



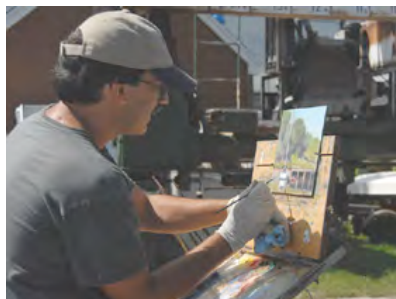
*Genesee Valley Plein Air Painters, Inc., a not-for-profit artist association, promotes and inspires quality plein air painting while providing socially pleasant painting opportunities for its membership throughout the year.*

## September 8, 2010 E-LETTER

# 2010 ANNUAL MEETING



On August 25<sup>th</sup> forty-four GVPAP members attended our annual meeting at the Genesee Yacht Club. For the most part, the weather was good, permitting intense morning activity and a full range of emotions on the satisfaction meter. After lunch and the business meeting, Jeff Swaluk contributed his time and talents by offering an acrylic demonstration. Thanks for the treat, Jeff.



# MEMBER NEWS

**Cathy Chin's** current show – “Road Trip” - is at the Little Theater Café until September 17<sup>th</sup>. It consists of her luminous watercolors derived from photos taken out the car window on trips around Rochester, Wayne County, the Thruway, and Boston.



Fellow members **Phil Bliss, Phyllis Bryce Ely, Don Grieger, and Robert Keim** are included in “Waterway West, A Salute to the Erie Canal” at the Oxford Gallery. This show coincides with the International Canal Conference to be held in Rochester this month. The exhibit will be from September 11 through October 16, with a reception Saturday, September 25 (5:30-8:00pm).

**Claudine Bartlett** won a first prize at the Artist Association of Northern New York Plein Air Derby, which took place in Sackets Harbor on July 16th 2010. According to Claudine, “It was painted from under a dripping awning across the street. The colors are gray because it rained almost the whole time that I painted it. My afternoon painting was done in the sun but it won no prizes, literally. So adversity is not always a bad thing.”



“Antiques at Ambrose”

11x14.

## A REMINDER

Perhaps you have forgotten that GVPAP has a web site capably maintained by Chris O’Handley. There is a lot of important information there, including the membership list, all past shows, links, the Ken Backhaus workshop, and the member gallery. Also a photographic record of many paintouts which can be viewed by scrolling down the opening page. If you haven’t visited the site in a while, drop in by clicking here:

<http://www.gvpap.com/index.html>

In addition, the more member news submitted, the better. Fellow members are keen to see what is being accomplished by you, including photos of your work in solo and group shows. Send news to <mailto:gfordan@frontiernet.net>

## The Perils of Plein Air Painting

Several of us have offered tales of strange encounters while plying our consuming interest in outdoor painting. In most cases, the circumstances were threatening or, at least, problematic: irate farmers, dive-bombing gulls, careless drivers whose wake consisted of icy slush, intrusive characters who have nothing more important to say than they have aunts who painted (and they were “really good!”), and other delightful scenarios. However, as an antidote to these encounters, I must relate an event involving a mother and her seven year old daughter. Several of us were painting when the mother’s car slowed as it passed us, then turned around and stopped. The mother approached apologetically and explained that her daughter had pleaded with her to stop so she could see painters at work. Her first inclination was to say no, that the two of them had a schedule to maintain. Then she recanted, thinking that her daughter should never acquire the notion that life had to be lived as a pell-mell chase toward some “necessary” obligation, that it was foolish to ignore things that were rich with possibility. In the face of such wisdom, who could resist entertaining these two for a few minutes? The entire scene reminded me of the recent time when Joshua Bell, one of the world’s premiere violinists, donned a tee shirt and baseball cap, went into a subway station and played for an hour as people rushed past him, only a fraction standing for a minute or two to hear what concert goers pay fifty or one hundred dollars to hear. Instead of his usual multi-thousand dollar fee, he collected about twelve dollars in change and a lesson in what people consider important. Who was right, the young mother or the automatons in headlong pursuit of an ulcer and a fried brain?

## Child Prodigies

Anyone who has worked diligently over a period of years must have ambivalent feelings about 7 year olds who flash across the sky like an exploding meteorite. On the one hand, it inspires awe that a human can advance from a blank slate to a superbly functioning prodigy in so short a time; on the other hand, it makes us common toilers in the vineyard wonder why we missed out so pitifully. Take the case of young Kieron Williamson, aka “Mini-Monet,” who as a seven year old watercolorist recently had an exhibition of 33 paintings. It sold out to an international clientele in 27 minutes, commanding the princely sum of \$236,850. For this British prodigy, I can only hope that his family will protect his childhood, nurture his passion for art, and keep him safely away from the money-driven rock star mentality of the times.



## A FOND FAREWELL



You won't recognize her bundled up on a bone-chilling day at Genesee Country Museum, but it is **Jennifer Spaker**, who has moved to the more painter-friendly climate of South Carolina. At least I imagined that until Chris informed me that she is having a problem getting used to the heat. (Also being addressed as "Ma'am.") We will miss her presence and the many contributions she made to the success of GVPAP in its opening years. Her growth here as an artist will certainly continue in the South, and we cheer her on as she pursues that goal.

## Quote of the Month

The painter unfolds that which has not been seen.

- Paul Cezanne

