

# NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



June  
2011

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House • 201 East Tenth Street • Erie, Pennsylvania 16503 • 814-455-5508  
— A MINISTRY OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE —  
www.eriebenedictines.org



**Life is like a RAINBOW.  
You need both the sun and rain  
to make its colors appear.** —Author unknown

A very wet and rainy spring did not deter the students of the Neighborhood Art House from enjoying the many opportunities, projects, learning experiences, and accomplishments that the Spring Session unfolded.

## General Federation of Women's Clubs Pennsylvania Art Contest

The Neighborhood Art House participated in the General Federation of Women's Clubs Pennsylvania Art Contest (GFWC) for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Art work and photography, submitted at the invitation of the Presque Isle Women's Club, moved through four divisions of competition, ending at State level. Congratulations to the FOUR state winners and all the children who participated.

### State Winners—Art

Division 1 (Grades 1-3)

THIRD PLACE: Olivia Ortiz

Division 2 (Grades 4-6)

FIRST PLACE: Auriasia Dunn

### State Winners—Photography

Division 1 (Grades 4-6)

SECOND PLACE: Auriasia Dunn

Division 2 (Grades 7-9)

SECOND PLACE: Kiersten Lohse



Photo by Kiersten Lohse received a 2nd Place award in the Division 2 Photography category

### Participants

**Division 1 Art:** Darren Richardson, Gerzayn Aguilar. **Division 2 Art:** Jabez Belay, Lacey Lavette, Cassie Swanson. **Division 3 Art:** Emilia Balos, Miranda Drzewiecki, Mary Lohitai. **Division 1 Photography:** Anabel Alvarez, Michael Richardson. **Division 2 Photography:** Miranda Drzewiecki, Shayquanna Mims, Alyssa Stafford, Esmeraldaliz Torres, Joseph Torres

## Gertrude Barber Center Art Show

Congratulations to the students who entered the juried art show at the Gertrude Barber Center. It is a pleasure to announce that Michael Richardson received a third place \$25 award in the Youth Division.

### Painting

Gerzayn Aguilar, Hy Khanh Doan

### Photography

Saron Belay, Michael Richardson, Trinity Moore-Stevens, Miranda Drzewiecki

## Viva la Fiesta Grande

Under the direction of muralist and Neighborhood Art House teacher, Ehren Knapp, NAH students painted a mural in conjunction with "Viva la Fiesta Grande," a Latino-themed fundraiser for Mercyhurst College held on May 13 at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. In the May 2011



edition of *LakeErie Lifestyle*, John Chacona said: "...it's appropriate that the mural [was] painted by children from the Neighborhood Art House, the inner-city haven that is wrapped in a mural that proclaims its cultural and educational mission."

Mr. Knapp shared that this project was an opportunity for the students to work collaboratively and cooperate with each other to express themselves in a larger venue. Thanks to Michael Fuhrman, the director of the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, this occasion allowed the talents and creativity of the young artists of NAH to blossom in a new way. Thanks to the skill and dedication of Mr. Knapp, the children will remember this awesome project for a long time to come.

## Digital Photography



Congratulations to Shayquanna Mims who won a third place standing and \$50 award in the juried art show sponsored by Mercyhurst Preparatory School. Students who had pieces accepted into the show included: Saron Belay, Mary Lohitai, and Jitsel Miranda.

## Put a Poem in Your Pocket

The Neighborhood Art House was alive with poetry during National Poetry Month 2011. Throughout April the children experienced the riches of poetry by participation in a contest and a variety of creative activities. A special thank you to organizers, Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, Marjorie Podolsky and Tina McCracken, and all those who helped make this event memorable. Without a doubt it was a ray of sunshine in what might otherwise have simply been remembered as a rainy month. As the great poet Langston Hughes said so well:

*Let the rain kiss you.  
Let the rain beat upon your head  
with silver liquid drops.  
Let the rain sing you a lullaby.*

### POETRY CONTEST WINNERS 2011

#### AGE 7

First: Mariya Salamova; Second: Shayla Mims;  
Third: Abiezer Aguilar

#### AGE 8

First: Sophia Worner; Second: Jahir Rodriguez;  
Third: Gabriel Morales

#### AGE 9

First: Anna Worner; Second: Salomeya Salamova,  
Gerzayn Aguilar; Third: Michael Samusenko

#### AGE 10

First: Trinity Moore-Stevens; Second: Sierra  
Heidelberg; Third: Krystal Jordan

#### AGE 11

First: Elizabeth Aguilar; Second: Hy Khanh  
Doan; Third: Alicia Rodriguez

#### AGE 12

First: Mary Lohitai; Second: Precious Johnson;  
Third: Shayquanna Mims, Lacey Lavette

#### AGE 13 and above

First: Saron Belay; Third: Zhadayah Lindsey



Marjorie Podolsky and Sister Mary Lou (center rear) with some of the Poetry students

Congratulations to all 43 students who participated in the 2011 Poetry Contest. The accomplishments of each child were celebrated at a special pizza party.

## Memorial

A special thank you to the family of  
**Patricia L. Trocki**  
for designating memorials  
to the Neighborhood Art House  
in her memory.





**From the Desk  
of Sister Annette**



It may well be that “beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” but I believe that creativity springs from the soul. Being creative is part of being human; however, it is a power that requires freedom and encouragement to develop. By sharing their own artistic skills with their students, Neighborhood Art House teachers help them build their own tool chest of information, techniques and skills.

But that is not enough! Children need to break through their own barriers. As Dr. Seuss says in *Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!*:

**Think left  
and think right  
and think low  
and think high.  
Oh, the thinks  
you can think up  
if only you try!**

By encouraging, prodding, stretching, and assuring their students, NAH teachers ignite the creative spark hidden in each child. Budding poets celebrate the sounds of words, young painters experiment with color, photographers realize that “It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.” (Henry David Thoreau).

Clearly, creativity is alive and well at the Neighborhood Art House. From poetry to painting, from music recitals to photography, just look at the many accomplishments noted in this newsletter!

Let’s celebrate the creative potential in all of us and encourage its growth in each other.

Peace,

*Sister Annette*

Sister Annette

**Inner-City Neighborhood Art House**



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

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**SPECIAL EVENT • SAVE the DATE**  
**TASTE OF THE ARTS 2011**

**Tuesday, September 13**

Plan to join us at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of the Arts fundraiser to be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at the Neighborhood Art House. “Season to Celebrate” is the



theme for this year’s event. Students are working with instructors Susan Hunter and Sharon Bannon creating table centerpieces depicting the four seasons. Get ready to enjoy a memorable evening of celebration

“under the tent” where we promise to make each season come alive. Watch for details of Taste of the Arts 2011 in the August Newsletter.

**A Look Inside the Art House**



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said: “The best thing one can do when it’s raining is to let it rain.” And that is precisely what the students and teachers of the Neighborhood Art House did. They let it rain throughout the Spring Session but they did not let that rain dampen their spirits or drown their creativity. Here are some of their accomplishments!



**In Memory of Barbara Behan**  
(April 10, 1942 - April 4, 2011)



The staff and students of the Neighborhood Art House mourn the death of Barbara Behan, longtime Hooked On Books! board member and supervisor in the program. Her presence will be missed but her legacy of kindness and care will live on.

**HOOKED ON BOOKS!**  
**Summer 2011**

If you would like to volunteer to be a reader for the Summer Session you can register by visiting

<http://www.hoberie.org>

Simply click on the READ MORE button under “It Takes a Village.”

You can also sign on by calling the Neighborhood Art House (814-455-5508).

**Annual Spring Music Recital**



The annual spring music recital at the Neighborhood Art House was an evening for excited students and proud parents. More than 30 children had the opportunity to share the amazing progress they have made on their respective instruments: violin, cello, piano, guitar and voice. It was an evening that delighted the ear and touched the heart.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR  
Sister Charlotte Anne Zalot, OSB, Editor; Judy Allison, Design

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