

# Neighbor to Neighbor

December  
2007



Inner-City Neighborhood Art House  
201 East Tenth Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
(814)455-5508  
[www.eriebenedictines.org/arthouse](http://www.eriebenedictines.org/arthouse)



*Stars of Wonder*



*Stars of Light*



*Stars of Hope  
and Beauty Bright*

## Stars of Christmas

*A Blessed Holiday  
from the Children  
of the  
Neighborhood  
Art House*

### *COCOA and COFFEE MUGS for CHRISTMAS*

Chris Rust is working on his third coffee mug, decorated with original designs inspired while he was looking out a window at home.

He's aware that his mug will be on display at Geary's Studio 7 Gallery and will be for sale.



Shane McClelland displays one of the holiday mugs

A student at the Neighborhood Art House for a year-and-a-half, Chris, 15, a 9th grader at Central Tech High School, is using bright-colored paint for his mugs.

The coffee mugs will be part of a Christmas holiday display at the gallery at 2807 W. Eighth St., beginning at Thanksgiving.

The students are encouraged to create designs that represent Art House programs like dance and music, said Chuck Dill, the teacher in charge of the project.

He said about a dozen students are involved and will design about 36 mugs.

Chris, who enjoys creating original designs on ceramic, said he's enjoying the project. "It's pretty cool."

He said one of his designs is of a night sky and another of a cityscape at night.

According to Geary, an Art House project last spring where students decorated teapots sold very well at the Gallery. "We sold 90 percent in just two weeks," she said. The Art House and the student artist receive a percentage of the sale.

The coffee mugs on display will be filled with cocoa. "Everybody carries a list of at least ten people that they don't want to forget at Christmas," Geary said, and added that the mugs would be perfect for that purpose.

The Neighborhood Art House children will be the stars at this year's Festival of Trees.

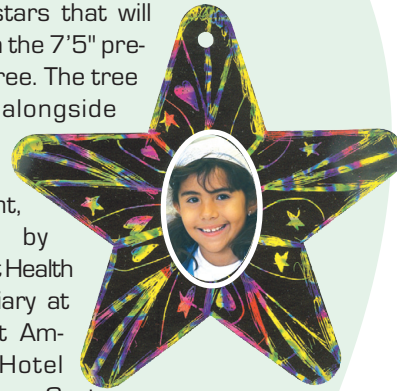
Their photos will appear inside their decorated stars that will be placed on the 7'5" pre-lit artificial tree. The tree will stand alongside others at the popular holiday event, sponsored by Saint Vincent Health Center Auxiliary at the Marriott Ambassador Hotel and Conference Center.

All the children attending classes at the Art House will participate, according to Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski. Each child will create a star of various sizes. Children will utilize a process called scratch art. Art House students will scratch away the black color to create designs, she explained. That is a new medium for the students. They will also do stars in origami.

Stars will be decorated with paint, glitter and sequins, with the children's photos on one side.

Church & Murdock Electric Inc. on Wattsburg Road is sponsoring this year's tree.

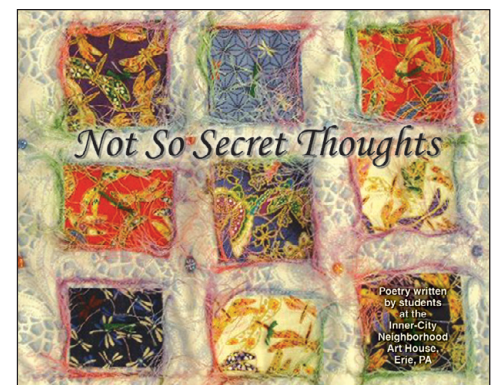
Stephanie Flanagan, director of volunteers for Saint Vincent, said Joseph Wiecezorek, owner of Bridal Flower Shop on East 14th Street, coordinates the Art House tree for the festival. Laurel Taft, NAH librarian and volunteer teacher assists with the project each year.



### New Poetry Book

#### *Not So Secret Thoughts*

What would you save in this world? What do you see in a great work of art? What do animals dream about? What are "the blues" for middle school children?



All these questions are the topic of poems appearing in a new publication, *Not So Secret Thoughts*, written by students from the Neighborhood Art House under the direction of Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, writer-in-residence at the NAH.

The poetry book was released at the NAH annual fundraiser, Taste of the Arts 2007. Sharon Rooney, a long-time NAH benefactor, received a book and reports, "I put the book on my bed stand and I read a poem every night. I just love it."

Publication of the book was made possible by a grant from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development and a generous gift from Printing Concepts, Inc., Erie, PA.

*The Inner-City Neighborhood Art House is deeply grateful for the large gift received from the Anonymous Friend Fund of the Erie Community Foundation. The gift will enable us to continue "Bringing Beauty to Life in the Hearts of Children in the Center of the City."*

### *One Stroke to Success*

For Cathy Becker, it's the easiest way to learn the art of painting, especially for children.

"You don't have to worry about highlights, or learning how to draw, you just have to master one-stroke to create beautiful shapes," said Becker, the newest volunteer teacher at the NAH.

Beginning in September, Becker has been teaching OneStroke painting each Friday at the Art House.

OneStroke is a technique created by the artist Donna Dewberry, who teaches OneStroke on PBS (WQLN-TV in Erie.)

According to Becker, the technique takes the fear out of painting. "Once you learn this technique, you have the confidence to try other things," said Becker.



Cathy Becker demonstrates the OneStroke technique.

Becker is an expert OneStroke painter. She was in the first certification class taught

by Donna Dewberry more than a decade ago. And she has been teaching certification courses across the United States for about eight years.

After her husband retired, Becker, 60, a native of Erie, said she decided there was no point in traveling around the country.

"I've known about the Art House for a long time," she said. Her friends, Laurel Taft and Joanna Zurn, had introduced her

to the Art House.

"So far, I've learned that it takes a little practice teaching young people, but I enjoy the challenge," she said.



## Memorial

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of **Blanche L. Flahavin**. Blanche's family designated the Neighborhood Art House to receive memorials in her name.

### TEACHERS IN THE NEWS

**Sister Peg Pilewski, OSB**, presented the work of the NAH at Holy Family School during an orientation for teachers.

**Sister Mary Lee Farrell, GNSH**, spoke about the NAH at a meeting of the Catholic Daughters of America Erie Court 515.

## Fundraiser

The Jensen Landis Jr. Memorial Open donated \$1,000 to the NAH from proceeds raised at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament. The memorial honors and remembers the lives of Richard Jensen and Jeffrey Landis, Jr. and monies raised benefit the children of Erie County.



### TAX CREDITS

Thank you to the following companies that provided funding to the Neighborhood Art House in 2007 through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program:

Local Area Burger King  
Erie Insurance Group  
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Carmine Camillo from Waste Management presents a check to Sister Anne and children from the Art House.

For more information about how your Pennsylvania-based company may be able to support the NAH through this program, call us at 814-455-5508.

## 2007 Annual Fundraiser, Tuesday, September 18

Today, children strutted their stuff and marched into your applause and into your hearts.

### Taste of the Arts—Neighborhood Art House on Parade



Brady Louis, Master of Ceremonies, displays one of the umbrellas created by NAH children for sale at the event.

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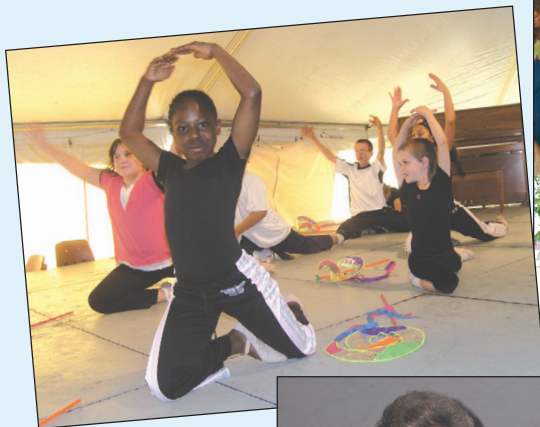
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Cheryl Bates, Art House staff, helps Chris Schneider display his art work which was auctioned at Taste of the Arts.



Co-Chairs, Mary Ann Toohey, left, and Barbara Pollock



NAH Dancers perform



A record crowd of over 250 attended Taste of the Arts.



Sister Anne Wambach shares a light moment with the audience.

#### AUCTION ARTISTS

Evan Everhart  
Fred Beebe  
Bill Campbell  
Vitus Kaiser  
Brad Lethaby  
Cheryl Vicary  
Tom Vicary

#### CO-CHAIRS

Barbara Pollock  
Mary Ann Toohey

MASTER  
of CEREMONIES  
Brady Louis



Lynn McBrier listens as a young student explains the technique he used for his art piece.

Thank you  
for your support!

Neighborhood Art House Children,  
Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Women's Core Committee