

where the danger is highest, of course, but we have tens of thousands of other service people around the globe who have the same dedication. They, of course, also deserve our prayers and gratitude this Christmas.

As do the personnel from other government agencies, men and women who don't carry weapons but who work long and exasperating hours trying to create a society where peace might, one day,

Please see **WINEKE**, Page A9

every last word, it might as well have been written in the courtroom is such an important function that state court officials are concerned about a growing shortage of qualified court reporters, the people — usually women these days — who sit quietly at the front of courtrooms everywhere and write down everything that's said.

"This is really a big issue for the system," said state courts director John Voelker. "Of our major business functions, making the record is one of them. We can't have court without it. We don't want to be in a situation where we have to cancel proceedings."

With a growing number of state court reporters reaching retirement eligibility in coming years — about a third of the state's 311 court reporters are expected to retire in the next 10 years — the problem could become even more urgent.

Please see **COURT**, Page A9



Court reporter Ann Albert, who has been on the job for 24 years, listens carefully and takes down proceedings in Dane County Circuit Judge Daniel Moeser's courtroom.



**RON PAUL:** His fierce opposition to the Iraq war is drawing attention and some surprising fundraising muscle.

PROFILES | PAGE A3



JOSEPH W. JACKSON III - State Journal

Artist Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk has an exhibit of her photographs on display at the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

# Artwork the visually impaired can see

Legally blind in one eye, a Madison photographer overcomes her handicap and creates an exhibit.

By **GAYLE WORLAND**  
gworland@madison.com  
608-252-6188

Even as she completed her master's of fine arts degree in 1980, Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk noticed her sight was

dimming. Her specialty — fine, detailed portraits — eventually began to fatigue her eyes so much that she all but gave it up. And then, color began to leave her.

"Blues and greens were very gray," she says. "I lost yellow altogether. If there was yellow on a white page, I couldn't see it. Other colors were fading, not into pastels but into gray."

Doctor after doctor told Nussbaum Senungetuk she had cataracts on both eyes, but they weren't ready to be removed.

"And I said, 'But I'm an artist, and color's so important to me. They kept patting me on the head and saying, 'There's nothing we can do about it.'"

Finally, she met retinal specialist Dr. Barbara Blodi, who ordered surgery. Though she remains legally blind in her left eye, Nussbaum Senungetuk regained 20/25 vision in her right eye.

Just as important, color returned to her life. "I wanted to have a parade up and down Washington Avenue

and say, 'I can see color again'" she recalls, "because it is so much a part of my life."

Intense, bright, vivid color is what Nussbaum Senungetuk celebrates in "Bold Visions," her exhibit of 14 photographs on display through Feb. 28 at the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Photographed with a digital camera in flower gardens and farmers' markets across Madison, the images were manipulated

Please see **ARTWORK**, Page A10

## 5 ON THE FLY

**1** Film finale: Film and TV producer Frank Capra Jr., who never wanted to go into his father's business but he could not resist, died Wednesday in Philadelphia. He was 73.

**2** Finding Jesus: A baby Jesus statue in Bai Harbour, Fla., is getting a global positioning system for Christmas in case it disappears as its predecessor did.

**3** Useful change: Paul Brant, 70, of Indiana, used more than \$25,000 in change to buy a new Dodge Ram pickup truck Friday — 3 years after buying another truck with spare change.

**4** Tight races: A recent New Hampshire poll shows the race tightening for both parties. John McCain has closed a gap on front-runner Mitt Romney, and Barack Obama has made gains on Hillary Clinton.

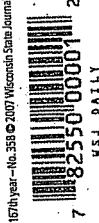
**5** Sweet text: Israeli nanotechnology experts have inscribed the entire Hebrew text of the Old Testament onto a space less than half the size of a grain of sugar.



Breezy and cold, light a.m. snow

DETAILS ON BACK OF LOCAL

HIGH 22  
LOW 13



167th year - 46, 358 © 2007 Wisconsin State Journal

**Contact us**  
Circulation ..... 608-252-6363  
News tips ..... 608-252-6120  
Classifieds ..... 608-252-7723

**On the Web**  
What do you think  
[www.madison.com](http://www.madison.com/post/forum)  
post/forum

# Artwork

Continued from Page A1

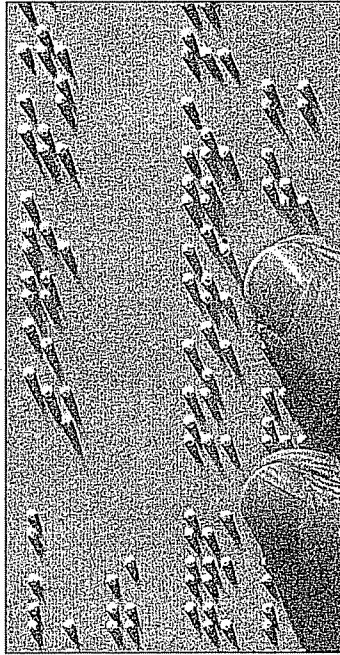
by Nussbaum Senungetuk on her computer to aesthetically enhance them — and also to make them more discernible to viewers with diminished sight.

In some cases, she's replaced the garden behind a stunning lily with a black background, so the flower image virtually pops from the frame. In others, she's manipulated the depth of field on her camera or intensified contrasts with her computer so that, to a viewer with full vision, the prints mimic beautifully rendered watercolors.

Nussbaum Senungetuk manipulates the photos on her computer using Adobe Photoshop software and prints them on 100-percent rag printmaking paper.

Originally, she started playing with Photoshop "to make (the photos) more accessible to me, because it helped me see the image more clearly," she says. "It was only after it was pointed out to me that people who are visually impaired would enjoy this work because of that quality that I really started educating myself how to make it even more accessible."

Working pixel by pixel "takes some patience," says Nussbaum Senungetuk, 61, a native of Kansas City who moved to Madison with her young daughter in



JOSEPH W. JACKSON - State Journal

Detailed descriptions in Braille accompany each work in an exhibit of Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk's photographs at the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

## If you go

**What:** "Bold Visions," a portfolio of floral images by Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk.

**Where:** Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, 754 Williamson St.

**When:** 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, through Feb. 28.

**Admission:** Free. Framed and matted works for sale, \$330-\$375, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**Information and tours:** 255-1166 or [www.wcblind.org](http://www.wcblind.org)

1981.

"But I'm also interested in finding out how far I can push something. And very often I start out working in one medium, and end up with a mixed-media piece. I have always used some form of photography in my work. When I was painting, I would work very often from my photographs.

Nussbaum Senungetuk, who won the Madison Arts Commission's 2007 Signature Grant to



Nussbaum Senungetuk digitally alters her photographs so they are more visible to the visually impaired.

put together the show, printed title cards for each photo in 18-point type and also posted title cards in Braille. For the visitor who wants to do a self-guided audio tour, she's recorded a narrative tape.

A staffer at the Council made suggestions along the way. "When I was writing my catalog for the show, she told me what she would find important to know," says Nussbaum Senungetuk. "It goes far beyond 'On your right there's a butterfly.' She

wants to know more — about the atmosphere of the work, the variety of colors, the variety of flowers. This is someone who's never had sight.

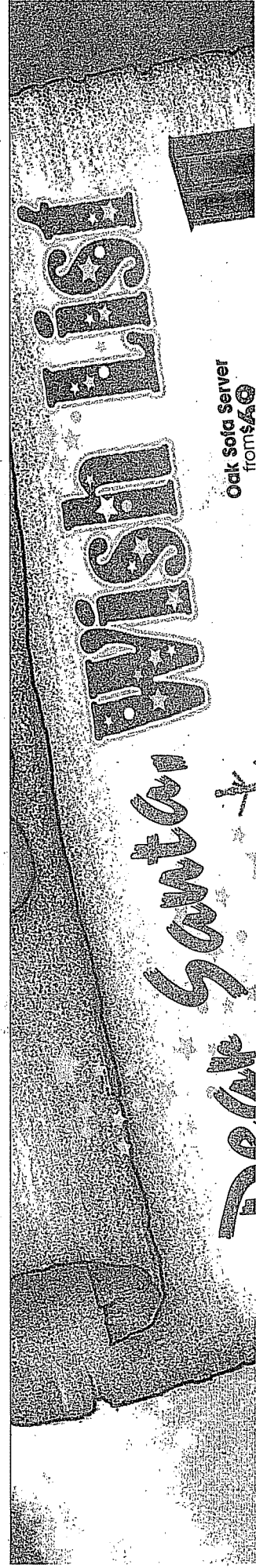
"Someone who is blind from birth, who has not had the experience of direct knowledge of colors, isn't mentally blocked," says Nussbaum Senungetuk, whose own visual impairment is from diabetic retinopathy.

"They still have an idea of colors and shapes, and the more research that neuroscience has

done, the more they have discovered that the vision is there. It may not totally correspond to a sighted person's vision. But it's not just a blank, empty space."

One of the biggest surprises from "Bold Visions," she says, has been the hugs.

"I've had a woman hug me and say, I can see this after so many years of not being able to.' And it brought back good memories for her. So that was wonderful, and great encouragement to continue."



Oak Sofa Server  
from SAO