

NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



June
2014

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House • 201 East Tenth Street • Erie, Pennsylvania 16503 • 814-455-5508

— A MINISTRY OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE —
www.neighborhoodarthouse.org

Preparing for Taste of the Arts 2014



Tuesday, September 9—5:00 pm

Step back to a simpler time, when Rock 'n Roll took over the radio, diners with checkered table cloths listened to Elvis on the jukebox, and Friday night dances were all the rage for teens. The teachers and children at the Art House have enjoyed bringing this year's Taste of the Arts theme to life. They join the Women's Core Committee and Benedictine Sisters in inviting you to Rock Around the Art House.



Rock Around the Art House co-chairpersons Sue DiCara (left) and Karen Clark are proud to display the plates made by the children. The committee, teachers and children extend an invitation to all of our readers to join in a most enjoyable evening "under the tent" on September 9, 2014.



The sound of 50's music kept the Art House rocking as dance classes first chose the music they wanted to use, designed the choreography, then "nailed" the moves for dances to be performed at Rock Around the Art House in September.

Save the Date
Tuesday, September 9

Featured Student Artist

Chosen for this year's live auction is a hand-drawn and painted tapestry on muslin titled Earth and the Universe. It was created by Christian Kakulu, a 13 year old originally from Congo, Africa who came to the United States with his family in November of 2012. While in Africa he discovered that he liked to draw and, along with his friends, often occupied himself drawing with paper and pencil. It was not until he came to the Art House in September 2013 that he had any art instruction. He was amazed and delighted by the variety of media available and has taken advantage of classes in printmaking, sculpture, pastels, and photography as well as yoga, hoop dancing, and drums.



Christian began this year-long project as part of a tapestry class taught by Sarah Everett. Having supplied each student with a large piece of muslin with a 9-inch circle inscribed in the center, she encouraged her students to choose a theme that depicted something important to them. Choosing the potential for peace and harmony between humans and the natural world as his theme, Christian chose to divide his circle into quarters to illustrate how we need to take care of the earth, the animals, the environment and our homes. He then consulted books illustrating Zen tangle, a type of intricate pattern drawing, which inspired his use of this art form in the decorative extension of the inner circle.

Students Replicate Vintage Guitar

Computer art is not always done on the computer; sometimes it is art created out of computers. After pulling apart 2 junked computers and many CD and disc drives, students Silvina Valdez, D'Andrea Thompkins, and Jahir Rodriguez chose which parts should be used to help replicate a 50's era Gibson ES-335 guitar.



A wood outline of the guitar and some of the computer parts were painted red. Screws outline the guitar's body and are fillers for the "F Holes." The neck has brown painted computer RAM cards, the frets are metal sticks from twenty-two 3 1/2 inch floppy disc drives, and the knobs are parts of these same floppy drives. Students spent countless hours prepping, sanding, painting, gluing, but most important designing the guitar. Watch for it on display at Taste of the Arts. Perhaps you will be taking it home!

Clay Students Capture Theme

While Elvis was shaking up the music world, painting and sculpture had their own innovators. One of these was Georgia O'Keeffe who said of her striking paintings of flowers: "Nobody sees a flower, really, it is so small. . . I said to myself—I'll paint what I see—what the flower is to me, but I'll paint it big and they will be surprised into taking time to look at it."



Under the direction of their clay teacher, Susan Hunter, the children made flower plates "in the manner of Georgia O'Keeffe." After cutting free-hand circles from a slab of clay, the children cut and molded the petals, added a center, then glazed over 100 brightly colored plates for this year's Taste of the Arts.

Awards Abound

Artwork from the children at the Art House graced many venues this semester and with great results!

ERIE TIMES-NEWS—Weather Art Corner

Eight students had their artwork published in the *Erie Times-News* Weather Art Corner. Silvina Valdez, Dennis Panasenko, Robert Graham, Joel Gonzalez, Valentino Rodriguez, Abby Aguilar, Laura Taylor and Laxmi Kadhka.

This good work could not be accomplished without the expert guidance of the teachers:
Mary Lubowicki, Lourdes Jasso, Chuck Dill, Mary Kay Geary, and Susan Hunter.

TOM RIDGE CENTER—Mixed Media Art Competition

Six student artworks and one collaborative work in clay were entered in the Tom Ridge Mixed Media Art Competition: *All things that fly*. **Second Award Medal** to Dennis Panasenko (tempera painting) **First Place Award Medal** to Abby Aguilar (DVD Birding at Presque Isle), Franco Harris (photo of grasshopper) and Samuel Kakulu (chalk pastel of sunset)



Dennis Panasenko (tempera)



Franco Harris (photography)



Samuel Kakulu (chalk pastel)

Spring Performances



EXCITED CHILDREN



EYE-CATCHING ART DISPLAYS



PROUD PARENTS



NEW COSTUMES



DEDICATED TEACHERS

BUDDING MUSICIANS



Tribute to Carole Waldinger

This tribute in memory of Carole Waldinger is offered by Sister Anne Wambach, OSB, former Executive Director for the Neighborhood Art House, and currently Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. Sister Anne worked closely with Carole who served as her assistant.

We were fortunate to have Carole Waldinger as an administrative assistant/business manager for 15 years at the Neighborhood Art House. She was an outstanding woman, a good friend and a marvelous professional colleague to me. Whether a teacher was asking her for assistance with any number of requests or a child was looking for "Mrs. Waldinger" for help with a name tag, a message or any problem, Carole met each child, each person, each request with the same calmness, friendliness and helpful attitude day after day, year after year. Her patience and goodness was unending, her smile welcoming to everyone, especially to the many visitors that arrived continuously at our front door. The children's memories of their days at the Neighborhood Art House will surely include the kindness, acceptance and care that they experienced from Carole Waldinger. Her presence, her beauty, her grace certainly fills our hearts with many fond memories and with great gratitude for her life that she shared with us so generously, so graciously.





4th Annual
ERIE GIVES DAY
August 12, 2014

Be part of this community-wide strategy to support Erie's non-profit community by making a donation for the Neighborhood Art House through ErieGives. Join the 67 donors who supported our classes for inner-city children, raising over \$16,000 through their contributions and the prorated match.

Date: August 12, 2014
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Gift Amount: Minimum: \$25
Credit Cards: Visa, Mastercard, Discover
Prorated Match: \$175,000 will be divided over the total gifts.

Match Contributors:
\$100,000 - Erie Community Foundation
\$50,000 - GE Transportation
\$25,000 - Erie Insurance

Access www.eriegives.org for additional information and to sign up to receive an email reminder to donate for ErieGives Day. Thank you.

From the Desk of Sr. Annette

It is the natural way of things. Parents want their children to have what they did not and to find opportunities that were not open to them. Perhaps, though, there are other legacies that are more important than these. In her book *The Breath of the Soul*, Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB, co-founder of the Neighborhood Art House, reminds us that we become what we think. "What we seed in our souls grows in us, forms us, becomes what drives us from moment to moment."



If I tell myself over and over that I am beautiful, I will feel beautiful. If I tell myself over and over that I am inferior, I will unconsciously make choices that will prove it. If, as a young child, I experience unconditional love, I will know that I am lovable and perhaps others are as well. If, however, I am always wrong, always bad, continuously criticized, I will reinforce this notion in my "self-talk" until it defines who I am.

"Someday all the children of the world will learn the truth about their noble inheritance. When that happens, a miracle will unfold on the kingdom of Earth." (Charlene Costanzo, *The Twelve Gifts of Birth*) Every interaction with a child has the potential to move the world closer to that day.

Sister Annette



A huge turn-out—a dedicated committee—terrific volunteers—generous sponsors—perfect weather—what more could be asked for a record-breaking Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk? The excitement was palpable as participants gathered at the starting line for a run/walk that would take them on a route through some of the neighborhoods served by the Neighborhood Art House.

The 454 registrations, the largest turn-out ever for this annual fundraiser, included both competitive and casual runners and walkers. For some, it was their very first 5K. Without a doubt, the paintings, drawings, ceramic pieces, and prints done by the NAH children and given as prizes make this a 5K like no other!

The Team Challenge saw 27 corporate, organization and family teams vie for the top five positions. The first place award included a framed team picture, and, for each member, passes to Splash Lagoon, framed linoleum block prints and ceramic plaques from the children, and Art & Sole monogrammed athletic socks. The second through fifth place teams also received framed team pictures and monogrammed athletic socks.

All of us at the Neighborhood Art House are grateful to EVERYONE who made this such an outstanding event.

RIGHT: Betti Knox, long-time event volunteer, prepares to process "day of race" registrations.



BELOW: Art House students Dalaysa and her brother Joel complete the 5K. Thirty NAH children and family members participated in A&S this year.



Thank you to all our volunteers who helped to make this event possible!

DONOR CORNER

We are grateful to everyone whose generosity contributes to the Neighborhood Art House. May you have the satisfaction of knowing that your gift benefits many inner city children in their pursuit of beauty.

ERIE INSURANCE (PA EITC Program)



Ann Scott, of **Erie Insurance**, recently presented a contribution of \$75,000 to the Neighborhood Art House. This donation, part of the **PA EITC Program**, supports the visual art program at NAH. Bipan and Barsha, children from Nepal who currently attend Art House classes, recently joined Sr. Annette Marshall to receive this very generous gift.

GIANT EAGLE = HEALTHY SNACKS



One way to help keep children focused is to assure that they are not hungry. Healthy snacks can be quite expensive, but a generous gift card from **Giant Eagle Foundation** will go a long way to provide them for the 120 children attending the Art House this summer.

The **Beyers Music Performance Grant** of \$3,500, administered by **Erie Arts and Culture**, enables music students in piano, guitar, flute, violin, cello, and drums to showcase their musical talents, performing for families, friends, and guests in five programs throughout the year.



ST. LUKE SCHOOL



St. Luke's 8th graders were thinking of others this spring as they collected art supplies and personal care items for the children. A representative group of the students brought their gifts, toured the Art House and learned about the programs we offer.



Printmaking has taken on a renewed importance here, and **Gannon University's Schuster ReGrant Program** has helped to make it possible. Supplies from linoleum blocks to printing ink, to specialized paper to resource books were all made possible through their \$1,600 award.



A HOOP JUST MY SIZE

Hoop dancers know that having a hoop sized to their height helps improve their ability to execute the various moves of their specialty dances. This spring 13 of Jennifer Dennehy's hoop dance students found that creating such a hoop is no easy task. For the hoop to be strong and hold its shape,



it is made out of very stiff black plastic tubing that must be cut to size then formed into a circle with a secure, tight-fitting joint. Once properly shaped, students chose their own color scheme made by evenly spacing spiraling lines of brightly colored vinyl or duct tape of various widths.

DATES OF NOTE

- June 23 - July 24 Summer Session
- July 26 Summer Session Picnic
- August 12 ErieGives
- September 2 Fall Session Begins
- September 9 Taste of the Arts
Rock Around the Art House

We're searching...

Are you a Neighborhood Art House Alumnus? Do you know anyone who is? We are hoping to locate our former students in preparation for our 20th Anniversary.

Please email information to nah@neighborhoodarthouse.org or call us at 814-455-5508. **THANK YOU!**



Inner-City Neighborhood Art House



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



Jeff Shaw, route coordinator and member of the Art & Sole Committee, gives the starting signal to begin the races. He and the other committee members: Matt Catrabone and Christina Katen (co-chairs), Mike Agresti, Abby Lechner, Shannon Morton, Trevor Nash and Jim Toohey have worked tirelessly with Patti Eichen (development staff) and Sister Annette to nearly double the size of this event in only two years.



First place in the Team Challenge was won for the second time by Lincoln Recycling. Other winning teams were GE Potential in Motion, 2nd place; MacDonald Illig, 3rd place; Tri-State Runners, 4th place; and Mighty MeerKats (Nash Chiropractic), 5th place.

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