

NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



August 2010

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

Sister Anne Says...

After 15 happy years at the Neighborhood Art House, I bring my tenure here to a close. I leave with a heart filled with deep gratitude and wonderful memories. My fondness for NAH, as I minister now in a new way through the office of Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, can only grow and deepen.



Pericles, an ancient Greek orator said, "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." Hopefully, my work at NAH has woven the Benedictine values of peace, justice, hospitality, kindness and compassion into all the lives that have been touched by this ministry of the Benedictine Sisters. Certainly, you have woven them into mine. I leave the Art House a better person because of the teachers, staff, students, families, volunteers and benefactors who have contributed in various and wonderful ways to helping it remain strong and vital. My heartfelt thanks to one and all.

Sister Anne

FLY ME TO THE ARTS

TASTE OF THE ARTS 2010

Flying a kite means feeling the wind in your hair, raising your eyes to the heavens, and experiencing the miracle of freedom while running and laughing and knowing the joy of life.

If the theories that kite flying distracts people from their problems and helps them stand straight and think positively are true, then the Neighborhood Art House has been "flying kites" for all the years of its existence. Everything that happens at NAH is directed to helping inner-city children feel secure and successful, confident and encouraged through their encounter with the arts.

Nothing could be more fitting than the theme of Taste of the Arts 2010: "Fly Me to the Arts." For fifteen years NAH children have been soaring like kites and flying like butterflies, Frisbees, birds and balloons as a result of imagination that has been stirred and talents that have been developed. Come and join us for an evening that is sure to fly you into the arts!

Featured Student Artist—Saron Belay



Saron Belay is a 13 year old student from Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School soon to start 8th grade. She came to the Neighborhood Art House in January of 2008, shortly after having arrived in the United States from Ethiopia. Saron has enjoyed classes in performing, literary and visual arts. NAH fiber art instructor, Mary Lubowicki, has taught Saron the process of batik, a wax-resist dyeing technique and her Taste of the Arts live auction art piece is a framed batik entitled "Heart Beats."

New Directors Named

With this newsletter the Neighborhood Art House bids farewell to Program and Executive Director, Sr. Anne Wambach, OSB. Sr. Anne was installed as the 21st prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie on July 11th. This role prevents her from continuing her work at NAH but it does not bring an end to her support for this very important ministry.

The responsibility of program director is now passed on to Sr. Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB, a familiar face at NAH. Sr. Margaret Ann has been a teacher here for 15 years and the guiding force behind the visual arts program. The Executive Director will be Sr. Annette Marshall, OSB. While Sr. Annette will be a new face at NAH she is not new to the Erie community. She has become well known for her work throughout the area, most recently as Administrative Director of Earth Force Erie, and brings a background in both education and administration.

Sr. Margaret Ann and Sr. Annette are committed to the mission of NAH: to make it possible for children to experience beauty, grow in positive self-expression and self-discipline, and develop into full and productive human beings through the fine arts. Because of this the ministry of NAH will continue on with the strength, purpose, energy and excitement for which it is so well known.



Sisters Annette and Peg

Literary Corner

Under the direction of Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, writer-in-residence at NAH, the children are exposed to creative writing of all kinds. With her help the children discover the joy of words and celebrate the many ways in which they can be used. This Literary Corner's featured work is a poem.

MY THIRD EYE

by Esmeraldaliz Torres (age 11)

*With my third eye I see
a flute of sorrow
claws of fear,
a pond of justice
a parrot of forgotten words
daffodils of love and
lanterns floating in a lost forest.*



Sr. Mary Lou and NAH students



Fond Farewell

Carole Waldinger, Neighborhood Art House business office manager, retired on July 9 after having worked at NAH for 15 years. Students and staff alike will miss Carole's gentle presence and faithful service. She was never too busy to lend a helping hand, answer a question, or respond to a need in whatever shape or form it appeared. Carole was "kindness personified" and, although she will be missed, our wishes for a blessed retirement are most sincere.



by Patti Eichen

On Saturday, May 22, the Neighborhood Art House was overflowing with friends, old and new, who came to participate in the 3rd Annual Art & Sole 5k Run/Walk. Although the skies were cloudy outside, the Art House was shining inside with walkers, runners, volunteers and staff who came together to support the work of the Art House. Participants were able to tour the Art House and enjoy the children's artwork that was on display. The rain did not dampen the excitement of the morning as registrations numbered 218. Snacks, fruit and beverages were generously donated by local merchants:

Country Fair • Giant Eagle/Harborcreek
• JTM Snack Foods • Sanders Market East 6th St.
• Scolo Fruit Baskets, Tops Friendly Markets •
Ortons Fruit Market • Wegmans • Welch's.

Dr. Vincent Bayer of Essential Chiropractic provided a water stop along the route and CTI Physical Therapy provided great race bags.



The top three finishers in each age category received art pieces created by NAH students under the direction of Sr. Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB. If you missed out on the fun this year, not to worry as plans are already underway for next year's event.

A special THANK YOU to Art & Sole Sponsors

- **PLATINUM \$5000** • Howard & Mary Lincoln
- **GOLD \$2500** • Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
- **SILVER \$1000** • First Niagara Bank
- Nicotra, Catrabone, Catrabone & Associates
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- **STARTING LINE \$500** • Morris Coupling Company • Saint Vincent Health System
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- CTI Physical Therapy • Erie Home Health Services • HBK Sorce Financial LLC • Robert & Carrie Lowther • Maxpro Technologies • Small Business Alternative • Tucker Dental Excellence

Grants

- **\$6000 Capacity Building Grant** from **ArtsErie/Kresge Foundation** to update the information technology system for NAH staff through the purchase of new computers and the installation of a new sonic wall router.
- **\$6000 Operational Grant** from the **JOHN NESBIT REES and SARAH HENNE REES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

Summer Fun

The Neighborhood Art House buzzed with activity throughout the summer session. Classes in drawing and knitting, dancing and music, writing and computer, fiber arts and photography, pastels and painting, clay and crafts were started with excitement and finished with

results that no word or picture can aptly capture. The students developed new skills and forged new friendships. Fun prevailed while levels of imagination and creativity were reached. The session is now but a happy memory but the energizing spirit of classes enjoyed and successes achieved will continue to fill NAH for a long time to come.



Summer Social Function

On Thursday, July 8, the Neighborhood Art House hosted a social function for members of Young Erie Professionals (YEP) and their friends and co-workers. It was an evening for the attendees to learn about NAH and the variety of opportunities that are available for volunteerism and for giving support.

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Sister Charlotte Anne Zalot, OSB, Editor
Judy Allison, Design

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House

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Neighborhood Art House

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