



Nancy Babson

"I grew up in an artistic family and always knew that art was what I wanted to pursue."

In 1956, Nancy graduated from the Boston Museum School with highest honors. She also studied at De-Cordova and Montserrat. She has exhibited her acrylics with the Hamilton-Wenham Rotary Club, the Reading and Newburyport Art Associations, the Beebe Estate in Melrose, Melrose and Topsfield Libraries, Framemakers, and the North Shore

Unitarian Universalist Church (Danvers). Her work is also in private collections in the United States, Canada, and England.

Her working career encompassed everything from technical illustration to graphic and product design, culminating in the development and invention of games for Parker Brothers.

Awards include:

Newburyport Art Association Award for painting (2001)

Mary Alice Arekelian Award for Best in Show (NAA Members Annual Juried Show, 2004)

Institution for Savings Charitable foundation award (NAA Members Winter Juried Show II, 2005)



Nancy Begin

Nancy is the 3rd generation of sportsmen in her family. She grew up following her dad as he hunted and fished in Essex County. She graduated from the Art Institute of Boston and is influenced by the works of master etchers Frank Benson and Roland Clark. Today she is a well-known wildlife artist combining a passion for observing flyways (bird migration patterns) with a talent to capture birds in flight.

She is a printmaker created etchings that she then hand-colors with watercolor. Her knowledge and great love of migratory birds shows in her depictions of the graceful flight of water fowl over the marshes and the subtle beauty of New England landscapes.

Her work has been on view at Abercrombie & Fitch (New York) and galleries throughout New England, including many one-woman shows in Boston, Cape Cod, and New Hampshire. Locally, she is a contributing member of the Saltbox Gallery here in Topsfield. She has also participated in group shows national and internationally. In addition to her shows, she has been appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts as the first woman member of the State Fisheries and Wildlife Board.



Cameron Bennett

"I am inspired by the great artists of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, especially the portrait-painters. My goal is to improve myself as a painter and artist to a degree comparative to my heroes in art, so that I can better represent the people, places, and situations around me. I spend as much time as possible working on figurative drawing and painting,

and building my portfolio of portraiture. I enjoy posing my friends and family members for my pictures, and I try to work from life as much as possible whenever painting. I believe that what makes representational art exciting is knowing that what is represented in the painting or drawing was captured from a primary visual source. "

Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1971, Cameron got his MFA from Lesley University (Boston), BFA in illustration from the Massachusetts College of Art (Boston) and now lives in Sussex, England. He has done illustrations for many well-known publications including Boston Scientific, NH Magazine, the Hippo Press, and the Salem Observer.

In 1998 he was commissioned to paint the portrait of George Gould for the library. He worked from a small photograph from the New England Historical and genealogical Society.

Margaret (Meg) Black

Meg has been an artist working with handmade paper for over 22 years, becoming something of a pioneer. She focuses on nature and the environment creating beautiful landscapes, seascapes, and garden views. Her paintings are acclaimed for their freshness and luminosity.

She received her PhD in educational studies from Lesley University (Boston), her MA in studio art from the Massachusetts College of Art, and her BA in fine arts from the State University of New York at Oswego. She has had extensive teaching experience at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, including a term as a visiting instructor of artist books at the Studio Art Center International in Florence, Italy.

Meg has had several solo exhibitions in New York and New England. Her work is in many private and public collections including Fidelity Investments, General Foods, Smith Barney Investments, and Meditech Corporation. In particular her artist books can be found in many prestigious special collection libraries in New England: Houghton Library (Harvard), Rhode Island School of Design Print Library, Boston Public Library, and Smith College Library.



Exhibition of Meg Black's series "Scenes of Topsfield" at the library for the opening of the new library.

Julia W. Clark

Julia (1915-2002) was born in Yonkers, NY, but lived most of her life in Newton, MA. She attended Vesper George School of Art (1933-36) and later on Montserrat College of Art to learn monoprinting. After graduating from Vesper she worked at her father's advertising agency and various Boston-area stores as a commercial artist. In 1950 she moved with her husband to Topsfield and was a longtime volunteer at the library.

She pursued her passion for art throughout her life creating a body of work of more than 400 works of art in various materials. In the 1940s she worked predominantly in oils and watercolors, moving into pastels and mono-prints in the 1950s, although watercolor remained as her primary medium throughout. Her art education continued beyond the classroom, studying under various artists including Margaret Laurie-Abramo (Gloucester) and Laura Stover (Topsfield).

Julia was a long-standing member of the Guild of Beverly Artists and was also a member of the Monotype Guild of New England. She participated in art shows through eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire winning many prizes for her work including a Best of Show in 1996 for her work *Kline-Motif*. She also regularly exhibited at the Topsfield Fair, GBA shows at Lynch Park (Beverly), Essex County Greenbelt Association's Art in the Barn, Yankee Homecoming in Newburyport, and the annual art show at the Magnolia Library Center.



Cyrus E. Dallin

Cyrus (1861-1944) was born in Springville, UT. He began his art training in 1880 in Boston with sculptor Truman Bartlett, while also working in a terra cotta factory. In 1889 he studied with Henri Chapu in Paris. While in Paris he attended Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and created many sketches of the costumes and accessories of the Native American participants. These sketches would later serve as studies for statues. Today he is best known for his depictions of Native American men.

In his lifetime he created more than 260 works. His best known are both in Boston; *Appeal to the Great Spirit* (1909) outside of the Museum of Fine Arts and *Paul Revere* (1899) in the North End.

While working in Boston, he became a colleague of Augustus Saint Gaudens and a close friend to John Singer Sargent. From 1899 to 1941 he taught at Massachusetts Normal Art School (today the Massachusetts College of Art and Design).

His papers are at the Smithsonian Archives of American Art.



David Fichter

"Murals have always spoke to me as a way to push change in society without shoving it down people's throats. What I like is that people can find their way in – they feel empowered when they participate in the process or see themselves or their stories represented in public."

David is a local artist living and working in Cambridge, MA. He is a well-known muralist creating public art for over 30 years both nationally and internationally. He has created over 200 permanent murals including an award winning environmental science mural about the Mystic River in Somerville, MA; *Further the Dream:*

The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, a mural with students at the King and King Open Elementary Schools in Cambridge, MA; *Lamitye: the Hatitian/American Friendship Mural*, a ceramic relief mural at the Graham and Parks Elementary School.

During his undergraduate time at Harvard, he visited the Mexican muralist Jose Clemente Orozco's mural *Epic of American Civilization* at Dartmouth College's Baker Library. He then went on to travel throughout Latin America which as a strong tradition of murals as social commentary. At the time there was no place to study mural painting formally, but he knew a Chilean muralist, Victor Canifru, which lead to his first commission and he has been a muralist ever sense.

His projects usually works with neighborhoods and public officials to determine the design of the work overall. They usually take about a year to complete. He begins with a scaled drawing on paper and overlays it with a numbered grid that he uses to blow up the size of the work.

Anthony Gangi

Anthony was born in Topsfield in 1917 after his parents emigrated here from Italy. He graduated from Topsfield Academy in 1934 and started a small grocery on Main Street in town. He served in World War II as a Seabee stationed in the Aleutian and Gilbert Islands. During this time in the military he began sculpting, as a hobby. After the war he married Victoria (Toya) Bilzi and continued working as a butcher in his small grocery. He went on to expand the grocery into the Topsfield Village Shopping Centre in 1959. He and his wife also started a weekly shoppers guide newspaper that later became the Tri Town Transcript.

Throughout this time he continued sculpting, transitioning from wood to marble in the 1970s. In his later years, as his health declined, he experimented with plastic resin as it was lighter and easier to handle. Despite his lack of formal artistic training, Anthony produced very sophisticated pieces with strong contemporary cultural influences to his work.

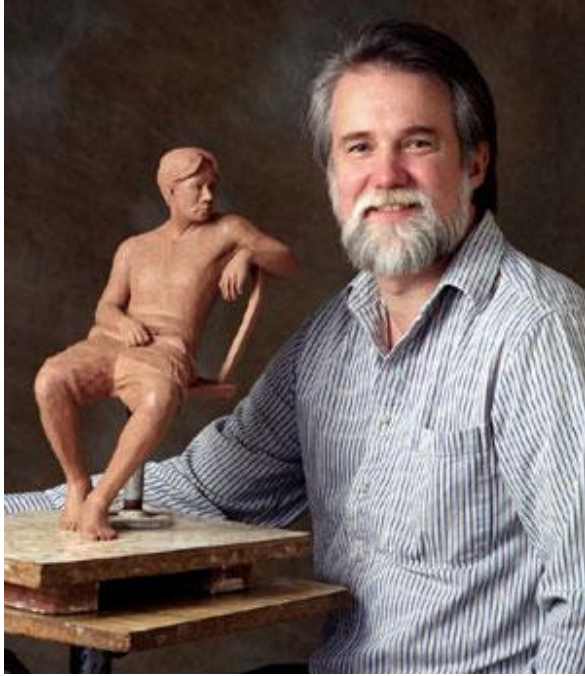
The library is proud to have one of his abstract head sculptures as part of the library collection. This beautiful sculpture was donated by the Gangi family because they felt it fitting for the library to have one of his pieces on public display considering his strong association with the town.

Paul Garland

Paul received his MA and BA from Rochester Institute of Technology. He has been a visiting artist at Texas A&M, Ohio State University, University of North Dakota, State University of New York at Fredonia, Monroe Community College, Bennington College summer workshop, and the International Art Workshop in Innsbruck, Austria.

He has had numerous solo shows at regional galleries and universities and many group shows nationally. His works are part of corporate collections including Charles Rand Penny, Readers Digest Corporation, Lincoln First Bank, Prudential Insurance, and Bank of America, among others.

His work usually comprises of non-objective abstraction, naturalistic landscapes and abstraction juxtaposed with landscape.



Charles Hahn

"It is exciting to take clay, which comes from the earth, and make it into an image of something living, figures with a presence, and then bring it to bronze which will last for generations. My goal as an artist is to create highly representational depictions of pleasurable sights and sensations. I try to find things that interest me. It may be a person or it may be an activity. They are usually commonplace things such as my wife sitting quietly or a neighbor trying to ice

skate, those intimate, informal or private moments rather than the standard ceremonial poses."

Charles started sculpting in the mid-1970s teaching at the Johnson Atelier and Tech School of Sculpture (New Jersey), and working at studios and foundries across the country, including the New England Sculpture Service in Everett, MA. His works have received many awards regionally.

He strives to create works that capture a moment in time, depicting moments in time that are casual and lifelike.

Harold Field Kellogg

Harold (1884-1964) was an architect and artist, studying architecture at Harvard University and then the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in the early 1900s. Upon returning to Boston in 1910 he trained with several prominent Boston architectural firms including: Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge; Kilham & Hopkins; Peabody & Stearns.

Harold was the architect for Longwood Towers in Brookline. In the 1920s he transitioned to a more modernist thinking as evidenced in his 1930 design of the Public Service Building on Batterymarch Street. His other buildings in Boston include the Cathedral (1946) and the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade. He went on to work at Forest Memorial Park in California where he stayed until his death.

Shortly after Harold passed away, his son Harold Kellogg Jr. visited the library, which Harold Sr. had designed. He recounted how, in 1912, his father drew up the original plans for the library. Harold Sr. was friends of the then trustee Franklin Balch. These plans were used in the early 1930s (with some minor changes) to construct the library.

Harold Sr. also painted the 11 murals depicting the early settlement of Topsfield which adorn the lobby of the library. His son remembers coming to the job with his father when he was 10 or 11 years old. He noted that the bas relief of the three Muses was designed and executed by his father who also personally applied the gold leaf with surrounds the Muses. The son felt sure his mother posed for the Muses as she did for many of his father's works. The murals and Muses were cleaned and restored during the renovation and expansion of the library courtesy of the Gould Fund.

John T. Northey

John (1913-1995) was born in Salem, MA and studied at the Museum School (Boston), the Arts Students League (New York), Paris, and Rome. He held solo shows eight times at the Boston and New York Arts Festivals. He also showed his work at many galleries on the east coast.

Critics from the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the Boston Herald, and Arts News hailed John as a profoundly creative artist whose style was highly individual and sensitive.

George O'Connell

George (1926-2015) was born in Madison, WI. He draws from extensive education and experience to create his prints. He studied on a Fulbright Scholarship at the Rijksakademi Van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam. He returned to complete his BA in Art Education from the University of Wisconsin and went on to complete his MA at the University of Wisconsin in Applied Arts. He was then appointed Professor of Art at the State University of New York.

He has also authored five publications and is listed in *Who's Who in American Art*. The Smithsonian holds many of his drawings in their collection.

A major theme in his work is jazz.

Eric Roth

Eric is a nationally published photographer who currently lives in Topsfield. He has had extensive experience in photographing residences, home furnishings, and gardens for his many editorial, advertising and direct mail clients. He strives to create an artistic statement with each subject.

His past photography shows held at the library were planned as benefits for causes such as ABC (A Better Chance) program at Masconomet or the Ipswich River Watershed cause.



Beverly Seamans

Beverly (1928-2012) is a sculptor from Marblehead, MA. She is known for her bronze figures of animals, birds, and children. Her interest in art was encouraged by her grandfather, John P. Benson, a well-known marine painter. She began her education at Sweet Briar College and finished at the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts where she studied under Peter Abate. Initially she worked in watercolor, but after studying with George Demetrios in Gloucester in the 1960s she turned to sculpture.

Her works are in the collections of Wellesley College, First National Bank of Boston, Beverly Hospital, American Cathedral in Paris, Museum of Science (Boston), the Peabody Essex Museum, and MIT in Cambridge. She has won many awards from the Copley Society, National Sculptor's Association, and the Marblehead Arts Association.



Thomas Seawell

Thomas was born in Baltimore, MD in 1936. He is known nationally and internationally for his prints. He has been in over 100 solo and group exhibitions around the world and won numerous prizes in that time. Today his works are in numerous museum collections including The Brooklyn Museum, DeCordova Museum of Art, Portland Museum of

Art (Oregon), and the Library of Congress.

The series of eight prints in the library's collection depict different country's financial exchanges. They were originally commissioned by the Chicago firm Geldermann securities to give as gifts. Thomas describes his process of creating this series on the following pages.



Dennis Sheehan

Dennis is a local artist, born in Boston in 1950. He attended Vesper George School of Art and later studied at Montserrat College (Beverly). He also studied privately with the artists Robert Douglas Hunter, Robert Cormier, and Richard Whitney.

He is best known for his oil paintings of still lifes and landscapes. In his work he is concerned with mood, subtlety, and tonal harmony. He paints in the style of the Barbizon school (active roughly 1830-70) which was a style of Realism that arose during and in response to the Romantic period. Composing with their earthy palette of restricted tones, he constructs an orderly bucolic nature where cows graze in meadows framed by tall trees, where a golden moon rises above the horizon to penetrate shadows, brighten a path, and glaze a pond. "There is a period of time between daylight and dark where everything is calm. Sheehan seems to capture that slice of time" (Mr. Lawrence Powers of Powers Gallery).

He also imitates artists in the Barbizon school like George Inness, creating his landscapes from imagination in his studio, not painted en plaine air.



Brad Story

"I'm trying, of course, to give a sense of objects moving through and being supported by or buffeted by, the wind or water positioning themselves in response to those forces."

Brad is a native of Essex, MA and a seventh-generation boat builder. In addition he has had a long-time interest in manned flight and in all winged creatures. He learned to sculpt at Kenyon College in the late 1960s. Today he combines his interest into unique works he calls "Aerodreams."

Although steeped in traditional woodworking methods, he uses modern materials and techniques. Structural adhesives and molded fiberglass lend a lightness to his works. Additionally, his works are meant to be hung from aloft to capture the freedom of birds and planes in flight.

He has created public art commissions for SeaTac Airport (Seattle) and the Cape Ann Museum (Gloucester, MA). He has shown his works at major institutions including the Smithsonian Craft Show, Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, and the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum.

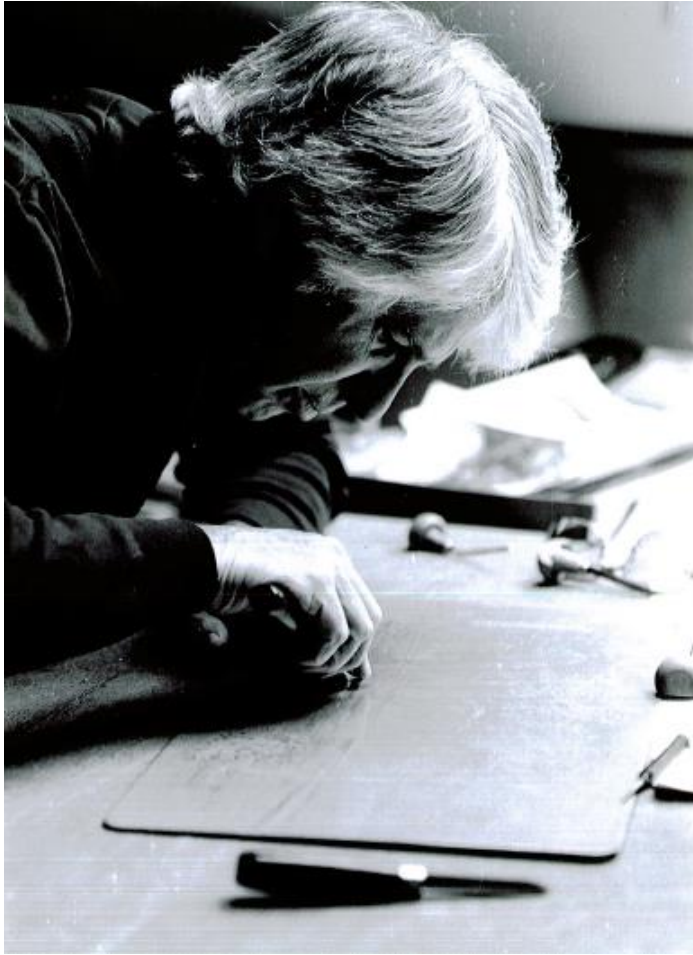


Laura Elkins Stover

Laura brings a wonderful enthusiasm to her art. She is a founding member of the Saltbox Gallery here in Topsfield and is an artist member of the North Shore Arts Association, Newburyport and Lynnfield Associations, and the Miniature Society of Florida. She is also listed in *Who's Who Among American Women*.

She has contributed art work and text for three revised editions of Helen Fan Wyk's art books entitled *Painting Flowers*, *Favorite Color Recipe's 2* and *Portraits in Oil*, all distributed by North Light Books. Her art work has been chosen by Dana Farber to be included in their Holiday Card Program for 1999, 2001, and 2002.

Her gallery associations also include Gerlach Gallery (Upper Darby, PA) and the Nadejda Gallery (Newport, RI). She also does many painting demonstrations and workshops at local art associations.



Larry Webster

Larry is a nationally known artist who lives in Topsfield. He was born in Arlington, MA in 1930 and is the former Vice President and Art Director for Thomas Todd Co. in Boston. He received his BA in Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art in 1952 and his MA in Communication Arts at Boston University the following year. He is a watercolorist, printmaker, and freelance graphic designer.

His work has received wide acclaim throughout the art world. He is listed in *Who's Who in*

American Art. In addition, his work is recognized in several published books. Among them are *The Artist and the Built Environment*, *Watercolor Your Way*, *Creative Landscape Painting*, *Acrylic Watercolor Painting*, *Complete Guide to Acrylic Painting*, *40 Watercolorists and How They Work*, *Prize-Winning Art Book 6*, and *Prize Winning Watercolors*.

Larry is not active in the arts at present due to the onset of Alzheimer's disease.



Plyn Williams

Plyn (1925-1998) lived in Topsfield from 1954 until his death in 1998. He was a graphic artist by trade, working for the last 20 years of his career as art director for Wilkscraft Creative Printing Company in Beverly. He was born in Boston and grew up in the city. He served in World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps. After the war he returned to Boston to study at the Cambridge School of Design, graduating in 1951. He went on to work for many years at a film company and art studios in Boston. When he moved to Topsfield he joined the Saltbox Art Gallery.

Although he was an artist he admired the architecture discipline because it combines art and science. In 1994 he had an opportunity to live in Ukraine for six months and spent much time at the architectural museum on the outskirts of Kyiv. This trip served to inspire a series of colored pencil and pen and ink drawings.

Patricia B. Wright

Patricia is from Keene, NH. She studied art history at Wellesley College and painting at the Sharon Arts Center. She paints still lifes most often and her preferred medium is oil on canvas.

She has also been recognized by the Copley Society of Boston as a Copley Master. This distinction is achieved by those who have won three major awards in juried exhibitions. The Copley Society is the oldest art association in America, having evolved from the Boston Art Students Association formed in 1879.



Richard “Dick” Wyman

Dick was born and raised in Swampscott, MA. His interest in art and the pursuit of professional studies brought him to Vesper George School of Art.

While living in Topsfield, Dick became very well known for his beautiful work painting images of homes and public buildings in the area. He loved Topsfield, even joining the Topsfield Volunteer Fire Department. Dick and his wife Virginia “Ginny” lived in a house on Perkins Row.

Fair Topsfield: A Celebration Quilt

As the quilters gathered on a cold day in February 1997, it quickly became clear that here were people who felt blessed to live in this beautiful town. The art department of Masconomet High School, the Topsfield Historical Society, the 350th Committee, and resident quilt makers were all present. Ideas flowed for the design of a quilt to celebrate the 350 years of Topsfield's existence and each participant had something to contribute. But a hush fell over the group as John Nutter read the poem by Nehemiah Cleveland which epitomized the feelings of everyone in the room.

Very early in the planning stages of the quilt it was decided to incorporate the words of the poem into the quilt. Design options were tried and discarded until the basic outline for the quilt that exists today was settled on. Isabella Groblewski started the design process in her living room and Terry Meinelt and the art department at Masconomet High School also helped. Financial support was provided by a grant awarded by the Topsfield Cultural Council.

A master pattern was created, and as the quilt progressed, so did the group's enthusiasm for the project. Quilt construction was slow and tedious because each piece of fabric had its own pattern piece and putting them all together required careful color selection and precise sewing techniques. It was quilted, pieced, and appliqued by hand and machine. It took about 3 years to complete.

The quilt is not a picture of the town but a representation of its character. The pictures in the borders are of historic Topsfield residents and the only identifiable person is Wally Kneeland as an infant in the arms of his mother. The hills, which are so prominent in Nehemiah's poem, are the main focus of the design. The winding roads, houses, fields, the church, trees, and the Fair also play a part in the flavor and feeling of Topsfield.