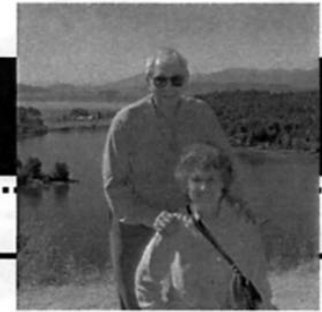


Profiles

Jack & Ina Gilbert



Jack Gilbert, whether you know him to see, is a familiar name for the residents with his fine photographs in our 'Update'.

Those who are keen photographers may remember his article last year on Digital Photography and an evening lecture he held for the residents. Jack's father, Nathan Gilbert, a European immigrant, opened the first photo studio in Toronto in 1922 and Jack grew up surrounded by the art of photography since early childhood.

His brother, Al Gilbert, is an internationally known professional portrait photographer and holder of the Order of Canada. This explains why Jack's photography is not just an amateur pursuit.

After a sabbatical practicing law for over 40 years, Jack Gilbert returned to his roots, moving from the chemical to the digital darkroom. He did so with the same passion and success as he did in his law career by recognizing the potential of the revolutionary changes brought about by the digital era.

In 2003, his first exhibition at the Robert Mede Gallery in Toronto, more than 50 works sold out on opening night with proceeds of \$15,000 going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Toronto.

In May, 2006, he will participate in another exhibition at ACA Gallery at 183 Queen Street East, and the proceeds will be donated to humanitarian aid.

Jack is a graduate from Osgoode Hall Law School with an LL.B. and an LL.M. in business law from York University. He was named a

Queen's Counsel in 1968. He actively practiced corporate, securities, and business law. He also studied Management of Oil & Gas Exploration Risk and Financing Venture at Wharton School of Business and New York University respectively.

He recently was named a life member of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Not having a dictionary that has the word, "retire", he continues to seek out business opportunities and to provide consulting services in real estate, mortgages and corporate governance.

Jack is active in real estate in Ecuador. This interest of his in business, coupled with his pursuit of people and their arts in different places on the globe, set him and Ina on travels to many countries.

It would be easier to name the places they have not visited. In the past year alone, this included Argentina, Uruguay and a fourth trip to China. Every time they traveled and everywhere they went, they brought back artifacts that appealed to them and represented these places.

Over the years they have created a "museum". If the ROM is too far for you, just visit the Gilberts. On the walls, on the floors, the tables and the doors, everywhere you turn, every step you make, their collections have their places tastefully exhibited. They do not become a clutter thanks to the magic touch of Ina Gilbert.

Ina, is a graduate in political science and economics from the University of Toronto. She is also an award winning Toronto artist, and was the founding president of the Society of

Canadian Artists. Her work has been exhibited in many prestigious Toronto galleries. She has used and devised many unique methods of creating her art, including Hard-Edge Paintings, Modular Art, Photo Collages, Three Dimensional Paintings and Digital Art.

What digital photography is to Jack, is what digital art is to Ina. She is one of the first artists to use her computer to create digital art. Ina explained that whatever new media or digital tool is used, an artist is an artist. Do not ask whether it is good digital art but whether it is good art. At the 5th Toronto Indoor Art Show her digital art was awarded "Best in Print Media". Ina has also done some writing. She wrote and illustrated a children's book, "Bebe's Childhood" that describes her mother's life in Russia and her family's move to Canada in 1912.

Ina specialized in interior design, primarily for offices, many years ago. She also designed a home, studio, guest house and swimming pool on the Gilberts' recreational "farm". Naturally, she redesigned the Gilberts' apartment here at 55 Harbour Square. According to Ina, "it is just a woman's common sense", but it is well thought out and very practical with good space utilization.

Jack and Ina Gilbert's home is intimidating, filled (in addition to their computer studios) with many artifacts, photographs, sculptures and works of art. I feel privileged to have had the guided tour of the Gilberts' home. The Gilberts' have three daughters. The two in Toronto, as you may expect, are graduates of the Ontario College of Art.

Thank you, Ina and Jack for your time. For further information, see Jack's website:

www.jackgilbertphotography.com or Ina's website at www.art4today.com.