

THE **M**azza essenger NEWSLETTER

Editor: Carol F. Reid

www.mazzamuseum.org

Spring 2004

Goodbye and Thanks

Kate Lantz and Ryan Elliott have completed their terms as graduate assistants at The University of Findlay. We will certainly miss their invaluable help at Mazza: Kate as leader in the Art Camp, Art Academy, Art League classes and Young Illustrators Conference, and Ryan with technical help for the website and video/DVD conversion.

Did you know?

Mazza's Havens Library has a complete set of all 67 Caldecott Award winning books from the first year, 1938, to the present. This year's winner is artist/author Mordicai Gerstein for his book *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*.

Numerically speaking

New building campaign:

2,200,000	\$ campaign goal
945,200	\$ raised in lead gifts
86	pledges made to date
3	years for which pledges can be made

Congratulations, Peter Sis, Congratulations!

by Mariann Younger

Peter Sis was recently named a MacArthur Fellow for 2003, a prestigious award on a par with the Nobel or Pulitzer prizes. Established by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, it is designed to emphasize the importance of the creative individual in society.

Peter certainly meets this criterion as he is a master artist and author whose work includes children's literature, editorial illustrations, approximately 1,000 drawings for the *New York Times Book Review*, designs for book jackets, and posters (including the famous poster for the film *Amadeus*). He has also completed a mural for the Washington/Baltimore airport and a stage set for the Joffrey Ballet. In addition, he began his career in filmmaking, where he earned several awards in Europe, Canada and the U.S.

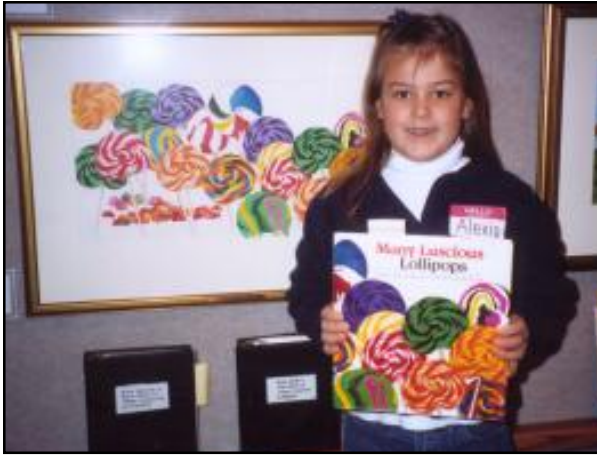
Peter was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, and was sent to Los Angeles to produce a film for the 1984 Winter Olympics. When the Eastern Bloc decided to boycott the Olympics and then ordered him to return to Czechoslovakia, he applied for and was granted asylum. A meeting with Maurice Sendak, also a Mazza

artist, led to a new career in children's literature.

Peter became part of the Mazza "family" when art from *City Nights* was added to the collection in 1988. Many Mazza staff and volunteers will remember Peter from a weekend seminar featuring international artists at Keene College in 1997, and the next year at Mazza's Summer Institute, where he endeared himself to everyone. Among his awards are Caldecotts, Boston Globe Horn Book awards, Society of Illustrator medals, repeated *New York Times Book Review* Best Illustrated Book of the Year, etc., etc. His work is multi-leveled, appealing to adults as much as to children.

Peter lives in Irvington, N.Y., with his wife, daughter and son, often using them as models for his characters, as in his book *Madlenka*.

In addition to his many, many artistic accomplishments, Peter has a great sense of humor, is kind, gracious, family-oriented, unassuming and generous—a very decent human being. About the award, Peter said, "It means a lot to the children's book people and the Czechs." It also means a lot to the Mazza Museum—we are very proud to count Peter among our family of Mazza artists.



My Favorite Mazza Art

Featured Art Lover:
Alexis Elkins, first-grade student at Noble Elementary School in Defiance, Ohio

Favorite art:
Many Luscious Lollipops by Ruth Heller



*Above: art from a member of Ms. Fisbaugh's class at Woodland School, Perrysburg, Ohio
Below: class picture after their tour*

Art Academy



On Tuesdays from Oct. 7 to Nov. 11, the Art Academy began its third session with 10 middle school students under the direction of Mazza graduate assistant Kate Lantz and undergraduate illustration major Nate Moore. The Academy is a great educational experience for students as well as a positive public relations event in the community.



Calling All Kids Children's Art Camp - July 5 to 9

mornings: for grads of 3rd, 4th and 5th
afternoons: for grads of K, 1st and 2nd
Register now! (419) 434-4777

Thank-you note art from students on Mazza tours



Art by students (left to right) Ahysa, Kelsey and Meghan from Wynford Elementary School in Bucyrus, Ohio

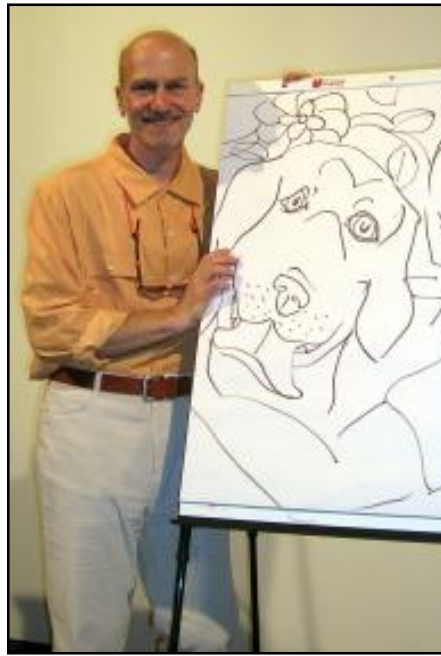
Of Mice and Moving with Michael J. Rosen

by Pam Rybak

Picture a city-raised man moving to a hundred acres in the country. Picture this man going through culture shock as he changed from “knowing a lot to not knowing much.” On Sunday, March 28, an appreciative Mazza audience listened as Michael J. Rosen shared his personal experiences of moving from the city to a rural area. He then read excerpts from his new book *ChaseR*.

In this novel, written entirely in e-mails, fourteen-year-old Chase Riley and his family move from a big city to a rural farmhouse. Mr. Rosen explained that his own move “thrust me into a world of people who were not city people” and that he wanted to write about that experience as seen through the eyes of his teenaged character.

Mr. Rosen also read from his book *A Blessing of the Animals*, in which a boy wrestles with a moral dilemma. He stated that his philosophy is to use his art to “move from the speed of life to the speed of understanding.” He



Author/editor/artist Michael J. Rosen

says his goal as a writer is not so much to express his own opinion but to frame the general complications of our choices.

The Mazza Museum and many readers have been fortunate to be recipients of his creativity. His visit was made possible by The Helen Reimund Author/Artist Endowment and by Mr. and Mrs. John Luther.

New Endowment

John and Patty Luther have generously established the Luther Visiting Artists Endowment to ensure that we will be able to continue to bring artists to Mazza.

Scholarships for School Tours

Mazza received a much appreciated grant from the Procter & Gamble plant in Lima to be used for scholarships that will bring Allen County school classes to the Museum for tours.

Art in March

Through The Findlay Art League, art classes were given at Mazza to children ages 4 to 6. Mazza also participated in the Arts Partnership's ArtWalk on Sunday, March 21, by holding storytelling sessions at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the Museum. Join us for more storytelling sessions on future ArtWalk Sundays: May 9, July 25 and November 7.

Eagerly seeking ...

- docents for the Museum to begin training in September
- hosts and other helpers for the Museum and Gift Shop
- the following old, out-of-print books:

Bike Kit by Melanie Hope Greenberg
Here Comes McBroom by Marilyn Hafner
Genesis of Spring by Paul Johnson
Red Magic by Kay Nielsen
Wish I Could Have a Pet by Kelly Oeschli
1-2-3 Boardbook by Art Seiden
The Pretending Prince by Ernest Howard Shepard
The Constant Tin Soldier by Helen Stratton
Hark, Hark the Dogs Do Bark by Margot Tomes

If you can help with any of these needs, please call Education Coordinator Terry Olthouse at (419) 434-4777.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Clopper,
long-time supporter of Mazza
May 5, 1914 – Jan. 23, 2004

A Thought

In every childhood there is a moment when a door opens and lets in the future.

Graham Greene

Jack Prelutsky's Serendipitous Serenade: From Bananacondas to Flying Hot Dogs

by Susan Halen

The evening of November 6 may have been cool and crisp outside. However, inside the Mazza Museum there was a warm and cozy atmosphere as poet Jack Prelutsky entertained a capacity audience of adults and children. While strumming his guitar and putting his poetry to music, he expertly managed to bring out the child within each of us.

Prelutsky certainly has a vivid imagination. He delighted us with stories about his serendipitous inspirations for many of his 55 books of poetry. Admittedly an insomniac, he happened one night to tune into a documentary about anacondas while simultaneously ingesting a banana. Thus was born "bananaconda." This idea "hippopotamushroomed" into his

recent anthology *Scranimals*, illustrated by Peter Sis, in which Prelutsky morphs creatures with various foods or flowers.

Tidbits of advice were sprinkled throughout Prelutsky's presentation. For example, he advised the audience, "Acquire as many skills as you can; you never know what you might use—origami may someday save your life!" With guitar accompaniment, he launched into a series of variations on his "Spaghetti" poem set to Mexican music, country and western, Italian opera, and finally Elvis' rock and roll. He also got the audience singing along to his unappetizing but hilarious poem "Rat for Lunch."

Prelutsky enjoys incorporating puns into his work. Comparing puns with children, he stated, "You



Jack Prelutsky entertaining a rapt crowd

can be equally proud and ashamed of them." His character Major Weiner, the squadron leader, used an old-time-radio voice for his performance of "We're Fearless Flying Hot Dogs." Food seems to be one of Prelutsky's favorite topics.

He concluded his sing-along serenade on a high note, comparing himself (unfavorably) with Pavarotti.

Kick-Off Celebration for New Building Campaign

by Carol Reid



Speakers Dr. Roger Berkowitz, Mrs. Catherine Freed and Dr. DeBow Freed

The evening of February 26 marked the official launching of the "Turning a New Page" campaign in which Mazza hopes to raise \$2.2 million for a much needed building addition for 2007. Architectural plans call for 8,000 square feet to be added to the west and south sides of the Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion.

After guests had enjoyed gourmet desserts, provided and served by The University of Findlay's Hospitality Management students, Campaign Chair Larry Miles introduced University President DeBow Freed. Dr. Freed explained the need for the new addition and thanked all those who helped raise the Museum to its present level.

First Lady of the University Catherine Freed spoke about the history of Mazza. In referring to its successful development, she said, "The secret weapon in this success has been Dr. Jerry Mallett, who has inspired hundreds to work with him and turn his dreams into reality." She said that she could think of no more deserving place to put donor dollars than with

Mazza, for the enrichment of children, educators and the public.

Dr. Roger Berkowitz, Director Emeritus of the Toledo Museum of Art, agreed: "What a perfect place for a child to begin a lifelong interest in the arts; the foundation of this enjoyment is education." He complimented the rational way in which Mazza has evolved over the years in establishing a steadily growing art collection, educational program and volunteer contingent—always seeking expert advice along the way—before embarking on expansion.

National Advisory Board Chair Alec Reinhardt spoke of the challenge of raising funds. The speakers' messages were enhanced by videos of children, teachers and volunteers enthusing about Mazza.

Wonderful Donations from Artists & Friends

The last year proved to be a bonanza year for the Mazza Museum as many artists and patrons generously made donations to our museum. The total market value of these donations is approximately \$170,000. A huge thank you goes to the wonderfully generous people listed below.

Mike Boley – a watercolor, pen & ink from *Riding A Bike*

Denise Brunkus – 8 paintings from *Chocolatina* and *Junie B. Jones Has a Peep in Her Pocket*

Christopher Canyon – 4 watercolors from *Sunshine on my Shoulders*

Angela L. Chostner – 2 collage pieces from *Remembering Mama*

Cindi Di Marzo – a watercolor from Willy Pogany's *Stories to Tell the Littlest Ones*

Mary Jane Evans – 12 early Disney cells/paintings by Madeline Porter

Jean Fritz – a pen & ink by Trina Schart Hyman from *The Man Who Loved Books* and a pen & ink by Enrico Arno from *Brendan the Navigator*

Diane Goode – a watercolor, pen & ink study for *Thanksgiving is Here!*

Mary GrandPré – an acrylic painting from *Plum*

Wendy Anderson Halperin – all the watercolor art from *Turn, Turn, Turn*

Jim LaMarche – a watercolor plus preliminaries from *The Raft*

Lori McElrath-Eslick – an oil on board painting titled “Little Ballerina”

Patrick O'Brien – a watercolor from *Mammoth* and 3 oils on canvas from *Gigantic*

Barbara Olsen – 2 assemblage artworks from *The Witch Casts a Spell*

Elise Primavera – all the art and preliminary work from *Plantpet* and *Jack, Skinny Bones, and the Golden Pancakes*

Diane E. Schafer – 2 pen & ink interiors and the watercolor cover from *Otis and Inky Whiskers*

Mitchel Slotnick – 89 artworks by several internationally recognized artists

Robin Spowart – 6 color pencils from *It's Hanukkah!*, *Little Bunny's Easter Surprise*, *Inside, Outside Christmas*, *Love Me, Love You*, *Little Bunny's Christmas Tree* and *1 2 3 Valentine's Day*

John Stadler – a graphite from *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*

Cyndy Szekeres – 7 graphite drawings featuring bunnies

Charles Vess – 2 pen & ink and a book dummy from *A Circle of Cats*

Richard Jesse Watson – a tempera from *The Waterfall's Gift*, a gesso and pastel from *The High Rise Glorious Skittle Skat Roarious Sky Pie Angel Food Cake* and a tempera from *The Dream Stair*

1928 Small Print Books by Edward McCandlish

The family of artist Edward McCandlish donated a complete set of the “Little Folks Library” of five inch books by their father, a major Ohio book artist in the 1920s and '30s. During the Depression, he created comic strips of children's classics for the Detroit Free Press, which could be cut and folded into small books for

children to collect. We are thrilled we now own the entire set!



Edward McCandlish's daughters (left to right): Hope Rider and Margaret Edwards

Book Signing

Mark Kimball Moulton, author of the Community Read children's book, *The Traveler's Gift*, signed 60 books at Mazza on March 11.

Physicians & Mazza Partnership Program

Under this program, which is completing its fifth year, Mazza displays over 20 pieces of art in physicians' waiting rooms on a rotating basis and provides books to accompany the art. We thank participating groups for their financial support:

Blanchard Valley Medical Assoc., Findlay Ear, Nose & Throat Assoc., Findlay Surgical Assoc., and Ohio Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

Special Gifts

Donations of books by Mazza artists, many of them out-of-print, were made to our Havens' Library by Floyd Dickman, Michael Courtad and Barbara Wisner. A memorial donation of a book was also made in remembrance of Meredith Pfeiffer. First Choice Consultant Company donated professional services.

We thank all of these donors for their generosity.

Memorial Donations

We are very grateful for the monetary gifts given recently to Mazza in memory of loved ones. Donations have been made in memory of Meredith Pfeiffer, Barbara Flowers Murray, Wanda M. Shontlemire, Frances Gore Marks, and Lillian M. Greenwald.

A Delightful Weekend with Artists and Friends

by Linda Stout

As I drove down I-75 toward Findlay for the 2003 Mazza Weekend Institute, I was filled with anticipation and excitement for the upcoming program of illustrators and authors. I was not disappointed. Over 250 participants from 10 states also enjoyed this delightful weekend featuring six illustrators and/or authors.

The University of Findlay President DeBow Freed introduced the Institute with a thought about the importance of supporting the arts in this community and the combination of enthusiasm and substance that goes along with this support.



Introduction by President DeBow Freed

The first artist to speak at the Institute was **Peter Spier**, illustrator of more than 150 covers and 40 books. He was last at Mazza over 21 years ago when his picture from *Rain* was the very first piece of art in Mazza's collection. He spoke about the importance of books in his childhood, his extensive research for each book, and his aim to amuse the reader



Peter Spier with Mazza Enthusiast Chairman Sandy Reinhardt

while at the same time instructing. He is now retired and feels fortunate to have made a living from his hobby, enjoying every minute of it. Many of his books are still in print, including *People* (1980) and *Rain* (1982).

Michigan artist **Wendy Halperin** uses detailed black and white pencil drawings and then adds watercolor. Her love of detail is apparent in her book *Love Is ...*. She started with 700 empty boxes which she needed to illustrate, and to fill them, pestered everyone she knew to give her ideas about the meaning of love. Her most recent project involved illustrating Pete Seeger's song *Turn, Turn, Turn*, with lots of little pictures on each



Wendy Halperin (center) with volunteer Sara Hartzell (left) and Mazza's Education Coordinator Terry Olthouse (right)

page. "My life enters into my books as if I were reading a mystery. I never know how, who, when, or why things and people enter my drawings," she stated.

Dirk Zimmer feels he was lucky to discover children's books. He had previously been primarily involved with posters and other types of art. While

growing up in Germany, only one children's book was available to him, *Der Struwwelpeter*, a moralistic tale that influenced his artwork.



Dirk Zimmer

When he came to the United States, he first lived a very Bohemian lifestyle in Manhattan, before

moving to the country. He illustrated the popular book *In a Dark, Dark Room* by Alvin Schwartz, and more recently, *Curse in Reverse* by Tom Copping. He is very interested in illustrating more children's books.

s at Mazza's 2003 Fall Institute



Enjoying each other's company (left to right): Dirk Zimmer, Richard Jesse Watson, Wendy Halperin, Doug Keith

"I drew pictures I could play in," is the way **Richard Jesse Watson** described his beginnings in art. He worked at many jobs to earn a living, including one at a dairy farm in Ohio, before his career as a picture book artist took off. Friends and family members often appear in his illustrations. He is currently looking for a way to meld his faith with his artwork. In a recent picture book, *The Waterfall's Gift* by Joanne Ryder, he demonstrates his love of nature and his attention to detail. He has won several awards for his outstanding artwork.



Richard Jesse Watson

Doug Keith of Seattle has illustrated more than 30 children's books including the sport's story



Doug Keith

Dear Ichiro by Jean Davies Okimoto. He came to the art world after a short career as a musician. Commercial art provided him with a variety of jobs from courtroom artist to Emmy award-winning graphic artist for a television station. In his newest book, *The Errant Knight* written by Ann Tompert, he was challenged to show the aging process in the main

character. He used the author's father as a model for the aging knight in this story of a knight's quest.

Jack Prelutsky creates poetry and performance art rather than visual art, although he says he may illustrate a book someday. He makes pictures in his head and then composes poems to match his visualization. In one of his more recent books, *The Frog Wore Red Suspenders*, the reader has no difficulty picturing frogs in red suspenders and pigs in purple vests even without Petra Mathers's imaginative illustrations. Prelutsky vividly describes with words the creatures in his recent book *Scranimals*, illustrated by Peter Sis, a book of poetry featuring mixed up fruit and animals. He has set many of his poems to music and concluded his presentation by singing and playing several of them.

As I drove home up I-75, I reflected on this wonderful conference, the renewal of old friendships, the new acquaintances I made, and most of all, the exquisite artwork and beautiful words of the six illustrators and authors. I am already eagerly anticipating Mazza's Summer Institute next July.



Jack Prelutsky

Update: What's Happening at Mazza

- Congratulations to Betsy B. & C. Nik Pry and Gary L. & Cam Lea Taylor for being named **"Distinguished Associates"** by The University of Findlay. They were honored for their significant service to the University at the "Applause!" ceremony in December.
- President of The University of Findlay DeBow Freed and his wife, Catherine Freed, graciously asked to hang some of Mazza's art in their first floor public entertaining areas of the **Carrothers' Home**. This art, which will be changed every three to four months, is accompanied by programs, appropriate books and artists' biographies for visitors to enjoy.
- Six area elementary schools have participated in the **Student Art Wall** program in this school year: Carey, Wilson Vance, Bigelow Hill, Lincoln, Sylvania Franciscan Academy and Van Buren. Among the artists they studied are Doug Keith, Michael Dooling, Michael J. Rosen, and Lisa Desimini.



Artist Doug Keith beside artwork in his style by students from Carey Elementary School

- The **Mazza Before Bedtime** TV show encourages adults and children to appreciate reading together and learning about the artwork that enhances the story. This year's shows have featured art and

books by Nicole Rubel, Donald Crews, Maryann Kovalski, Wil Clay, Bob Marstall, Lori McElrath-Eslick, Jim LaMarche and Mary GrandPré. Stay tuned to Channel 20, Tues./Thurs. at 7:00 p.m. and Sat./Sun. at 8:00 p.m. for artists Gloria Kamen and Denise Brunkus, followed by "Best of Mazza" for the summer, until the next season begins in mid-September.



Storyteller Nina Parker with second-grade children from Whittier Primary School for a "Mazza Before Bedtime" episode featuring artist Nicole Rubel

- **Exploring the Great Outdoors** traveling exhibit is spending the spring at Huntington Museum of Art in Huntington, W. Va., until May 21, and then will be on display at Acadiana Arts Council in Lafayette, La., from June 7 to July 30, and at Napa Valley Museum in Yountville, Calif., from Aug. 16 to Oct. 8, 2004. **A Carnival of Animals** was at the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery in Columbus, Ohio, until April 21 and has finally come home to Mazza.



A Carnival of Animals at the Riffe Gallery with (left to right) Riffe Gallery Marketing Specialist Shane Cartmill, Riffe Gallery Director Mary Gray, Jerry and Carol Mallett, and Ben Sapp

- The city of **Upper Sandusky**, which recently became a "Mazza colony," awarded the "Key of the City" to Mazza Museum and Director Jerry Mallett. Visits and presentations are now taking place at this new site.
- Ohio schools in this year's **School Extension Program** are the following: Sylvania Franciscan Academy in Sylvania, studying artist Patrick O'Brien; Woodland Elementary in Perrysburg, studying Henry Cole; Fort Miami Elementary in Maumee, studying Bob Marstall; and Ridge Elementary in Bowling Green, studying Lori McElrath-Eslick, Patrick O'Brien and Iza Trapani. Fifty-nine schools have now participated in this educational program.
- Special **adult museum tours** over the past months included artist Steve Harpster, artist Angela L. Chostner, classes from Bowling Green State University, Ohio Northern, Ohio State, The University of Findlay, Rhodes College, Taylor University, Owens Community College, Columbus School of Art & Design with instructors Dominic Catalano and Benton Mahan, Hiawatha School in Toledo, Allen East High School in Harrod, Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green Montessori, faculty from Lincoln Elementary School with visiting author J. Patrick Lewis, Spectrum Eye Care, Northwest Ohio Presbyterian Ministers, Merrill Lynch, Delta Kappa Gamma Toledo chapter, Findlay Exchange Club, Japanese Business Group, and Retired Teachers of Ohio.

Accent on Artists

Interview with Jane Breskin Zalben

by Carol Reid



Jane Breskin Zalben

Q: What are your earliest memories of drawing?

A: As soon as I could hold a crayon, I was drawing. When I was five years old, my mother took me to the Junior Museum at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. I took art lessons and painted all morning. In the afternoon, we toured the Museum together and I got to know it by heart. My first-grade teacher let me stay in the classroom to paint and then put my painting on the door. It was my first one-woman show!

Q: What did you study at Queen's College and Pratt Graphics Center?

A: In sixth grade, I got a scholarship to go to Pratt Institute on weekends to do linoleum-cut printing and started feeling like a real artist. I was also taking art

lessons and building a portfolio for the High School of Music and Art, which I started attending in 10th grade. Later, at Queen's, as a fine art major, I specialized in modern color field paintings and learned bookmaking—printing, etching and sculpture. Then, for a year after college, I studied under a master lithographer at Pratt Graphics Center.

Q: How did you get your first book published?

A: My first job was with Dial Press where I was fortunate to be working with an art director who was also the designer for Maurice Sendak's books. I'd take my portfolio around to publishers and took a dummy book on my lunch hour to Susan Hirschman [editor at Macmillan], who decided to publish it—*Cecilia's Older Brother*—on the spot.

Q: What prompted your Jewish holiday books?

A: At the time, there weren't any modern Jewish children's books in an up-to-date setting that weren't preachy, and none with animals. So *Beni's First Chanukah* (1988) was a groundbreaking book and a prize-winner. I did a boxed set of four Beni books and then another four-book series about life cycles, including award-winning *Pearl's Passover*.

Q: What are the main themes you try to portray in your art/writing?

A: Friendship, family, feelings, insecurities. I often portray vulnerability and overcoming difficulty through strength and independence. I prefer to use anthropomorphism because I love researching and drawing animals.

Q: I understand you've collaborated with your husband, Steven, on his first book, your first together.

A: We have a book coming out this fall for which we collaborated on both the writing and the illustrations—*Saturday Night at the Beastro*, yes with 'ea'. The art is a combination of photography, digital manipulation on the computer, overlays with hand painting, and collage. We'll be doing more books together—if we survive the fun and fighting!

Q: Any other forthcoming books?

A: *Baby Babka, the Gorgeous Genius* and *Hey, Mama Goose*. Also a sequel to *Let There Be Light: Poems and Prayers for Repairing the World*. I like variety and am also working on some more novels for young adults. I love experimenting, changing, and trying new forms of art and writing. It's all very exciting, taking risks.

Book Nook

by Mary Miller

Books reviewed here are available for purchase in the Mazza Gift Shop.

Uncle Andy's by James Warhola

James Warhola, nephew of artist Andy Warhol, recounts his family's relationship with his famous uncle. Through James' eyes, we see what made family visits memorable and learn that art is everywhere.

The Secret Remedy Book written by Karin Cates, illust. by Wendy Anderson Halperin

This is a heartwarming story about what to do when you feel blue and how the love of a good friend can be all that you need. Perfect for laptop sharing, this book will comfort and enfold readers like a faded old quilt.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's work, engineered and illustrated by Robert Sabuda

This is Sabuda's most amazing pop-up ever, illustrated in John Tenniel's classic style, with a wonderful balance of colors, shapes, and action that will captivate all children.



Spotlight on Michael Monroe ... coming to Mazza Sept. 19

by Kim Greenfield

Michael Monroe is the illustrator of nine picture books, including *A Wish To Be a Christmas Tree*, which was read on “The Today Show” by Katie Couric on Christmas morning of 2002. This has been Monroe’s favorite book so far, firstly, because he got to work on it with his wife, Colleen, who is the author of the book, and secondly, because of the emotional feedback from readers.

Audiences of all ages can enjoy Monroe’s intricate paintings of the aged tree; his work is like a scavenger hunt that reveals hidden details upon closer examination.

He says, “I love when people look at the cover of that book and don’t instantly see the face with the icicle tear, and then I show it to them. They wonder how they missed it in the first place. ... I love hiding little things in the paintings that they can find only when they are really studying the pictures.”

Book creation is a family project for the Monroes: Michael’s wife is also the author of the book *Christmas Humbugs*. As well, Monroe is inspired by his three children, and quips that they are his “own little test market audience.” He does extensive research for each of his books and states, “I

greatly feel the responsibility to show things accurately. ... I never want it to be said that a child learned something wrong from one of my illustrations!”

Monroe has been illustrating books since 1998 when he illustrated his first book, *My First Mitten*. He works in acrylic paint, primarily because his first paint set was acrylics. He appreciates that the paint can “mimic other media” depending on its consistency, and he loves the fact that he can paint over his mistakes. But mostly, he uses acrylics because they produce such bright colors that young readers enjoy.

Castle Quest: A Medieval Fantasy with Dominic Catalano

by Jane Vanden Eynden

The Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion was transformed into a fantasy castle for the 2004 Young Illustrators Conference. King Mallett, dressed in traditional majestic regalia and assisted by peasant serf Ben Sapp, proclaimed that the day was to be a celebration of art and literature, and introduced the guest of honor, children’s book author/illustrator Dominic Catalano.

Addressing the more than 150 would-be illustrators drawn from the third through fifth grades of area schools, Mr. Catalano began by telling the students about his earliest artistic endeavor. As a third grader, he was so intrigued with *Where The Wild Things Are* that he began to reproduce its illustrations on the walls of his bedroom. After three years he had filled one complete wall. Here were the beginnings of his determination to become a professional illustrator.

Mr. Catalano then proceeded to show the students examples of illustrations from a number of his books including *Merry Christmas, Old Armadillo* (written by Larry Dane Brimmer) and his own *Frog*



Dominic Catalano and Storyteller Kim Forget

Went A-Courting. This was followed by a demonstration of his drawing technique, which involves a mix of pencil, powdered pigments, and air-brushing. After completing a drawing of his elephant Bernard, he captivated the students with a reading of *Bernard’s Bath* (written

by Joan Goodman) while the book’s illustrations were projected onto a large overhead screen. He told the audience, “Illustrators are magicians who create illusions.”

The students then broke up into a number of smaller groups, which rotated among several activities throughout the castle’s Great Hall. Storyteller Madame Forgetski, a.k.a. The University of Findlay Instructor Kim Forget, read Christine San Jose’s *Sleeping Beauty*, illustrated by Mr. Catalano. Meanwhile, other students shared the storybooks they illustrated themselves, with each other and with Mr. Catalano, who autographed every book and offered personal encouragement to each aspiring young artist and novelist.

The day’s events concluded with a performance by ventriloquist and magician Rod Snow who, for the ninth year, entertained and entranced the students with his puppets and sleight-of-hand.



Graduating class of new docents: (left to right) Cheryl Conkle, Cindy Benton, Jo Binger, Miriam Vance, Jeanne Bartolomeo, Linda Beltz and Pat Koebler

Annual General Meeting

The 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Mazza Enthusiasts was held on Nov. 6 at 6:15 p.m. Chairman Lee Myers welcomed Mazza Enthusiasts and thanked the Board members for their service during the year. Without Mazza Enthusiasts, the Museum would not be able to provide its many educational programs.

Officers and committee chairs presented their annual reports. Director Jerry Mallett explained how the new building addition, which will provide the desperately needed additional space for education, storage and gift shop display, will be a focus for the next year and beyond, until its completion in 2007. The following officers were elected for 2004 to 2006.

Chairman: Sandy Reinhardt

Vice-Chairman: Barbara Meyers

Corresponding Secretary: Carol Roessing

Recording Secretary: Debbie Bouts

Historian: Nancy Downing

Parliamentarian/ Publicity: Linda Coleman

Past Chairman: Lee Myers

Treasurer: Marna Weaver

The Annual General Meeting is open to all Mazza Enthusiasts—not just to Board members. Attending this meeting is a great way to find out what's happening at Mazza.

Calling
all prospective docents
Training starts in September
Lots of benefits and fun!
For info,
call (419) 434-4777



Maria Gasbarro from Sodexho catering, an outstanding helper at Mazza's special events

Mazza welcomed WFIN to the Holiday Gift Shop on opening day, Nov. 3, where Kelly Greene broadcast her radio program and interviewed several of the Mazza staff and Enthusiasts.



Holiday Gift Shop 2003, overflowing with books and educational toys

Exhibition Volunteers

Thanks to four volunteers and several partnerships, Mazza art is being displayed in the community. Parent Shelly Johnson-Fox and Mazza Enthusiast Nancy Fay visit classrooms at Arcadia Elementary School every other month to share Mazza art and corresponding books. As well, Mazza Enthusiasts Barbara Wisner and Barbara Lindamood manage a



Mazza Enthusiast Nancy Fay sharing artwork with first-grade students at Arcadia Elementary School

rotating display of Mazza art and books at the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library. Check it out! (Art is also displayed in the community through the Physicians/ Mazza partnership. See page 5.)



Mazza staff and Enthusiasts at December Board meeting

Mark Your Calendar! Coming up at Mazza

May 6, 2004, 7:30 P.M.

22nd Annual Mazza Celebration featuring Mazza Medallion Winner Robert Sabuda
(tickets required)

June 20 – 26, 2004

9th Annual Mazza Study Tour to the Hudson River Valley featuring Tedd Arnold, Maria Cristina Brusca, Melanie Hall, G. Brian Karas, Thomas Locker, Emily Arnold McCully, Myles & Sandra Pinkney, Alice Provensen, Peter Sis, Simms Taback, Hudson Talbott, Iza Trapani, James Warhola, Ed Young and Dirk Zimmer (registration required)

July 5 – 9, 2004

Children's Art Camp: mornings for grads of 3rd, 4th & 5th grades, afternoons for grads of K, 1st and 2nd grades (registration required)

July 26 – 30, 2004

11th Annual Mazza Summer Institute featuring Robert Bender, Lisa Desimini, Michael Dooling, Jack Gantos, Barbara Garrison, Steve Geck, Marc & Cheryl Harshman, Anita Lobel, Kevin S. Luthardt, Richard Michelson, Wendell Minor, Ted & Gloria Rand and Victoria Raymond (registration required)

September 19, 2004, 2:00 P.M.

Mazza Presents Michael Monroe (tickets required)

November 1 – 14, 2004

Mazza Holiday Gift Shop

November 12 & 13, 2004

7th Annual Mazza Weekend Institute featuring Henry Cole, Pamela Duncan Edwards, Steven Kellogg, Julie L. Mammano, Janet Stevens and Nancy Tafuri (registration required)

November 14, 2004, 2:00 P.M.

Mazza Enthusiasts Annual Meeting

November 14, 2004, 2:30 P.M.

Holiday Special featuring Steven Kellogg (tickets required)



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