

NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



November
2018

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



Welcome to Our Circle

Congratulations and a multitude of thanks to co-chairpersons Lisa Chinsky and Annalynn Shuttleworth, the planning committee, faculty and children on a memorable **Taste of the Arts 2018: Welcome to Our Circle**.

From audience participation in the Pledge and Circle Song that starts each Art House session,



to the musical entertainment



and art demonstrations and performances by the children,



guests were able to connect in a new way with the daily activities at the Art House.

Kudos to Sabella's whose food stations proclaimed the Art House Curriculum, and all those whose sponsorships, silent auction donations, and many kindnesses made the evening such a huge success.



Taste of the Arts 2018 Sponsors

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We are deeply grateful to Ed Bernik and Erie Insurance Media Services for creating a new video that tells the story of the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. The video was enthusiastically received at its inaugural viewing during Taste of the Arts, and is now available on our website, www.neighborhoodarthouse.org.



Addressing Safety and Program Visibility

Across the country and right here in Erie, schools and other institutions have been taking steps to increase security in their buildings. Here at the Art House we asked the Safety Institute at Mercyhurst University North East to conduct a safety assessment that resulted in several recommendations; first among these was to install a communication/buzzer entry system for the Holland Street door and to designate it as the only building entrance. Procedures for "active shooter" situations were revised and a two-hour safety program for faculty and staff was presented by the Institute in early November. In addition, the paging system will be expanded, and the external surveillance system will be upgraded.



Kelly Stolar, Development Director, recently received word from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority that her proposal to address both building safety and program visibility was approved for \$25,000! The challenge now is to raise the funds need for the one-to-one grant match.

Visibility improvements will include the construction of a sign that both identifies the building and posts announcements of upcoming events, enrollment periods and program offerings. The final aspect of this project is the repair of the building façade and the creation of a new mural on both the 10th and Holland Street sides of the building.

Watch for the new Neighborhood Art House website.

It will be launched early in 2019.



New Faces



New faces grace the Art House offices and classrooms; we'd like you to meet them and join us in providing a warm welcome.

Kelly Stolar (F), CFRE, Development Director and president-elect of the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals,

began her tenure here just five days before Art & Sole in June! Her experience at both Sarah Reed Children's Center and Mercyhurst University serves her well as our first full-time Development Director.

We are delighted to welcome a mother/daughter team, Rhonda (B) and Katie (G) Berlin, and Nadia Popova, (not pictured), recent Art House student, who are all teaching private piano lessons. Also joining the music department is Pam Verity (K) who welcomes the children to "sing their socks off" under her enthusiastic direction.

Instilling a love of poetry is the forte of Luchetta Manus (A) who is herself a published poet. The visual arts department welcomes Eliza Wolfe (J), who teaches at her own clay studio, *Main Street Art* in Girard, and two classroom veterans, Christine Bowler (C) former art teacher at Mercyhurst Prep and Jonilee Hlusko (H) recently the art teacher at Montessori Regional Charter School.



The Art House has taken on a notable shine due to the efforts of new housekeepers Janice DiFuccia (D) and Rita Bagnoni (E). In addition to her duties as Administrative Assistant, Rita Orinko (I), often volunteers in the environmental program as a Master Gardener.

From the Desk of Sr. Annette

"If you want *others* to be happy, practice compassion.
If *you* want to be happy, practice compassion."
- Dalai Lama



Empathy is our ability to take the perspective and feel the emotions of another person; compassion is empathy with the desire to help. Research being done at UC Berkeley tells us that "when we feel compassion, our heart rate slows down, we secrete the 'bonding hormone' oxytocin and regions of the brain linked to empathy, caregiving, and feelings of pleasure light up." While the Dalai Lama may not have been aware of this research, he knew the link between happiness and compassion.

I am quite sure that it is compassion that motivates our donors and volunteers to give of themselves to raise up the children who attend the Art House. They recognize that the children need the nurturing care they receive here, and they know that these children need self-actualizing experiences to grow into the persons they are meant to be.

My hope is that all those who support the Art House will experience the happiness that compassion generates.

May you enjoy a Bountiful Thanksgiving, a Joyous Holiday Season and a Prosperous, Healthy and Happy New Year.

Sister Annette

Seasons In Pieces



Neil Ludell of EE Austin & Son, Inc. adds the finishing touches to the permanent installation, *Seasons in Pieces*.

The three-part mosaic installation, *Seasons in Pieces*, located in the garden area east of the parking lot gives testimony to the support the Art House mission receives from Erie's businesses. Teachers Pat Lupo, OSB (environmental programs) and Sharon Bannon (mosaics) began the Project with a contest open to all children and teachers. Their challenge was to design a panel depicting something in nature. The winning three designs were created by - Raniyah (age 11), Evelyn (age 13) and teacher Mary Kay Geary. Using tiles, stones, and beach glass, children in the 2018 summer program turned the designs into three 18" x 18" panels.

Meanwhile, Sister Pat enlisted the help of Adam Trott, Architect to come up with an installation design, a much more complex endeavor than one might expect. With the design in hand, she approached Kim Carrara of Carrara Steel Erectors and Cleo Austin of EE Austin & Son, Inc. to enlist their help. Not only did they bring their expertise and skill, they also brought their hearts. Carrara Steel Erectors fabricated the steel frame and EE Austin provided the services of contractor, Neil Ludell, and materials for the installation. Between them, these companies provided an installation valued at over \$1500.

DATES OF NOTE

Nov. 21 - 26, 2018	Art House Office Closed
Dec. 13, 2018, 7:00 pm	Open House - all are welcome
Dec. 24 - 31, 2018	Art House Office Closed
Jan. 2, 2019	Winter Term Begins
Jan. 21, 2019	Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan. 31, 2019, 7:00 pm	Music Recital - all are welcome
June 8, 2019	12 th Annual Art & Sole

MEMORIALS

A special thank you to the families of

	Date of Death
Ruth Gray	April 17, 2018
Susan Hunter	April 20, 2018
Joseph C. Drozeski	May 23, 2018
Jeanne Ward	June 1, 2018
William F. Hess	June 10, 2018
Leslie Samuels	September 8, 2018
Alice H. Bean	October 11, 2018
Betti Knox	October 24, 2018

for designating memorials to the Neighborhood Art House.

Holiday Help For Families

You are invited to be part the Art House outreach to our families requesting holiday assistance by donating new items (unwrapped please), cash or gift cards to help fill holiday gift bags for them. Suggested items include personal care products, clothing items including socks, scarves, gloves, and hats for children ages 7-14, toys and board games. Please provide your donations before December 10. Many thanks!



WISH LIST

Art supplies: fiber fill, polymer clay (all colors), Model Magic air dry clay, knitting needles, markers (thick and thin), pre-cut cotton quilt squares, hand sewing needles, gift cards to stores carrying art supplies

Environment Program: suet, bird seed, potting soil, jiffy grow pots

General supplies: personal care products (shampoo, body soap, combs/brushes, toothbrushes & paste, etc.) healthy snacks, boxes of facial tissues, warm socks, gloves, scarves (children ages 7-14) laundry soap, dryer sheets

Donor Corner



THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Neighborhood Art House through the **2018 ERIE GIVES**. In 12 hours of on-line giving a total of \$28,827 was raised for NAH performing arts! Once again, the number of donors, 164, and the amount donated topped previous years. We are especially grateful to The Erie Community Foundation for conducting this fund-raising day to benefit Erie's nonprofits. To ECF and the businesses whose contributions provided funding for the match, we are very grateful.

Several foundations make it possible for us to purchase equipment and supplies for various aspects of our program. To them we say a hearty "Thank you!"



Dance apparel, especially costumes for older girls and for boys and replacement dance shoes, will be purchased with a \$1,000 grant from the **Ronald McDonald House Charities**.



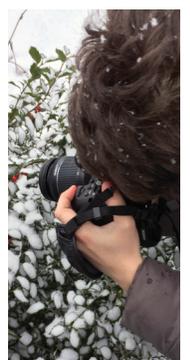
Erie Arts & Culture



provided \$2,000 for the children to "Celebrate Nature through Art." In addition to partially funding field trips for art students, this grant purchased mosaic materials for the mosaic installation and provided art supplies for drawing, painting, pastels, and photography.



With a \$2,000 grant from the **Schuster Regrant** program at **Gannon University**, we purchased three cameras suitable for advanced photography.



Garden Video Camp

By Julliana (age 11)



Rita Orinko, Master Gardener and Administrative Assistant at the Neighborhood Art House, shared great garden-fresh recipes with the youth who attended the Garden Video Camp in June. Shown with her here are Art House students Shaan (age 10), levangelina (age 11), and Jayden (age 14). Ellen DiPlacido from Emmaus Grove looks on.

Watering your plants is the most important part of gardening. You have to know when to water, how to water. In order to know whether the soil is moist or not, use the finger test. If the soil is moist an inch deep, then the plant doesn't need water, but if it's not then it needs water.

Harvesting is also important; it's when we get to enjoy all our food. Let's just say everything about gardening is important. You need to know when to harvest and how to harvest. So, if you want to know how to do all these things, view the Garden Video on Public Access TV or find it in the video section of the Neighborhood Art House website, www.neighborhoodarthouse.org.

A garden is a green space, with resources, and it gives us oxygen. Some people don't know how to plant, water, care for, or harvest a garden. Therefore, the House of Mercy, Neighborhood Art House, and CAT-TV made a video about how to garden. When you're gardening you make your own food.

Planting is very important. You need the right tools; you also have to know how deep to put your plant or seed in the soil.



The students who participated in the Garden Video Camp outlined the content, wrote the script, assigned the speaking parts to each other, and shot the film using CAT-TV equipment. Here Julliana is getting last minute camera tips from Jacob Bartko at CAT-TV. The Garden Video Camp was made possible through a TANF Grant awarded to Sr. Michele Schroeck, House of Mercy.



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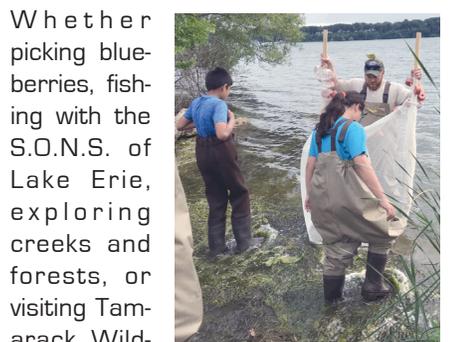
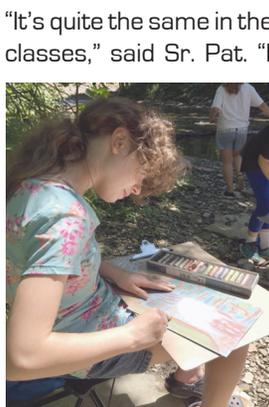
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New Experiences - Summer Field Trips



"It is a lot to ask a child to step out of their comfort zone of everyday city life, but it then becomes very easy for them to leave everything behind and fully emerge themselves in creating something amazing, something new," Lourdes Jasso, photography teacher, explained. "The field trips that photography and drawing classes take each summer places them in a new environment where their excitement is transmitted thru the amazing art they create."

"It's quite the same in the environmental classes," said Sr. Pat. "Feeling the water run over their feet, locating 'critters' they have never seen before, stretching their hearts as they experience the beauty of the natural world . . . all contributes to the sense of wonder that will support their growth as environmental citizens."



Whether picking blueberries, fishing with the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, exploring creeks and forests, or visiting Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, these field trips, partially funded by the Blake Family Foundation and Erie Arts & Culture, took the children to places and experiences far beyond the city.



Did you know... your purchases can make a difference? **AmazonSmile** donates to Neighborhood Art House when you shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1773391, or go to smile.amazon.com and find us listed as *Neighborhood Art House*.