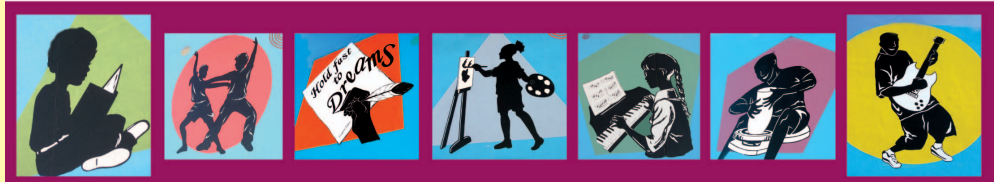


NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



June 2009

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

“June Is Bustin’ Out All Over”



A favorite Rodgers and Hammerstein song comes to mind at this time of year: *June Is Bustin’ Out All Over*. That is exactly what is happening at the Neighborhood Art House. One session is ended; another session is soon to begin. Teachers are getting ready; students are getting excited. The sun shines brightly and flowers bloom; swimming pools are ever so enticing and ice cream hits the spot. June marks the beginning of a strong season: SUMMER. It is a season that will leave many traces of its presence. NAH is looking forward to welcoming summer with its many gifts and surprises, remarkable sights and pleasant scents. That it will be memorable goes without saying; that it will be meaningful is our hope!

Neighborhood Art House 2009 Summer Session • Free Classes for Children and Teens
One week sessions • June 29 – July 30, 2009



Art-i-FACTS

The art work of four NAH students, having won first place awards in the Club and



Erie County levels, progressed to the District Level of the **Presque Isle Women’s Club Art Contest**. Congratulations are in order:

DIVISION 1 – *Blue Landscape* (Mixed fabric, Hand dyed, stamped and stitched fabric) by Shania Heim. DIVISION 2 – *Leaves* (Airbrush) by Alina Karnoukh; *Stained Glass Lantern* (Digital Photography) by Ernesto Perez. DIVISION 3 – *A Patron* (Oil Pastel) by Nick Dzuricky.

The students, who receive certificates, ribbons and cash awards for each level in which they place, are pupils of Mary Lubowicki, Chuck Dill, Lourdes Jasso and Paul DeNiro respectively.



Congratulations to the fifty-one students who performed in the **Annual Spring Music Recital** held on April 30th. This segment of NAH performing arts included piano, strings, flute, guitar, trumpet and voice.

Urraro Gallery hosted a fundraiser, **Appetizers for Art**, on May 9th to benefit NAH. Student art work by nine NAH pupils was displayed and for sale during the event.



Fifteen different art works created by thirteen NAH students were displayed at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (**TREC**) as part of the **Festival of the Birds**, from May 8 – 10. Media represented included: wood burning, oil pastel, clay, colored pencil and pencil drawings. Certificates and gift bags were received by all participants: Rebekah Armel, Inna Babkin, Michael Barnett, Gabriel Barnett, Brian Blum, Jasmine Ferguson, Shane Foster, Norberto Guitierrez, Maxine Hawthorne, Veronika Kononova, Darya Serechenko, Angelica Torres and Esmeraldaliz Torres.



Plan on being part of the
2nd Annual ART&SOLE 5K Run/Walk
scheduled for **Saturday, June 27th**.

The event starts at 8:30 a.m.
at the Neighborhood Art House.
If you are still in need of registration
information, please contact:
Patti Eichen, Development Staff
814-899-0614, ext 2442
or 814-455-5508
Email: peichen@mtstbenedict.org
or Matt Catrabone
Chairperson ART&SOLE Committee
814-835-8333.

TEACHER FEATURE

Anyone who watches television knows that dancing with the stars is fun. But Larisa Melodinskaia’s message to her students at the Neighborhood Art House is that dancing is fun, even without the stars. One of Larisa’s goals is to get the students to use dance as a fitness routine: “My hope is that my students will learn to love exercise once they discover what fitness dancing will do for their self-esteem.” Dance, Larisa believes, is the ideal exercise for her students because it can be done in the smallest spaces, without expensive equipment.



Larisa has been teaching at NAH since 1998, about four years after she arrived in Erie from Azerbaijan, a small nation in Eurasia. Miss Larisa’s dance classes are always full. The students know that, not only will they learn what the body can do through dance, they will learn to feel beautiful and good as they learn to dance with their feet as well as their hearts.

(Based on an interview by Ron Wasielewski)

GRATITUDE

DCED Grant (PA Development of Community & Economic Development Grant)
\$5,000 operational grant—**Thank you to Representative Patrick Harkins.**

Taste of the Arts Business Sponsor
\$5,000, third year—**Eriez Magnetics—Thank you to Timothy Shuttleworth.**



SPECIAL event SAVE THE DATE

Students are working with Sr. Margaret Ann Pilewski to complete “world vases” for the **Taste of the Arts** table centerpieces. This year’s theme: *What A Wonderful World*, promises to come alive at the annual Taste of the Arts fundraiser scheduled for **Tuesday, September 15th** at the Neighborhood Art House.



Sister Anne Says



With our summer session about to begin, another ART&SOLE FUND-raiser around the corner, and preparations underway for Taste of the Arts 2009, it is clear that life at the Neighborhood Art House is full.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who share their time and talents to make these and many other NAH events a success. Without the minds, hearts and hands of volunteers, NAH would not be able to do what it does. Committee members, committee helpers, Hooked On Books! readers, teachers, tutors, receptionists, clerical aides, high school and college students doing service hours literally add up to several hundred volunteers a year. This reality is overwhelming and words could never express the gratitude I feel.



As a wise author once wrote, "Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year—it brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul." For your selfless giving, for the love you extend that truly harvests lovely flowers in the souls of NAH children and staff—my deepest and most sincere thanks.

Sister Anne

REMEMBERING AUDREY HIRT

Kind hearts are the gardens;
kind thoughts are the roots;
kind words are the flowers;
kind deeds are the fruits.
—English Proverb

It is with deep sadness that the passing of Audrey Hirt, a founding Core Committee member, benefactor and faithful supporter of the Neighborhood Art House, is remembered. Audrey, who died on March 13, 2009, will be greatly missed. However, her legacy will continue as a result of her great kindness and generosity.

Our hearts are comforted in knowing that the roots of NAH have grown deep and strong because of Audrey's willingness to share her resources unsparingly.



In her honor and with gratitude, the Benedictine Sisters, the faculty, the staff and the students of NAH are committed to keeping those roots flowering and fruitful in the days and years to come. Audrey is ever a part of our lives; all the good she has done will live on. It already lives on in the Memorial Gifts sent in Audrey's honor by family, friends and business associates. Special thanks to one and all.

Keep A Poem in Your Heart

The Literary Arts division of NAH hosted its annual Poetry Contest, **Keep A Poem in Your Heart**, throughout the month of April. Sixty-four students participated and as a reward for their interest and hard work they enjoyed an afternoon at Splash Lagoon. The winners were announced on April 28th and they included:

AGE 7 First Place—Ludia Koblyuk; Second Place—Tie—Morgan Lawrence and Norberto Gutierrez **AGE 8** First Place—Keyana Ware; Second Place—Trinity Moore-Stevens **AGE 9** First Place—Sydney Winslow; Second Place—Destynie Thomas **AGE 10** First Place—Precious Johnson; Second Place—Tie—Esmeraldaliz Torres and Mary Lohitae; Third Place—Shayquanna Mims **AGE 11** First Place—Natasha Ramos; Second Place—Tie—Mercedes Ware and Kane Petron **AGE 12** First Place—Kevin Franklin; Second Place—J'kana Gilmore **AGE 13** First Place—Shane McClelland; Second Place—Jacob Samusenko



Several winners of the poetry contest along with Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki, organizer of **Keep A Poem In Your Heart**, pose with Luka Glinsky after Luka, Regional Winner and Second Place in the Pennsylvania State Finals of **2009 Poetry Out Loud**, recited his winning poem and answered questions for NAH students.

—from Around the Neighborhood



Above, art student Shane Foster shows off the T-shirt that he designed through an intense creative process involving stencil-making, color-mixing and air-brushing.



Music students Mary Lohitae and Saron and Jabez Belay (photo at top left) recently received pianos in their homes. When someone wants to donate a piano to the Neighborhood Art House its condition is evaluated and if it has the potential to be of service it is placed in the home to benefit the progress of children interested in learning to play the piano. This year alone, NAH was able to place five pianos thanks to the generosity of several benefactors.

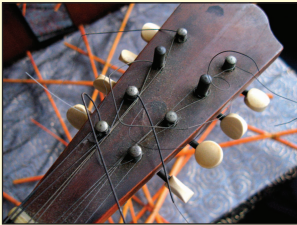
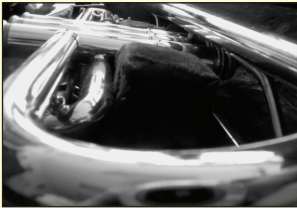
Students in Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki's Girls Read class (photo at left) prepare to perform "Blind Women and an Elephant." There are various versions of the tale. In this case, several blind women touch an elephant to learn what it is like. The students learn that reality can be viewed differently depending on one's perspective.

NEIGHBORHOOD ART HOUSE GALLERY

Photo Fun

This issue's "Neighborhood Art House Gallery" features the work of student photographers. Under the direction of Lourdes Jasso, the children are learning the intricacies of digital photography. It is not simply about *taking* a photograph; rather, it is about *making* a photograph. Advertising and journalistic photographer Elliott Erwitt says: "To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place.... I've found it has little to do with things you see and everything to do with the way you see them." The photos shown here support that observation. To see more, stop in and visit NAH where a full range of photographs are on display and for sale.

Student photos by: (immediate right) Shawn Baker; (top right) Shane Foster; (bottom right) Esmeraldaliz Torres



Inner-City Neighborhood Art House
Benedictine Sisters of Erie
201 East Tenth Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503-1007

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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