Focus on Dance

Dance has been a lifelong passion for Larisa Melodinskaia, a former professional ballroom dancer, now instructor at the Neighborhood Art House (1998). Larisa’s school experience began at age 3 in her hometown of Baku, Azerbaijan, where she studied ballet, jazz, folk, dance, Latin, dancing and tap. As part of her dance school, she performed in Baku for about 15 years on a weekly TV program, at government events, and even on movies. This is not just because it is a beautiful art form, it gives the children an opportunity to learn just what is expected. “Ballet is the foundation of all the other dance forms that I use with my students: jazz, modern dance, contemporary ballet, hip-hop, rock jazz and others like Eastern European folk dancing.” Larisa explained. “It paves the way for so many others like Eastern European folk dancing.”

In October thirty five children from the Neighborhood Art House went to Glinoodo Center on Lake Erie to explore the environment, photograph nature and capture the landscape in chalk pastel drawings. The trip was organized by Sister Pat Lupo (Environ- ment), Lourdes Jackson (Photography), and Mary Kay Garey (Chalk Pastels).

“It’s gushy!” This apt description was given by the pumpkin flesh being removed prior to carving. For some, carving pumpkin faces and designs was a brand new experience. The children at the Art House prepared their pumpkin masterpieces as their contribution to the Master Gardeners Pumpkin Walk. Working in small groups under the supervision of teachers or volunteers, the children first transformed their designs to the pumpkin surface, then used pumpkin cutting tools to carefully turn a large vegetable into a piece of sculpture.

FIELD TRIP TO GLINODO CENTER

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“I’m here to learn and to control my posture, improve their balance and focus their attention. Dance develops their ability to attend to details, to listen to instructions, and to attend to rhythm, all skills shown to be associated with improving math skills. All that being said, perhaps its greatest recommendation is that the children love it, of course, all of that, but there is more. Dance has also been shown to help children learn to think and move at the same time and to be at home in their own bodies. It helps to increase special understanding and expand aesthetic intelligence. Dancers learn to walk gracefully, control their posture, improve their balance and focus their attention. Dance develops their ability to attend to details, to listen to instructions, and to attend to rhythm, all skills shown to be associated with improving math skills. All that being said, perhaps its greatest recommendation is that the children love it.”

“Toddlers and children at the Neighborhood Art House Dance program have the opportunity to perform, build confidence and is something the children enjoy. It is, of course, all of that, but there is more. Dance has also been shown to help children learn to think and move at the same time and to be at home in their own bodies. It helps to increase special understanding and expand aesthetic intelligence. Dancers learn to walk gracefully, control their posture, improve their balance and focus their attention. Dance develops their ability to attend to details, to listen to instructions, and to attend to rhythm, all skills shown to be associated with improving math skills. All that being said, perhaps its greatest recommendation is that the children love it.”

“Mary Larisa” teaches her young students the classics ballet moves and positions by moving right along with them, showing them rather than telling them what to do.

To develop their ability to count, students are visually instructed to practice their dance moves without the music playing. The trip took place in September. The Neighborhood Art House and the students’ dance malfunctioned. Larisa put on another selection, one they had never used. The students came through beautifully. The students had not even know there had been a problem! As we explored Lake Erie, we observed rocks, logs, tree stumps, acorns, feathers, shells, ladybugs and snails,” described some of the children from the environmental classes. We also walked along Seven Mile Creek. We saw beach-heads swimming upstream and they were really big.”

Wishing you all the joys of the holidays and blessings in the New Year.

Neighborhood Art House
Children and Staff
Annette Manhial, OSB, Executive Director
Benedictine Sisters of Erie

Neighborhood Art House
20th Anniversary Observances

On the 20th of selected months of 2015, 20 people will gather to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Art House at ARTfully Yours. They’ll be joining Art House teachers to try their hand at a variety of art media.

The Art House will provide the snacks. Guests will supply their own beverages for this BYOB event. Be sure to periodically check our webpage www.neighborhoodarthouse.org, our Facebook page, or the newspaper for announcements for these anniversary parties chaired by Core Committee members Lisa Chinsky and Karen Dark. If you would like to receive email notification for these events, please send an email request to nahl@neighborhoodarthouse.org

PUMPKIN CARVING

In October thirty five children from the Neighborhood Art House went to Glinoodo Center on Lake Erie to explore the environment, photograph nature and capture the landscape in chalk pastel drawings. The trip was organized by Sister Pat Lupo (Environment), Lourdes Jackson (Photography), and Mary Kay Garey (Chalk Pastels).

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DONOR CORNER

Events
The Erie Runners Club selected the Neighborhood Art House as one of their corporate sponsors for the 45th Annual Marathon. Please help keep September 14, 2014, as our awareness when we receive a check for $10,000! Each member of the group will wear the Neighborhood Art House as their route coordinator and use a sticker on your bibs, that is a picture at night with Pati Eichen, Development Coordinator, and Mann and Empathy, representing the children who are benefiting from the classes supported by this generous donation. We invite you to join us, to be part of the Erie Runners Club, and to bring love, warmth and understanding to your fellow runners.

A $5,000 grant from the NAH Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk, is pictured at right. Although we are most grateful to the members of the Erie Runners Club and to John and Mary Vasquez, Race Director, being selected by the Erie Runners Club means to ensure the continued service of the community...the children, especially those who are disadvantaged. Jeff Fromknecht, the Tail Great, a tailgating party held before a See- ing Wolves game in the NAH garden, was great fun for the participants and a great way to offer support for our programs. Shown at left, Sister Peg, Program Director, is happy to accept the donation. Fromknecht is a long-time member of the Erie Runners Club.

FUNDING EFFORTS

e-Kind Donations

“Gifts in Kind” are often given to charitable organizations.


DECORATE WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

FROM THE DESK OF SISTER ANNETTE

Memorial
A special thank you to the family of Paul Weber for designing memorials to the Neighborhood Art House in his memory.

STUDENTS TESTIFY AT ZONING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

A $1000 grant was used to introduce a literacy program into the children’s classrooms. The idea is to read one page a day to the children. The children, in turn, will read aloud to their families. The program is being piloted in a new elementary school.

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

DONORS

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

DATING OF NOTE

December 11 – Open House, 7:00 pm
December 18 – 20th Annual Marathon
January 20 – Artfully yours
January 20 – Music Recital
February 20 – Artfully yours
March 20 – Artfully yours
May 14 – Open House, 7:00 pm
June 6 – Art & Sole 5k Run/Walk

Donations

• Healthysnacks—pretzels, cookies, chips, soda, granola bars, etc.
• Charity deodorant, tooth brush & tooth paste)
• Books, hats for boys & girls (7 yrs.–14 yrs.)
• Quilted bags (some for boys, some for girls)
• Wood or metal frames, plaques, bowls, etc.
• Clothes, toys, blankets, etc.
• Cards to Michaels, AC Moore, Walmart, Staples, etc.
• Buttons, stars, stained glass, etc.
• Pencils (#2 for drawing)
• Magic Markers (thin & thick)
• Foam core
• Batteries
• Acrylic paints for drawing
• Potted plants
• Paint in small bottles (bright colors)
• Modge Podge
• Magazines, books
• Ink pads
• Notebook paper
• Buttons, star & stained glass, etc.
• 2014 DECK THE HOUSE

The Neighborhood Art House received a Good News Grant of $2,000 to help relieve the cold, to offer something warm as a gift for the participants. A list recently delivered from Port Henry, New York was filled with warm socks to distribute to the children who needed them. This gift from the Jamestown Baptist Church will help relieve the cold, and best of all, two of her children are being welcomed into the family of Jesus.

Katherine Meric, President of the Women’s Core Committee, has been invited to speak at the NAH 20th Anniversary Year. She will be joined by Lou and Karl Gross, longtime members of the Erie Runners Club, and by their daughter, Hillary.

May 7 – Music Recital

May 14 – Open House, 7:00 pm
June 6 – Art & Sole 5k Run/Walk

July 18 – Concert Series

August 20 – Concert Series

September 14 – Open House, 7:00 pm

October 12 – Open House, 7:00 pm

November 16 – Open House, 7:00 pm

December 14 – Open House, 7:00 pm

February 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

March 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

April 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

May 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

June 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

July 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

August 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

September 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

October 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

November 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

December 19 – Open House, 7:00 pm

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ARTFULLY YOURS

January 20 – Artfully yours

February 20 – Artfully yours

March 20 – Artfully yours

April 20 – Artfully yours

May 20 – Artfully yours

June 20 – Artfully yours

July 20 – Artfully yours

August 20 – Artfully yours

September 20 – Artfully yours

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December 31 – Artfully yours

See to be sure to look for the ARTFULLY YOURS sign out in the arbor! Once again, Burger King restaurants will be collecting used batteries and can donations in support of the Neighborhood Art House. Every donation, no matter how big or small, will receive a FREE WINGER Jr. for lunch.