

# CAPE MAY COUNTY ART LEAGUE

EST. 1929

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010

### Featured Artist

#### Jim Abele



I interviewed Jim Abele in his home, which he built 12 years ago, and where he lives with his wife Dottie. Jim, a long-time CMCAL member, was Director of the Art League's Prickly Pear Gallery for over a year. His paintings can be seen at the William Ris Gallery in Stone Harbor, and at his studio at 27 Delair, Townbank.

CMCAL: At what age did you start "making art"?

Jim: I was 25 years old. It was my late wife's idea. She thought I would make a good artist, so she bought me a set of oil paints. I tried them and I was hooked. I've been painting ever since. I studied under Hal Singer and Maggie Weston, and I've also taken classes at Fleisher.

CMCAL: Why is oils your favorite medium?

Jim: I like the texture of oils. I love to paint using a palette knife for the most part, with some brush. I'm also archival – I think about my paintings lasting for years, so I stretch my own canvas and use copper tacks instead of staples. If the piece requires gessoing, whether on canvas or panels, I do that myself, too. I've enjoyed teaching oil painting as well. I've also done stained glass. I started 18 years ago and have taught it in my studio. I did my own designs, did some commissions and sold a lot.

CMCAL: What are some of your other favorite pastimes?

Jim: Music. I have a full-sized keyboard in my studio. I played accordion for years. I was in a trio for 20 years, and we performed at weddings and in nightclubs in the Burlington County area. We

played dinner music, old standards, 30's, 40's and 50's tunes. I've even played the Hammond organ at "The Inn" in Villas. I also like metal detecting, because I'm very interested in old coins. I've found several valuable coins over the years, one of which I just sold for \$600.

CMCAL: Have you always lived in New Jersey?

Jim: Yes, I was born in Burlington, NJ. I still have family there – brothers and children. I lived there until 1989, when I moved to Cape May County. I was married at 17; my wife was 16. We had four children, two boys, two girls. I now have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. My father was German, and his father, my grandfather, was a starving artist! My Italian mother sang a lot – everything was music with her. So my love of art and music is rooted in my family.

CMCAL: What is the most interesting place you've been to in the last five years?

Jim: Well, I've traveled all over Florida, and I love the Keys, but most interesting to me are my family reunions in Pittsburgh. My mother's family is there. She was one of 11 children, so there are lots of cousins and we have a great time when we get together.

CMCAL: What do you consider your best accomplishment?

Jim- Maintaining a business for 40 years. It started as a masonry business and turned into building homes. We went by "Abele Construction". My dad started the business, then my brother and I joined him. Later, my brother went into real estate, and my dad left the business to me. Another great accomplishment was raising four children, one of them being mentally challenged. He is 53 now and is such a kind and loving person. He lives in a medical group home.

CMCAL: What are your goals for the future?

Jim: Being a diabetic for 29 years, I'd like to maintain my health for a long time so I can plein air paint, which I love to do.

CMCAL: Jim, it has been a real pleasure to visit with you. You are truly a self-made man. Your versatility, creativity and connection with nature astound me. You have that talent of making something out of nothing, too. Like the fallen branches that you pick up on your walks and make into walking sticks. I'm sure I am one of many who hope you continue making art for a long, long time.



## A Message from the President



Happily we're now into the early stages of summer and, after a rather cold and dreary winter, our Art League program is into full swing. Well over 200 persons enjoyed the June Juried Show Reception at the Pierson Gallery and I again want to thank Gail Pierson for her friendship and support of the CMCAL. And a special "thank you" to our Juried Show team—Anna Marie Zabielski, Laurie Schiffelbein and Toni Vosika— for all of their effective effort! If you missed the reception be sure to stop into the Pierson Gallery to see the 80 wonderful pieces prepared by the members of the League. The show hangs during the month of June.

We have a paint out scheduled for June 16 which may have already taken place by the time you read this—thank you Sue McIntyre for making this happen! And planning for our signature event, the September Mall Show, is well underway by Anne Gibboni with assistance from Dani Barnsby. I have received several "wonderful" comments from League members regarding the newsletter that you are now reading. Well folks, this newsletter is published "solo" several times each year by our Dani Barnsby! So the next time you see Dani be sure to tell her how much you appreciate the time and energy that she puts into this aspect of our League program.

Perhaps more so than in recent years we have welcomed a record number of new members into the League and we are delighted to include their names in what is an ever growing membership roster. Be sure to ask your non-member artist friends to consider joining the Cape May County Art League! To whet their appetite just invite them to read through our website at [www.capemaycountyartleague.com](http://www.capemaycountyartleague.com) where they can download a membership application.

To you and to yours, best wishes for a pleasant and safe summer season.

*Arthur*

June Show Registration: (L to R) John Safrit, Laurie Schiffelbein, Toni Vosika, Anna Marie Zabielski

A Proclamation – presented to Gail Pierson by our President, Art Joblin

### The Cape May County Art League May, 2010

*Whereas* Ms. Gail Pierson has created the Gail Pierson Gallery in Cape May City, and  
*Whereas* Gail Pierson has graciously opened her Gallery as a home for the June Juried Show of the Cape May County Art League, and  
*Whereas* Gail Pierson is engaging the Art League in detailed planning for a continuing opportunity for Art League members to showcase their work at the Gail Pierson Gallery  
*Therefore* be it resolved that the one hundred and forty members of the Cape May County Art League offer to Gail Pierson their warmest wishes for every success of the Gail Pierson Gallery and extend to her their grateful appreciation for her strong and continuing support of the Cape May County Art League.

Arthur Joblin, President

Laurie Schiffelbein, Secretary

### Welcome New and Returning Members!

Judy Austermilller, Warren Betty, Catherine Bosna, Charlotte Carney, Geoff Coe, Joan D'Avanzo, Anne Gibboni, Judith Gollatz-Morgan, Debanne Macaluso, Roy Meyer, Henry Sawyer Inn, Patricia Neville, Harlow & Dottie Pearson, Leonard Sachar, Mike Sperlak, Sturdy Savings Bank



*Congratulations ! to our  
Scholarship Winners:*

*Rebecca McCann  
Heather Lesko  
Brook Parker*

*All graduating from  
Lower Cape May Regional H.S.*

## Member Happenings

**Glenn Fellenbaum** had a successful show at the Mad Batter in Cape May during the month of April.

**Sue McIntyre and Margarita Abrolat** won Best of Show in the pastel(non-professional) and oil(professional) categories, respectively, at the June Senior Show at Crest Haven in CMCH. **Toni Vosika** won first place in photography(professional).

**Betty Campbell** (pastels, woodturning) is showing in the main dining room at the Mad Batter in Cape May with **Anita Roth** (photographer). The reception is on July 11th from 3 to 4:30 and the show continues until Aug. 11th.

Second Sundays of every month there is an artist reception from 1 to 2:30 at the Artists Co op, West End Garage. July 11 - **Jody Swope**, 3-D art and sculpture, **Diana Cutshall**, hand beaded jewelry, and pottery; Aug 8 - **Rich Flanagan**, Pastels, **Diane Flanagan**, stained and fused glass; Sept 12 - **Judy Ballinger**, painted silk, hand bound books, **Betty Campbell**, Hand turned wood bowls, pastels

Cape May Point resident **John Safrit** is the featured artist at Ristorante A Ca Mia through September. An opening reception will be held at the restaurant on Saturday, June 19 from 1pm to 4pm.

**Reta Sweeney** Judge for the Plein Aire Competition in Millville June 12 and 13. Philadelphia Sketch Club Annual Members Show, Newman Galleries, 1625 Walnut Street, Philadelphia., June 12 to July 9. Medford Art Center, Works on Paper 2010, June 4 to July 8, 22 Gallery, 236 S. 22nd Street, Philadelphia, 22 Artists in the Open, a plein aire landscape show, June 11 to July 2. Artists Equity, 61st Annual Members Show, 16 High Street, Pottstown, PA, May 24 to August 6

**Margaret Heuges** is now represented by Ris Gallery, Stone Harbor. Upcoming shows are: June 6 - Medford Village, June 27 - Avalon Community Arts, July 10, 11 - Haddonfield Arts and Crafts, July 24 - Art in the Park, West Cape May  
Teaching: September Pastel Painting Sea Isle City Library

**Stan Sperlak** was recently awarded signature status (PSA) in the Pastel Society of America. This is one of the highest honors one can achieve in the pastel medium. Stan continues his summer workshop schedule with 3 day workshops in Stone Harbor June 27 and July 8 and Goshen on September 19. More information can be found at [www.stansperlak.com](http://www.stansperlak.com) He is also scheduled for solo shows August 7<sup>th</sup> at the William Ris Gallery in Stone Harbor and September 11<sup>th</sup> at SOMA Gallery in Cape May.

**Carol King Hood** is now painting what is called "Live Event Painting", she goes to weddings and paints the event live. She was recently hired as an instructor for the Grumbacher Educational Program by Chartpak, Inc. She will teach painting in the Michaels Arts & Crafts Store in Rio Grande starting in August.

**Peg Dittmar** exhibits: June, July, Aug, Sept. Art on Asbury (Ocean City Fine Arts League) 6th & Asbury Ave. Ocean City; June 27th Avalon Performing Arts Show (30th St. Ave.); July 9,10,11 Cape May Art Show; Aug. 7 & 8 Barnabas Art Group Show, 10 to 6. 2723 Bay Drive, Fishing Creek, N.J.

**Christine Peck** will be in the following shows: Cape May Promenade Show July 9, 10, 11, Art in the Park, July 24 and August 21, and the Cape May Mall show, September 25, 26.

**Karen Frattali** - Workshops-- at the Lancaster Co Art Center- June 24-25 (Utilizing Technology to Enhance the Painterly Process), July 15-16 Basic Watercolor for teens, Avalon Free Library Sept 25 Making a Customized Greeting Card from a watercolor painting. Exhibitions- Lancaster County Art Association Member Show, Pennsylvania Watercolor Society Member Show, Solo Exhibition at the Iron Horse Inn, Strasburg, PA, solo exhibition at Marco's Restaurant, Wilmington, DE.

"of Earth" an art exhibit by local artists **Tina Giaimo** and **Janet Payne** will be on display at the Nature Center of Cape May. A meet the artists reception will be held on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 8:30pm. The show runs through August.

**Charlotte Carney** will be teaching a fine art painting class (oil and acrylic) on Thursdays 12:30 to 3:15 at the Ventnor City Cultural Arts Center in Ventnor, NJ. She will also be teaching the fine art class on Thursday mornings for the summer camp at the art center., and a new decorative painting class for the summer months on Tuesday evenings 6:30 to 8:00 at the vccac. Info: 823-7952 or 703-6001.

**Geoff Coe** - New member & Philly-area native, Geoff is a professional wildlife photographer who exhibits widely in Florida. He's spending half of the summer in Bethany Beach and Stone Harbor to begin developing some local work for the exhibition. He's recently won second prize in the Florida's Birding and Fotofest competition, and one of his photographs was recently published in the Member Showcase publication of the North American Nature Photographers Association, recognized as one of the top 250 nature shots of 2009.

**Debra Kayata**, Ocean City Arts Center Annual Juried Photography Show, Award: Honorable Mention; Ocean City Fine Arts League, Anything Goes Exhibit, Award: Best In Photography Category

**Victoria Papale** recently gave an Art History Lecture (with a demonstration) on the Art History of Greece from the Minoan Culture to the Hellenistic Period. and their use of the four earth tones...Tetrachromy.

Eight graphic aerial photographs by **Blair Seitz** have recently been installed each as a 12' long mural as architectural elements in the new Geisinger Medical Center's Advanced Medical building in Danville, PA.

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[www.capemaycountyartleague.com](http://www.capemaycountyartleague.com)  
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**Saturday, May 29, 2010, June Juried Show Reception,  
Gail Pierson Gallery, Washington St, Cape May**

