



PHYLLIS LIMBACHER TILDES

When members are asked why they joined the LAA, invariably one of their answers is the diversity of the members. Our association is the embodiment of individuals who possess, not only, amazing artistic talents but also back/current stories that are unique and true page turners! Such a member is Phyllis Limbacher Tildes.

One of our most consistent volunteers, Phyllis is looked to by our board as the “voice of reason” and valued opinions. LAA's past Vice-President for four years, she currently wears several hats. As Chair of the LAA's Landings Company Gallery, she coordinates this venue with ease by scheduling qualified members to exhibit their works for a two month period. Not only is this advantageous to our artists but TLC sincerely appreciates an opportunity to provide potential Landings residents, through art, with both natural and man-made subject matter that encompasses all that the greater Savannah area has to offer.

Through the hard work of our many volunteers who participate in our fund-raising efforts, the LAA is able to provide monetary and hands-on assistance to many area school children who, otherwise, would not have worthwhile artistic experiences. Phyllis acts as our go-between with the Savannah Title I Schools and the Telfair Children's Programs. Each spring, along with our Grants and Arts in Education team chairs, she interviews teachers and other professionals to determine eligible candidates.

And now for the back and current story: Phyllis is an award-winning author and illustrator of children's books. She received a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design with an Illustration major, and was chosen to study in Rome, Italy as a European Honor Student in her senior year. While still a student, she was a designer for Hallmark and upon graduation became Assistant Art Director at Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College. For 20 years she had her own graphic design business in Hartford, CT.

Phyllis' first picture book, *Counting on Calico*, was published in 1995. Since then she has done many books for Charlesbridge Publishing, with subjects such as pets, nature, and childhood milestones. Her favorite medium for illustrating is gouache, but many of her books are in watercolor or colored pencil. *The Magic Babushka* was her first folktale created in honor of her grandmother. Nine of her books have been translated and published in Korea, and two are also in a Spanish version. Her latest book, *Baby's First Book of Birds and Colors* was released in May 2017. Her 24th book, *Bunny's Big Surprise*, to be released January 2020, will feature low country wildlife in a fun, Easter themed picture book.

In addition to book illustrations and other forms of fine art, Phyllis loves doing commissioned pet portraits that capture its' life force and personality. Working from her own photos or those by the owner, she is thrilled when the finished piece brings a tear to the eye as they exclaim, “That looks just like him/her!” She works mostly in oil but also offers watercolor or colored pencil.

Phyllis and her husband, Bill, moved from Connecticut to The Landings in 1999. Inspired by the natural beauty of our island, Phyllis also enjoys doing landscapes in oil and has done many on commission. Her art is in private collections throughout the U.S., England, and Europe.



To visit her studio or have a book signed, you may call Phyllis at (912)598-9125. To learn more about her children's books, check out www.charlesbridge.com

