

Vol. 63

OTYC

May 2007

OTYC

No. 2

Artists in Residence

Thoughts of the Omena Traverse Yacht Club usually bring to mind activities such as sailing, swimming, tennis, youth group, and the ever-popular eating. Last summer we had the privilege of focusing on a different OTYC activity—art.

A sampling of OTYC artists shared their stories for the Breeze. Here they are in alphabetical order:

Brenda Abbott Anderson

Brenda Anderson, artist and middle school art teacher, described herself as “anxiety ridden” last summer as she prepared for an upcoming show at the Schomburg Gallery in Los Angeles.

Recent workshops with Leelanau artists David Grath and Gene Rantz had convinced her to abandon work she had already done for the L.A. show and to devote her Omena vacation to painting. Her goal was to finish one painting per day, and the stress level was rising.

Brenda likes creating still- life and landscape paintings rather than portraits which are “not my temperament.” She describes her style as translucent and loose, and likes working in acrylic on Masonite to get the extra texture.

She also discovered at the workshops that a larger painting size makes her feel more comfortable. She loves painting patterns and rows, such as fields, and had been painting apples and pears “bigger than life” since March. She said the idea for the fruit paintings had come from an inspirational dinner at Kathy Garthe’s house in Northport.

Brenda’s first art class came at the age of 14 where the class copied *National Geographic*



photos in oil paint. Brenda says that every artist has a signature style so that even a copy of someone else’s work will differ.

After high school art classes, at her mother Ping Abbott’s suggestion, she sent her portfolio to the University of Michigan and was surprised to be accepted. She says, U.of M. wasn’t easy for

her because, even though she has a good eye for composition, she didn’t really know how to draw. U.of M. luckily emphasized color and expression, and she fell in love with the paintings by Rothko and Milton Avery.

After graduation in 1970 she took a job teaching art in the Washington, D.C. public schools for two years, where she taught 1500 kids every two weeks. After getting married she moved to New York City and taught at the Chapin School. She has now been in Los Angeles for 22 years where she has worked at the UCLA Art Circle and teaches at the Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles. She has taught the children of Steven Spielberg, and Candace Bergen, among many other famous names. Brenda loves teaching and says she is training herself as she teaches kids.

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**The Omena-Traverse
Yacht Club Breeze**

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* In addition \$15.00 Breeze subscription

** \$15.00 Breeze subscription optional

Web Site: www.otyc.net

COMMODORE'S CORNER



It is hard to believe this is my fourth and last commodore's message. My, how time flies when you are having fun!

SUMMER SCHEDULE: This promises to be another busy summer starting with the Memorial Weekend Cocktail Party and ending with various gatherings in October. Here are a few of the highlights:

Another fantastic Youth Program is planned under the direction of Rich Connell and John Varley. In addition, there will be a Kinder Kamp for kids 3 to 6 under the supervision of Hannah Connell. Camp will start on July 2nd.

Nine potluck dinners will feature bingo, Dave Greer and the Classic Jazz Stompers, the Celtic Band, and much more.

Seven catered dinners: On July 9th, Florine Mark, of Weight Watchers fame and a new member of the club, will speak about her success story. She has a wonderful message that everyone can reach their potential if they set their mind to it. This dinner will be open to children 13 and older and will be informative and healthfully delicious.

The second annual tie-dye Tuesday sponsored by the Bosco "Sisters" Trish and Tami. There may be a follow up children's talent show at the next Potluck Dinner.

Finally, sailboat races, mixed doubles tennis tournament, opening dinner, 4th of July barbecue, commodore's reception, and Labor Day picnic will round out the season.

PRESERVATION FUND: I am very pleased to report that the OTYC Preservation Fund has \$27,013.11 as of December 31, 2006. The goal of the Board is to eliminate future assessments.

THANKS: All of this happens only because there are a number of very hard working people who spend much of the year working for the club. Special thanks to Melissa Chenault, Social Chairman; Judy Balas, Treasurer; Bob Lewis, Assistant Treasurer; Kanda McKee, Membership; Jim Miller, Building; Bruce Balas, Grounds; Tom Buehler, Waterfront; Dennis and Kathy Turner, Breeze, and our fabulous Board members.

In addition, thanks to all who worked in various capacities on the many social and athletic functions. Also, thanks to all who participated in these events.

I am especially grateful for the unbelievable backing received from Judy whose support went way beyond our wedding vows!

This spring, Bill Mason resigned from the Board of directors after serving for four years. Bill had a very calming influence and his thought process was very logical. We will miss Bill, but welcome his replacement Mary Jo Brumbaugh, and look forward to working with her.

As relatively new members of the OTYC, it has been an honor and lots of fun to be your commodore. Thank you all.

Bill

Waterfront Policy By Tom Buehler

OTYC Slips Available- Club Rental Policy--

Four OTYC slips are available for short term rentals for the summer of 2007. The outermost slip will accommodate a 25' boat, second in a 22' boat and the inner two next, shorter ski boats or whaler types of up to 20' with relatively shallow draft. The innermost slip is reserved for the club boat.

Rentals are available for a two week period, at \$200 each. Rentals begin on Saturday at noon and end on the second Saturday following at 9:00 A.M. Only club members may rent slips. Only one rental per membership per summer is permitted. All rentals must be arranged in advance with the waterfront chairman.



Payment in advance is required, as is a certificate of liability insurance naming OTYC as additional insured. Rented slips will be marked as such and members are welcome to use those WHICH ARE NOT RENTED on a first come, first served basis for a maximum of two nights. Extended stays, however, are not permitted without a rental agreement. Please direct all enquiries regarding waterfront matters to the waterfront chairman.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS- It has come to the attention of the Board that certain members have given out the combination to the launch ramp lock to allow non-members to launch and retrieve boats, some of which are then moored, improperly, in Omena Bay. The launch ramp, the lock, and use of all the facilities are limited to paying members of the club who contribute to its operations. Casual use by others as described above is prohibited. The Board seeks your cooperation in seeing that this rule, as others regarding membership, are observed.

OTYC Logo Wear from Land's End

From Marsha Buehler

Here is the link for the Land's End logo web site - this makes it much easier for members to order logo items- they just click on the link, and there they are!

Only other thing members should know is that they are not limited to items on the business outfitters area of the Land's End site - if there is something that is logo-able in any Land's End catalog (including sale items) they can enter that catalog number in the order process. Any questions, they can call the number on the website. Just like any other order, they just use their own credit card and shipping address:

Company Name: Omena Traverse Yacht Club

Company E-Store Name: Omena

Your Company E-Store URL is:

<http://ces.landsend.com/Omena>

You may now begin to place orders using your new Company E-Store. Please remember to share the URL address with the people who will be placing orders at your Company E-Store.

Youth Program Returns in July

We are pleased that both Rich Connell and John Varley will be returning as directors of the 2007 Youth Program. We are expecting that this year's "show" will be better than last year's "Oscar" winning performance. The feedback from last summer has been unbelievably positive.

We do not have all the details as they are being worked on by the staff at this time. We do know the following:

The Youth Program will start on Monday, July 2nd and will run until, at the earliest Friday, August 3rd. (There is some consideration to extending the program to August 10th.)

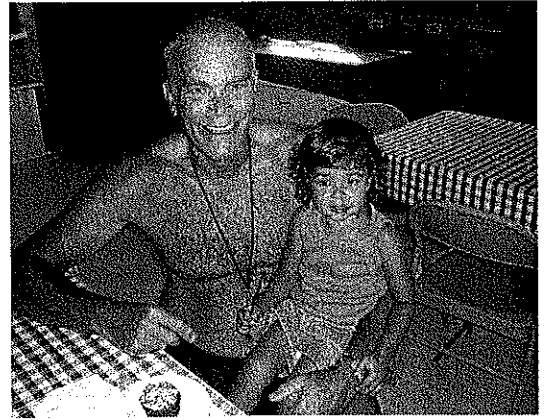
The program is open to members and non members ages 7 to 14. Six year olds will be accepted if they can pass the swimming test, if there are less than 20 participants that week, and if they have a positive attitude. Acceptance of 6 year olds will be up to the sole discretion of the Director.

The program will be limited to 20 participants each week. This limit will be increased to 24 if there are adequate counselors available.

Two discounts can be obtained: (1) for pre-registering with payment and (2) for signing up for more than one week. We are definitely recommending and encouraging early registration.

We are planning to have a Kinder Kamp for younger children three to six years old. Kinder Kamp will be under the direction of Hannah Connell who is uniquely qualified for this position. More details will be posted in the Scuttlebutt and on the bulletin board.

Registrations will be accepted for the Youth Program after June 1st. To register or obtain more information, please contact Joey Bensley at j.bensley@cmich.edu or 231.386-7726.



Hannah Connell and her Dad



Flags and Cream

Classified Ad

"Attractive cottage on Omena Bay, Four BR, Two Baths, on one floor, screened porch, gorgeous sunset, NO PETS.

Available

June 9 - July 21. Call John Ray, 847-256-1026 or email at johnhray@att.net - Website: www.Omenacottage.com".

Alan Read's Military Funeral, January 23

By Sam Knoll

(Editor's note: due to *Breeze* space constraints, we had to edit Sam's report. To see the full text, go to the OTYC website, www.otyc.net, where Jay Grosmark has posted the report.)

A full military funeral at Arlington National Cemetery is a humbling and awe-inspiring event, and one that makes you feel very proud of, and in debt to, the many men and women who have served in our country's military forces.

We started with a wonderful "Omena reunion" dinner the night before the funeral, attended by Nana and Dick Kennedy, Marcia and Mike Biskupski, Mary and Ron Tonneberger, Carol and Sam Knoll, and Carol's sister, Nancy Hines Starr.

The next morning we all made our way to the Old Post Chapel on Fort Myer, Virginia, an historic army base located across the Potomac River from Washington, DC, and adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery.

This beautiful little church is where Alan and Charlotte were married more than 40 years earlier. Outside the church waited an honor guard, a small military band, and a flag-draped coffin on horse-drawn carriage (caisson). Alan's remains had been cremated earlier, and his ashes placed in a wooden box decorated with stencils by Charlotte.

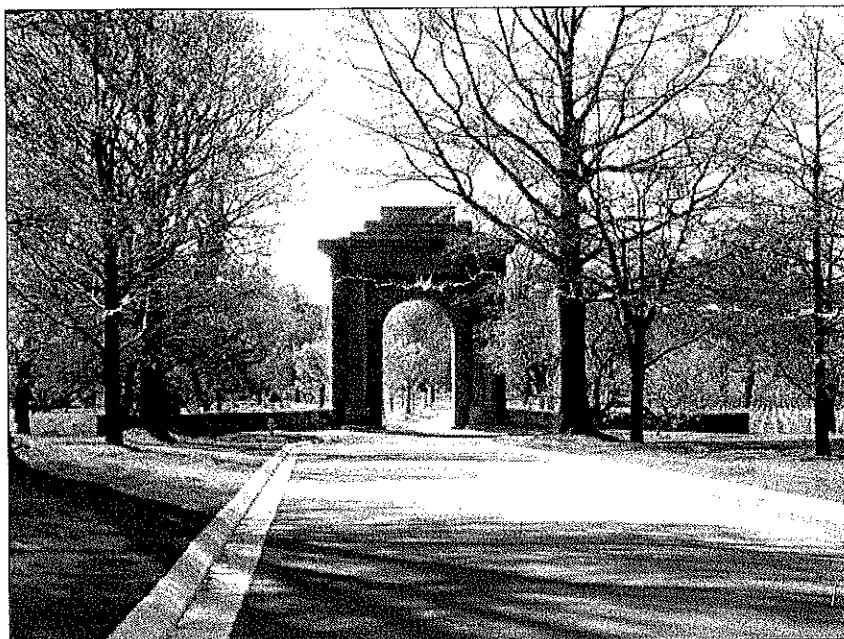
The chapel was full, a testament to the many friends and family whose lives have been touched by Alan and Charlotte. The service "program" featured a photograph of a somewhat younger and very handsome Alan on the cover.

The service was conducted by a pastor from Charlotte's Presbyterian Church and an army chaplain. After the church service everyone filed out and got into their automobiles to follow the honor guard, military band and caisson through

what seemed like miles of beautiful cemetery fields. Along the way we passed a small group of veterans on foot, who came to attention and saluted as our procession went by.

The procession came to a halt, and our large group followed the military guide until we came to a large, white marble columbarium. The family and guests gathered near the internment site for the service which included music by the military band, a multi-gun rifle salute, prayers, and the presentation of an American flag to Charlotte.

Alan's oldest son, Steve, slid the box containing



Alan's ashes into the designated columbarium niche. The reception at the Officers' Club provided a chance for everyone to mingle with family and friends, hug Charlotte and enjoy some excellent food and drink. A large photo montage captured Alan enjoying the things he loved most ... boats (and boating), cars, family and friends.

After the reception at the officer's club, a smaller group that included family, out-of-town guests, neighbors and the ever-present Omena crowd went to Charlotte and Alan's home where everyone relaxed, and shared memories of Alan, a beautiful occasion and a fitting end to a very special day.

OTYC Artists Find Inspiration

Marty Bills

Marty (Martha) Bills lives near the tip of Omena Point in the Feely Cottage that has been in the family for eight generations.

The cottage, which she shares with her brother Lee's family, was originally built for overflow guests from the big hotel.

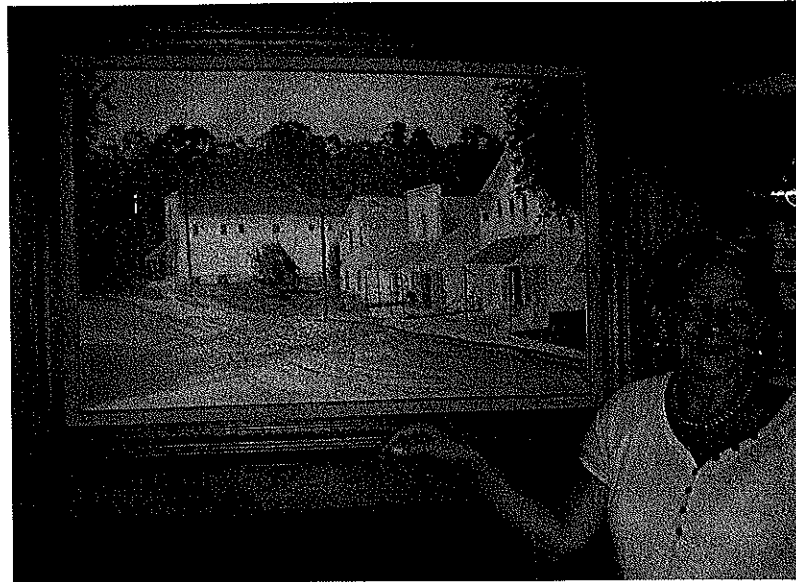
Marty remembers the dozens of bathtubs that covered the ground in the aftermath of the fire that gutted the hotel. The Feely family bought the cottage and land from the Carmichaels, another historic Omena family.

Marty's own history as an artist depended on her grandmother's diplomacy. Teenaged Marty had always liked to draw, and her grandmother enrolled her in her first art class with local artist Emily Nash Smith. Marty was sick on the day the class held its end-of-summer show, so her grandmother went to the show alone.

Emily Nash Smith told Marty's grandmother that Marty had no talent. Marty is grateful that her grandmother never breathed a word about Smith's critique. Her collectors are, too.

Marty, who says she hasn't painted since her husband, Greg, died ten years ago, insists that she has had little training, and that art is just a hobby for her. On the other hand she describes art as "a grounding thing that takes you away to a different spot. It's a meditation, and I get lost in it. I'm not in business, I'm in pleasure."

Has Omena influenced her? "Absolutely, it refreshes my soul.. It energizes me." She describes her style as loose realism - kids playing, boys in the river, exploring life.



She says she can't do abstracts. Painting in oils is her favorite medium because they dry slower, allowing her to mess around with the colors she loves.

Her Omena paintings include the *Breeze* cover in

December, 1990 depicting Omena Village and Omena Point. Mary Woolford has a Marty Bills painting of the Yacht Club hanging in her cottage. The Biskupskis have one of Marty's Omena paintings in Chicago.

Greg Bills encouraged Marty's art. She had numerous shows in Florida where "they put ridiculous prices on them. But I really just do it for me." In 1992 she had her biggest show at the Governor's Club, in West Palm Beach.

Asked about artist's block, Marty replied that commissions are challenging for her since it's hard to capture the love someone else has for a thing. But she encourages potential young artists to "just go for it!"

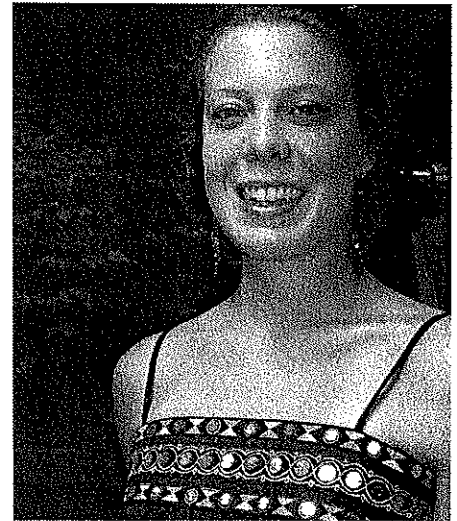
Here is a great Omena/ small world story: In a Florida art class Marty was painting a Gull Island scene when another student walked by, stopped short, and said, "That looks like Gull Island in Michigan." The Florida-based woman had a cottage on Northport Point, and later gave Marty an Emily Nash Smith painting she owned of the house on Gull Island because "it belongs in Omena." The Emily Nash Smith painting hangs in the Feely cottage alongside the Marty Feely Bills paintings. Grandmother Feely must be chuckling.

In Omena's Beauty

Sarah Chenault

Sarah has been interested in art "since she could put a crayon on a wall." At the age of 12 or 13 she started to understand what she could do, that "there was something unique coming out of me." She said that art is very important to her, where she can go off into her own world and be responsible only to herself.

Realizing that she would also have to do other things to make a living, however, Sarah made the decision to attend a comprehensive university rather than an art school. She earned her Bachelors of Fine Arts in sculpture at Washington University in St. Louis in 2004. And she found that her professors at Washington University "respect what you have to say."



Sarah wants her other jobs to be different from art and does not want to teach art. Last summer, for example, she worked in the vineyards of the Mawby Winery in Suttons Bay. OTYC members also know from happy experience that Sarah also uses her creativity to sculpt wonderful desserts, a skill she learned working in local restaurants.

Copper is Sarah's favorite art medium because it is malleable and forgiving. It can be hammered to become harder and brittle, or reheated to be softer. She says she likes to "let the material bring itself out." Last year she experimented with the effects of putting acidic fruit juice on paper between two sheets of copper. As the fruit-soaked paper dried, the copper reacted with the acid. Sarah hangs these works from hooks she also makes from copper. One of these etched-copper works of art earned an Honorable Mention award at the Denno's Museum's biennial juried show of regional artists.

Does she ever get artist's block? Yes, she says, and then she wonders, "Did I use it all up?" She also says she feels guilty if she's not working. Sarah likes pressure and feels that life goes more smoothly when more things are going on simultaneously. She also loves punctuality and order.

The Omena area in general has influenced her work, but a couple of people have also played important roles. Kathy Garthe lets Sarah use a small building on her Northport farm as studio space, and at a family reunion there Sarah learned to make mushroom spore prints from a mushroom expert. Sarah puts the mushrooms on steel flashing, cuts out the design, and lets it rust. She has also received commissions to paint portraits of people's homes here in Omena. She says her next step might be to work on them three dimensionally.

Sarah is the first fine artist that she knows of in her family, although her grandmother and grandfather were crafty. She feels that inheriting her mother's strength of personality has been an asset in the art world.

Sarah's practical advice to future artists? "If art is what drives you, take some business classes."

Jim Miller

Recently transplanted from California and now a full time Omena resident, Jim Miller is a photographer, wood carver, jewelry maker, gourd painter, and traditional painter. The prolific Jim insists he has no formal training in art, and just started drawing at the age of 42, after a divorce.

So where did this talent come from? His grandfather was a watercolor artist. His carpenter/contractor father would sketch the themes requested by clients. His sister is an accomplished digital artist who has encouraged her brother's efforts.

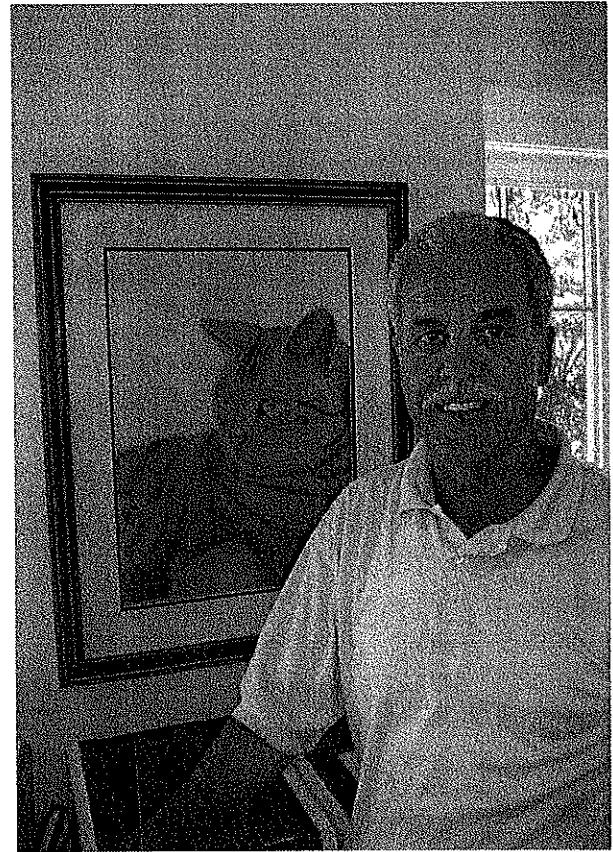
Jim's circuitous route led him first to the Army, then to being a welder, a bartender, a ski lift worker, and to many years in management at the Caterpillar heavy equipment company. Then came the art.

Jim says he likes trying different things, but that painting in acrylics is a favorite. He says he imagines places he'd like to go, especially places with pathways in them that take you through the painting. Sometimes he uses photographs for accuracy, but the paintings are mainly from his imagination and evolve as he works. He describes his style as detailed realism.

One of Jim's favorite photographs is of a uniformed cop talking tenderly to his young son outside the San Diego classroom of Jim's wife Kathy. Kathy's class also inspired a small jewelry-making business for Jim.

Remember those beaded flags on safety pins that Jim made for everyone who attended the OTYC Opening Dinner last June? That started when Jim designed bead jewelry kits for Kathy's class to use as a fundraiser. The idea was so popular it morphed into an online business, *Jiggle Jewelry*, selling beaded college logos, business emblems, you name it.

If you look carefully at the photos in *Newsweek* depicting the post 9/11 Concert in Central Park you'll see those same flag pins on the lapels of all the performers, including Paul McCartney. (Who is going to get the flag pin in the divorce settlement, Paul?)



This winter Jim was planning to spend time painting gourds. He says he learned the hard way that he needs to wear protective breathing gear for this. Wearing only a paper mask when working with gourds that were loaded with mold and spores made him sick with respiratory problems. "Know what you're working with. And its dangers."

Has Omena influenced him? "Definitely!" Check out the digital photo notecards he designed for the Omena Historical Society, and the painted sign by the herb garden in the parking lot of the Omena Beach, and all the work he has donated to area non-profit groups. Jim and Kathy laugh when they say their San Diego friends come to visit quiet Omena and "just don't get it." Jim and Kathy obviously do.

His advice for young artists? Jim says he tells his daughter, who insists she has no talent for art, that it's not so much talent as desire.

"You will develop what talent you have. Talent and no desire is not going anywhere. You may find you have more talent than you know."

Lynn Spitz-Nagel

Soft- sculpture artist Lynn Spitz-Nagel lives next to OTYC in the relocated Barth barn whose new section dates from 1896, and whose old section is of unknown vintage.

She and her first husband, the Reverend Lynn Spitz-Nagel, paid \$200 for the barn which had been located behind the Barth house on M-22 across from the Omena Presbyterian Church where the Reverend "Spitz" was pastor.

They hired Northport builder Tom Mastick to convert the barn into a house for their family. The Spitznagels salvaged wood from an old Omena hotel bowling alley for kitchen cabinets, used an idea from David Viskochil to convert galvanized pails into light fixtures, and used the dozen or so pitch forks found in the barn as supports for the stairs' railings.

These days Lynn's basement studio with its spinning wheel, looms, and cutting table also transforms into play space for the grandchildren when they come to visit.

"I'm a texture person. It's the center of my life, the way I look at the world." She says that she finds the texture of the woods where she lives incredible. It is also incredible that Lynn is colorblind. She says that her colorblindness is why she uses only natural color in her work, and that it may also be why texture is so important to her.

Lynn followed a non-traditional route to her profession. She says she did a little art work and knitting at Michigan State University as an education student. Next she taught fourth grade where her students kept suddenly finding themselves doing a lot of art projects.

Then she started creating fabric toys for her own children using a spinning wheel she bought to save money. Lynn even spun her boys' hair after haircuts and discovered that hair from their shaggy dog would dye



especially well. She went on to get a Master's Degree in Industrial Arts at Eastern Michigan University and did a weaving project for class. She also studied later at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Craft Alliance in St. Louis.

Lynn's husband was 35 when he decided to change professions and go to Divinity School in St. Louis. Lynn couldn't find a teaching job there, and money was very tight so she started making toys and vat-dyed tapestries to sell at art shows. She noticed that stuffed animals sold especially well and made those her specialty.

Omena Presbyterian was Rev. Lynn Spitz Nagel's first church assignment, and artist Lynn started listening to the advice of David Viskochil at the new Tamarack Gallery. David was also a weaver, and helped Lynn change her focus from toy-maker to soft-sculpture artist. David even gave her his supply of yarn when he stopped his own weaving when the gallery began to consume more of his energy and time.

Lynn first spins dog hair and then weaves that yarn into fabric for most of her sculptures. Her source? The Tamarack Dog Grooming and

Continue d on Page 11

Cindy Standley

Cindy Standley, the youngest of four children, started showing interest in art by 5 or 6 years of age, and knew by age 8 or 9 that art would be her focus.

Her Traverse City teachers encouraged her parents to nurture her interest, but a magazine ad did the real convincing. In the fifth grade Cindy answered an ad for an art contest. Someone showed up at their door who was obviously a con artist, but her parents saw the depth of Cindy's art enthusiasm.

They enrolled her in private art lessons and got her an oil painting set for Christmas. Cindy started spending her allowance on art supplies. Sadly, her school cut its art programs, so Cindy practiced by drawing portraits of her neighbors for a few cents. Some of them still have the portraits.

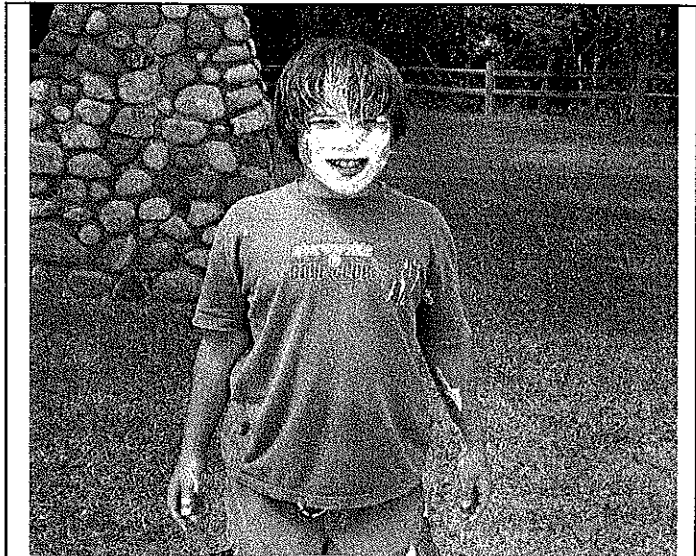
High school was another hurdle. Cindy's guidance counselor at Traverse City High School told her "only the dumb kids take art classes" and she went home crying. Her dad paid a visit to the counselor, and she got to take the art classes.

Cindy won a scholarship to the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp where she met kids with great educations from all over the world. After high school she attended Central Michigan University for one year, traveled to Europe for awhile, and then won a scholarship to the University of Michigan.

She studied education, sculpture and fiber. She says she liked sketching in pen and ink and then bringing the image into three dimensions using bronze casting. In two years she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and went on to teach in Kansas until she felt burnt out. Participating in a small art show in Indiana refreshed her interest in art.

She says that "art is in you, so it drives you crazy if you don't do it. You feel edgy." On the other hand, seeing with an artist's eye has its downside because Cindy says you might see more than you want to deal with. For example, she says going into a room where things are not hung straight may make her feel nauseous.

Asked if she ever suffers artist's block, Cindy said



OTYC Youth Group- Game Face

yes, but you have to find something that emotionally moves you. An example she recalled was that of watching a group of women dancers in Ann Arbor who were dressed all in black and yellow. They provided inspiration for a wounded bumble bee sculpture where she incorporated the color and feeling of movement of the dance.

Now Cincinnati-based, Cindy likes to work in an organized room with no distractions. The quiet of 4 AM appeals to her. She finds that day-to-day family activities sap creative energy. She recently has been working on portraits in color pencil, but finds that they need lots of time.

Her advice to young people interested in art? Try to take private lessons and "go to the best place you can go." And later- "Do a lot of shows. Get someone to represent you."

These OTYC artists have very different styles and stories, but they all benefited from the encouragement of their families and friends such as David Viskochil and Kathy Garthe.

They, in turn, recommend nurturing the creativity of young people. The artists also speak of the economic challenges of their work and the thrill of getting commissions and invitations to display their work. Maybe that's where the rest of us come in.



Now, that's a reunion.

Brenda Abbott Anderson, Continued from Page 1

She finds it a thrill to see student work matted and framed, and she regrets that her classes only last one semester so that she can't see students progress even more.

Comparing Omena to LA, Brenda describes Omena as so beautiful and so natural, a place to slow down and appreciate. Los Angeles requires driving everywhere, and she loses the sense of the horizon which is so important for her art. Los Angeles does have a social scene that is art friendly, and she likes to visit gallery openings. "It's amazing to me who buys what." Will she stay in Los Angeles? "Maybe not."

Other members of the Abbott family have been artists. Two sisters of her dad, Waldo Abbott, painted and her mother, Ping Abbott, is a crafter. Her sons, who live in Tennessee and Alabama, don't paint, but they like art.

This art teacher's advice to parents? Encourage kids. Don't ask what something is, just say "tell me about it."

We left the self-described "anxiety ridden" Brenda on her Omena porch surrounded by her landscapes and large fruit paintings for the LA show. She said artists need to sell their work for validation, but that this deadline had ruined her Omena vacation, and that she wouldn't want to do it this way again.

Lynn Spitz-Nagel, Continued From Page 9

Kennel in Traverse City. They save bags of dog hair for her.

Lynn emphasizes that she loves her work, but that she also had to develop market sense to help feed two growing boys. She still uses single ply yarn to keep expenses down and has learned to cut out enough fabric for four animal sculptures at a time.

Asked if she ever suffers artist's block, Lynn replied yes, but that she just has to plunge ahead and then possibly remake the sculpture. For example, a recent commission for a soft-sculpture piano player gave her trouble. She says she has become expert at taking out stitches.

Her advice to young artists? "Go for it, it's worth it. Though it's nice to have a safety net. There is a huge market on the internet, so it's now easier for artists to sell directly to the market."

Now twice widowed, Lynn traveled to Maui in January 2006 to visit a friend during her quieter time of year. She discovered Hawaii's wild birds, feral cats with a crook in their tails, mynah birds, and other animals so different from her usual Omena animal base. She established a relationship with a gallery there and had a show in January of this year.

Lynn's work is available locally at Tamarack Gallery, and was offered in this year's McKenzie- Childs Christmas catalogue. In the past her work has decorated the windows of the McKenzie- Childs store in San Diego and their flagship store in New York. She also takes special orders. Like a soft sculpture of your pet, or your spouse? Talk to Lynn. She can work from photos.



Kanda McKee's Patriotic Flip Flop

Hearsay

We all wish **Jane Saxton** a speedy recovery from her recent car accident. And thank you to **Cathy Stephenson** for sending the news to **Bill Knorp** for rapid dispersal via the *Scuttlebutt* e-letter.

Congratulations to **Sam Faught**, a senior at Suttons Bay High School, who has been named both a National Merit Finalist and a Presidential Scholar nominee. National Merit Scholarship winners have earned outstanding scores on the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) and outstanding grades.

Presidential Scholar aspirants (1 male and 1 female from each state) write 6 essays and need high test grades to become nominees. Winners travel to Washington, D.C. for a VIP week in the summer. Sam is also deciding among offers from the University of Michigan, the University of Chicago, and Carlton College. He is thinking of Pre-Med with a side of Jazz Piano. Way to go, Sam!

Leigh Ann Wallace writes that the family has seen more snow this year than they have for quite some time, first in the early winter Denver blizzard with **Ann and Don Leathery's** family, and then in Cincinnati storms that closed schools for a week. They have a new puppy, Mocha, who will get introduced to Ingalls Bay this summer. **Carley and Connor** are already counting the days.



SANDT'S CADDY



*Mary Helen Ray, Joan Kiersey, Marty Bills,
Kay Harris at the Ladies' Luncheon*

News from **Paula McMenemy**: "The McMenemy's have had an incredible year. It started in September with our daughter **Carole's** wedding at OTYC. She married **Troy Amber** on what **Bill** would call a "Thank You, God" perfect Omena day. There was a clear, blue sky, 77 degrees (it could have been 50 and pouring...). Our guests could not believe the beauty of the setting. We were so proud of the club. It was truly a fairy tale wedding.

Then on October 19, our daughter **Kristin Stevens** (married to **Jason**) gave birth to our first grandchild, **Clara**. Oh, the joy! We've been able to see her several times since, though not enough, of course. In March Carole and Troy moved to Columbus from Chicago. We never thought we'd be lucky enough to have children living back home, so we're beyond thrilled. We can't wait to get back up north to see what the new year (our year always starts and stops in Omena) brings."

Nancy and Randy Cooper are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Robin**, to **Sam Lawrence**. Robin and Sam met at Purdue University where she received a BA in Art History and he received his BS in Agricultural Education. Later this month Robin

will graduate from George Washington University, Washington, DC with her Masters Degree in Museum Studies/ Collections Management. Sam teaches high school in Stafford, VA. Following an August wedding in Cincinnati, Robin and Sam will live in northern Virginia.

Bill Mason reports: **Suzanne** is a freshman at University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, has made the Dean's list and is a class officer. She is working very hard, of course, and enjoying the experience. She will be in school most of the summer, but plans on being in Omena for a short time later in the summer.

Chelsea is a junior at Albion College, is founder and president of the pre-dental club, a member of Mortar Board and OKD academic honor society. She will be waitressing at Stubbs in Northport beginning in mid May, so stop in.

Sharon and Bill Cron hosted the chili dinner after the annual OTYC cross country skiing event at Kehl Lake in February. Somewhat reliable sources reported that the **Bensleys, Deibels, Kennedys, Tonnebergers, Pohlods, and Buehlers** were among those in attendance.

From **Charlotte Read**: "I have been overwhelmed by all the cards, phone calls, thoughts, prayers and memorial gifts that our OTYC friends have shared with me. I am missing **Alan** greatly but your expressions of love have been so helpful.

Your love began with a casserole left on my front steps in November by **Janet Walker**, and has continued with wonderful words, generous donations in Alan's name to the Leelanau Conservancy, and contributions to the Alan Read Memorial Tree Fund. I was particularly touched that nine of you made the trip to celebrate Alan's life at the funeral at Arlington Cemetery in January.

Alan loved Omena so much, and that is why every time I opened a card from one of you, or shared a phone conversation, I cried a lot. (And I'm doing that now). They are healing

tears, and I thank you all so much. We will find a way to celebrate Alan's life this summer, when more of you can participate in sharing memories"

Charlotte visited Omena in February with her friend Meg. She joined the OTYC cross country ski outing, and went down-hill skiing with **Lin Emmert** at Crystal Mountain. She writes, "It just felt right to be there."

Lin and Bill Emmert have a new puppy, Jazz. We're guessing that Jazz has a purple collar.

Marcia and Mike Biskupski reported that life in Chicago was "pretty dull" so they headed to Traverse City in early March to celebrate **Alison's** birthday with her, and then on to Northport to get haircuts. (Don't ask about the mice.)

From our Cleveland Bureau: **Caroline and Ed Oberndorf** ventured to Bangkok, Thailand in



Mary Tonneberger, Carol Knoll, Tish Renz, Caroline Obendorf, and Mary Loveless at the Ladies' Luncheon

mid-March to visit their son, **Rob**, who has been there one year after having lived in Phomn Pehn, Cambodia for 4 1/2 years.

His current position is co-director of an organization that focuses upon the

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legalization of forestry in southeast Asia and has resulted in his visiting 13 countries since taking this job.

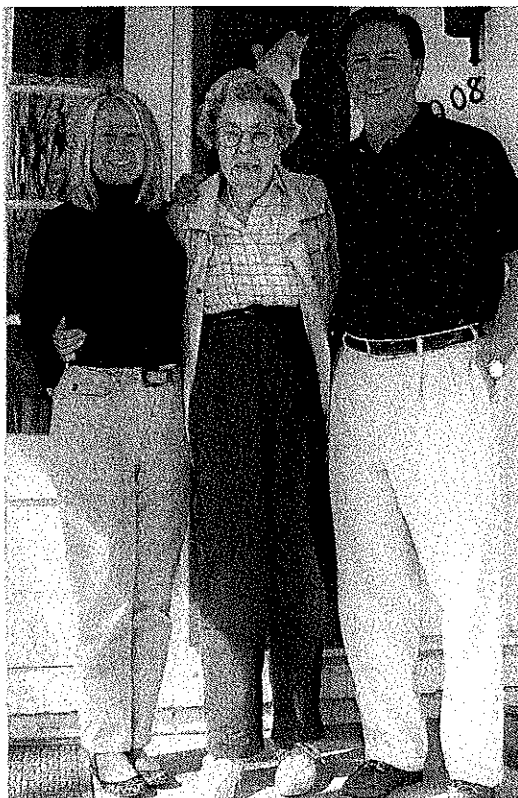
They spent a week in Bangkok and then spent six days in Luang Prabang, Laos that formerly was the royal capital. There are still 32 active Buddhist temples, many spellbinding in their beauty and artwork. Rob is coming to Omena this year for a June reunion with his two brothers, **Michael and Charlie** who have not been together on the Omena scene in 17 years.

John, Mary Helen, and Michael Ray spent an extremely interesting eight days in late January in Cuba on a humanitarian mission with a local synagogue. They would be happy to fill you in on the details this summer.

Karen Edgley wrote: "We are not enjoying the best snow here this winter for skiing. In fact, the season is the shortest since we have moved to Utah. **Alexander** went to school in Australia, Brisbane, in mid-January until mid-June, and he isn't really missing any good skiing at all. He is at Brisbane Boys' College, and is enjoying the dormitory, the Australian friendliness, and the new sports, rugby, I think.

Claire will be going to the Royal High School of Bath, a girl's school, next year for school, to be closer to **Roger's** relatives for a year, and learn new things, and she is very excited about the prospect. Her teachers now are all jealous.

Katherine and Tess will miss her. Mom and Dad [**Mary and Ron Tonneberger**] were here for Christmas (we are running out of things to do here in the winter as it really isn't full of activities in December) and we had a fun time. We will join them next week in Mexico, Puerto Vallarta, for a relaxing beach holiday.



PING ABBOTT WITH HER DAUGHTER BRENDA ANDERSON AND HER SON WALDO

Hopefully, we will get organized and visit Alexander in June, before we come up to Omena. "

From the **Loveless** family's Christmas newsletter: **Mary, JR.** is finishing her senior year at CalArts and will soon be looking for gainful employment, **Lucy** is finishing her freshman year at New York University in the Gallatin School of Individualized Studies, and **Kate** is finishing 9th grade at Hutchinson School where she is on the lacrosse team and active in theatre.

Judy Balas reports from the Florida Bureau: 1)

George and Annette Husted took **Joanne Bishop** and **John and Mary Helen Ray** out on their boat on the way to lunch when the motor conked out, and they had to get towed in. George had to re-build the whole engine and asked **Judy and Bruce Balas** if they wanted to take it out for a trial run. They declined. 2) The Balases and OTYC contingent had a dinner party while **Rat and Bill Renz** were in the Sanibel area for two weeks. And 3) The Balases spent two weeks away from Sanibel Island while the winners of the Inland Seas auction took over their prize- the Balas' house. Judy and Bruce spent week #1 in Key West and the Everglades where they rode an air boat and visited the re-created old settlement of Chokoloskee which consists of a general store and a post office (sound familiar?).

During Week #2 they headed north to Sarasota where they visited **Ellie Stephenson** and her sister and new OTYC members **Pat and Dick Wilson**. And here is some very good news; **Pat**

Wilson has been given a clean bill of health after a huge health scare last year, and the Wilsons hope to spend lots of time in Omena this summer.

Chris Bishop will graduate from both the Episcopal seminary in Arlington, Virginia in May and the Lutheran seminary in Philadelphia in June. He will be in Omena between the two graduations and during his job search. Congratulations, Chris!

Caroline Turner is planning to do her dissertation research on the effects of zebra mussels on the chemical composition of lake sediments. We've all volunteered to donate some specimens, but, alas, she is going to do her field work on Lake Oneida near Syracuse. She'll be in Omena in early August.

Tucson-based **Cate and Joe Varley** (parents of OTYC youth group instructor, **John**) have **Ann Marie Mitchell** looking for a house for them in the Omena area and will be in Leelanau in July. In the meantime Cate will be in Guatemala doing the field work for her graduate degree, Joe will be in Kazakhstan and Macedonia, and daughters **Anna and**

Maura are finishing up their graduate study field work.

On March 26 in the *Dayton Daily News* 'Today's Birthdays' reported that **Amy Smart** turned 31 and shares her birthday with Leonard Nemoy, Alan Arkin, Bob Woodward, and Kenny Chesney. August company, but Amy, of course, is much younger.

On April 8 *The New York Times* reported that dried cherries may help travelers fight jet lag because cherries contain melatonin which helps regulate body clocks. More information is available at www.choosecherries.com.

And some other dates to keep in mind "in town": The 3rd annual Traverse City Film Festival will run from July 31- August 5. More information is available at www.traversecityfilmfest.org. And the National Cherry Festival will run from July 7- July 14. More information is available at cherryfestival.org. Both events are also looking for volunteers.

In Memorium

Craig Smith

Craig Smith, a charter member of OTYC, died January 26, 2007. Our condolences to the Smith, Renz, and Disch families.

Here is Craig Smith's Obituary, printed in the *Leelanau Enterprise*, February 1, 2007

"Services were held Monday in Suttons Bay for Craig Stewart Smith of Omena who died Jan. 26 at Munson Medical Center. He was 76.

He was a 1955 graduate of Northwestern University and then served for 28 years in the U.S. Marine Corps in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. He earned the Department of Defense Superior Service Medal and the Bronze Star medal for valor, among others, and retired as a colonel in 1983. He began a second career as a consultant for eight years in Saudi Arabia. He made Omena his permanent home in 1992. In Leelanau County he worked for the U.S. Census Bureau and the Leland Cherry Company, and followed Leelanau Township politics closely.

He is survived by his children Marjorie S. Smith, Preston C. Smith, and Timothy G. Smith; a sister Carolin Smith Renz; and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by four siblings: George, Thomas, Preston, and Susan, as well as his ex-wife, Holly R. Smith.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the charity of one's choice."

Y'all Come Back Now!

