

THE BULLETIN

BY BUNNY BESTIES

NOVEMBER 2020 • ISSUE 4



THE BULLETIN

We welcome you to our publication, where our community can learn what our nonprofit is up to from month to month.

In this issue:

- The Giving Season is Here
- Fine Art Fundraiser for BB
- Thank you to our supporters

To support us with a donation, please go to our website.



THE GIVING SEASON IS HERE

The Giving Season is upon us! It begins with Give to the Max Day on November 19th and Giving Tuesday on December 1st are some of our favorites. This year's theme is "Art 4 Bunny Besties." We began with a Pet Portrait Fundraiser to get the FUN back into fundraising.

There are so many great causes this year and I am humbled once again to ask if you would consider ours. This year we have the most brilliant opportunity and we have dedicated this entire issue of The Bulletin to share all the details with you, our wonderful supporter.

Bunny Besties relies 100% on donations to stay alive and working as a force within our community. There will be so much work to be done on the other end of this pandemic. We are ready and waiting. Please support our cause and help us care for our rabbits.

The logo features the text 'Art 4: 2020' in a pink, cursive font, with '2020' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the words 'Bunny Besties' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a black rectangular background.

Art 4: 2020

Bunny Besties

Our Fine Art Fundraiser

We are thrilled to introduce you to the work of an amazing Minnesota artist. Bonnie Swenson-Folkerts has a truly generous spirit and this year has donated an original acrylic painting to our organization.

This painting that measures, 24 x 24 and a limited quantity of signed and numbered giclee prints are available for purchase now. All proceeds directly support the work of Bunny Besties. With Bonnie we share a great love for two things: the University of Minnesota and the People Serving People homeless shelter in Minneapolis. As a University of Minnesota alum, Bonnie has loved seeing Bunny Besties' contribution to the on campus Pet Away Worry and Stress program, which gives the opportunity for students to relieve their anxiety by visiting with therapy animals.

Bonnie's beautiful artwork features three of our own Bunny Besties rabbits. On the left is Piper, who started it all. She was the bunny we took to read with children on our very first visit to People Serving People. Haremione sits on the right. Haremione came to Bunny Besties from a home that could no longer care for her and from the beginning has been overflowing with love for all of our friends in the community. The center bunny is Peter Pan. He is one of our youngest rabbits and joined our team last summer. Peter is big, beautiful, and full of curiosity. He perfectly embodies how Bunny Besties' continuing growth and forward-looking attitude.

A trio of rabbits is also an ancient symbol of good fortune and peace. This symbol mirrors our logo and can be found in sacred sites around the world. We hope this artistic motif can also represent our commitment to helping foster kindness and connection in our community.



A SPECIAL THANKS

By Jennifer Smith

We at Bunny Besties are thrilled beyond measure with the opportunity to help put fine art out into the world of rabbit lovers. There could not be a better artist to collaborate with than Bonnie! Her instagram is @ipaintbunnies. I think it was truly meant to be on our part.

The original painting and the copies are with us at Bunny Besties. We are ready now to make them available to our community. We hope that we make this a success and plan for this to be an annual event.

We want to thank our donors Dr. Gary and Mrs. Janet Christenson. Fine art is a great passion of Dr. Christenson and we thank him for the \$2,000 donation that made the purchase of the supplies and the connection with Bonnie possible.

We are so grateful to all you have done for us in the past year. Thank you again!

"The work of local artist Bonnie Folkerts reflects the beauty she observes in nature: animals, flora, and landscapes."

- Midwest Home

MEET THE ARTIST

SUPPORTING BUNNY BESTIES



BONNIE SWENSON-FOLKERTS

I am a Minnesota-based painter working primarily in acrylics and watercolors. Growing up in the idyllic landscape of the Driftless area in Southwestern Wisconsin, and my Mother's passion for gardening, instilled a deep appreciation of and reverence for Nature. Creative influences include the detailed works of Albrecht Dürer and the macro views of flowers found in Georgia O'Keefe's paintings.

My own extensive gardens and travels around the world provide inspiration for my work. Taking time to slow down and pay attention to the details reminds me just how small we are - and how much beauty we often overlook or take for granted! The animals, landscapes, and flora I paint represent my relationships to Nature. They are thoughtful and deeply personal. My work encourages and provides the Viewer an opportunity to look more closely as they navigate through each day, and allows them to create a positive awareness of- and relationship to.

I have been painting bunnies for over twenty years. As an avid gardener, I was originally dismayed when I discovered that living under our deck and throughout our yard were seemingly hundreds of rabbits!!! Initially I thought I could prevent their destruction of my flower beds. I tried several methods to no avail- going so far as trying to surround my half-acre lot with 24" high chicken wire! Foolish me... Eventually it dawned on me that, in reality, I was not in control; not of the rabbits, and not in so many areas of life! The rabbits taught me to relax. To take what Nature gives you, appreciate it, and make the best of it.

When I learned about the Bunny Besties organization, I was immediately drawn to their program. The valuable work they do using Bunnies in providing stress reduction and emotional wellness services pulled at my heartstrings. These beautiful, adorable creatures spend their lives in service to others- and bringing happiness and joy to all who see them!
Bonnie Swenson-Folkerts



WHAT INSPIRES BONNIE?

What inspires you?

"The beauty I see in the world. I work primarily in acrylics and watercolors, and I look for the details that touch me and will hopefully resonate with others as well. With the animals I paint, that means getting the eyes right. With the florals and landscapes, I try to evoke the sense of joy and wonder I feel when I see the subject. I feel a profound spiritual connection through nature, and my art gives me a vehicle through which I can share that with others. Whatever abilities I possess are God-given gifts, and I feel strongly that I have a responsibility to use and share them. When clients tell me that they smile every time they look at a piece of my art they have placed in their home or office, it makes what I do feel worthwhile."

By Catherine Guden., Midwest Home Magazine 9/13/2017



Fine Art purchase available on our website.
<https://www.bunnybesties.org/art.html>

Thanking You

OUR BUNNY BESTIES SUPPORTERS

This season of Thanksgiving I must stop for a moment and think of each and everyone of you who have supported us throughout all of these years as we have been building Bunny Besties. Our organization has relied solely on donations this entire time we have been serving the community and it is because of you that we can do this still.

I realize that never before have I had something so beautiful to offer you for your donation to our organization. I hope you take this treasured art and place it in your home. Let it be a reminder of your generous spirit and how you have helped so many people in our community. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our our mission.

Thank you very much, Jennifer