-made World: Violet Oakley and her Circle"**

**by Patricia Likos Ricci**- Associate Professor of the History of Art & Director of the Fine Arts Division for Elizabethtown College

**LIMITED SEATING! RSVP Required by August 15<sup>th</sup>.**



### Wednesday, October 10, 2018

#### **Lecture & Tours**

#### **"Charles Demuth & the Art of Lancaster County" by Dr. Jan Mindish**

Demuth & Lancaster Museum of Art- Board Member & Education Coordinator

**10:00 am The Lancaster Museum of Art**

**135 N Lime St, Lancaster, PA 17602**

#### **Tours of the Charles Demuth House and Lancaster Museum of Art:**

After the lecture, groups will be divided into guided tours of both the Demuth house and the Lancaster Museum of Art. Maps will be provided for nearby Gallery Row and lunch destinations.

**Registration and \$5.00 per person FEE required by September 10<sup>th</sup>.**



### Wednesday, November 14, 2018

#### **Networking Meeting**

#### **The Evolution of Art: From Early Man to Modern Times**

**10:00 am William Penn Inn, Gwynedd, PA**

**Registration & \$10.00 per person FEE required by October 17.**

**SILENT BOOK AUCTION FUNDRAISER will be held during this event from 9:15-11:00 am**



### Wednesday, May 8, 2019

#### **Lecture & Tour**

#### **"Dedicated, Displayed, Discovered- Celebrating the Region's School Art Collections"**

**by Adrienne Neszmelyi-Romano**, Director of Interpretation & Innovation James A. Michener Museum

**10:00 am James A. Michener Art Museum 138 S. Pine Street Doylestown, PA 18901**

Docent led tours of the museum will follow the lecture.

**RSVP required by April 8, 2019**

### Monday, June 3, 2019

#### **Portfolio Exchange**

**10:00 am Keneseth Israel (KI), Elkins Park PA**



## Jennifer Hansen Rolli

### The Journey of an Artist

*Submitted by Carol Borzumato, Council Rock*

Embrace every moment as you go along. This was the mantra Jennifer Hansen Rolli lived by on her professional journey from Graphic Artist to Oil Painter, to Children's Author and Illustrator. As a child this self-proclaimed "Tomboy" enjoyed the freedom of running in the fields and exploring abandoned farms while growing up in Yardley, PA. A freedom she admits she still struggles to bring to her work. It did give her a life-long love and connection with Nature. Being the youngest of five children she says, "taught her to land on her feet". Her father was an Engineer and an accomplished Oil Painter in his own right. Despite being a strict, no nonsense Father, he was to become a huge influence on her artistic life. As a child she struggled with her relationship with her two older brothers. The oldest fell victim to drugs and her brother Bill was a schizophrenic. Jennifer felt embarrassed by her brothers until she realized that they did not define her. She realized, "I am who I am".

When she was 6 years old and started school, she was thrilled to have "real" art supplies. At home she was only able scrounge an occasional pencil. She drew a picture of a girl with a big head. She brought it home and her Father saw it and thought it was good enough to enter in an Art Contest. When they went to see the show, she found a big Blue Ribbon on her picture! And then she was handed an envelope with a dollar in it. She immediately went to WaWa and bought 4 big chocolate candy bars. That sealed the deal, she decided she would become an Artist if it meant she could buy chocolate!

A few years later her father surprised her by giving her an art box. She realized how special this was. It wasn't her birthday or any special holiday, it was very atypical of her Father. From that time forward, she and her father bonded through their mutual love of painting. They would set their easels up outside and paint Plein Air. She was amazed that her Father could have such a free, impressionistic style considering his professional life required such detail and precision. That freedom of expression is something that she still struggles with. Sadly, her Father died years ago of Alzheimer's. Often when she is painting today she, "hears him speaking to me".

She continued her Art Education at Kutztown College. After graduation she went to New York City to work as a Graphic Artist. The best thing about the company was that it had a large window that overlooked Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley's Penthouse! Even that voyeurism was not enough to keep her in NYC making \$8.50/hour. She returned to Philadelphia and opened her own Graphic Design studio, **Hansen Design**. She ran the company for 15 years. She received many awards for her design work. After 15 years the design business was going towards web design which she was not interested in. She says she is not afraid to take risks. When her husband had a chance for a job in Maryland, she decided they should take it! It was a difficult move, she had no support system. A neighbor asked her to paint a mural and this led her to painting murals in model homes. Even though she feels you should, "embrace every moment as you go along", she had had enough of mural painting! She moved back to Bucks County in 2004 determined to become a respected Painter. She brought her portfolio to many galleries and was turned down by gallery after gallery. Finally, the last one she tried, Bucks Fine Arts in Newtown, loved her work! At her first show she arrived late and was chastised by the owner! Two of her paintings had sold! At that time, she painted with a very earth-tone pallet. In her second show she was featured in the window! Eventually she had a turning point with her style; started using more vibrant colors, liked to show more movement and direct the movement, more use of light and dark. She found painting on cardboard freed her. She joked this was because like her Dad she is cheap! Her style became more Impressionistic. She started to do some portrait painting. She likes to paint, women, children, interiors (especially barns) and cows (no horses!).

Her time at the Bucks Gallery came to an end after 8 years. She decided to mount her own shows. She approached builders who had renovated old farm houses and hung her paintings. The shows were a great success, however, involved a lot of work. She needed to add more lighting and do her own promoting. She finally decided it wasn't worth all the work. Her style had evolved again, her brush strokes were looser, and she had more emotion and movement in her work. While her own shows could not be categorized as a failure, she has the philosophy that, "Failure is just another step".

She was approached by Joan Perks of the Silverman Gallery who asked her to be part of a four artists showcase! Today she shows at the Silverman and a gallery at the Jersey Shore.

When she had children of her own she started to revisit picture books. She researched "how to do" on the internet. She watched the way kids act. "Just one more", was a constant plea from all kids. She wrote and illustrated "Just One More". She sent it out to many publishers and got soundly rejected! She realized she needed an Agent. She was surprised how young the agent Writer's House assigned to her. The Agent sent her manuscript to 10 publisher's and Penguin replied right away. Right away they asked why she wasn't doing her illustration in oils rather than Photoshop. This was a relief to her as that was her preferred medium. She likes to paint on brown craft paper. To get the positions and facial expressions she hires real kids. *Just One More* is a huge success. *Claudia and the Moth* has just come out and is doing well. She was approached by her publisher to illustrate a book by the well know children's author Erin Danielle Russell. She said she gets to do the fun part! The result is: *How to Trick the Tooth Fairy*. She has been amazed at the promotion Simon and Schuster has put forth for this book!

For her own part she enjoys going to schools to talk about her books and the making of books. She is eager to get back to painting. Currently her painting grace to cover of *Bucks County Magazine*.

She says, "My Dad taught me to be a worker". I think Dad would be very proud!



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# Member Bulletin Board: Sharing Presentation Ideas Online Is Here!

Submitted by Lisa Gressen

You've asked for it and now it's here! Check out our new "Member Bulletin Board" section on our website (previously "Member Opportunities"). This section still contains information and items of interest to our membership but in addition, **there is a password protected secure section where members may share presentation ideas.**

Here's how it works:

- Email Lisa Gressen at [lisagressen@artgoestoschool.org](mailto:lisagressen@artgoestoschool.org) for the password.
- Go to the home Page of our website ([www.artgoestoschool.org](http://www.artgoestoschool.org)).
- Click on the "Member information" tab at the top of the home page
- Scroll to and select "Member Bulletin Board".
- The Member Bulletin Board page will open. Scroll to the middle of the page and click on the BLUE secure login button; type in the password in the box when prompted.
- The Secure Member Bulletin Board page will open with a link to access our Google Drive.
- Click the link and you will see three folders: "Coloring Pages", "General Presentations" and "Portfolio Specific Presentations".
- Select the folder which best suits your needs.
- Feel free to download presentation ideas or to upload your ideas to share with other chapter members.

Please take some time to review the presentation ideas uploaded already and to provide feedback! *Preferred format for uploading files is PDF. However, if you have a presentation that may need to be altered as the composition of the portfolio evolves, Word format is also acceptable.*

# The Making of a Portfolio

Submitted By Gail Wellington, PC Committee, Spring-Ford

Do you ever wonder how your AGTS portfolio is put together? It may appear, at first, that it is just a collection of works of art from various time periods. This is true – except it is not at all random. Instead, it is a carefully thought out collection with an objective of meeting several criteria. The obvious are a variety of time periods, medium, artistic genres, and styles. Less obvious are inclusions of works that share a similarity of theme, of medium, of palette, etc. to facilitate "compare and contrast" discussions. Here are some examples from portfolio #8.

- Three pictures relate to farming but are painted at different times and in different styles: Man with Hoe, Millet, 1860; Hay Harvest at Eragny, Pissaro, 1901; Corn Husking, Boldac, 1973.
- More dramatic in style differences are three that show the ocean: Sinbad the Sailor, Klee, 1923; Signac and Friends, Bonard, 1927; Fog Warning, Homer, 1885.
- Composition similarities between an ancient Egyptian fresco and She Ba, Bearden.
- Similarity in color palette, genre, and time period but dramatically different in painting technique: Blue Atmosphere, Frankenthaler, 1963 and Football Players, de Stael, 1952. The former is painted with very thin paint which was allowed to run and the latter with very thick paint applied with a pallet knife.

So consider the thoughtfulness that went into the make-up of each portfolio before you start reaching for those supplements\* and making substitutions. Instead, try to see the objectives the portfolio committee used when creating the mix and try to see how you can make it work for your chapter.

*\*Why is a print a supplement? Supplements are prints that have been removed from portfolios because of poor condition such as scratches, dirt, fading and/or poor tape quality.*



**"Charles Demuth & the Art of Lancaster County"**  
By Board Member & Education Coordinator  
Demuth and Lancaster Museum of Art

*Dr. Jan Mindish*

**Wednesday, October 10, 2018  
10:00 AM  
Lecture & Tours**

**Location: The Lancaster Museum of Art  
135 N Lime St, Lancaster, PA 17602**

**Tours of the Charles Demuth Museum  
and The Lancaster Museum of Art will follow the Lecture.**

The Demuth Museum was established in 1981 to preserve and promote the art of Charles Demuth (1883-1935). As a leader of the American Modernist movement, Demuth is best known as a pioneer of the Precisionist style and a master watercolorist. Demuth's Lancaster, Pennsylvania home, now the museum, functioned as Demuth's permanent studio throughout his lifetime.

Since 1965, **The Lancaster Museum of Art** is recognized as one of the largest cultural organizations in the region responsible for an extensive collection of works by contemporary regional artists. Originally started as a gallery at Franklin & Marshall College known as the Goethean Hall Gallery of Art, the museum is now located in the historically significant 1845-46 Grubb Family Mansion. The LMOA offers diverse educational programs and enhanced curriculum in the visual arts.

Parking near Lancaster Museum of Art - Duke St. Parking Garage 150 N Duke St. Lancaster PA 17603

Parking near Demuth House – East King St. Parking Garage 150 E King St Lancaster PA 17602  
Meter parking also available.

**Please join us for this special event!**  
**RSVP with your Chapter name and number of attendees to:**  
**Tina Whitlow ([tina.whitlow@artgoestoschool.org](mailto:tina.whitlow@artgoestoschool.org))**  
**Registration and \$5.00 per person FEE required.**  
**BY September 10, 2018**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### *Memorariums*



Happy Birthday to **Cereda Selzer**, a devoted member of our Cheltenham Chapter since 2005! Reflecting upon her motivation for joining AGTS, Cereda said, "After retirement, I joined AGTS because I wanted to stay in touch with teaching. I had been lucky enough to have volunteers in my classroom from AGTS and valued the lessons the children were fortunate to hear. I wanted to be part of continuing that program, so joined the Cheltenham Chapter. I have never been disappointed. I don't know who gets more out of the presentations, the children or the volunteer, perhaps all." Cereda's family generously designated AGTS as their donation recipient in lieu of gifts and in tribute of her milestone birthday. (We won't say which one!) Thank you to Cereda and her friends and family for thinking of AGTS. Your service to AGTS, your thoughtfulness and your generosity are so very much appreciated. We are honored to be included in the celebration of your special day!

### *Memorials* 2018

**Helen Yohn**, January 26<sup>th</sup>. A former member of our Owen J. Roberts chapter, Helen was an artist, gardener, musician, and AGTS enthusiast. Fellow chapter members remember her as "a vivacious and wonderful leader"; Helen's love of art lives on in the many children whose lives she touched as an AGTS volunteer. We are so very thankful and flattered that the Yohn family chose AGTS as their memorial gift recipient. Our deepest sympathy is with the Yohn family and our Owen J. Roberts Chapter.



**Patricia Lewis**, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Co-chair and Great Valley Chapter member since 1983, Pat "had many interests and passions, including art and children!" recalls chapter chairman, Connie Ferris Meyer. "Without Pat at our side, AGTS Great Valley would not have functioned or existed. For about 15 years Pat and I were 'roomies' on the European Art Trips we took together with others in our Great Valley group. Pat called me 'bunkie' and I loved every minute I spent with her either across the pond or here in the USA. We were a team. AGTS will never be the same without her right next to me." Fellow member, Jane Palmer, writes, "It has been a privilege and a blessing to share a friendship with Pat Lewis. Her love of art and the desire to share that with the students in Great Valley school district was an inspiration to the members of our AGTS chapter. She also loved to travel to see the "original" works of art during our AGTS trips. I remember Pat as a strong, intelligent, caring woman of inner beauty...a good friend." We appreciate Pat's many years of dedicated service to AGTS. Our sincerest condolences go out to her family and to our Great Valley Chapter.



**Nancy O'Connor**, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A member of our Lititz Chapter of AGTS since 2002, Nancy had a real love of life and an "attitude of gratitude" that she brought to her interactions with others. She was creative and loved learning about artists, visiting museums and traveling. Chapter chairman, Cindi Kimmel described her as "a dear friend -one who thought about others first. She loved the AGTS program and was dedicated to researching paintings - planning visits to take pictures and studying details that we could present to the children. Nancy was generous with her time and had a love of creating life experiences - she will be greatly missed by our group." Fellow chapter member Sharon Riegel recalls, "Nancy was an avid art enthusiast, student, and educator. Nancy was loving, compassionate, and generous. Nancy walked her talk. She lived her life with a quiet yet impactful grace and dignity. Her life will always be an inspiration to me." We are so grateful for Nancy's devotion to AGTS and appreciative to her family for requesting donations to be sent to AGTS in lieu of flowers. Our hearts and sincerest sympathy are with her family and with our Lititz chapter.

## AGTS Goes To The Library

*Submitted by Denise Rogers - Souderton*

The Indian Valley Public Library (IVPL) invited the Souderton Chapter of Art Goes to School of Delaware Valley to create a presentation for adult patrons. We began the planning process in February. On May 3rd, four chapter members brought 12 portfolio pieces covering the Renaissance to present day. We exhibited the prints on easels around the room creating a mini art museum.

"The Canvas Tells a Story" connected stories of overcoming adversity, everyday life, and the historical events and developments in technology that shaped each painting. Our goal was to allow the participants to view art as a narrative of the greater journey of the artist's life.

The team created a PowerPoint presentation including artist's name, date of the piece, self-portrait/photo, some related pieces, and even a flash-mob reenactment of "The Night Watch" to announce the reopening of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. Lines were superimposed over Vermeer's "Milkmaid" to explain his technique for perspective, and a link to "Tim's Vermeer" (Tim Jenison's effort to duplicate the painting techniques of Johannes Vermeer) was shared on a handout with other links including the AGTS website. Special appreciation to Lauren Pfender, IVPL librarian, who gathered a collection of books and videos on several of the artists to allow attendees to see the variety of resources offered at our library.

We included an explanation about AGTS, and one participant expressed interest in shadowing one of our members during a classroom presentation. Hopefully, we'll gain a new member in the fall!



# Art Goes To School ANNUAL SILENT BOOK AUCTION

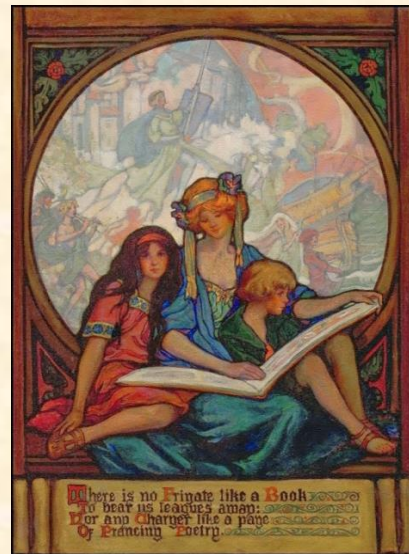
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

William Penn Inn, Networking Workshop

9:15 - 11:00AM



A Child's Garden of Verses, Jesse Wilcox-Smith, 1905



There is No Frigate Like a Book, Violet Oakley, ca. 1900

- New & Vintage Fine Arts Books and related media available for bidding
- All items donated by AGTS members & AGTS friends
- The Annual Silent Book Auction is a Fundraiser
- All proceeds applied directly toward Networking costs!
- CASH or CHECKS ONLY, please!
- Thank you for your consideration!

## DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Please contact: Danielle Golden  
[daniellegolden@artgoestoschool.org](mailto:daniellegolden@artgoestoschool.org)  
P: 908-507-7071

Donations of Fine Art Books Gratefully Accepted  
at Council Meetings and Events



The Astronomy Lesson, Steven Seward, 2007

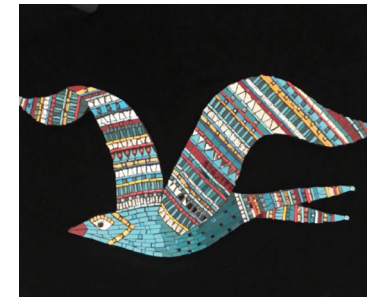
## Regina Coyle Mosaicist

Submitted by Alma Nowmos, Methacton

The Methacton chapter of AGTS is proud to announce that one of our own members, Regina Coyle, was very excited to have had her first solo art show this spring. Regina displayed 45 mosaic pieces at The Art Studio in Lansdale and was pleased that she sold three pieces – a very successful show. Regina met the studio owner, Roxanne Slemmer, through a mosaic Facebook page and they became fast friends, living only five minutes from each other.



The Methacton chapter was treated to a preview of Regina's work at a social event at her home recently. She has creatively decorated with faux transom stained glass windows above doorways and window using mirrors to reflect light. Her display pieces include beautifully colored mosaics of birds, flowers, stylized animals, fish, mermaids and adorned musical instruments. Her mosaic pieces demonstrate her creativity, original design and very talented ability to use color and shapes. How wonderful it is to have an artist included in our trooping activity to add her own experiences and insight into the classroom discussions. Regina kindly answers some questions for us.



### When did you start working with mosaics?

My husband and I bought a Cape Cod style house with oddly shaped windows that I didn't know how to decorate. My neighbor suggested I have stained glass windows made for them. Not being able to afford them, I took a class, fell in love with glass and made them myself. Ten years later with lots of scrap glass and no more windows to adorn, I taught myself how to make a mosaic. Making mosaics then became a passion of mine, and I plan to continue my work for the rest of my life.

### How do you come up with your ideas?

I've been extremely fortunate that I have had a few very good clients who have commissioned me for pieces such as a funky cat, a mermaid, flying birds, a sun. This forced me to create new designs. Often time it takes me just as long to come up with the concept drawing as it does to actually lay the glass.

### How do you go about creating a mosaic? How long does it take?

Every mosaic starts with a drawing in my sketch book. I then project the image to my substrate (wedi board which is a waterproof, rigid foam board coated with cement) so I can make a cut-out of the shape using a jig saw. A 16" x 16" piece takes about 20 hours to complete but can vary depending on the intricacy of the design. My biggest piece is 3' x 4' and took approximately 60 hours to make.

### How do you choose your colors/designs?

I love everything about the look of glass, and sometimes it is as if the glass calls to me and I am just in the mood to play with certain colors. I love to combine mirrored, translucent and opaque sheet glass materials together with smalti, recycled glass tiles, glass rods and millefiori beads to make mosaics of objects from everyday life. I also love the color red, and my personal philosophy is that every piece should have at least a little red in it.

### Do you have a favorite piece? If so, what is it and why?

I can't say I have a favorite piece although I definitely like some pieces more than others. I have yet to make a mosaic that I'm 100% satisfied with. There is always something that I would do a little differently which is probably why I have done many cats, flowers, butterflies and birds.

### What is the biggest challenge when creating a mosaic? The greatest reward?

My biggest challenge is finishing a piece. I'm always excited to get started. Midway through I am still motivated because I can see where the piece is going. Once I can visualize the end, typically I become bored and want to start working on something else. The biggest reward is having a happy client. Often times the happy client is me. At last count I have over 55 pieces of my art in my home.

### What inspires you as an artist?

My inspiration comes from the simple joys and beauty in life. I like to make pieces that I think are cheerful, happy and whimsical.

### What advice do you have for aspiring artists?

Never wait to be inspired. Go to your studio, art room or pull out your sketch book and start creating. Inspiration will follow when the materials are in your hand.

### Has working with mosaics influenced how you approach an AGTS class?

I tend to be drawn to an artist's art work once I know their life story. I can't resist admiring and being drawn to the artist who were rejected by their critics but persevered and continued to make art simply because they needed to make art. I think there are many inspiring life lessons in some of their stories, and I make an effort to share those stories with the kids.

# Mural Arts Tour of Philadelphia


Submitted by Maria Kelly, Central Bucks

What a fun day for Central Bucks and many other AGTS-DV chapters touring the murals in Philadelphia and painting a panel for a future mural. [The completed mural is now finished and entitled "The Stage," was dedicated June 14, 2018 at 5-7 PM at The Drake on Hicks Street.] We were divided into small groups. Our red group first donned protective plastic aprons and blue rubber gloves so we could paint our section of the future mural. After that was finished, we walked with our guide, Evie, to Wilt "Dippy" Chamberlain's mural at 13th and Vine then on to David Mc Shane's large mural of the Flower Show across from the Convention Center. This mural was sponsored by the Philadelphia Horticultural Society. From there we walked to Michael Webb's "Tree of Knowledge" and Josh Sarantitis and Katherine Pannepacker's "Finding Home" mural.

I found "Finding Home" most impressive. "Finding Home" is colorful and eye-catching with 200 woven place mats completed by homeless individuals, who wrote their stories on strips of cloth woven into place mats that were then woven into the mural. The mural depicts a person weaving, many hands united, and the words DIGNITY and INVISIBLE bent to make one side read VISIBLE.

Then on to 12th and Chestnut to Shepard Fairey's "Rhythm and Diversity," which looks like a DJ playing a record on an old-fashioned record-player. The words "LONG PLAY and PHILLY DJs" appear on the bottom of the mural. We stopped in City Hall's courtyard and then on to view Joe Brown's sculpture, "Ben Franklin and His Printing Press," which is part of our portfolio this year. Loved his large feet!

The next mural was the whimsical "How to Turn Anything into Something Else" at Broad and Race Streets, created by Miss Rockaway Armada. From there we walked to Broad and Vine for our last mural, Meg Saligman's, 6,500 square foot "Evolving Face of Nursing." Ms. Saligman used red, orange, and purple LED lights to create one image by day and a different one at night. Working everyday nurses donated the money to pay for this mural that is designed to honor the different roles of nurses. Altogether an enjoyable day, but there are so many more murals to see. Philadelphia is currently the unofficial world capital of murals with over 4000.



**MICHENER ART MUSEUM**

Proud partner with the James A. Michener Art Museum since 1994. Each year, the James A. Michener Art Museum generously donates prints from their permanent collection along with curriculum materials and information on the artists for inclusion into our portfolios. There are currently 13 chapters who receive these works: Central Bucks, Council Rock, Pennsbury, Morrisville, Centennial in Bucks County; Upper Dublin, Lower Moreland, Norristown, Cheltenham, North Penn, Upper Moreland in Montgomery County; Northeast Philadelphia RSVP in Philadelphia County and Hunterdon County in New Jersey. Art Goes To School is so very grateful to the James A. Michener Art Museum for their years of largess! For more information about the Michener Art Museum please visit their website: [www.michenerartmuseum.org](http://www.michenerartmuseum.org)

# Mural Arts Program Dedication of "The Stage"

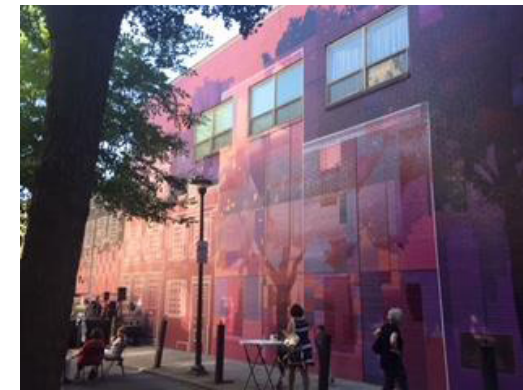
Submitted by Lisa Gressen

Shakespeare famously wrote, "All the world's a stage". That sentiment inspired the newest Philadelphia mural, "The Stage", which our membership was lucky enough to have a hand in painting last October. But you will not see those famous lines on the mural which contains forty-two excerpts of text (twenty-one from Philadelphia playwrights) from a variety of plays associated with the InterAct Theatre Company where the mural was installed. InterAct is known for contemporary, original performances and the new mural adorning their building was designed to "turn an exterior wall into an abstract set for a play" according to the MAP website. Artist Felix St. Fort, a graduate of the University of the Arts, designed the mural to reflect the rowhomes and atmosphere of the neighborhood in which it resides. However, he depicts the trees taller than the cityscape as a "nod to the future" and the growth of the arts. Additionally, the subtle lines of fragmented text that appear throughout the mural celebrate the history of the theatre where the mural makes its home. These words were hand painted by assistants including Marcus Hines, who supervised the painting at our October Event. After the parachute cloth sections we helped to paint were adhered to the building, more detail and layering was added and lastly, the text.

I was fortunate to attend the dedication of Philadelphia's 4001st mural on June 14th with one of my chapter members, Beth Rogers. It was a production befitting its title. Local artists performed—including the incomparable Jeannie Brooks (a Grammy award winning multi-genre vocalist who has sung back up with Bon Jovi and Bruce Springsteen among others)—and local vendors provided food and refreshment. Jane Golden and Ellen Soloff from MAP were there in addition to Kelly Lee, Chief Cultural Officer of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, Seth Rosin, Artistic Director of InterAct Theatre, the artist, Felix St. Fort and his assistants, Marcus Hines, Malachi Floyd, Molly Lawrence and Morgan Shankweiler.

I was grateful to have been a part of the creation of such a meaningful and beautiful mural. It truly encompasses the spirit of what we do—bringing art with all its complexity and nuance to others, while often incorporating other mediums into the experience. I hope you will take the time to visit this gem of a mural located at 302 South Hicks Street in Philadelphia.

Please visit [www.muralarts.org/artworks/the-stage/](http://www.muralarts.org/artworks/the-stage/) for more information about "The Stage".



Artist Felix St. Fort with assistants Marcus Hines, Molly Lawrence and Malachi Floyd (not pictured: Morgan Shankweiler)



Beth Rogers & Lisa Gressen (Council Rock Chapter)



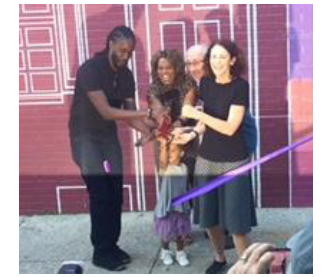
Jeannie Brooks performing



Ellen Soloff, Dir. Of Tours & Merchandise and Jane Golden, founder of MAP



"The Stage" detail



Felix St. Fort, Kelly Lee, Seth Rosin and Jane Golden cut the ribbon

# CHOOSE AGTS WITH SMILE.AMAZON.COM

Submitted by Mary Donaldson, Council Rock

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