

Neighbor to Neighbor

July 2007



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

RAKU MAGIC

The six students sat on the grass in front of the large outdoor kiln, waiting for the intense heat to show fire and melt the colors on their clay pots.

The advanced clay students from the Neighborhood Art House took part in a three-day raku workshop at Mercyhurst College by Tom Hubert, art department director and a well-known artist.

The children made their pots during the first two sessions and added color and glaze on the last day, then watched and waited while Hubert fired up his kiln to 1,800 degrees. During the process, the greens, reds, blues and browns melted together to create interesting colors and designs.

"I like this because you really don't know how it will work out," said Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, NAH ceramics teacher.

"It's going to be magic," Hubert said.

Siblings Maria, Peter and Jacob Samusenko were participants, as well as Jeremiah Richardson, Erika Thomas and Nguyen Nguyen.

The children watched intently as Hubert lit the gas to fire the kiln and explained the process. "How many of you have been to a barbecue with a grill? That's the same thing we're doing right now as you do with a barbecue," Hubert said.

The process would take 45 minutes, he said. "The colors will melt. There's a special burner that makes it real, real hot." Raku originated in Japan 600 years ago, Hubert said, and is the only process

in ceramics that is completed so fast.

As the pots got hotter and hotter, Jeremiah shouted, "I can see the fire! I can see the fire!" Looking through the



Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB

NAH students watch their ceramic pieces change colors.

hole, he watched the glaze starting to melt on one of the pots.

Setting each pot carefully in a pile of sawdust, the resulting smoke would change the colors, Hubert explained.

The children exclaimed in wonder as each pot was revealed. "There's mine," Erika said excitedly. After marveling over each bowl, the children scrubbed them in sinks and prepared to take them home. "Oh, that's cool," Nguyen said about his finished product.

"Wow, they really changed," Pilewski said.

"They came up with some beauties," Hubert said. "Masterpieces."

(Tom Hubert was the first guest artist to lead an annual pottery workshop as part of the Brother Thomas Bezanson Pottery Fund established in 2006 by Friends of Brother Thomas through his gallery, Pucker Gallery, Boston.)



Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB

Guest artist Tom Hubert

1st Student Newspaper

KIDS' ART HOUSE NEWS

Erie Seawolves' Mascot Josh Ferrare, called C. Wolf when in costume, signed hundreds of autographs during his visit in May to the Neighborhood Art House.

Children from throughout the building asked Ferrare, who will be a Strong Vincent High School senior, to sign his name on Seawolves' promotion cards to their mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Ferrare was one of the guests invited to the NAH as part of a newspaper project in Monday writing classes. Ten children, ages 8 through 11, took part in the project and created the first Art House newspaper.



Sister Anne Wambach, OSB

Writing students Devon McRae, Emilia Balos, Esmeraldaliz Torres, Amber Fritz and Keenan Gore with C. Wolf.

teacher Larisa Melodinskaia about her love of dancing.

The newspaper was presented during the Spring open house and copies were given to every family who attended. The children who participated in the class got special color copies. A second newspaper will be prepared during the summer session.

Taste of the Arts 2007

Annual fundraiser to benefit the
Neighborhood Art House



**Neighborhood Art House
on Parade**

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

**Under the Tent at the Neighborhood Art House
201 East 10th Street**

5:00 pm. Cocktails and light buffet

**7:30 pm. Performance
by Neighborhood Art House children**

**Co-hosts: Core Committee Women
Barbara Pollock and Mary Ann Toohey**

Display of Children's Art available for purchase

Emcee: Brady Louis

Silent Auction

**include the work of local artists:
Fred Beebe, Bill Campbell, Evan Everhart,
Vitus Kaiser, Cheryl Vicary, Tom Vicary**

**Other silent auction items
"Buckets and Brooms" Package
(services for your home)**

Golf Outing Package for 2

**Cleveland Indians Baseball Package—
2008 Season**

By Request Catering Package

**And one live auction item:
featuring the work of a
Neighborhood Art House student**

**Raffle-2 prizes to be awarded:
Cash prize of \$1,000**

**In-Town Getaway for Two
Lodging, dining and entertainment**



**JOIN THE
SECONDLINE PARADE**

If you've ever wanted to hi-step and dance in the Second Line at a Mardi Gras parade, twirling a fancy umbrella, now's your chance.

Art House students and their teachers have transformed 24 white umbrellas into colorful works of art.



Sister Anne Wambach, OSB

Jeremiah Richardson paints an umbrella for Taste of the Arts.

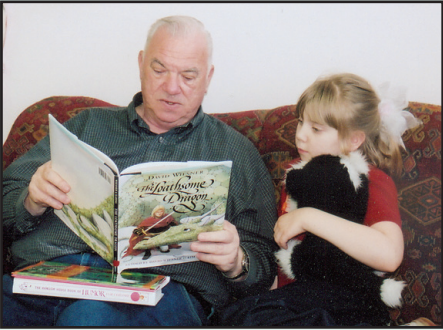
The idea is to design umbrellas with images of butterflies, designs from African fabrics, and Air Brush designs, in the manner of famous artists like Modigliani's elongated faces or with the words of famous poets like Langston Hughes.

All the umbrellas, which can be used in Mardi Gras parades and on rainy days, will be unfurled in a special way at Taste of the Arts 2007 on Sept. 18, when they will be sold.

The idea is based on The Umbrella Project, a non-profit organization that uses art to empower young people worldwide through creativity.

MEMORIAL

Peter L. Petersen, one of the NAH's most devoted volunteers, passed away suddenly in June. Pete was a fixture of faithfulness



Pete Petersen reads with Art House student, Athena Fuller.

and generosity at the NAH, reading to the children every Friday in the Hooked on Books program; accompanying the children on field trips to Youtheatre productions at the Erie Playhouse; coordinating holiday gifts for NAH families through the Kiwanis Club. He will be greatly missed.

We are grateful to his family for designating memorials to the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House.

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HOOKED on BOOKS!
Volunteer readers are needed at the Neighborhood Art House.
Call 871-7422

SCHOLARSHIP INTERN

Why would a college student who plans to go to medical school, want to intern at the Neighborhood Art House? "In medical school I will gain the scientific knowledge I need to become a successful doctor, but medical school

won't teach me humanizing values like compassion," explained Bucknell senior Jennifer Grant. "At the art house I hope to learn how to understand people and reach out to them, recognizing their needs."

Jennifer, who spent the summer as an administrative assistant intern, received the Bucknell Public Interest Program scholarship after Sister Anne Wambach, executive director of the NAH, wrote a letter on her behalf outlining her internship responsibilities.

Jennifer offered the following reflection on her experience:

"I am inspired by how many great people from the Erie community come to volunteer their time at the program, either through Hooked on Books or in the Art House. I think people are initially attracted to the program's mission, and then continue to come back because they are awed by the daily success seen in the smiling faces of the children as they create beautiful art using their own imagination and gifts. It is a very special place and I hope that I can continue to stay connected to the Neighborhood Art House in my future."


The BPIP Internship Fund is supported by alumni, parents, and friends of Bucknell University. Its purpose is to give students experience in the non-profit/public sector.

GRANTS

In June the Neighborhood Art House received approval of a \$5,000 grant for general operations from the Department of Community Economic Development. We are grateful for the assistance of Rep. Pat Harkins in submitting the application.

The John Nesbit Rees and Sarah Henne Rees Charitable Foundation gave a \$6,000 grant to the NAH in support of art education programs. (This is the twelfth annual donation from this foundation.)

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

The COLORS of Industry: Art Piece Commissioned

The colors conveyed what the students saw the day of their visit: the tremendous heat generated in creating the industrial rolled rings manufactured by the Erie firm.

"We have lots of color photographs of machinery around here, but this is a much more interesting, artistic view of what we do," said Kevin O'Connell vice president of sales and marketing for McInnes Rolled Rings company.

Students from the Neighborhood Art House toured the company at 1533 E. 12th St., last December and were commissioned to create an art piece.

Based on that visit, five students created a 3'x7' acrylic painting of reds and oranges on a black background, under the direction of ArtHouse teachers Chuck Dill and Paul DeNiro.

"I think this painting really captures what we do here," said O'Connell.

The painting will be hung on a 5' by 7' foot wall just inside the front lobby of the corporate office, according to O'Connell.

A bronze plaque below the painting will



From left, Chris Rust, Michael Alvarez, Nick Dzuricky and Chris Schneider with their painting

list the Art House students who created the work of art: Chris Rust, Chris Schneider, Nick Dzuricky, Michael Alvarez and Shane McClelland.

O'Connell also invited the artists to bring their parents to see their painting.

The official presentation was made in Spring to O'Connell and Elizabeth Mayoglou, the firm's director of media development, by the students and Paul DeNiro.

Neighborhood Street Scenes

The easels are a big deal for the young people, according to their teacher, Dr. Penny Miller.



Photos by Jennifer Grant



Teacher Dr. Penny Miller and students

big dogs across the streets; the clamor of traffic; the baseball park; and the flowers and butterflies in the garden.

"I love art and I love using an easel," said 13-year-old Soni McCloskey, who was working on a watercolor of roses in the Art House garden.

"Who would have thought easels would make such a big difference," said Miller. "Look at how serious they are; it's wonderful."

The classes are the last for Miller, who will be moving out of the Erie area.

"I love spending my summers at the Art House. It renews by soul. Unfortunately there is nothing like it where I'm going."

We believe the human soul is shaped by beauty and the arts.

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House Mission Statement

EVENING of the ARTS

Holly Anderson and Megan Paluh, 2007 seniors at Fort Leboeuf High School, Waterford, gave a donation to the NAH from a special event they organized at the school in April under the guidance of faculty member, Ms. Jennifer Peters, former NAH teacher.

ART HOUSE on DISPLAY

Artwork by five Art House students was part of the Erie Community Foundation's Annual

Meeting June 18. A display of artwork by students Anthony Ferrara, Shania Heim, Brian Maloney, Maritza Alvarez and Becky Dzuricky greeted guests in the lobby of the Warner Theatre. Also included in the display were Poetry Pockets, the most recent newsletter, information about Hooked on Books and a copy of *Fierce the Frog and the Mysterious Egg*, a children's book composed by Art House Students. The display was organized by Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, art coordinator. The ECF is a long-time supporter of the NAH.