

# Neighbor to Neighbor

December 2012



Inner-City Neighborhood Art House  
201 East Tenth Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503-1007  
(814)455-5508  
www.neighborhoodarthouse.org

—A MINISTRY OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE—

*Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.*

Hamilton Wright Mabie

## CONNECTING with NATURE

Glinodo Center's woods, creek and lakefront captured the attention of 35 participants in the NAH's environment and photography classes during their October 24 field trip. Children from center city Erie don't



often have the chance to experience running through the open fields, walking through mountains of leaves, or standing at the mouth of a creek flowing into Lake Erie. For some, even the bus ride was a new experience!

Lourdes Jasso's photography students found an amazing variety of subjects to capture. Sister Pat Lupo's environment students got a close-up experience of life in a stream. In fact, much to the delight of the children, someone fishing along the stream proudly held up a large lake trout that he caught!

We look forward to a similar field trip in the spring, both funded by YEP (Young Erie Professionals).



## NEW TEACHERS and NEW PROGRAMS

New teachers bring opportunities for new programs. No one knows this better than Sister Peg, Program Director, who opens the way for new course offerings.

A printmaker by trade, **SARAH EVERETT** offers classes in *Printmaking, Creating with Paper* (which includes paper making) and *Jewelry Making* for the students, all very ambitious undertakings with active children!

Guitar lessons and NAH Choir are back in full swing with **JANICE MARQUAND**. Next semester she'll add *World Music Performance* to her course offerings.



**JOANNA ZURN**, long-time NAH volunteer, joined the staff during the summer and fall term to teach *Exercise is Fun*. Nine to 14 year-old students learn basic yoga moves and exercises that naturally move to dance.

When **JENNIFER DENNEHY** joined the staff this fall she brought a newer form of dance—*Hoop Dancing*—that utilizes hula hoops as a way to express yourself through movement. The children will tell you, it's not as easy as it looks!



## Spreading the Word and Supporting the Mission

Since its founding, the Art House has depended upon a universe of good-willed persons to form the central committees that guide and support it. The Women's Core Committee grew out of the original Women of Vision that joined the Benedictine Sisters in founding the Art House. It continues to serve as an advisory committee, reviewing financials, programs and projects and hosting the annual Taste of the Arts.



**Information Sessions:** The Women's Core Committee is hosting eight informal gatherings where they share their love of the Art House with members of the Erie community. Pictured above are Barbara Pollock (WCC) and Barbara Keim (front) and Loretta Patton, Mary Ann Toohey (WCC), Jackie Breakstone and Cynthia Leopold (back) who participated in the first session held November 8.

The Development Committee was created to examine and expand funding opportunities for the Art House. One of its initiatives has been the annual Art & Sole, now being planned for its 6th year. Because of the concentrated attention required for this fundraiser, a new Art & Sole committee has been organized.

**New Art & Sole Committee Named:** Abby Lechner and Matt Catrabone, chairpersons of the Art & Sole 5K Committee, lay plans for the 2013 event scheduled for June 8. In addition to Development Committee members Marne Roche, Heidi Euliano, Jeff Shaw and Jim Toohey, new members of the committee include Christina Kater, Michael Agresti, Trevor Nash and Shannon Morton.



**WE NEED YOUR VOTE!**

Please go to

<http://www.eriechoose.com>  
between Nov. 26 and Dec. 12

and vote for the Neighborhood Art House in the \$10,000 category.

With your help we will be able to obtain computers and software to edit both photos and video, and to use computer assisted instruction in our tutoring program. Only Erie County Residents may vote, and only once in each category—please make your vote count for the Neighborhood Art House.

## From the Desk of Sister Annette



Sister Annette and an NAH student at Taste of the Arts.

Several days before the Thanksgiving break seven-year old Jacob explained: "There are two sides to this long vacation. I 'yike' getting time off from school. But then, we

don't have Art House, and I 'yike' the Art House." Right you are, Jacob. Most things do have at least two sides. Our challenge is to celebrate the positive and to keep the rest in perspective.

When this newsletter arrives at your doorstep, the holiday season will be in full swing. With the joy of visits from friends, the wild anticipation of children hoping for something good to come, the memories of old-time holidays with their special sounds and smells, and beautiful religious services that inspire, we have many blessings to celebrate. Of course, along with those come the stresses of not enough time to get everything done, the preoccupation over the selection of gifts, the worry about the family budget, and the emptiness of missing family members no longer here to celebrate. How do we juggle it all?

There is no quick quote to offer, only this reminder. Holiday time is a time of giving. It is only through giving of ourselves that we can escape the downside of the holidays. When the emphasis is on reaching out in love, then the many seasonal duties and sorrows can slip back into perspective, making way for whole-hearted celebration with family and friends.

May this holiday season find you and your loved ones full of joy as you take special time for each other.

*Sister Annette*

## DONOR CORNER

THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION awarded a Basic Needs Grant for \$7,500 to the Art House for a new paging system and a telephone system upgrade.



Mary Lincoln, Women's Core Committee (2nd from left), and Sr. Peg Pilewski, NAH Program Director, are shown above with Perry N. Wood, Executive Director, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (left) and Mike Batchelor, President, Erie Community Foundation.



Benedictine Sisters of Erie  
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## •• REACHING OUT ••

As part of the Erie community, the Neighborhood Art House participates in numerous projects throughout the year that enable our youngsters to reach out to others. These experiences teach the children that they are not only the recipients of the good gifts of the community, but that they are able to do something positive for the community as well.

### Pumpkin Carving •••••



### Decorating Gift Bags •••••



Art House children carefully decorated 75 gift bags that will be given to the residents of Benetwood Apartments. Similarly, the children decorated hundreds of place mats for Thanksgiving Dinners held by Emmaus Soup Kitchen and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Carving pumpkins for the Master Gardeners' Pumpkin D'Light Night Walking Tour gave some of the children their very first experience in pumpkin carving.



## Taste of the Arts 2012

Our sincerest gratitude to all who helped in any way to make Taste of the Arts 2012 a grand success!



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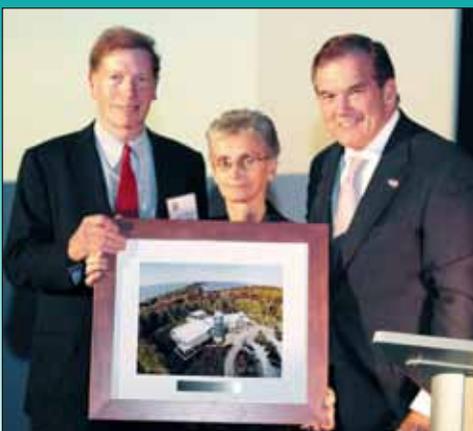
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## John C. Oliver Award



The Friends of the Tom Ridge Center recently presented Sister Pat Lupu with the 2012 John C. Oliver Award for Environmental Leadership. Sr. Pat is shown above with John C. Oliver (left), for whom the award was named and Governor Tom Ridge. Congratulations, Sr. Pat!

## Christmas Cookie Decorating



Every year NAH children begin their celebration of the holidays with cookie decorating provided by volunteers coordinated by Renie Louis. Pictured here are Denise Illig Robison, foreground, and Maggie Stolley offering assistance to young decorators at the 2011 event.

## Yoga



For 16 years Sr. Rosanne Lyndal-Hynes has taught yoga for our 7-8 year olds. Whether roaring like a lion or stretching like a tree, the children learn how to calm themselves and get rid of stress which helps them use their energy positively.

### NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Sister Annette Marshall, OSB, Editor; Judy Allison, Design



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