

NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



March
2012

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

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

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt



ON STAGE and ON DISPLAY

Proud parent smiles were abundant at December's Open House and January's Music Recital. The **Open House** featured an extensive display of children's art work and performances from the dance, music and poetry classes. The enthusiasm of the beginners, the determination of the "middle children" and the growing skill of the older group gave testimony to the fine dance instruction they have received. Two of our poetry students brought the audience to surprised laughter as they performed their interpretation of several short poems. On a more serious note, the Girls Write Class read some of their original poetry. Music presentations completed the stage performance with piano, drum, violin and cello pieces. There was even a brief fashion show as students in the new sewing class modeled the skirts they had made.

Throughout the building, drawing, painting, mosaics, clay, carving, paper craft, fabric art, digital photography, airbrush, and quilting pieces covered the walls and tables with hundreds of samples of the children's art work. Some of these pieces are shown in the Art Gallery Section of our webpage (www.neighborhoodarthouse.org).

Music performance took the spotlight at the winter **Music Recital** where twenty-five students who receive individual lessons at the Art House gave both ensemble and solo performances. Whether beginners, second or third year students, all gave their best effort to perform well. Clearly these children were well on their way in developing their music talents.

With both events, parents and guests were quick to acknowledge the tremendous opportunity that the Art House provides for neighborhood children to develop their talents and explore the arts. The Neighborhood Art House is grateful to the Lynn Gasche Levinson Memorial for Piano, a Clarence E. Byers Music Performance Grant through ArtsErie, and Erie Insurance Group whose support makes these events possible.



ART PIECES SUBMITTED

Preparing nearly thirty art pieces for competition and display is no small feat! Sister Peg Pilewski, Program Director and long-time NAH art teacher Mary Lubowicki matted and framed photographs; paintings in watercolor, acrylic, and tempera; charcoal and pencil drawings; and fabric art pieces. The subject matter for these submissions covers a wide range of topics including self-portraits, abstract art, a drawing of a toaster, and a glorious sunset.



Mary Lubowicki and Sister Peg Pilewski

A total of thirty-two entries by twenty-three children were submitted to the Presque Isle Women's Club Art Contest 2012, the Mercyhurst Prep Art Contest for 7th and 8th graders, "Celebrating the Possibilities" held by the Barber National Institute, and the National Educational Ceramics Exhibit.



5K Run/Walk

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Race Time: 8:30 a.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD ART HOUSE
201 East 10th St., Erie, PA 16503
814-455-5508
NAH@neighborhoodarthouse.org

REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.neighborhoodarthouse.org
or at www.active.com

A UNIQUE FEATURE of the Art and Sole Run/Walk is provided by the children who attend the Neighborhood Art House. Their donated art pieces are the prizes to be awarded in all the various age divisions for both running and walking. We know of no other similar event that has prizes so well-related to the organization that is holding the event.

Save These Dates!

APRIL 19, 2012

Poetry Day

APRIL 26, 2012 - 7:00 PM

Spring Music Recital

MAY 5, 2012

5th Annual Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk

MAY 17, 2012 - 7:00 PM

Winter/Spring Open House

JUNE 25 - JULY 26

NAH Summer Program

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

Taste of the Arts

*The world needs dreamers
and the world
needs doers.
But above all,
the world needs
dreamers who do.*

Sarah Ban Breathnach



From the Desk of Sister Annette



Abdul Kalam, former president of India, stated the obvious when he said: "You have to dream before your dreams can come true." Everyone needs to have a vision of what they hope to be or to do

before they can take the steps to turn that vision into reality. For the head we speak of goals; but for the heart, it is dreams that move us.

Within each Art House child are the seeds from which dreams can grow, but this does not happen automatically. Dreams are planted when they learn to see new possibilities. Dreams are nurtured by experiences that enlarge their capacity and are watered by the loving hands of those who guide and stretch them. Dreams need the energy of determination and the warmth of self-confidence to grow.

There is no question that preparing the next generation to have the skills to be productive workers is vital for our future. No one would argue that excellence in academics is essential to quality education. It is just as critical that our children develop the dreams that will carry them through life.

It is our hope that the Art House is soil in which dreams grow and flourish.

Sister Annette

POSITION AVAILABLE

We are seeking a guitar teacher for the after school program. If interested, please contact us at 455-5508 or at program@neighborhoodarthouse.org

DONOR CORNER

NAH programs for inner-city children are possible because loyal and generous donors recognize that "Just living is not enough... one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower." (Hans Christian Andersen).

In addition to all who sponsor Taste of the Arts and Art & Sole and are acknowledged with stories of those events, major donors (\$1,000 and above) making personal contributions during 2011 include:

Carlota Andrews
 Bill and Renata Coates
 John & Jean Donovan
 Jean Craige Pepper
 Mary Ann Curtze
 Shigemasa and Kazuko Ikeda
 Susan and Thomas Hagen
 Nancy and James Holland
 Leo and Cynthia Kesselring
 Edward and Candace Kownacki
 Harry and Nicole Martin
 Sarah and Bruce McWilliams
 John Montgomery
 Gordon and Barbara Osborn
 John and Gertrude Petersen
 Doris Snell
 Maggie and James Stolley
 Elizabeth and William Vorsheck
 David and Barbara Zurn

An additional 1,300 personal contributions were given during 2011. We are grateful to all those who help provide sunshine, freedom and flowers to our children by supporting NAH programs.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Sister Annette Marshall, OSB, Editor
 Judy Allison, Design

Printed on Recycled Paper



Inner-City Neighborhood Art House



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



GRANT SUPPORTS NEW CLASS

A \$2,000 grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Erie, Inc. is funding the purchase of five new sewing machines, fabric, thread, tools and notions for a new Art House offering entitled Fabric, Thread and Yarn. During the fall session three girls made skirts with a borrowed sewing machine. "With these new machines each child will be able to get some real time actually stitching instead of spending so much time waiting for their turn. I know they will be thrilled!" said class teacher Debbie Sementelli.



Debbie Sementelli (l), fabrics teacher, and Patti Eichen (r), development staff, unpack the new sewing machines. Patti Eichen commented that "the Ronald McDonald House Charities was pleased to partner with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie Inner-City Neighborhood Art House."

Krystal is proud of the new skirt she is constructing.

Celebrate Poetry

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH - HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE?

In preparation for **POETRY DAY ON APRIL 19**, students at the Art House will have the opportunity to choose a poem to memorize and perform. Chairpersons Marge Podolsky, Tina McCracken and Laurel Taft assisted by the Hooked on Books! readers will help the children prepare for their recitations which begin on March 19. Criteria for judging include diction, memorization, and expression.



Hy presents an original poem at the NAH Open House.

POETRY DAY will begin with a gathering of all children and teachers. Gift card awards for the top two recitations in each age category and treasure bags for all who participated in the Poetry Recitation

Contest will be presented. First-place winners will recite their poems for all to enjoy.

All the children will then be assigned to classes with a poetry-themed art or performance project. At the end of the day, students and faculty will return and share their projects with one another.

ART HOUSE FEATURED



Khang points out newsletter covers from Penn State Erie, the Behrend College and the Erie Credit Union. Both featured Neighborhood Art House participants.

THE STORY OF BLUE

by Precious Melendez



Blue moves like the beautiful sea
 Blue remembers to light up the sky
 Blue wears a spring hat
 Blue is a box of magical dreams
 Blue has a pocket of sadness

New website

www.neighborhoodarthouse.org

VISIT OUR NEW WEBPAGE to learn what's happening, to view a picture gallery of art work done by the children, to join in the excitement of performance via video clips, to read about our mission, purpose, and history, and to donate on-line. This website will be a good way for you to introduce others to the Art House—and we hope that you do!

WISH LIST

We offer our sincere thanks for the wonderful response we had to the Wish List in the December issue of Neighbor to Neighbor. Here are a few items that would benefit our students:

- Air dry clay for clay classes
- Photo paper for digital photography classes