

NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



September
2013

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

AHOY, FRIENDS! With this shout from the stage "Admiral" Brady Louis, emcee, launched the performance portion of the Neighborhood Art House's 16th annual Taste of the Arts. Through song, dance, music and poetry the children shared a bit of Art House joy with the 300 friends and supporters who had braved the hot weather to jump on board for an evening of celebration. From a mosaic-decorated anchor to photography to watercolors to linoleum block prints, children's art captured the attention of those seeking "just the right piece." Bidding was active as patrons vied to win one of the beautiful art pieces created and donated by area artists. Having enjoyed great food and lively conversation, the audience warmly welcomed featured student artist Elizabeth Aguilar and her teacher, Mary Lubowicki for the live auction of her batik, *The Wave*. Sincere thanks to all who made this evening spectacular, especially to Becky Hilbert and Sue DiCara, co-chairs, to the children and teachers, and to all who joined in this late summer sail.

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TASTE of the ARTS 2013



ARTS AHOY!

FOCUS ON PRINTMAKING

IN ADDITION TO ADDING Paper Making and Paper Marbling to the class offerings, Sarah Everett's joining the NAH faculty in September 2012 put a new focus on Printmaking. Those who attended Taste of the Arts saw many different prints created by the children.

The children began with basic, one-color prints made by carving an image backwards into rubber blocks and transferring the image to paper with ink. Students could then advance to multi-colored prints. Two techniques were available to the children. Both techniques require that each color is laid precisely over the previous layer so that, in the end, all of the colors make a single picture.

Students carved "multi-block" prints using two or more separate blocks and carving each to be used for a particular color. Several students chose to do more technically difficult "reductive relief" prints which involved printing a multi-colored image from just one block. In this process the rubber block is carved once, inked and printed, then more of the block is carved out, inked and printed and so on until as many color layers as required have been printed. This is accomplished by starting with the lightest color and working out to the darkest color. The children did amazingly well with this technique even though it is considered to be quite advanced and is usually taught at the upper high school or college level.

All of our printmaking students are very grateful to the Speedball Company for their donation of printmaking ink, carving tools, brayers for rolling ink, and barens for applying consistent pressure to transfer the ink to paper. We are awaiting word on a grant submission that, if funded, will provide several types of presses and other needed materials.



- 1 Dennis transfers his sketch to linoleum block as Printmaking teacher Sarah Everett demonstrates the process for Jalayah.
- 2 Melanie uses a brayer to ink her carved linoleum block.
- 3 Using a baren, Tamir presses the inked linoleum block to the paper.
- 4 Raquel carefully lifts her completed print.
- 5 Christian carves his linoleum block after transferring his own dragonfly sketch.

From the Desk of Sr. Annette



Have you been enjoying the Perry 200 celebrations? I certainly have. Other than a good excuse to come together to celebrate, what do anniversaries like this do for us?

Our year of celebration has generated a particularly important outcome. We have all been put in touch with Erie's story. We've learned about the early inhabitants of our region and the many cultures that characterize Erie today. We've gained respect for who we are, because Erie's story is our story, too.

We live in an era of great mobility and a period where meaningful relationships seem ever more difficult to form despite all the communications devices at our fingertips. It is easy to lose our rootedness and to forget who we are and what we believe. This bicentennial celebration offered the city a moment of reflection, a time to recapture our story.

We have many stories that help us know who we are. We have our national story of founding and government, early exploration and settlement. We have our ethnic stories of our countries of origin, and our family stories of our ancestors and relatives. We have our religious heritage woven through with the stories of faith. So too, we each also have a personal story, the story of my own personal place and time, adventures and misadventures.

It is in knowing our own stories that we identify who we are; it is in sharing our stories that we develop relationships; it is in accepting the stories of others that we build a network of peace.

Let's help our children know who they are by putting them in touch with their many stories. Let's help build a network of peace by encouraging them to develop a curiosity and respect for the stories of everyone.

Sister Annette



Summer Program

The 2013 Summer Program was full— full of students (125 each week), full of activity (in class and field trips), full of fun!

Here is a brief photo-story showing a piece of the action.



Reaching Out

During the last several months NAH teachers and students have undertaken two service projects to improve our neighborhood. The GREEN TEAM, an environmental action component of the NAH program offered by Sr. Pat, involves young folks in understanding environmental concerns and seeking ways to address them. With a \$1,000 grant from the Erie Community Foundation, and in conjunction with the Redevelopment Office of the City of Erie, the team



Darren undertakes the difficult job of sod removal, making way for the new flowers planted by the team.

adopted the open lot at 10th and Parade Streets. Weeding, sod removal, mulching and planting new flowers gave the lot a much-needed face-lift. The planting of a crabapple tree and the placement of a stone bench completed the project's design. Throughout the remainder of the summer, student volunteers watered the flowers and kept the area neat and tidy. The GREEN TEAM thanks the ECF for funding the project, and the City of Erie Redevelopment Authority for continuing to mow the lawn.



She'Yunna is ready to plant.

The second project was right in our own backyard. The Emmaus Grove and Urban Farm School was developed right behind the Art House building early in the summer. As a partner in the project, NAH committed to providing ceramic markers for each of the individual raised beds. During their very first days of summer vacation, six children gave up their free time to join Sister Peg in the Clay Studio where they made 45 markers, each one unique and themed for the garden. Melanie represented the group of students as a participant in the dedication ceremony held in July.



Sr. Peg coordinates the efforts of Elizabeth, Alicia, Lourdes Jasso (NAH teacher), Abby and Gerzayn. INSET: Melanie paints the underglaze on a marker for the Emmaus Grove garden.

LONGTIME NAH FRIEND and TEACHER RETIRES



The families of NAH students will certainly know that something is missing in their homes this fall. The beautiful flower arrangements made by their children will no longer grace their tables on Tuesday evenings. Joe Wiczorek, owner of Bridal Flower Shop, is retiring after 15+ years of instructing students in the art of floral arrangement. Over the years Joe has donated thousands of flowers from deep red roses to bright yellow daisies. We will miss you, Joe, not only for the very popular classes that you taught, but also for the presence among us of one who generously shared his talents, time, and great love for the children of Erie's inner city.

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.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE:

ERIE GIVES: August 23, 2013 saw the presentation of checks to Erie's non-profit organizations that benefitted from the 3rd annual Erie Gives. The Neighborhood Art House received \$14,584 from 116 donors!

This amazing "day of giving" was initiated by the Erie Community Foundation to raise awareness of and encourage giving to the many non-profits that provide services in our community. This year over 322 organizations received a total of \$1.7 million! Our thanks to all who donated, and to the Erie Community Foundation for making it happen.

GRACE KALIVODA and FAMILY: Grace's 8th birthday was special for her, and for the children at the Art House. Grace asked her friends to bring gifts with a summer theme for the Art House children instead of gifts for her when they came to her party.



One day this summer she brought many new art supplies as well as lots of gifts for birthday bags. Grace's parents and grandparents extended her gift with cash donations. We are grateful to Grace and her family, and to all who remember our inner-city children when they plan family events.

RBC Foundation: Mike Keim, a financial advisor at RBC Wealth Management, suggested that the Art House apply to their foundation for funding. With his letter of support and guidance in preparing the submission, NAH was awarded \$2,000 for our digital photography and video editing classes.



We thank Mike for taking the initiative to inform us about the foundation and assist with the grant submission. Does your business have a foundation that you'd like to suggest? Please do!

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House



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

Beauty Vision Hope Inner-City Neighborhood Art House	Non-Profit Organization US Postage PAID Erie, PA Permit No. 247
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Classical Concert Thrills Students

Sixty-five children listened with wonder and watched with rapt attention as Kirill Kalmykov and Julia Haager, professional musicians based in Calgary, Canada, took them on a trip around the world through the magic of classical music. Kirill, originally from Russia during the days of the Soviet Union, spent several years in Erie studying at Mercyhurst University. He knew the Benedictine Sisters well, and was very interested in the concept of the Art House which was just being developed. They were excited to see the Art House for the first time and to offer an extraordinary opportunity for the children to experience fine music "up close." We are very grateful to Kirill and Julia for their gift to the Neighborhood Art House.



Above, students enjoy a professional performance "up close and personal."

At left, Kirill offers performance tips to Laura Taylor, 2nd year cello student.



WISH LIST

- Healthy snacks
- Air dry clay for clay classes
- Photo paper for digital photography classes
- Polyester fiberfill
- Gift cards to art/crafts or fabric stores



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