

The Spokane Valley

17 FINE ART "AMERICANA" VALLEY SETTINGS • ARBOR CREST CELLARS AND BREWERY
• "HOME SWEET HOMES" IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF SPOKANE VALLEY • PLUS
TWO "NEIGHBORHOOD" PAINTINGS WITH SPOKANE VALLEY DETAILS



PRETTY PUBLIC PLACE • STUNNING ARBOR CREST WINE CELLARS AND BREWERY

Cliff House at Arbor Crest ~ 9.2012

The handsome, Florentine-style Cliff House was built to take full advantage of the view of the Spokane Valley. It was designed and built by Royal Newton Riblet in 1924. An inventor and mechanical genius, Riblet's estate was filled with marvels for its time like his garage with its mechanical door. He also installed a waterfall that recycled water back to the top of the falls and a life-size chess game on his grounds. The property with its 3-story mansion, basaltic rock out-buildings and marvelous gardens later became the headquarters of Arbor Crest Winery. *Highlight* - When Riblet was living there, the cement factory far below on the riverside spewed harmful dust into the air, deteriorating his mansion's facade. He sued - and the attorneys who won the first ever case of its kind were associates James Winton and my father Joseph A. Simpson who stepped in for Winton when his wife became terminally ill.



Gathering at the Gatehouse (Arbor Crest) ~ 5.2016

This arched basaltic rock gatehouse on the campus of Arbor Crest Cellars has always been the signature welcoming structure leading to the Florentine-style mansion known as the Cliff House - shown to the right side of the gatehouse. The estate was the home of Royal Riblet who built Cliff House in 1924. The gatehouse was just 1 of several stone out-buildings on the property. Another was the structure where folks waited to board the tram that carried them down the hillside to the Spokane Valley below. Riblet was a famous mechanical genius, best remembered for inventing the chair lift, which upgraded the experience for snow skiers everywhere. Now the home of Arbor Crest Cellars, this piece portrayed the Art & Glass Fest, the much anticipated annual Summer art event hosted on the grounds of the property. *Highlight* - When I met the owner of the property in 2015, Harry Milke shared that the stone arch once served as the servants' quarters.



Kris Kringle Comes to the Cliff House ~ 10.2018

I painted this Holiday portrait of the Cliff House at Arbor Crest Cellars to honor a special tradition that occurred in the early 2000s in the Spokane Valley. An avid aviator who flew his small plane out of Felts Field decorated it for several years to look like Santa in his sleigh. On Christmas Eve (weather permitting) he would take off and traverse the skies above the neighborhoods in the Valley for about 15 minutes. Folks of all ages came out into their streets to watch and wave to Saint Nicholas as he made his annual visit late in the evening. My sis Peggy's kiddos were included in this group! Royal Newton Riblet built his Florentine-style Cliff House Mansion to take advantage of the stunning view from his property's perch overlooking the Spokane River. The grounds included a waterfall that continually recycled from bottom to top, a tram that went down his cliff to the river below, a life-size chess game and other marvels. When I completed this piece, the Milke family owned the estate, home of Arbor Crest Cellars. *Highlight* - This painting was used in 2018 to promote the Holiday Art Fest held inside the historic Cliff House.

"HOME SWEET HOMES" IN SPOKANE VALLEY • DIVIDED ALPHABETICALLY BY NEIGHBORHOOD

"HOME SWEET HOME" • BOONE AVENUE



Flexible Flyers in the Valley (Moran-Henry House) ~ 8.2016

This Spokane Valley white brick Colonial home was built in 1940 for the Henry family on Boone Avenue on a large, gently sloping lot. Interestingly, its design was slightly asymmetrical as the left side of it was larger in width than the right. In 1957, Joe and Rita Moran purchased the residence where they would raise their family of five children (L-R Georgia, Curt, Joey, Kathy and Marty) for nearly 20 years. The property included an orchard to the left, an outdoor "living room" with white wrought iron furniture beneath the giant willow (note the lovely statue of the Blessed Mother) and a swimming pool behind the house - the setting for many warm weather gatherings with family and friends. I gave this artwork a mid-1960s holiday theme, picturing the kids ready to enjoy the frosty afternoon sledding down the slope in front of the house. *Highlight* - The folks who bought this home were advised by their realtor to strip the paint from the bricks for a more natural look, resulting in a hodgepodge of different colored sections as the residence was always meant to be painted white.

"HOME SWEET HOMES" - KOKOMO NEIGHBORHOOD

Bowlish Street Badminton Match ~ 8.1986

I painted this portrait of our Mid-Century Modern home as a special Christmas gift for my parents Sally and Joe Simpson in 1986. My mother loved the home's contemporary open feel and the huge picture windows that marched across the front of the house. My folks frequently hosted neighborhood gatherings for families and friends in the friendly Kokomo neighborhood. This artwork pictured a beautiful summer evening with all eight of us Simpsons enjoying a badminton match. Golden retriever Chum and cock-a-poo Andy were pictured on the front lawn. Our family lived in this house from 1962 until well into the 1980s when my parents purchased a condominium in Mountain View Estates near my sister Peggy and her husband Jeff Barton's home in the nearby Northwood neighborhood. *Highlight* - This was my mother's favorite residence of several of our family's homes.



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Christmas in Kokomo ~ 12.1987

The Doohans became part of our family when they moved to the Spokane Valley's Kokomo neighborhood in the mid-sixties. When Mike worked for Boise-Cascade and was transferred to Spokane, he and wife Winnie knew they wanted to stay. When my folks met them at Saint John Vianney parish, a lifelong friendship began. Mike bought a sportswear manufacturing company, ultimately employing all my siblings with part-time Summer jobs. My lawyer dad Joe signed on to handle all the company's legal matters. The Doohans and their kids Joe, Earl, Maura and Megan grew up with us and spent so much time at our Hayden Lake property that many thought it was theirs. After my dad's death, Mike gave me away at our wedding when Doug married me in 2000. Winnie was my mom's best friend. When she passed away from cancer five years in 2005, all of us Simpsons mourned her loss - especially my mother. *Highlight* - I painted this portrait as a special Christmas gift in 1987 to thank the Doohans for all their years of friendship.



"HOME SWEET HOME" • MILLWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

Millwood's Rosebush Cottage on Marquette Street ~ 5.2013

This Tudor-influenced Norman-Revival cottage was built in 1923 by Waldo Rosebush, general manager of the Inland Empire Paper Company. The paper company was Millwood's largest employer for nearly a century. Rosebush had spent time in France during World War I where he discovered the prototype for this finely detailed, beautifully crafted cottage in the Argonne Forest. He purchased the architectural plans from the French owner and built his home a short distance from the main thoroughfare through Millwood, aptly named Argonne. In 1936, Rosebush left the mill to work with the army in Alaska and the Pacific, ultimately retiring to Appleton, Wisconsin. However, he loved his charming cottage so much that he kept it as his official residence - returning annually to visit friends and vote in Spokane's local elections until he passed away in 1961. *Highlight* - This cottage was built in a tiny pocket of historic homes just off Argonne a few blocks from the paper mill in Millwood. *Highlight* - The residence was probably the most noteworthy one in the Spokane Valley other than Royal Riblet's Cliff House at Arbor Crest Cellars.

"HOME SWEET HOME" • NORTHWOOD • THE BARTON SNOW FORT COLLECTION • 5 REVISIONS

The Barton Snow Fort ~ 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996 @ 2014

This artwork was an ongoing "labor of love" for me which created periodic gifts for my youngest sister Peggy Simpson Barton - with the final gift of the original on a milestone birthday in January 2014. (NOTE - See the 1996 revision and the final work on the next page.)

MOVING TO CALIFORNIA, to HAWAII AND BACK TO SPOKANE • Peggy married her husband Jeff in the early 1970s and moved to the San Francisco in California area where he had accepted a job after college with Standard Oil. They lived there for several years and then moved to Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii. After over a decade away from the mainland, Jeff (suffering from severe "Island Fever," finally returned to Spokane to take over his family's car dealership. To the Simpson family's delight, Peggy was back in Washington State!

GROWING FAMILY IN A NEW HOUSE • The couple chose an architect who designed and built a handsome contemporary three-story that enjoyed a panoramic view of the Valley. In a few short years, their first child was born and the family began growing. After Michael arrived, daughter Kelly, another son Mark, and finally their youngest daughter Brooklynn were born. In addition to their kiddos, pets found their way into revisions of this art - Andy and Rascal (cock-a-poos), Cocoa and Honeybee (cocker spaniels), Pepper and Tabasco (Shih Tzus), Zoe the calico cat - plus a couple of little snakes that made their home in a not-always-secure cage. Rather than have the final revision of the art look something like a large menagerie, taking the focus away from family members pictured in the foreground, I left the pets "inside" the house. The newest member of the final revision was Mikaila, who married Michael in August 2012.

A FEW "FACELIFTS" • I did my best to keep up with this constantly changing household as well as with alterations to the house itself. The 1995 art showed an architectural revision to the second floor as the Bartons added a fourth bedroom for youngest son Mark, also enlarging that floor's kids' bathroom.

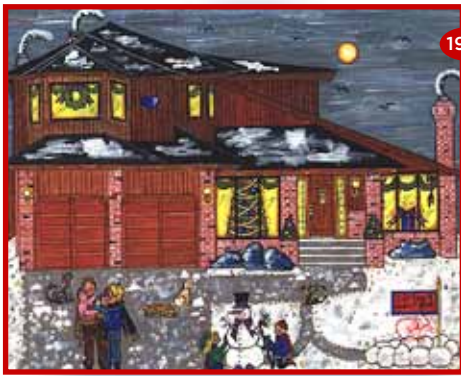


Patti Simpson Ward



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WINTER WONDERLAND • I painted clouds in some of these, stars in others and a crisp January afternoon sky in the final work. The season was always Winter and most renditions had either a thick cover or a light dusting of snow.

The first four featured a festively decorated Christmas tree in the front by window. There was always a snow fort (thus the title) built by the kids - and frequently a friendly snowman in the scene.

A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY FINAL GIFT • In January 2014, Peggy celebrated her important milestone 50th birthday, so it seemed like the perfect opportunity to finally give her the original painting. My mother and I took her out to a special lunch to celebrate and my gift of the artwork was a welcome surprise. I also created a small print of the scene for each of the Barton kids.

"HOME SWEET HOMES" • TWO NEIGHBORHOOD PAINTINGS

"HOME SWEET HOMES" • HOUSES OF THE TEAM WHO RESTORED OUR VINTAGE BUNGALOW



Fine Fall Finish ~ 10.2010

(Also part of the "South Hill" Collection) I finished this "neighborhood" painting as a special thank-you gift for our two contractors, Master Builder Lance Elliot and his partner Chris Garrett. Our small six-week project burgeoned into a six-month renovation. The team encountered dozens of challenges, large and small - each one solved by this creative team. They built a new front porch, replaced the columns, finished the entire lower level including a full bathroom, opened both floors into a circular floor plan and more. This picnic-themed artwork pictured Doug and me on our driveway - potato salad in hand. Chris and Rick with their beloved golden retrievers were by the table. Lance and wife Beth were relaxing on the lawn with their sweet little Yorkie. **Highlight** - In September when the project was complete, Doug and I treated the couples to dinner at Coeur d'Alene's historic Wolf Lodge. They each received two prints - one of the neighborhood and the second, a close-up detail portrait of each of their homes.



Fine Fall Finish (Detail of East Valley Home) ~ 10.2010

To coincide with the completion of the renovation of our vintage South Hill bungalow, I also was able to digitally isolate images from the painting, create cards, and present the couples with framed home portraits.

This image pictured Chris Garret's recently completed residence - a handsome home that overlooked a sprawling rural setting. When we purchased our bungalow, our first "fix" was the installation of new leaf-blocking gutters by Rick Garrett to protect against our neighbor's large Maples. Updating our vintage home was essential, and Rick recommended his wife and Master Builder Lance Elliott for our project.

Fine Fall Finish (Detail of North Valley Home) ~ 10.2010

This detail of the larger "neighborhood" painting portrayed our Master Builder Lance Elliott's charming one-story ranch-style cottage that he shared with wife Beth and their friendly Yorkie pooch. Located in the middle of a North Valley neighborhood, this home was a jewel, immaculately cared for by the couple.

Even though this job was riddled with difficult challenges, Lance and his work partner Chris Garrett never gave up on the ever-burgeoning renovation - even when Lance accidentally tripped and fell from the back of his huge work truck, breaking his leg in the process.

The couple was absolutely delighted with the portrait of their home at the Wolf Lodge dinner where we all celebrated "A Fine Fall Finish"!



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SPRING-THEMED PORTRAIT OF FIVE HOMES I'VE LIVED IN AND LOVED

Springtime Comes to Simpson Street ~ January 2016

(Also part of the "South Hill" Collection) This large 16x20-inch "neighborhood" painting honored five homes that I lived in and loved throughout the years. This piece has always been a work-in-progress as homes were updated and grandchildren were added to our ever-growing family!

THE HOUSE ON LINCOLN STREET (Part of the "South Hill" Collection) • This pretty white cottage was where my parents Joe and Sally brought me after my arrival in March 1950 at Sacred Heart Hospital. The scene pictured them on the back yard lawn, lounging while grandparents Charles and Jessie Simpson kept a watchful eye over my toddler sister Marilee and me.

Sadly, after my folks sold the home, one of the subsequent owners remodeled it into a two story boxy-looking structure, losing much of its sweet charm in the process.

25TH AVENUE AND BERNARD STREET (Part of the "South Hill" Collection) • The Dutch Colonial in the center of the painting showed our little family celebrating Easter Sunday. I pictured us wearing outfits my mother Sally sewed for us. I painted her in a favorite black and white plaid dress) - Peggy, Marilee, me in robins' egg blue jumpers and rosebud print blouses, and toddler John in his suit and tie in our dad Joe's arms. Cousin Jim Flemister (front porch with Easter baskets) had just joined our family as Aunt Wanda and Uncle Ed were living in Venezuela.

THE KOKOMO SUBURBAN BEAUTY • The far right Mid-Century Modern was my mother Sally's "dream house." This section showed my parents and me on the deck with picnic fare, Marilee and Peggy poised to head out for a bike ride, and brother's Bill, Bob and John playing with Cockapoo Andy and Gold Retriever Chum.

After a truck driver knocked on the door of our Dutch Colonial with brother John in his arms, sharing that he'd found the toddler crawling down the white line of Bernard Street, plans were made to move to the suburbs. A tiny gap in the backyard fence gave John his escape route! After looking at dozens of modest ramblers in Spokane Valley's Kokomo neighborhood, in 1962 on Easter Sunday, my mother climbed up onto the deck (no steps constructed yet) and peeked into the huge picture windows of a handsome Mid-Century Modern in progress. Yes, love at first sight!

Overextended on the project intended for his family, the builder finally sold the place to my folks that Autumn. From the early 1960s through the mid-1980s, this was home - and truly my mom's favorite residence. We six Simpson kids spent the rest of our growing up years there. While my youngest brother Bob was at the University of Washington, my parents finally down-sized into a view condo at Mountain View Estates near the Valley's Northwood neighborhood.

SAMMAMISH, WA TUDOR (Not pictured here - part of the "Puget Sound • Eastside Redmond, Woodinville and Sammamish" Collection) • Husband Doug's large contemporary Tudor-style two-story was our home following our marriage. This lower left section pictured our extended Ward family in 2016 - Doug and I seated, Leah with baby Connor and husband Sean Davies behind us, Matt, daughter Addison and wife Heidi to the right and Kevin, wife Taryn and son Austin to the far right. Last updated in 2016, Leah's son Nathan, Kevin's daughter Piper and son Harrison will be added at some point to the grandchildren mix in this painting.

THE 18TH AVENUE CRAFTSMAN (Part of the "South Hill" Collection) • With plans to retire from Sammamish in King Country to Eastern Washington's smaller Spokane in 2002, we purchased a 1937 Bungalow near Manito Park.

After a series of renters, we took occupancy in late December 2011. My mother Sally was a huge help with improvements, including helping lay pavers in back yard patios and assisting me in creating a rose garden along the cottage's white fence for my husband.

I pictured my mother with bedding plants on our driveway near Doug and me (he's giving my a kiss after arriving home from a golf outing with his pals). In this 2016 revision, I also added all my siblings with their sweethearts on the parking strip in front of our home.

In July 2020, we sold the bungalow and moved further up on the South Hill to a cottage Doug found and fell in love with. Our Moran Prairie brick-trimmed cottage will be added to this neighborhood painting along with the three grandkids not pictured yet in this piece.



Patti Simpson Ward



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