

Entertainment

Art is Jane Bradley's 'endless study'

By Holly Reed

East Hartford Art League member Jane Bradley was born and raised in England, living first in the London area and later moving North to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Because there is a strong tradition of teaching art in British schools, Jane enjoyed a full range of art classes that included watercolor-painting. Her parents were art enthusiasts and while living near London, often took her on trips to the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery, which specializes in modern art. Jane remembers these visits very well. One of her mother's hobbies was book-binding, producing books bound in leather with gold tooling. So from an early age, Jane appreciated the creativity found in art.

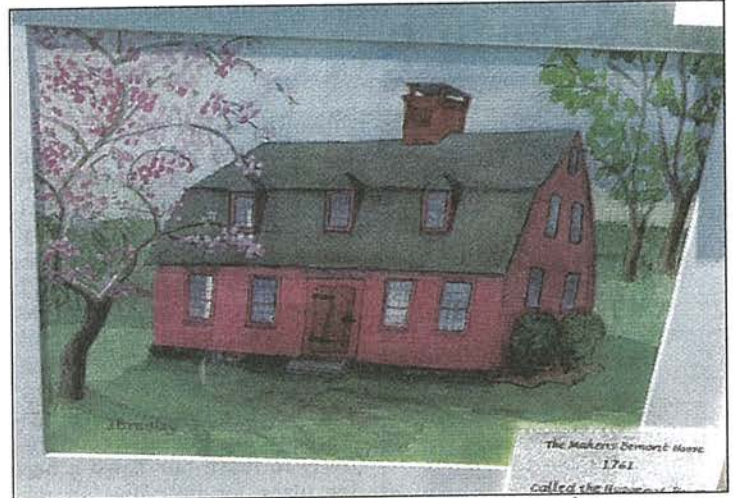
Jane re-located to East Hartford Connecticut in the 1970's, where she settled in to raise her family of three boys and a girl. She was a piano teacher, and taught classical piano in the Community Division of the University of Hartford. Now retired and with her family full grown, Jane has

more time to paint and has entered several of her paintings in local art shows.

Her painting entitled "Welles Tavern" won the East Hartford Art League Purchase Award in 1998 and can be found in the newly renovated Raymond Library along with other East Hartford Purchase Award paintings. More recently, Jane's painting "Town Hall Inn" won the Mayor's Award in the East Hartford Art League Spring Art Fest, and last May her painting of the Huguenot house, titled "Makens Bemont House" won top honors and \$100 gift card.

"Painting makes me more observant and is an endless study," said Jane as she explained her love of painting and art in general. "I am always working to master the painting of light." A series that she is currently working on depicts the four seasons and is a pastoral scene in Bolton, CT.

Jane is also working on a study of apples and apple tree leaves that will run into a series as well. Her formal study of botanical drawing has helped her art tremendously, and it is this carefree depiction



The Makens Bemont House, by Jane Bradley, won high honors at this year's annual East Hartford Spring Art Fest on the Town Green.

of scenes from nature that convey so much happiness to her viewers. Jane is a great fan of plein air painting, and hopes that in the Spring the East Hartford Art League may undertake a class or two held outside so as to encourage all of us to further develop our outdoor light senses and ability. (Wickham Park's new Irish gardens come to mind as a location!)

After further examination of the painting "Makens Bemont House", the viewer traces shadows from the cherry tree cast upon the lawn and leading the eye right up to the front door of the quaint old home with its chimney and old-fashioned

roof. The colors are beautifully balanced with the red of the house set against the green lawn; even the windows look inviting for the viewer to look inside. This attention to detail that is one of Jane's many talents, works to draw you into the painting itself. Details found all through the painting such as the front door hinges, the bushes at the side of the house, and the carefully constructed old chimney, help give us pause and evoke fond memories and happy thoughts.

You may contact Jane through the East Hartford Art League, 860-528-2210, if interested in viewing more of her paintings, which are for sale.