

Ruth and George Culver Portrait

Artist: *Tonia Marks Baney*

40" by 30" Oil on linen

Ruth and George Culver had a vision of a restaurant filled with not only great food but one which reflected the hospitality of their hometown. In 1984 they founded Culver's restaurant which with the help of their son Craig and daughter-in-law Lea, has grown to today's 475 franchises throughout the United States. Pillars of the community, Ruth and George were respected and loved by all.

Ruth and George have passed on, and to celebrate their hard work and devotion to the community the Ruth Culver Community Library has presented an oil portrait of the couple in the foyer of the new library. The portrait was painted and gifted by Tonia Baney a professional portrait artist and a new resident of Sauk City. A pioneering family relationship of Baney and the Culvers urged the artist's interest in giving back to the community of her heritage. Lea and Craig Culver were instrumental in the portrait by allowing and participating in the research and approvals of the artwork. The Ruth Culver Community Library has been very generous with their support during the process.



Tonia Marks Baney was born in Lone Rock, Wisconsin, and experienced her first private art lessons in Richland Center at age 12. High School art classes in La Crosse and later the University of Wisconsin, Madison, equipped her with an overall love of art and a burning desire to create.

Tonia recently moved to Sauk City after living and working as a professional portrait artist and non-profit manager in Hawaii and Chicago.

Artistic Highlights

- Commissioned Portraits of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye; Hawaii State Representative; Robert Nakasone; Wisconsin Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and a well known TV writer and actor Danny Arnold, (Barney Miller), are just a few of the notables Tonia has been commissioned to paint.
- Over 30 years experience as a working artist and manager specializing in, portraiture, illustration, design, marketing and fundraising in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Maui, Hawaii, and Chicago, Illinois. Exhibits include group and solo events.

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