

Wilmette Arts Guild

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The Wilmette Arts Guild encourages, supports and promotes the development of the visual arts in a welcoming spirit of creative community.

December 15, 2008

Dear Friends,

Once a year we ask for your financial support. We need your donation, now more than ever. Times are tough but so is the Wilmette Arts Guild. We have been helping artists develop themselves and market their art for over twenty years! Small gifts can add up to a great sum. We are all aware of the times. Please do the best you can for us. We will give it back a hundred fold to our North Shore community.

We wish to recognize Judy Kaplan, Hecky Powell and Terri Small for service above and beyond. Elliot Silbert and Mimika Papavasiliou of What's Happening! continue to help us every month, as do Julie Yusim and Karen Dorman of the Wilmette Chamber of Commerce. The members of the DBR Chamber of Commerce have been unstinting in their financial support of the WAG Newsletter. Truly when we were in need, they were friends in deed. Isn't it lovely to know that such people exist?

You've seen what we can do. It really takes so little. Please help us keep going. We have a gorgeous public art project that we really want to get started on so that it can be unveiled at the Festival of Fine Arts in the Fall. All of you will be able to participate or at least watch it develop!

Next holiday season we have a fun gala planned incorporating excellent musicians playing Hadyn's Toy Symphony, L. Mozart's Sleigh Ride and other exuberant favorites conducted by Jim Kendros of the Lake Forest Symphony with the toy instruments played by YOU! This "sparkling" evening, art show and concert is not to be missed! If we can find the funding we will do a matinee for the children as well.

Thanks with all our hearts for whatever amount you can send. Happy Holidays and all good things to you in the New Year!

The Board of the Wilmette Arts Guild

Julie Ressler

Julie Ressler, President



W.A.G. Board of Directors

This is what we do:
 Wilmette Arts Guild Newsletter
 Monthly Critiques
 Artist Mentoring
 Taste of Wilmette
 Chamber of Commerce
 B to B Networking
 Wilmette French Market
 Student Art Show
 College Scholarship
 Photography Show
 Wilmette Fine Arts Festival
 Member's Art Show
 Galleries Program
 Movies on the Arts
 Demos in All Media



MISSION STATEMENT: The Wilmette Arts Guild encourages, supports and promotes the development of the visual arts in a welcoming spirit of creative community.

Calendar of Programs

October 2008

Phil Simmons of the Wilmette Fine Arts Commission informs us of the following events in October:

October 2008 is Arts Awareness Month in Wilmette. Support local programs sponsored by the Wilmette Fine Arts Commission!

Oct. 3rd - Wilmette Fine Arts Commission Photography Show Opening from 5:30-7:30PM - North Shore Community Bank, 1145 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette.

Oct. 10-11th Wilmette Public Library Virginia Scribner Mallard, *Colors & Cultures*.

Oct. 11-12th Lincolnwood Village Hall 10AM - 5PM Works by David Zober will be shown. Meet the artist at the "Lincolnwood Day of the Arts" on Sunday Nov. 2nd which will include a concert by the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra at 3PM followed by a reception. Call 815-761-1125.

Oct. 17-18th Wilmette Public Library WAG discussion of the arts Group: 9:30 AM is suggested time - various art topics

Nov. through Oct. 18th Lindsay Brown's "Rings" at Renaissance Gallery, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago.

Through Nov. 30th The Paintings of Margaret E. Riggs to celebrate the opening of the new offices of Dr. James Kohl, 1625 Sheridan Rd., Wilmette. Come during any business hours!

Oct. 17th - Lake County Fine Arts Gallery - 383 Center St. Suite 3, Grayville, IL. Grand Opening of a new gallery by two WAG members, Kristina Schroeder & Laura Hellen. 5:00-9:00PM. www.lakearts.com

Oct. 4th - Oct. 19th 2-4PM - SPN Jantzen Gallery, Regenstein Center, Chicago Botanic Garden Second Annual Student Biennial Arts Exhibition Reception Oct. 3rd 6-8PM

Calls for Art

Support the arts! WAG needs new members: artists and non-artists, all are welcome. Application on inside of the back page of the Newsletter.

All Photography Show Photographers for Wilmette Arts Guild First at the Wilmette Public Library, Dec 1 - Dec 30th. Opening Night Party 7:30A

SparkShore-Indignity App. Due 10/10 Drop off: 10-21 Show Dates: 10/23-12/15. Call: 847-446-2870

American Watercolor Society - The Annual Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society is juried by Signature Members who have been elected by the membership. It is the purpose of the Society to promote the art of watercolor painting and to exhibit annually works from the best contemporary watercolorists. Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 15th for details visit: www.AmericanWatercolorSociety.org

WAG Photographers Non-juried show in December Call Patricia Orton for details (847) 912-7187.

"Make Your Mark" sponsored by Dale Rowney. Open to all artists of all skill levels and ages. Deadline: 12/01/08 www.artcompetition.com

"Pastels Chicago 2009" 2nd Biennial National Juried Exhibition, Feb. 3 - Mar. 27-29 at Koshlinski Museum of Art, Des Plaines, Illinois. Soft pastels only; slides or digital images. \$1,500.00 Best of Show with \$8,000 in cash and merchandise awards. *Jane of Selection and Awards - Doug Dawson, P.A. Master Pastelist and 2008 Hall of Fame Inductee. Members \$30/Non-members \$35 up to three images. Image deadline postmarked November 22. Prospectus: www.chicagopastel.org* or send \$10 SASE to: Mike Barrett Koshlinski, 4124 North Monticello, Chicago, Illinois 60618.

Abe Lincoln 200th Anniversary February 12, 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The Cliff Dwellers Club of Chicago is sponsoring an exhibition. Drop off your canvases for selection at Frame Warehouse, Evanston, IL.



Wilmette Arts Guild
 L'œil de Ouilmette, 2008

Photography Show
 Wilmette Public Library
 December 2 - January 27
 Sparkling Reception Dec. 5th
 5:00 - 7:30PM
 PLEASE COME!
 847-256-2080



Photos by Jonathan Roob

When Spirit Informs Art: Bjorklunden Chapel

by Marge Meyers Graham



On the wall above the elaborately carved baptismal font, Grandma frescoed the Biblical passage that inspired her most of all: "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God; arise therefore and build ye the Sanctuary of the Lord God." She did just that in her lifetime. She spent nine long years, including the span of World War II, to build her private sanctuary of peace and prayer in the north woods of Door County, Wisconsin. It remains intact today, thanks to the loving ministrations of Lawrence University and their dedicated Boynton Society.

So here I am, in Grandma's chapel at Bjorklunden vid Sjon (Norwegian for "birch trees by the water"), at dawn with my cup of tea. As the daylight creeps in the open door, it illuminates that key passage which instructed or empowered her to create this beautiful sanctuary, where I was both baptized and married. It is here in her chapel that I feel my grandmother's presence most strongly, sitting inside the work of her hands and listening for her spirit's guidance. Years ago I felt her encouraging me to follow my dream of creating a retreat center dedicated to inspiring and nurturing creativity in other women, and so I opened A Woman's Place in New Buffalo, Michigan. Now I'm engaged in developing programs centered on creativity for The Wilmette Arts Guild.

I feel a sensation of "turning the tapestry over." As I look at my personal tapestry, I can see the mostly messy working side of my life so far; it is a bit chaotic and full of multicolored loose ends. But for this moment, I seem to be able to look at the "finished" side, and to check my life's progress. How are the pieces fitting together? While I'm here at Bjorklunden for a few days of my own personal creativity retreat, I can let Grandma lead me and feed me. Perhaps she has become like my personal Mother Goddess, or one of them - the source of life and birth and my guide toward death. I will turn 60 next January, and cronehood is definitely upon me, in the best sense. I am feeling more and more able to understand where I fit in and how all my parts work together. I'm bursting with ideas and desires and dreams, and some of them are suddenly manifesting in my new, unsought role as president of Wilmette's Arts Guild.

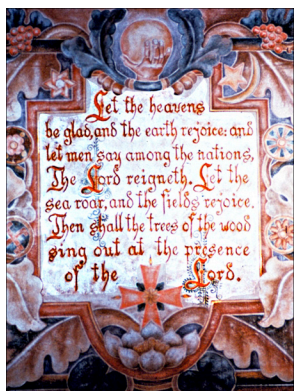
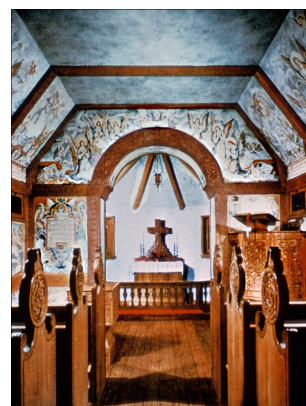
Grandma told her amazing story in her book Faith Builds a Chapel and I've tried to spread her story and her beliefs as a sort of grand daughterly disciple. One summer I taught a week-long Lawrence seminar up here completely devoted to the Chapel, and at home I occasionally present a slide lecture based on her book. My hope is to inspire art-lovers to venture up to Baileys Harbor to experience the Chapel for themselves.

Because of my fascination with female creativity, I see feminine and nature-based (pagan) imagery throughout Grandma's non-denominational Chapel. Dedicated to world peace, she refused to portray any scenes of violence, including the crucifixion of Christ. Within the frescoes and carvings of Biblical stories and her favorite scriptures are juxtaposed images from medieval Nordic tales, embellished with animals ranging from bear cubs to dragons. Around all of it grows abundant flowering and fertile vegetation. And the most eclectic touch of all was her inclusion of her pet dogs, Paddle and Jigger, as well as our family members disguised as angels and cherubs.

When I was in eighth grade, my mother, sister and I attended a special ceremony at the Norwegian Consulate where my lovely and soft-spoken grandmother was awarded a large medal sent from the King of Norway for her special contribution to Norwegian Culture.

Grandma Boynton's Bjorklunden Chapel in Door County is as inspiring and beautiful today as ever, and it's little wonder that I continue to feel grateful to her everlasting spirit for her unique female spiritual expression, vision and creativity.

A personal meditation at dawn written on June 14, 2005 in the Boynton Chapel at Bjorklunden vid Sjon, Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin.



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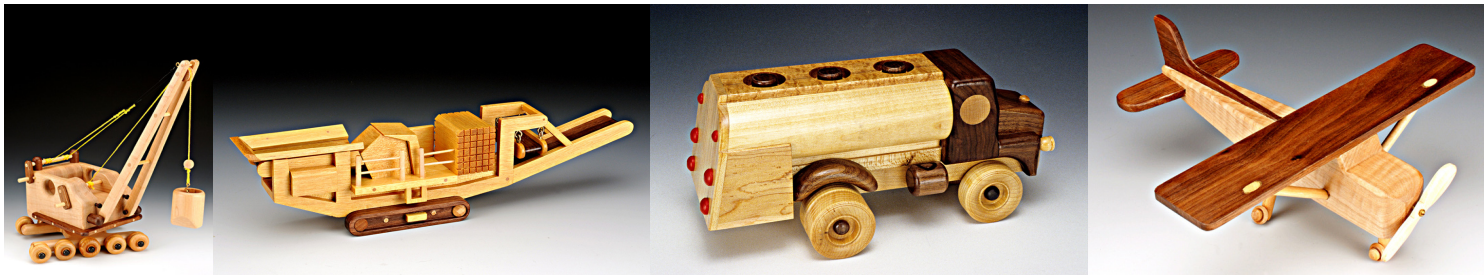
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Carole and Ed Schmidt Wooden Toymakers

Carole and Ed Schmidt have been designing and building these beautiful wooden toys for about thirty-five years. Ed designs and builds and Carole finishes them in their studio in Reynoldsburg Ohio. Ed says that there are only five or six wooden toymakers left compared to the dozens when they began.

Ed uses walnut, cherry, hard and soft maples and red elm. They are very careful that the exotic woods like bubinga, zebra, satinwood, and purple heart are not on the endangered list and they buy from reputable dealers. One of the most interesting is cardinal wood that is bright red with a pungent smell. Many of the shows that they exhibit in also have enforced regulations about what woods may and may not be used. Carole then applies DEFT nitrocellulose based lacquer that is child safe, dries quickly and protects the natural beauty of the woods. Each toy gets two or three coats by hand depending on the absorbency of the type of wood.

Ed and Carole try to keep the prices within reason \$25 for an airplane up to \$3500 for the Noahs Arc which has fifteen pair of carved animals! They do take commissions from companies and a minimum of fifteen pieces. The road crusher was such a piece. Ed said he has had a passion for machines since he was a boy working on a farm. Those big machines just seemed so wonderful to him. They seem so wonderful to us also and are the heartfelt delight of children of all ages.

(614) 866-6499 toysnstuff@aol.com

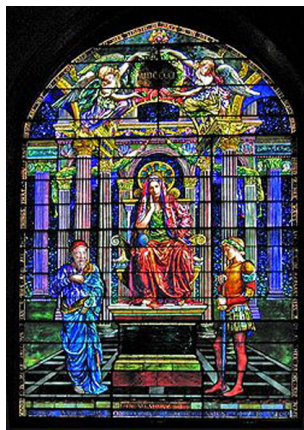


Stained Glass 101

John La Farge and Louis Comfort Tiffany

by Michelle Chiara

When we think of stained glass, we think of the art of combining small pieces of colored glass together to create a picture or a pattern. Thanks to the innovative efforts of John La Farge and Louis Comfort Tiffany in the late 1800s and early 1900s, glass artists today have a wide range of colors and textures to work with.



**Figure of Wisdom
by John La Farge**

bottom of the bubble were cut off; the cylinder was split and then opened into a flat sheet. The Norman slab was invented in the 19th century. In this method a long bubble of glass was blown into a rectangular mold with the sides then divided into separate slabs. Today we can produce glass by squeezing the semi-molten mixture between metal rollers to create a flat ribbon of glass known as rolled glass. We can also ladle the molten glass onto a slab and spread it out sometimes mixing different colors of glass together.



**Magnolias and Irises
Tiffany Studio ca. 1908**



**Table Lamp and Shade
Tiffany Studio ca. 1900**

wine bottle or piece of glass as ordinary ever again. Twenty years ago, I was "just going to do this one piece." Ha!

All glass is made from the mineral silica, which can be sand, quartz crystal or flint, mixed with a flux, a material that will help the grains of silica bond together when heated. The silica, the flux and any colorings are mixed together and then heated until they are molten. The molten glass can be blown, shaped or rolled on a slab. The glass must then be cooled and annealed (reheated) to relieve the internal stresses in the glass. Un-annealed glass is liable to crack or shatter at even the smallest temperature change or mechanical shock. The end product is a sheet of glass that can then be cut with a carbide glass cutter, ground to fit a particular piece of a pattern, and joined to other pieces with lead or copper to form a window, a lamp or a three dimensional work of art.

Originally all glass was hand blown. One method was to pick up a glob of molten glass on the end of a blowpipe, blow it into a round bubble which was then spun rapidly until a flat disc with a central bull's eye was created. To make muff or cylinder glass, the glass most commonly used in stained glass; the artisan elongated the bubble into a cylinder by swinging it. The top and

In its natural form glass is slightly greenish, yellowish or bluish depending on the impurities in the raw materials. Chemicals can make the glass more transparent or change the color. Various metal oxides produce glass that is colored all the way through. Copper oxides produce blue-green glass, gold produces red or ruby, cobalt makes blue, manganese oxide yields purple and iron oxide results in various shades of green.

In Medieval times, the glass artist used glass that was monochromatic. The artful picture was then painted with oils or other media. Since the paint interfered with the translucency of the glass, simplicity was best.

Textures can be impressed on a sheet of glass by passing the still molten sheet of glass through patterned rollers. Water glass shows the undulations of a lake or pond. Glue Chip glass looks feathered or like frost on a window. This is made by applying a thin layer of animal hide glue to transparent glass and then heating it in an oven. As the glue dries, it pulls away from the glass surface and chips it.

Today glass paint is actually finely ground glass that is mixed with metallic oxides and a liquid mixing agent such as water or gum arabic. After applying the paint the glass needs to be heated to have the paint permanently adhere.

The Richard H Driehaus Gallery at Navy Pier has an extraordinary collection featuring thirteen windows produced by the Tiffany workshop from 1890-1930. These illustrate various techniques magnificently – drapery glass, opalescent, etched and enameled glass. The relationship between the different colors, the densities of layers and the techniques applied combine to create extraordinary luminescence and vibrancy of color and detail. It is magnificent!

Chicagoans love stained glass. The Chicago Cultural Center has grand examples, but even in modest neighborhoods there are little brilliant touches in windows and doorways. If you would like to try it yourself, there are studios all over the area that will teach you and sell you supplies. Be warned in advance, Addiction is likely! You will never look at a



Glass Shop, Tiffany Studios, 1913



**Hibiscus and Parrots
Tiffany Studios ca 1910**



**View of Oyster Bay
Tiffany Studios ca 1908**

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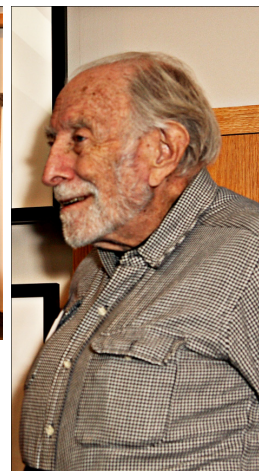
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