



Floral Park Art League

NEWSLETTER

April 2013

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Juried Competition and NYRA Equestrian Competition - May 6th

Our Juried Show and Annual Equestrian Competition will be held on May 6th at the American Legion Hall in Floral Park. **Paintings must be dropped off starting at 7 PM with no exceptions. JUDGING WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM.** The deadline for entering this competition is April 30th. In conjunction with our Juried Art Show on May 6th the NYRA will hold a separate painting competition, "The Equestrian". Members of the Floral Park Art League will submit any artwork that features a horse or horses. If you wish you may submit two paintings for this competition. The artwork does not have to be of racing horses (although it could be). A landscape with a horse or horses would also be appropriate. On Sunday, June 9th an Official from the NYRA will award a "Certificate of Recognition" to the winner and their painting will hang at the Clubhouse of Belmont Park for the season. The Juried Art Competition will be separate from "The Equestrian" and the winner of either would not be effected by the other.

While the judge, who will be Bart DeCeglie, is judging these competitions we will go to the basement of the American Legion Hall and enjoy refreshments and lively conversation. Good luck to all who will be in the competition. Only members will be able to participate in either one or both

of these competitions. If you are not a member, or wish to become one, an application is attached with appropriate fees which must be postmarked by April 30, 2013



Annual Belmont Stakes Show and Sale - June 8th and 9th

This year's Spring Show and Sale will again be sponsored by the New York Racing Association in conjunction with the Belmont Stakes. The Belmont Stakes Day for Floral Park will be held on the afternoon of June 8th from 2PM until? This day is well attended by the folks of Floral Park. We will have a manned booth to encourage people to visit us at Memorial Park. We will have a raffle of works of some of our artists. This sponsorship will include publicity in local papers, and, hopefully attract more participation in our Show and Sale. The Show will be held at Memorial Park, Tulip and Plainfield Ave., Floral Park – Saturday and Sunday, June 8th and 9th. There is no limit to the number of paintings an artist may display within a reasonable space. Please be considerate of the other artists regarding space. Prints are allowed for sale, but must be marked "PRINT". No nudes, collages, or photography are permitted. Set up will be before 10 AM each day. If the weather isn't clear, please use your own discretion. There are no rain dates. **NO PAINTINGS ARE TO BE REMOVED BEFORE 4 PM.**

Only member artists with dues paid and postmarked by April 30th, 2013 may participate.

If you know of an artist who is not a member who might be interested in participating, you may pass on the application that is attached to this newsletter. Hopefully the weather will cooperate to make this a wonderful event.

March Demo - Marlene Bezich



Our guest artist on April 1st was Marlene Bezich. We were not disappointed by her demo – which in fact did catch the soul of her subject.

As with most artists, she sketched her subject first by using her usual choices of burnt sienna or yellow ochre hard pastels. The sketch was indeed sketchy and we watched as she chose blues, violet, red, etc. to create her picture of her dog. I myself sat mystified as to how she was going to pull this off to duplicate the original photo of a golden tan dog. I must admit we all marveled how she created an image of the dog that was authentic and artful.

Marlene was chatty and pleasant, invited questions and explained clearly the reasons for her choice of colors. She explained that when doing a work for clients it will take quite a few sittings, as well as photos and many hours to complete her work. She does this by working for a while on a commission and then turning it to the wall to work on another subject. Marlene can work on a few paintings at a time giving her a chance to digest just what has to be done to get the results she is looking for.

The works she set up for display were extraordinary. She indeed “got it right!”. Again refreshment were on hand for the enjoyment of all. Thanks to Pat Lee and Dorothy Webster.



Marlene giving some pointers at the end of the demo.

Bart DeCeglie - Judging at our May 6th Competitions



We are happy to announce that the judge for our Juried and the Annual Equestrian Competition will be Bart DeCeglie. Bart is a self-employed free lance artist who has been successful doing comp illustrations, finished art and oil paintings for many years. He has had and kept many clients in both consumer and pharmaceutical agencies. He has had success selling his finished art not only in New York but also in Florida, Michigan and Italy. The mediums he uses are markers, watercolor, gouache, acrylics, pen and ink, pastels and oil

Bart has been a freelance illustrator for the last 25 years. He has taught at FIT, Pratt Insitute, Cumberland Center and *plein air* throughout New York. Bart teaches at the National Art League in

Douglaston on Saturday mornings. For information call 516 578-5379.

Happenings of the FPAL - May 2012 - August 2012

May 6 th	Juried Competition & Annual NYRA Equestrian Competition American Legion Hall, 15 Elizabeth Street, Floral Park - 7:30
June 8 th & 9 th	Annual Belmont Stakes Spring Show & Sale - 10 AM - 4 PM Memorial Park, Corner of Tulip & Plainfields Aves., Floral Park
July & August	No meetings



We are grateful to the
New York Racing
Association
for sponsoring our Fall
and Spring Shows

*All meetings in the American Legion Hall will begin at 7:30 PM with a business meeting and refreshments. The demo's will start at 8 PM.

Membership in the FPAL

Membership in the Floral Park Art League is for September 1st, 2012 through August 31, 2013. Membership dues are not like a subscription to a magazine. You must be a paid member to participate in the Spring and Fall Art Show and Sale, as well as, the Juried Competition in May. It also includes free demos throughout the year as well as a Newsletter and membership card entitling members for special discounts at both Utrecht and Dick Blick Art Suppliers. If you are interested in becoming a member, and participating in our Juried Competition and Equestrian Contest in May, as well as, our Annual Belmont Stakes Spring Show and Sale in June please see the attached forms for registration.

Detailed directions to the American Legion Hall from the Cross Island Parkway

From Cross Island Parkway - Exit Jamaica Ave., Jericho Tpke., East. Make a right on 25 (Jericho Tpke). Go approximately 1 mile to **S Tyson Ave.** Make a right and go 2 blocks to **Elizabeth Street**, make a left. The American Legion Hall is a white building, #15, directly across from the John Lewis Childs Elementary School's main entrance.

Events Available to Floral Park Art League Members

- 1. Tony La Marca**, a member of the Floral Park Art League as well as president of the **Suburban Art League of LI** has graciously invited any FPAL members to attend any of the demo's at the Woodbury Community Center, which is located at the Syosset - Woodbury Park in Woodbury, NY. You may contact Tony directly by calling 516 334-2551. The demo, the last of the season is on Tuesday, June 4th, 8 PM - demoing will be Paul Bachem - oil landscape (There was an error in the March Newsletter)
- 2. The Art League of Long Island's 46th Annual Art in the Park** June 1 & 2 from 10 AM - 5 PM at Heckscher Park, Application deadline is May 10th, 2013. For more information, their e-mail address artleagueli.org or call them at 631 462-5400.
- 3. Long Island Academy of Arts (LIAFA)** Registration is now open - Classes run from Monday, April 8 - Sunday, June 2, 2013. Visit the new web site www.liafa.com to view the schedule or call 646 508-7645 for more information.
- 4. Bart DeCeglia** will be teaching at the National Art League in Douglaston on Saturday mornings. For information call 516 578-5379

Spinoza and Me

You might wonder what a 17th century Dutch-Jewish philosopher has to do with art. For me it all started in Philosophy 101 at Victoria College. Roger Bishop, our prof, had brilliantly taken us through Plato, Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Rene Descartes, but when Baruch Spinoza came up I found my kind of guy. I loved his ideas about nature. To Spinoza, a reasonable religious study would be that of our universe and all the natural wonder and laws within it.

I got a B+ for "Spinoza and the Natural Order," which I produced on my new Underwood portable. It was my first typewritten paper and it was probably pretty weak. Nevertheless, if I ever find it again, I'd like to look at it. I now realize the profound effect Spinoza had on my thinking, my painting, as well as my prejudices and attitudes that readers have sometimes noted.

Baruch (or Benedict) Spinoza (1632-1677) was born in Amsterdam in a period of relative tolerance and freethinking. With the early death of his father and elder brother, their fruit importing business declined and failed. Young Baruch was unable to keep it together. At age 24, for some unknown blasphemy, he was banished from the synagogue. This event had the effect of releasing him to correspond with thinkers from all over Europe. Alive to the world around him, Spinoza was in at the very birth of the Enlightenment. Supporting himself by grinding microscope and telescope lenses, he studied widely, wrote ardently, and died at age 44 from a glass-induced lung disorder. There is no evidence that he ever married or even had a girlfriend.

Today, Spinoza societies abound, universities study him and his books are still in print.

Spinoza felt that all things are worthy of interest and study. This includes human nature, esthetics, morality, institutions such as churches and governments, the tiniest animalcule or flower and the universe itself. "I do not ridicule or bewail," said Spinoza, "I try to understand." For a beginning painter and newly professed citizen of the world, like me, this was good stuff. Drawing, composing, the creative process, and what I considered the evolved act of honoring our world in paint, seemed to me a high religion. "To understand," said Spinoza, "is to be free."

PS: "All things excellent are as difficult as they are rare." ([Baruch Spinoza](#))

Esoteric: In Spinoza's world there was no room for shoddy research, shoddy work, platitudes, intellectual dishonesty or superstition. Everything in the universe was worthwhile and worthy and at least somewhat decipherable by reason. In those days of first-year college, I wore a bow tie even when painting. Once, on a balmy day at a place called Saanich Spit near where I lived in Victoria, British Columbia, I painted in the rumble seat of my Hupmobile coupe. As the sun sped toward the horizon and the great bowl of stars began to appear among the vaporous clouds, I read Spinoza's *The Ethics* by flashlight. To this day I carry that book.

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FPAL Officers

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