

Continuing the mission

FOR 125 YEARS, The Portfolio has remained true to its constitution, "to bring the various art interests of the community together, promote a spirit of comradeship, and foster the appreciation of all the arts." Whether internally through its meetings, members and programs, or externally through its scholarships and exhibitions, the Portfolio's continued promotion and support of all of the local arts, and the 'happiness and betterment' that they provide, will, in the words of Morris Ross from 1890, become "an influence that may work those beneficent results in the community."

December 16, 2014



Steve Barnett
Sue Barnett
Betty Boyle
Don Boyle
Wendy Boyle
David Buchanan
Deborah Cooney
Jack Cooney
Rich Costello

Ron Crain Mary Ann Davis Beth Henkel Dan Henkel Kim Hodges Doug Horth Lois Horth Charlie Hyde Samantha Hyde Elaine Klemesrud Vandra Pentecost Linder Sara Love Eric MacDougall Jonna MacDougall Kathy McKimmie Jack Munson Lucy Newton Mary Nicewander Patchen Phil O'Malley Frank Owings Patte Owings Mary Lee Pappas David Peat Mary Peat Greg Persell Ginny Taylor Rosner Charlotte Schrock Ken Scott Virginia Scott

1990 Centennial Celebration

The Portfolio's Centennial Dinner was held May 5, 1990 on the main floor of the Propylaeum. This was the last scheduled meeting for the 1989-1990 season. The affair was catered by the Propylaeum staff, with some 45 Portfolians in attendance. The program for this event featured Dick Henkel's presentation "A Portfolio Potpourri," with piano accompaniment by Duncan Schiedt. This was followed by Centennial Chairman Ray Gnat distributing the Centennial booklet, which contains the text of a paper read by Morris Ross

at the meeting in May 1890 suggesting the spirit of the Portfolio. The booklet also lists all Portfolio members from 1890 to the 1989-1990 season.

This current summary highlights some of the club's more defining moments over the last two-and-a- half decades. It lists the regular, privileged and out-of-state members who appear in the Portfolio yearbooks from 1990-1991 to 2014-2015.



Centennial Dinner

Betty Aker Mace Aker DeWitt Brown Mary Brown Bertha Lugar Caldwell Caroline Capehart Earl Capehart Harriet Capehart Ilse Cate Clara Christian Harry Davis Lois Davis Jean Gnat Ray Gnat Bick Hile Devin Hile Carmen Holeman Mark Holeman Bob Hollingsworth Hazel Hopper Clarence Kirk Liz Kirk Jeannie Loonsten Dane Love Jean Love Charles Meyer Jeanette Meyer

Frank Owings
Patte Owings
Dave Peat
Mary Peat
Robert Rohn
Ann Rohn
Dick Rosengarten
Mary Rosengarten
Duncan Schiedt

Ruth Schumacher Fran Steele Ted Steele Martha Van Sickle Jim Weir Bob Yassin Marilyn Yassin



The Portfolio Club moved its meetings from The Propylaeum after the 1991-1992 season.

Winds of Change

For its 101st year (1990-1991), the club was still meeting in the basement of the Propylaeum, as it had been for the previous 60-plus years. That year, the club conducted eleven meetings from October to May. Supper Committees provided home-cooked meals at \$2.00 per member; annual membership dues were \$15.

While the nature of the century-old arts organization had remained relatively stable over the years, the same could not be said regarding its meeting facility, the basement rooms of the Propylaeum. At the end of the 1990-1991 season, Propylaeum management informed the Portfolio Executive Committee that, due to the crumbling status of the building's foundation and the out-of-code electrical wiring, gatherings of people in the basement would be prohibited for safety concerns. And, although there were plans to repair the structure, no time frame was given as to when work

would begin or be completed. Beginning with the 1991-1992 season, the club was forced to find another meeting site. However, the Portfolio's art, dishes, pots, pans, tables, chairs and the old piano could temporarily remain in the basement rooms.

The club did not move far that year: the 1991-1992 programs were held upstairs on the main floor of the Propylaeum building. Propylaeum staff provided meals at \$12.10 per member. Dues remained at \$15 per member, but because of increased cost for the facilities upstairs, the number of meetings was reduced from eleven to eight per year.

The Victorian Manor Years

1992-1993 to 2000-2001

The following season, 1992-1993, the club's meetings were moved to the top floor of the Victorian Manor (Schnull-Rauch House) next to the Children's Museum on North Meridian Street. The Portfolio remained there for nine years; but this was a period of change, trial and error for the club, especially with the dinner arrangements. During the Victorian Manor years, the Supper Committee now had a choice of providing a home-cooked meal or sponsoring a catered dinner. To help offset expenses (especially if catered), a meal cost of \$5.00 per member was charged (the remaining cost was absorbed by the Supper Committee.) By the last year at the Victorian Manor (2000-2001), most dinners were being provided by outside caterers. Membership dues held at \$15.

In February 1992, the Indianapolis Athletic Club suffered a deadly fire. Sections of the first and second floors, including furnishings and works of art, were destroyed. During the ensuing eight months of renovation, the IAC initiated an attempt

to accumulate new art for its walls and established an art foundation. Prompted by the Athletic Club's need for art and the Portfolio's impending need to move its art from the basement of the Propylaeum, meetings of the two organizations resulted in a loan agreement in October 1992. In exchange for free storage at the IAC for most of its collection, the Portfolio's art would also be displayed throughout the building. By December, some 25 pieces from the Portfolio art collection were hung in the main dining room of the Athletic Club, where the Portfolio held its Christmas party that year—once again meeting and dining amidst its art.

At that same December meeting, it was announced that the Propylaeum had finally given the club the ultimatum to remove its possessions (including the remaining art) from the basement. Plans were made to move the Portfolio's belongings by the end of the year, and on a wintry December Saturday morning, a small group of Portfolians assembled at the Propylaeum to take the art and transport it to the IAC.



For nine years, 1992-2001, The Portfolio Club met at the Victorian Manor/Schnull-Rauch House.

(Image from a drawing by Portfolian Harry A. Davis)

Discovering a Hidden Treasure

The extant art was the last of the Portfolio items to be moved out of the basement. As the final pieces went out the door and the old club room was about to be locked, the group paused to look over the space one last time. For some reason, their attention was drawn toward the fireplace and the



Woman in Mountainscape, oil painting by Clifton Wheeler 40" x 60"

large white panel above the mantelpiece over which the two-sided Clifton Wheeler painting had hung for years. Upon closer inspection, this panel appeared loose. Sensing that there might be something behind it, the group began to remove the molding that framed the board and carefully peeled back the panel. There was nothing behind the panel but the red brick of the fireplace chimney. On the hidden side of the board, however, facing the brick chimney, was the 40-by-60-inch oil painting "Woman in Mountainscape," by Clifton Wheeler. This piece now hangs in the stairwell at the Bona Thompson Memorial Center.

Changing Traditions

The 1998-1999 Portfolio year brought with it another change to the club's tradition-the method of voting for new members. For decades, the club used the blackball ballot box in its membership elections. In the voting process, a venerable wooden box holding both white and black balls was passed to each member in turn. Under cover of the box's lid, the members would select one ball-white (in favor) or black (not in favor)-and drop it through the hole in the center chamber of the box. After each member had voted, the lid was opened and the results (balls) were tallied. According to the Portfolio Constitution up to the 1997-1998 season, three black balls found in the box would disqualify the prospective member. Over the years, few prospective candidates were ever blackballed. Nonetheless, in the 1998-1999 yearbook, the club's constitution records the change in the membership procedure from the blackball ballot box to a majority by written, hand or voice vote-which remains the current practice.

The Indianapolis Art Center | Bona Thompson Memorial Center Years

2001-2002 to 2014-2015

Beginning with the 2001-2002 club year, the Portfolio was on the move once again—this time to the ground-floor library of the Indianapolis Art Center in Broad Ripple. That year's membership book noted, "No more stairs to climb. No more groaning elevator. No more parking worries."



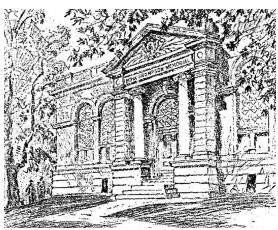
(Left) The Indianapolis Art Center became the meeting venue for The Portfolio beginning with the 2001-2002 season.

(Right) Beginning with the 2003-2004 Club year, The Portfolio shared its meeting locations between The Indianapolis Art Center and The Bona Thompson Memorial Center. (Image from a drawing by Portfolian Frederick Polley)

For the first year at the Art Center, the club maintained the dinner tradition giving the Supper Committee the option of providing a home-cooked meal or sponsoring a catered event. However, by the next season, the club had switched to outside catering only, and our current caterer, Ed Knouse's California Connection Catering, appears in the yearbook for the first time.

From 2002 to the current club year, both dues and meal costs have continued to rise. In 2002, membership dues were \$20, moving to \$30 in 2011. The individual meal cost was \$7 by 2002, and gradually rose to its current \$12 level in 2012 (which now incorporates the caterer's gratuity).

In 2003, the Portfolio opted to meet at both the Indianapolis Art Center and the Bona Thompson Memorial Center (which is the



club's current arrangement). The art collection was moved to and displayed at the newly renovated Bona Thompson Memorial Center. This collection includes paintings, drawings and lithographs by Portfolians William Forsyth, Wayman Adams, Clifton Wheeler, Simon Baus, Frederick Polley, Constance Forsyth, Charles Yeager, and Hilah Wheeler. As part of the club's programming, exhibitions of the Portfolio's historic art collection, as well as art by current Portfolians, have been mounted over the years at the Bona Thompson. And to further its art outreach, pieces from the Portfolio collection have been loaned to such exhibits as American Portraiture: The Figurative Works of Wayman Adams (2004) and Creating History: Indiana's Historic Women Artists (2004-2005). In 2006, the club's archives were also moved to the Bona Thompson, with duplicates of some of the material deposited with the Indiana Historical Society.

The Picnic

The annual summer picnic is a long-standing Portfolio tradition. Held at Portfolians' homes or at public, historic sites and facilities over the last 25 years, the picnic is an informal gathering harkening back to the club's Bohemian roots. Funds collected from the picnic's auction of member-provided art, books and other desirable items support the Portfolio Annual Scholarship and help cover expenses for the coming club year.



Portfolio Club Picnic July 15, 2006

Fostering Emerging Artists: The Portfolio Scholarship Program

In 2002, the Portfolio made a decision that would establish the groundwork for the club's ability to assist artists of future generations. For the past 10 years, the club's art collection had been exhibited and housed at the Indianapolis Athletic Club. By early 2001, there were rumors that the IAC might close for financial reasons. Uncertain about what to do with its art collection, the club formed the Art Committee to examine the options and report its recommendation. In May 2002, about thirty pieces from the Portfolio collection were sold at auction. The remaining art was retained and eventually placed on permanent loan with the Irvington Historical Society in the Bona Thompson Memorial Center. Proceeds from the art sale became the club's Legacy Fund, and beginning in 2009 would finance an endowed scholarship for students at the Herron School of Art and Design.

This Endowed Scholarship complemented the club's other art scholarship, the Annual Scholarship, which since 2007 had been awarded on an annual rotating basis to students of the visual, performing, musical, and performing arts at central Indiana colleges and universities.

Program and Membership Notes

The programs presented at the monthly meetings are the very heart of the Portfolio experience. This brief recap cannot acknowledge all the members and guests who made for 25 years of memorable programs, but here are a few facts to consider about the Portfolio's most recent quarter century:

- √ 195 Programs have been presented
- 153 Regular Members have appeared in the yearbooks
- 56 Regular Members in the 1990-1991 yearbook
- 66 Regular Members in the 2014-2015 yearbook
- 14 Regular Members still in the club since 1990-1991

The Supper Committee has been the traditional name for the group that plans and hosts the social hour and dinner of a Portfolio meeting. However, the yearbooks from 1991 through 2001 refer to the Dinner Committee. Beginning with the 2002 club year, the term reverted back to the Supper Committee, which continues as the current practice.

Beginning with the 2000-2001 Portfolio yearbook, all couples were listed with the female member's name first (this practice continues today). In 2003-2004, members' e-mail addresses appeared for the first time.

As with every era,

THE PORTFOLIO programs and yearbooks from 1990-2015 reflect the rich diversity of the members' interests and work. Our founders' passion for shared experiences around the arts remains the heartbeat of the Portfolio and surges strongly through the next generation.

The Portfolio Regular Members

(from the 1990-1991 to 2014-2015 yearbooks)

		D . II . 1	2002	T 1 M	2012
Caroline Adams		Peter Harstad		Jack Munson	
Betty Aker		Jim Hebden		George Newton	
Mace Aker		Ruth Hebden		Lucy Newton	
Vicki Anderson		Beth Henkel		Melba Newton Ann Neilsen	
Harold Baker		Dan Henkel			
Steve Barnett		Margery Henkel		Chris Neilsen	
Sue Barnett		Richard Henkel		Jim Nulty	
Tiffany Benedict Berkson		Beth Henricks		Phil O'Malley	
Cynthia Blasingham		Jerry Henricks		Frank Owings, Jr.	
Pamela Bliss		David Hicks		Patte Owings	
Betty Boyle		Pam Hicks		Mary Lee Pappas	
Donald Boyle		Bick Hile		David Peat	
Wendy Boyle		Devin Hile		Mary Peat	
Jane Bridgins		Kim Hodges		Talitha Peat	
DeWitt Brown, Jr.		Adele Holevas		Rachel Perry	
David Buchanan		Robert Hollingsworth		Susan Barnett Perry	
Howard Caldwell, Jr.		Hazel Hopper		Greg Persell	
Lynn Caldwell		Douglas Horth		Mildred Persell	
Beth Campbell		Lois Horth		Mary Rosengarten	
Clarke Campbell		Charlie Hyde		Richard Rosengarten	
Naomi Campbell		Samantha Hyde		Ginny Taylor Rosner	
H. Earl Capehart, Jr.	1974–1995	Caroline (Carrie) Kirk		Duncan Schiedt	
Harriet Capehart	1974–2002	Clarence Kirk, Jr.		Mary Ann Schott	
Ilse Cate	1988–2006	Elizabeth Kirk		Charlotte Schrock	
Clara Christian		Glenda Kouts		Ruth H. Schumacher	
Curt Churchman		Kevin Kouts		Ken Scott	
Kathy Churchman	2010–2012	Martin Krause		Virginia Scott	
Deborah Cooney	.1991–	Mary Krause		Joyce A. Sommers	
John (Jack) Cooney	.1991–	David Kwasigroh		Francis Steele	
Rich Costello	.2013–	Elizabeth LaBorde		Theodore Steele	
Ron Crain	.1996–	Michael LaBorde		Bill Theobald	
Sandy Crain	.1996–	Vandra Pentecost Linder		Sharon Theobald	
Douglas David	2003–2010	Jeannie Loonsten		Michelle Thompson	
Harry Davis		Dane Love		Howard Van Sickle	
Marsh Davis	2007–	Jean Love		Martha Van Sickle	
Mary Ann Davis	2000-	Sara Love		Jean Brown Wagoner	
Robert Davis	2007-	Eric MacDougall		Bret Waller	
Elizabeth Donaldson	.2007	Jonna MacDougall		Mary Lou Waller	
Weber Donaldson	2007	James Edward May		Amie Walls	
Susan Fordyce	2000-	Laurette McCarthy	2007–	Charles Walls	2007–2009
Blanche Friend		Barbara McCroskey		James Weir	
James Glass	2006–	Ralph McCroskey		Anna White	
Jean Gnat	1984–2001	Kathy McKimmie		James White	
Raymond Gnat		Jane McPherson		J. Reid Williamson, Jr.	
Chris Griffin-Woods		Charles Meyer	1981–1991	Robert Willis	
George Hanlin	2006–	Jeanette Meyer		Steve Woerner	2001–2002
Carolyn Harstad	. 2002	Pat Montgomery	1993–2001		

Privileged Members

(per the 2014-2015 yearbook)

Mary Brown 1978–2012, Privileged Member 2013– Carmen Holeman 1978–2008, Privileged Member 2009– Mark Holeman 1978–2008, Privileged Member 2009– Alice Usher 1961–1982, 2000–2012, Privileged Member 2013–

Ed Wolfley 1995–2012, Privileged Member 2013– Shirley Wolfley 1995–2012, Privileged Member 2013–

Nonresident Members

(per the 2014-2015 yearbook)

Caroline Capehart 1983–1994, Nonresident Member 1995– Lois Davis 1963–2010, Nonresident Member 2011– Scott Evenbeck 2009, Nonresident Member 2010–