

## **Member Spotlight:**

### *Ashley Spencer*

It is always a special treat to discover the special talents of Twigs' members and their willingness to share their time and creations with us: Ashley Spencer designed the January Winter Coffee invitation which everyone received. Ashley is a Sustainer who has been with Twig for 12 years. She grew up in the flamboyant and artistic city of New Orleans. She still has a strong connection to her hometown. She has lived in Old Town, Alexandria for the past 14 years with her husband, Peter and their two sons, and in the D.C. Metropolitan area for the past 16 years. She began her illustration business, The Occasional Palette, in 1988 when her oldest son was an infant. Both her sons, Piers (15) and Jackson (11) presently attend St. Anselm's Abbey School (for young men in D.C.). For almost 10 years, she has enjoyed painting murals, decorative finishing and collaborating with clients in the design process. She attributes her success to her talented art teachers, her study and appreciation of art history, and her strong background in drawing - from which every good painting derives.

Her past work experience includes: The National Gallery of Art (Design & Installation Department), National Gallery of Women in the Arts (Exhibition Design Department) and Scenic Painter at Arena Stage. Graduate of the University of the South (Sewanee). She studies at Parsons in Paris and Corcoran Gallery of Art School. She has an extensive portfolio from more than 150 completed art projects, some of which can be seen on her website: [www.ashley-spencer.com](http://www.ashley-spencer.com).

Ashley is active in several volunteer and civic organizations. She is past president of her neighborhood civic association, a City Council appointed member of the PTO Livability Task Force, former school board member of Grace Episcopal School, a parishioner at Grace Episcopal Church and a sustaining member of Twig.