



AUGUST 2005 - Brickbottom Artist Association

The summer is winding down, and before you know it, things will be kicking back into high gear in the fall. The BAA looks forward to continued cultivation of our art-making and art-loving community – enabled by your support and energetic involvement.

There's lots to share in this Baguette, so without further ado, here are the current BAA Board members and our respective duties: Connie Blaszczyk (BAA office and special events), Peter Marquez (fundraising, business development, ARTSUnion and website), Cindy Larson (membership and volunteers), George Summers (interns), Charlie Lark (community outreach and publicity), Jim Wright (gallery), Jeff Altepeter (accounting and events), Christiana Celli (office support and Baguette news – see page 2), and Polly Pook (honorary board member who graciously continues to keep the books in order.)

Contact us with your ideas, and even more importantly, volunteer your time and energy. How about setting aside 2-3 hours a month to work on keeping art alive and well at Brickbottom? A little bit of effort from many people can make a big difference. Volunteer your skills, share your vision. **We need ACTIVE members.**

SPECIAL EVENT: JOIN FELICE REGAN for a TOUR of GEE'S BEND QUILTS

Felice Regan, Honorary Open Studios Diva, is an avid quilt aficionado. Felice is excited to lead a small BAA members' tour of **The Quilts of Gee's Bend**, an exhibit of 60 extraordinary quilts currently showing at the Museum of Fine Arts. Tour date is **Saturday, August 20th, at 1pm**. Space is limited – first to call, first reserved. Contact Connie at 617-628-8846 (leave a message with your call back info) to reserve a space. Note: There are no special tickets required for this exhibition. However, you will need to cover your own MFA admission fee and transportation. Thank you, Felice, for leading what is sure to be a very special event.

Open Studios 2006: Let's Talk!

We're nearing that time of year again – time to start thinking and planning for this year's Open Studios. The dates for Open Studios 2006 are Saturday and Sunday, November 19th and 20th. Last year brought a number of new venues to the weekend that attracted people that wouldn't normally attend. This year, we strive to expand on that again.

Open Studios is run by a team of people – some paid, some volunteers. We divide tasks into categories and have one paid person managing the team for that category. Consider being one of the core organizers for Open Studios. Categories are: participant organization, publicity, fundraising, gallery (Debra), docents, performances, weekend event management. Get involved – **WE NEED YOUR ENERGY AND INVOLVEMENT.**

Join us **Thursday, August 18th from 7-8pm in the BAA gallery** to discuss our direction for this year.

Baguette, August 2005 – page 2

BAA Membership: Now's the Time

Now is the time to join or renew your membership to the BAA and be part of the arts community! The BAA offers its' members many benefits, including access to group health insurance rates (see more below), discounts at local businesses, 10% discount on art purchased at our gallery, the ability to participate in 3 member shows in our gallery, participate in other BAA sponsored shows around the city, the opportunity to participate in BAA Open Studios (if space allows,) artist listing on the BAA website including an image of your artwork/links/show listings and the chance to support the arts and artists in your community!

Membership forms can be found in the Brickbottom lobby or on line at www.brickbottomartists.com. Print out the form, fill in the information and either drop it off at the BAA office (C125) or mail to BAA, 1 Fitchburg Street C111, Somerville MA 02143.

BAA Membership Includes Two Healthy Benefits

The lowest health insurance rates available from the major Massachusetts carriers at www.associationbenefitsgroup.com. Simply identify yourself as a current Brickbottom Artist Association member to get the best rates.

Dental insurance and disability insurance for the self employed at www.dentalforme.com. These are normally difficult to obtain and expensive, but through the BAA you can get high quality coverage that is guaranteed issue and affordable. Questions? Call Fran at 866-303-2810 for more info.

Thank you to Gary Fradin and the Association Benefits Group for their support of the BAA.D

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Charles Webb Building Changes Hands

By (Deleted by autors request)

For all who may be curious about the new owner of the Charles Webb building, I am happy to say the property is in good hands. Almost every time I pass he is there to greet me with a bright smile. You may have seen him yourself. He is usually clad in khaki pants and a pale blue button down

Baguette, August 2005 – page 3

collared shirt. His name is Glenn Shealey. I am amazed to see him out alongside hired help putting in his own hard work in attempts to beautify the landscape on the west view of the Brickbottom building.

Glenn has lived in Cambridge for 30 plus years. About five years after his wife passed, he

remarried and relocated to Providence, Rhode Island. He has been familiar with the Charles Webb building since 1969. He noticed over the years that the hillside became increasingly out of control with trash and debris. He intends to keep the hillside as well as the parking lot clean. Glenn has even asked Ed Owens (owner of the property to the right of the Charles Webb building) permission to clean up his property. Glenn has also managed to reason with the group of party animals in that parking lot by giving them a trash receptacle in which to dispose of the trash they generate daily - so far they have complied.

Glenn looks forward to removing the graffiti in the surrounding areas and eventually installing floodlighting in the parking lots. As far as the inside of the building goes, the city of Somerville would like to keep the Charles Webb building an industrial property. Glenn intends to replace the windows and turn his space into office units for those affiliated with architecture and design. Mr. Shealey hopes for a longstanding creative relationship with the Brickbottom community. Glenn thanks Bob Martel, Priscilla Lamb Kennedy, and the Brickbottom Trustees.

Dispatch from Peter Marquez: Somerville's Union Square

This summer's ArtsUnion activities have turned Somerville's other square - Union Square - into the most happening square in town. The weekly farmers' market has been a big hit -- with farmers selling out and customers fighting over the last banana bread. (I can't believe she took it just as I reached for it!)

The bi-weekly crafts fair, featured in this past week's Boston Globe, continues to demonstrate the variety of art and crafts created in Somerville. People are getting used to seeing art and buying it in Union Square. In fact, on the off weeks, people have been asking, "Where's the art?"

And now there is music. At the last crafts fair, our own Pauline Lim serenaded customers as they walked among the radishes and watercolors. Upcoming events include singer-songwriters Keith Hampton (Aug. 20) and Timothy Riordan (Sept. 10).

Thanks to the BAA artists that have taken part in the crafts fair and the members that have visited the square. We hope to see you at the next two **crafts fair and farmers' market on August 20 and Sept. 10.**

BAA Boardmember Profile: Jeffrey Altepeter, Bookbinder

Jeff, with son Harlan

I literally grew up in my father's picture framing business in Indiana. The experience instilled an appreciation of art and craft and led to my interest in conservation and restoration. The apprenticeship with my father helped me develop the hand skills I apply to my craft of

Baguette, August 2005 – page 4

bookbinding. I graduated from Indiana University having studied Italian language and literature. My idea was to later study art restoration in Italy.

Instead, I moved to Somerville with Rebecca (now my wife) after graduation. I worked for several years for a frame shop in Cambridge while exploring ideas for conservation studies. Conversations with a book conservator planted the seed to specialize in books. I discovered that the only full time bookbinding program in the US was in Boston at North Bennet Street School (NBSS). I learned that the 'hands on' approach worked better for me than classroom studies.

Along the way I found myself drawn most to working with leather, and to the creation of new bindings. I was inspired by modern design binding. Design bindings, or fine bindings, are

unique creations generally utilizing the finest materials and techniques. I began to study with master binder Tini Miura at The American Academy of Bookbinding in Telluride, Colorado. I was one of its first graduates in 2003.

I gained valuable experience repairing books at Tozzer Library at Harvard University while a student at NBSS. During the year after graduating from NBSS I worked at Harcourt Bindery in Boston, the largest bindery in the United States devoted exclusively to hand work. These work experiences were invaluable extensions of the formal training programs.

Rebecca and I had moved to Brickbottom just before I started the NBSS program in 1997, and from the beginning I have slowly collected bookbinding tools and equipment. Some of you may remember our large open space, once great for hosting post open studios parties... I now have a fully outfitted bindery here in B156 where I have been exclusively self-employed for the past couple of years, and the space seems much smaller! Open Studios has been critical to the growth of my business, and the community here is a source of inspiration as well as potential clients!

I offer a full range of hand binding services (you can learn more and see examples of my work at www.handbookbinding.com). I have enjoyed consulting on artist book projects and working directly on a couple of projects with other BAA members. I create a variety of custom portfolios, print boxes and other presentation materials for photographers and other artists. I have recently joined the board of the BAA and hope that I can contribute to the organization in return for the benefits it has afforded me.

Zoning laws and Public Ordinances and the Arts

Union Square needs you: your help, expertise, and personal experiences. The Somerville Arts Council and partners under the banner of the ArtsUnion initiative are working with Jay Wickersham, a consultant, to examine current zoning laws and public ordinances that affect the arts in Somerville and specifically within Union Square.

ARTSUnion is seeking public input for a report to be submitted to the Mayor, Aldermen, the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, and the Arts Council.

An advisory group – including Bob Martel representing Brickbottom and Peter Marquez representing the BAA -- met last week to help frame the issues for the ArtsUnion initiative. The intent of ArtsUnion is to promote cultural economic development in Union Square. A long-term component is an examination of how zoning and ordinances should be revised to "encourage" more arts activities. For example, could small storefronts and garages be utilized for studio spaces; could upper-floor vacant or underutilized spaces become performance spaces? How does existing zoning affect this development? How does "change in use" effect/trigger redevelopment potential for the arts?

Baguette, August 2005 – page 5

How can the City encourage this type of cultural economic development? In addition, should the City create a "performers permit" similar to that of Boston and Cambridge? How can sculptures, installation artists, and visual artist more freely contribute to public art in the City?

If you have had experience in developing galleries, performance space, studio space, live/work space, or conducting public art and wish to let ARTSunion know about that experience and how the City could help make it easier at one of two public meetings.

What: Zoning and Ordinances for the Arts: A Public Meeting (two meetings) **Where:** The Family Center, 366 Somerville Ave. (in Union Square, near the Tir na Nog) 2nd floor, Rm 217 **When:** Weds. August 10: 6:30 p.m. Thurs. August 18: 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions feel free to email or call the Somerville Arts Council.

Opportunities:

The City of Somerville, through its ArtsUnion initiative, seeks proposals from artists, artisans, designers and fabricators ("Applicant") to construct creative, interesting and artistic street furniture for Union Square, Somerville, Massachusetts. Download a PDF at:

<http://www.somervilleartscouncil.org/programs/artsunion/StreetArchCall.pdf>

Elise Mankes Studio, a new fine art gallery in Marblehead, MA is looking for submissions for its second show, Collections (or how the things I collect end up in my artwork). 2-D, 3-D, sculptural, fine crafts and experimental works are welcome. Submission deadline is August 22nd. Show dates are September 15th-October 13th. Please email ehmankes@comcast.net with 'Collections' in subject box for application and further details.

Somerville Open Studios (SOS) seeks an event director to manage the planning activities leading up to its 2006 open studio event, including recruiting volunteers, directing a planning committee, communicating with participating artists, and reporting to the SOS Board of Directors. The Executive Director is responsible for managing to a tight schedule and working within a budget determined by the Board. The Director must also be willing to fundraise. Candidates should have good communication skills and be able to recruit and motivate volunteers. Experience in project management, publicity, and fundraising in the context of a non-profit arts event is helpful. The Director will be compensated with a modest stipend and should expect to spend approximately 10-20 hours (on average) per week to carry out duties over an 8-month period. The bulk of the time commitment will occur between February and late April, culminating with the Open Studios event in May. Please contact Matt Carrano at mattc4@earthlink.net.

BAA Members: Goings On

Beth Walsh-Bolstad: August through mid-September: Group Exhibit at JP Licks, Centre Street, Jamaica Plain; September 17-18 United South End Open Studios; Group Space, Harrison Ave. Boston; September 24-25 Jamaica Plain Open Studios; Group Space, Eliot School, Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain; October 22-23 Dorchester Open Studios. Also, I have been meeting with Sidewalk Sam of "Artstreet" and a group of several artists and organizers to plan a large scale event called Art America Tour. More info at www.artstreet.org.

Riki Moss: at Paradise City in Northampton MA October 8-9-10; at Stebbins Gallery in Harvard Square Nov. 4 - Dec 5.

Baguette, August 2005 – page 6

Beverly Sky has received the Francis A. Kinnicutt Award from the Worcester Art Museum to support a journey to Mexico to study traditional papermaking techniques of the central altiplano

near San Miguel de Allende and Mineral de Pozos in 2006. Bev has also been selected as one of 18 international papermaking artists to be included in a Limited Edition (150) original works of art for a Portfolio titled: The Art of Pulp Painting to be published by Hand Papermaking Magazine for autumn 2005.

Polly Pillsbury: a special exhibit of my work, including jewelry, at the Petersham Craft center, August 1st - August 31st. Contact pollypillsbury@mac.com.

Inspired by **The Certain Journey: MEDITATIONS ON LIVES PASSING**, a show curated by Lois Fiore in the Brickbottom Gallery (January 2005), Boomer Media Properties, Inc. is now in the process of creating a segment for their 13-part series for PBS. The segment will air after January 2006 - we'll keep you posted. Visit <http://www.boomerstv.com>.

Mark your Calendar! Brickbottom Welcome Back Party, September 9, 2005

Sax man David Sholl

Four Piece Suit (<http://www.fourpiecesuit.com/>), led by Brickbottom Resident and Artist Dave Sholl, will entertain BB residents in the Courtyard at the September Welcome Back Brickbottom Community Party on Friday, 9/9/05. There will be a pot luck dinner starting at 6:30P. Please bring some prepared food and beer and wine. The Trust will provide some beer and wine, paper goods, set up and clean up. A \$5.00 - \$10.00 donation for the Band will be requested of everyone attending. Four Piece Suit is a thoroughly enjoyable band. They'll be playing 7:00P to 10:00P. *The public is not invited, but friends are invited.*

And Finally – Thank You

Thanks to Brickbottom residents Pauline Lim and Bill Bennett, who serenaded us recently in the BB courtyard, performing with special guests, vocalists *Kore* and Christopher Lowrey. Lovely.