

# Neighbor to Neighbor

June 2008



Inner-City Neighborhood Art House  
201 East Tenth Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
(814)455-5508  
www.eriebenedictines.org/arthouse

## THE POWER OF RHYTHM FIRSTHAND

### RockHouse Foundation

The Neighborhood Art House was again one of the recipients of funds raised in the **Second Annual Erie RockHouse Concert and Auction**. Thanks to this brainchild of Dan Ostrowski honoring the memory of his father who encouraged Dan's musical endeavors, funds are raised for the donation of musical instruments to various music programs. NAH received a pair of Djun-Djun drums and an African Talking drum purchased with the proceeds from this



Jim Donovan and Art House children

fundraiser. These drums, traditionally used to call people together for community and celebration, charmed the NAH students at a workshop given by Jim Donovan on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Jim, a professional drummer, percussionist, recording artist, teacher and lecturer, helped the children experience the power of rhythm first hand. It was a fun time for all.



## REALIZING GOALS AND DREAMS

### Invited Guests

During the NAH spring session Debbie McQuaid's newspaper writing class enjoyed visits from two distinguished local women: Ruby Jenkins-Husband, Erie City Council Woman (top) engaged the class in a discussion of the City of Erie's youth curfew; and the Honorable Dr. Stephanie Domitrovich (bottom) shared and discussed with the students the responsibilities of being a judge. Both women entertained a lively question and answer period and left the students with many ideas. Most importantly, they gave encouragement that goals and dreams can be realized if one is willing to work hard, be true to their beliefs and follow good example.



## The TEACHER FEATURE Starring Mrs. L

(Based on an interview by Ron Wasielewski)

It was 1994. The pilot program of the Neighborhood Art House was housed in the lower levels of St. Mary School and Saint Benedict Education Center. The summer was hot; the basement classroom space was old; there was no air-conditioning. Still it was a perfect job for Mary Lubowicki, the busy mother of two adopted children who, after being encouraged by Sr. Susan Doubet, OSB, her colleague at Villa Maria High School, joined the first NAH staff. "What I didn't know then is that I'd still be here after more than a decade," said Mary, affectionately known at NAH as Mrs. L. For all these years Mrs. L has been working her magic



Art House student Maxine Hawthorne with Mary Lubowicki

teaching a variety of classes in drawing, painting and fiber art. As a professional artist who received her degree in art education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Mrs. L's interests are now turning to fabric wall hangings. She recently joined the Lake Erie Fiber Arts Guild to pursue that interest. Nevertheless, her first love is teaching the children at NAH and as Mrs. L says, "You know, after all these years, this is still the best job I've ever had."



Preparations  
Sponsors  
Excitement  
Volunteers

Preparations are in process! Sponsors are stepping up! Volunteers are being engaged! Excitement is growing! The **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Art&Sole 5K Run/Walk** is going to take place on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. A route has been mapped out: the event will both begin and end at the Neighborhood Art House. Starting time is 8 a.m., preceded by registration from 7-7:40 a.m. Cost of registration is: \$20 (adults); \$10 (children under 12); \$50 (max per family). Matt Catrabone, Chairperson of the NAH Development Committee, is hoping for a big crowd to help this fundraiser surpass all expectations. It promises to be a fun morning. Please come out and support this 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Art&Sole 5K Run/Walk to benefit the ongoing work of NAH.

## The Results Are In!

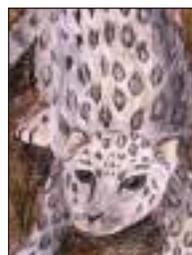
We are happy to announce the Neighborhood Art House winners in the **General Federation of Women's Clubs Art Contest 2008**. Teacher, Paul DeNiro, is proud of his students who participated at the invitation of the Presque Isle Women's Club. The five students who submitted art work brought home 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards and received a ribbon, certificate and cash prize.



"Lighthouse Sea Scape"  
Maria Samusenko, 14



"Running"  
Shane Foster, 14



"Leopard"  
Becky Dzuricky, 13



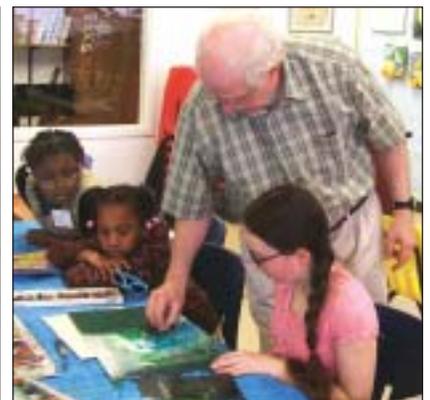
"Bird"  
Alfiya Ayvazova, 12



"Water Scene"  
Christopher Schneider, 14



Becky Dzuricky displays her current project.



Teacher Paul DeNiro helps more than one very interested student.

## Reflections

*Artists dip their brushes in their own souls,  
and paint their own nature into their work.*

Henry Ward Beecher (paraphrase)

"Reflections," was the title of the annual **Women's History Art Exhibit** at Mount St. Benedict in the Chapter 57 Gallery. The exhibit featured works reflecting the inspiration, insight, talent and creativity of women. The following NAH students and teachers participated:

Students: Alfiya Ayvazova, Emilia Balos, Shayquanna Mims  
Teachers: Barbara J. Hauck, Passle Helminski, Mary Lubowicki, Janet E. Mattes, Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB

## Sister Anne Says –

I hope as many of you as possible will join us for the first annual Art&Sole 5K Run/Walk on June 29<sup>th</sup>. This is a new kind of fundraiser for us and hopefully one that will turn heads and have people wondering for what cause this particular group is running/walking. Art&Sole will benefit the Neighborhood Art House by helping to raise



Sr. Anne with Art House students

money to support NAH's ongoing programs. It will also draw attention to the safe haven that NAH provides so that beauty can be brought to life in the hearts of at-risk children.

Henry David Thoreau said, "An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day." Please be assured that *this* early morning walk—Art&Sole 2008—will be a blessing for many, many days as well as for many, many children. Hope to see you there!

## Congratulations

—to NAH Ophelia Project teacher **Joyce Vallimont** who was honored by the Ophelia Project as Volunteer of the Year.

— to NAH art instructor **Janet E. Mattes** who took part in the Independent Council on Aging Art Exhibit. Her photo collage, "Silhouette Series" received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award.

## CHECK IT OUT!

We are proud to announce that the Neighborhood Art House is one of the features in the **May 2008 issue of Erie Life magazine**, a new publication that premiered in February. Titled, "A Creative Outlet," the feature is chock-full of pictures and insight into what makes NAH what it is today.

## HOOKED ON BOOKS!

*No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.*

Aesop



Jimmy Balzer and Hooked on Books! volunteer Vienna Cocuzzi

So, do consider volunteering for this summer's HOOKED ON BOOKS! Program at the Neighborhood Art House. Please call Dr. Dolores Sarafinski at 871-7422 for more information and to sign up now!

## Kairos Connection

*Kairos* is an ancient Greek word meaning the right or opportune moment; it has a qualitative nature. Such a moment happened for Art House student, Michael Alvarez, who joined the Benedictine Sisters of Erie in providing music for



**Earth Fest**, a fundraising event for LEA Earth Force at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC). This was a wonderful opportunity for Michael to share his gift of music with a broader audience and an opportunity for others to experience the level of performance of NAH students through the quality connection that music provides and keeps alive.

## Inner-City Neighborhood Art House



Benedictine Sisters of Erie  
201 East Tenth Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503-1007

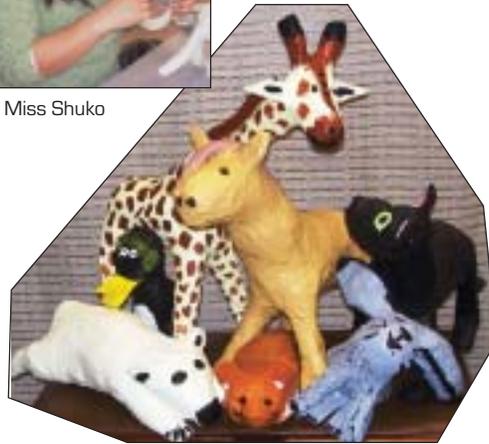
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## If These Animals Could Talk

Under the direction of Miss Shuko, NAH students created a menagerie of papier maché animals. Versatile, yet simple, papier maché is an excellent medium for creativity as proven by NAH students whose creations were impressive. Following a step-by-step process students painstakingly fabricated detailed sculptures that are a sight to behold. If these animals could talk they would surely express their gratitude for being created with such love and care.



Miss Shuko



## Springtime at the Art House

The *Spring Music Recital* (made possible by **The Lynn Gashe Levinson Memorial for Piano** and the **Erie Arts Endowment of the Arts Council of Erie**) and the *Open House* were special May events at the Neighborhood Art House. Beginning and experienced students alike shared pre-performance jitters, performance concentration and post-performance acclamation as their progress and achievements in the visual, performing and literary arts were showcased for parents, family and friends.

## Wheels of Fortune

The Neighborhood Art House has its very own "wheels of fortune." Under the guidance of art instructor, Sr. Margaret Ann



Pilewski, OSB, children learn the art of handling clay and "Throwing on the Wheel." In this favored class among the students, the wheel becomes the vehicle for a mind, heart, body and spirit experience. Concentration is enhanced, imagination is developed and creativity is encouraged. How can wheels that stimulate this kind of growth be anything but wheels of fortune?

## Migratory Bird Show



Janet Mattes with student Devon McRae

Thanks to teachers Chuck Dill, Paul DeNiro, Mary Lubowicki, Janet Mattes, Cheryl Robinson and Sr. Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB, 13 NAH students submitted 16 pieces that were displayed in the first annual **Festival of the Birds** at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center May 9-11. The works of various media were created by: Christopher Rust, Alex, Nick and Becky Dzuricky, Esmeraldaliz Torres, Precious Johnson, Lacey Lavette, Devon McRae, Shayquanna Mims, Indie McCoy, Keenan Gore, Cheyanne Parrett, and Veronika Kononov.

## Poems, Praise, Prizes and Party

"Keep A Poem in Your Pocket" was the theme for this year's Neighborhood Art House celebration of **National Poetry Month**. The observance, which included a *Memorize the Poem* contest, concluded with *A Celebration of Poetry*, a public performance on April 17<sup>th</sup>, and a *Poetry Party* for the student partici-



Sr. Mary Lou, left and Sr. Anne, right with Neighborhood Art House poets

pants on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Students who placed in their particular age division of the contest gave recitations at the public performance. They were joined by adults David Armor, Almitra Clerkin, Kitty Harrington, Tina McCracken, and Lyn Twillie-Darby who shared a favorite poem and why it was special to them. To end the evening, the audience broke into groups and shared the poems in *their* pockets with one another. NAH writer-in-residence, Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, her committee: Marjorie Podolsky, Laurel Taft and Tina McCracken, and the guests, families and friends lauded the children's achievements. Congratulations to all who helped to make this event magnificent, memorable, meaningful.

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

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