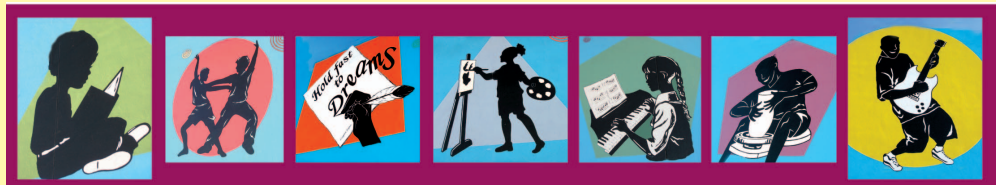


NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



March 2009

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

MARCH into MUSIC — at the Neighborhood Art House —

Approximately forty students performed and shared their progress as young musicians at the Winter Music Recital, sponsored by *The Lynn Gasche Levinson Memorial* (gift from Jane Kerschner, James and Lynn Levinson) and Mary and Howard Lincoln. The event showcased students who have been studying piano, violin, cello, flute, guitar and voice. Teachers Janet Krack (piano), Sr. Charlotte (piano), Vitaly Volchansky (strings), Vera Volchansky (strings), Amy Vidmar (flute) and Sr. Marilyn (guitar, voice and flute) work with a majority of the NAH students.

Beginning students as young as age 7 attend group lessons in strings and become familiar with the string family before private lessons are given. Children studying piano, flute and guitar meet with their instructors one-on-one. Voice lessons are done individually in most cases and sometimes in pairs. The teaching environment offers encouragement and affirmation and children respond with shy smiles, shining eyes, beaming faces, and delightful wonder when they realize they are the ones creating the sounds of music.



Father-Daughter String Duo

The string department at the NAH is vibrating with the sounds of violin, viola and cello. Thanks to Vitaly Volchansky and daughter Vera, children are getting the best start possible as they become familiar with the various string instruments.



White Keys/ Black Keys

Piano students take delight in discovering many new things as they learn to play the piano. Touching white keys and black keys, producing melodies and harmonies that take them on creative and colorful journeys helps them to experience the piano as a world in itself.



Universal Language

NAH drummers create in-the-moment music. Rhythm and sound help the students experience what it means to "beat" as a group. End result: communication, community and incomparable sound.

Music in the Air

Jamyah Gilmore and Mercedes Ware are new to the flute. As they begin to learn the intricacies of the instrument they are starting to understand that they can actually sculpt music from the air.



TEACHER FEATURE

Sr. Marilyn Schauble, OSB, has been on the staff at the Neighborhood Art House for the past four years. The children recognize her as the "Singing Nun" who not only sings but plays the guitar, too. Sr. Marilyn works with the NAH choir and also gives individual voice lessons. As the resident guitar teacher, she has initiated a class in computer music. The program, "Music Ace," reinforces note-reading and music theory skills in a fun and focused way.

As a trained musician, Sr. Marilyn sports a number of music degrees, lots of experience, and an array of talents. In addition to her work as a NAH music faculty member, she is currently working in the NAH development office and is responsible for accounts receivable.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

For the 5th Year, the Neighborhood Art House has been invited to participate in the *General Federation of Women's Clubs Art Contest*. The art work of nine children, students of teachers: Paul DeNiro, Chuck Dill, Lourdes Jasso and Mary Lubowicki, will compete at various levels. Winners will be announced as the levels are completed.

APRIL

The Neighborhood Art House annual celebration of *National Poetry Month* will feature a number of experiences and events. Children will have the opportunity to compete in a Poetry Contest and be celebrated by a Poetry Party. Dates will soon be announced to the students.

The *Spring Music Recital* is scheduled for **Thursday, April 30, at 7:00 p.m.** Do plan to join us. It will be a performance to remember.

MAY

The culmination of the Winter/Spring Session will unfold at the *Open House and Performance* scheduled for **Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.** The children's accomplishments in visual, literary and performing arts will be featured. A display of "For Sale" art work is one of the very special attractions. It will be an amazing evening. All are welcome!

JUNE

2nd Annual ART&SOLE 5K Run/Walk



Saturday, June 27

Time: Morning (TBA)
Place: Inner-city Neighborhood Art House
Registration: \$20 Adults
\$10 Children under 12
\$50 Max per family

If you are an individual/business that would like to sponsor this event, or need 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.

JULY

Summer Program session—June 29 through July 30.

AUGUST

Summer Picnic for Summer Program students and families will be held **Saturday, August 1, at noon.**

SEPTEMBER

Fall Session—Tuesday, September 8
Taste of the Arts—Tuesday, September 15
Look for details in the next issue of Neighbor to Neighbor.



Sister Anne Says



If we could bottle the music that is made here at the Neighborhood Art House and sell it we would no doubt make a fortune. But since music can't be bottled we depend on the generosity of friends and benefactors. We have yet to be disappointed.

Monetary gifts and donations from individuals, various churches, schools and organizations are the reason why NAH continues to be able to offer its programs to at-risk children free of charge. As G.K. Chesterton said so well, "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." Be assured that I never cease to be in awe and wonder at the generosity bestowed on us. My heartfelt gratitude to all.

Sister Anne

Donations



Guitars Galore

Thanks to a surprise donation as well as a special grant, NAH music department's supply of guitars has increased. The *Schuster Re-Grant Initiative* provided funds for the purchase of several three-quarter sized guitars which are perfect for the younger beginning student. On top of that, NAH received a gift from the State Correctional Institution of Cambridge Springs, PA. A music program there had reached its completion making it possible for NAH to be the recipient of several full-sized, "like new" guitars replete with cases, capos and music books. Perfect for the older beginner! Sister Marilyn is pleased to report that several NAH students now have a guitar for their use at home.

"Sponsor A Teacher" Program Support

Thanks to Mary and Howard Lincoln and their most generous \$20,000 gift, the "Sponsor A Teacher" program got off to a very good start. This program allows the students to receive quality education from skilled and committed teachers. Please call the Neighborhood Art House at 814-455-5508 for more information on how you might be able to support a teacher sponsorship. Every little bit helps!

Special Thanks

- Tax Credit gifts received from Erie Insurance and National City Bank.
- The Schuster Re-Grant Initiative to expand NAH string and guitar programs.
- A generous donation to develop and expand the digital photography program from Inga Siegel in honor of Walter and Joan Harf who celebrate special birthdays.

Neighborhood Art House Gallery

From left to right:
Flower paste resist
Oil pastel
Hand dyed, stamped, stitched



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

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering for Hooked On Books!—a program that pairs a child with an adult reader, please contact Dr. Dolores Sarafinski at 814-871-7422.

If you would like to be a tutor and help children with their school work please call 814-455-5508.



Both of these NAH programs depend on volunteers. Try it! You are sure to like it!

Pictured in the top photo is Renie Louis helping an Art House child with homework. At left, volunteer Stephanie Laino, a student at Gannon University, reads with children in the Hooked on Books! program.

The world is hugged
by the faithful arms
of volunteers.

—Anonymous



NEW IN THE "NEIGHBORHOOD"

New Students

With the start of the Winter/Spring Session on January 5th, NAH was full to overflowing with 145 registered, 33 who were attending for the very first time.

New Faculty / Staff

The Neighborhood Art House is pleased to welcome new faculty and staff members: Lourdes Jasso (computer, digital photography and student data base); Ruth Grier (recorder and mallet instruments); Joni Carroll (dance and fitness); Vera Volchansky (violin); and Patti Eichen (development staff).



Lourdes Jasso



Ruth Grier



Vera Volchansky



Patti Eichen

New Programming

Among the classes presently in session, *Found Object Jewelry*, *Digital Photography*, *Environmental Comic Art* and *Girls and Boys Book Club* are newer offerings that give added variety to the already well-favored classes in performing, visual and literary arts.



The secret of life is in art.

—Oscar Wilde



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