

Neighbor to Neighbor

December 2009



Inner-City Neighborhood Art House
201 East Tenth Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503-1007
(814)455-5508
www.eriebenedictines.org

Holiday in the Heart A Time to Be Thankful for Blessings

“Not what we say about our blessings,
but how we use them,
is the true measure of our thanksgiving.”
W.T. Purkiser

Sister Anne Says

Looking back is a way of looking forward while remaining in the moment. You remember things past. You feel the present. You envision the future. Memories warm your heart and gratitude fills your soul. As this year draws to a close it is hard not to reflect on all the wonderful things that have happened here at the Neighborhood Art House: the generosity of donors; the selflessness of volunteers; the dedication of teachers; the presence of children. The joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort never cease to amaze and delight me with gifts of wonder and peace.

As we celebrate this season of holidays, my hope is that you, too, will be filled with wonder and touched with peace by the miracles that surround and surprise you. Blessings be yours throughout this holiday season and in the New Year to come!

Sister Anne



Imagine, Imagine, Imagine!

Albert Einstein said: “IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE. For while knowledge defines all we currently know and understand, imagination points to all we might discover and create.”



This year, ArtsErie established a new award called the IMAGINE AWARD. On Tuesday, October 20th, the Neighborhood Art House was honored as the first recipient of this award at the annual Fall for the Arts event sponsored by ArtsErie. Sister Anne accepted the award in celebration of the accomplishments of the Neighborhood Art House for the past fifteen years. Imagination allowed NAH to become a reality and without a doubt, imagination will carry it far into the future. The passion of belief and dedication lives on in the founding members, administrators, teachers, staff, Core Committee, volunteers and benefactors. This award belongs not only to NAH, but to all of you as well.

What A Wonderful Night It Was

Taste of the Arts 2009 is now a happy memory. It was a glorious night. Gifts were given; gifts were received. Art pieces were auctioned; art pieces were sold. Food satisfied the body and beauty, music, poetry and dance nurtured the soul. It was truly an experience of the wonderful world of the Neighborhood Art House. There were many special moments. Let these photos tell the story and tease your imagination and maybe, just maybe, you will feel the wonder of it all, too!



The Beauty Within, The Beauty Without

“Art is the expression of an impression.
If the beautiful were not in us, how would we ever recognize it?”
Ernst Haas

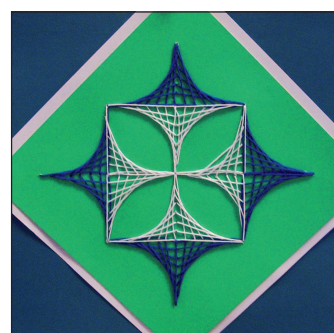
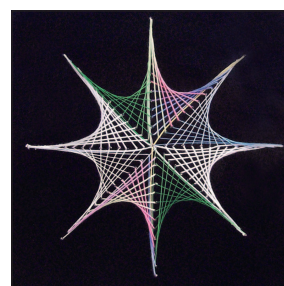


Art happens in many shapes and forms at the Neighborhood Art House. Whether it is painting, music, poetry or dance impressions are expressed and art makes what is felt inside an outside reality. Internal beauty finds a form that allows it to become external beauty. As the children have been known to say, “Art and I are like best friends. Like my friends, art leaves an imprint on my heart.”

Here at the Neighborhood Art House, we work hard to help the children make that connection, to have them realize that art comes from their “beautiful within.” It is our hope that the imprints left on their hearts will give them good memories to draw on, build their self-esteem, and help them always to recognize that which is good and beautiful in the world.

String Art

String Art is a relatively new invention that was pioneered in the 1960s by the founders of Open Door Company of Los Gatos and Campbell, California. Colored threads strung between given points form geometric patterns that are simultaneously pleasing and challenging to the eye. The optical illusion of curves when only straight lines are used is the eye-catcher. Order and symmetry are at the heart of this art's appeal. Outward appearance is strong and inward significance is deep. Enjoy!



Inspiration Lives On

Teachers and volunteers play a major role in the success of the Neighborhood Art House. Many fine teachers and volunteers serve day in and day out to inspire and motivate creative expression within the students. They work tirelessly to encourage the student, not only by their words and actions but, by their very manner and presence as well. Gentleness, patience, kindness and care are the benchmark qualities that serve both teachers and students. These same qualities contribute to the success of tutoring, teaching, sharing time and sharing talent. New teachers and new volunteers, fresh and innovative class offerings, are always welcome. **If you would like to offer a class or be a volunteer, please contact Sister Anne at 455-5508.**



Hooked on Books!
volunteer
Lulu
Duncombe



Drum
instructor,
Alan Chaffee



After-school
tutor,
Sr. Jerome
Eustace, OSB



Student
volunteer,
Maria
Samusenko

The Neighborhood Art House was the recipient of 144 new winter coats thanks to **OPERATION WARM COAT DISTRIBUTION** of Erie County. Operation Warm is the nation's largest nonprofit providing *new* winter coats for children in need.

N. B. — Take Note

[*Nota bene* [abbreviated N.B.] is a Latin and Italian phrase meaning to "note well" the matters at hand.]

During the fall the students involved in the **Neighborhood Art House Earth Force** class had special sessions on handling dogs. Special guests included Janet Norman from the Admiral Perry Obedience Club, Peggy Jordana from Grey-Save of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Inc., and Pat Gifford from PAAWE (Prevent Animal Attacks with Education).

In the newest video released by **HERO BX, Fuel for Humanity**, NAH students helped to convey the "Green Energy" message. This video airs on Channel 9 in the city of Erie every day at the top of the following hours: 8 AM, 5 PM and 10 PM.



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Benedictine Sisters of Erie
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Grants, Gifts, Tax Credits and Memorials

Through the ongoing efforts and work of Patti Eichen, Development Staff, the Neighborhood Art House has been awarded **two grants** from ArtsErie:

\$1782 from the Clarence E. Byers Music Performance Fund of the Erie Arts Endowment for partial support of *Open House Performance and Concerts*

\$2516 from the Project Funds of the Erie Arts Endowment for partial support of *General Operating Support*

ART HOUSE BENEFIT



For the third consecutive year, the Neighborhood Art House received a \$1000 gift from the 11th Annual Memorial Jensen-Landis Jr. Golf Tournament. Pictured from left are: Barb Jensen, John Jensen, Sister Anne Wambach, Linda Landis, Jeff Landis, Sr.



WE ARE GRATEFUL

to the families
who designated memorials
to the Neighborhood Art House
during the past year
in memory of
their deceased loved ones:

Thomas Blumish
Catherine A. Dina Borden
Anne Josephine Gehringer
Audrey C. Sitter Hirt
Father Conrad L. Kraus
Dora E. Nicotra
Barry James Turner

A special thank you for 2009 **tax credit** donations from:

Erie Insurance
C.A .Curtze Co.

Reed Manufacturing Company
Marquette Savings Bank

Behind the Scenes



The difference between a good newsletter and a great one is in the graphic design. Thanks to Judy Allison and her layout and design talents, Neighbor to Neighbor, proves

itself over and over again as a newsletter that successfully brings delight and pleasure to the eyes. Judy "listens" to the content and then uses her creativity to unfold a *great* newsletter. Her patience, persistence, desire and dedication work together to produce an end result that reflects the transformation of content into an appealing and meaningful whole. Yes, Judy works behind the scenes and she is a true blessing to all of us!

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR Sister Charlotte Anne Zalot, OSB, Editor; Judy Allison, Design