

HOME IMPROVEMENT SECTION

Art Association To Display The "HeART Of Friendship"

By Dayna M. Reidenouer
The Lancaster County Art Association (LCAA), 149 Precision Ave., Strasburg, will open a new exhibit with a reception from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 13. Located in the LCAA's Steinmetz Gallery, the latest installation will showcase the artistic talents of residents of Friendship Community, a residential organization that serves the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

Tucker Yeaworth, art director of the "heART of Friendship," began offering classes to select groups of Friendship residents in March 2007. Currently, two groups of about eight people per group meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings to work with paint, textiles, and other media as their hearts desire.

"They just dive in, and usually it turns out OK," Yeaworth said.

Janice Stauffer, a resident of Jubilee House, one of the organization's group homes, keeps up a steady stream of conversation as she works with wood, one of her favorite media. Patrick Ryan speaks infrequently, choosing instead to concentrate on his collages of paper and paint. Fred Forry, a sociable fellow, has a penchant for drawing windows surrounded by plenty of colors. Both Fred and Tim Ginder, a gentle man who likes working with blues, reds, and whites, are fascinated with having their pictures taken.

"I'm not a celebrity," Fred commented, "I'm just an art person."

Amy Burdeau would like to spend all day in the art room.

"I like it here," Amy said. "I like painting birdhouses. When I was a little girl, I liked to paint."

Yeaworth hopes that the program can eventually expand into a full-time program, where the residents can become economically independent while expressing themselves and finding a meaningful role in society. A Web site was recently established to sell greeting cards made with prints of the artists' work.

"There's a lot of opportunity," Yeaworth said. "They could earn as much as they would at their day programs at Goodwill or the Lighthouse."

So far, the artists have sold over \$5,000 worth of artwork. They receive 25 percent of the sales, and the rest goes into the program. Although Mennonite-run thrift stores donate much of the glassware the artists embellish, other art supplies



Photo by Dayna M. Reidenouer

Residents of Friendship Community who will have their art exhibited at the Lancaster County Art Association, 149 Precision Ave., Strasburg, from Sunday, Jan. 13, through Thursday, Feb. 14, include (back row, from left) Patrick Ryan, Fred Forry, Janice Stauffer, Nancy Shreiner, (front row) Amy Burdeau, and Tim Ginder.

must be purchased. "I know what I'm going to do with (my check)," Janice said. "I'll buy gifts for my mom and get my hair done."

So far the community has embraced the "heART of Friendship." Several local galleries have exhibited the residents' art. In November, officials at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's 12th annual Art Ability Exhibition, an international juried art show, selected the work of three of Friendship's artists for display through Sunday, Jan. 20. Resident Elaine Horst won third place in a senior art show and sold both of the pieces she had entered in the show.

"Elaine wasn't highlighted as a disabled artist," Yeaworth said. "It's a step forward in trying to integrate with other artists."

Yeaworth has big plans for the future of the art program in addition to turning it into full-time employment for the artists. She would like to invite art students and professional artists to work alongside Friendship's artists and add to the artistic development of the program. Currently the art room is housed in three small rooms in the basement of Agape House, another of Friendship Community's group homes. Outside stairs must be navigated to get to the art rooms, which prevents residents with mobility challenges from participating in the program. Yeaworth would like to see the art program moved to an easily accessible location with gallery space for

displaying the residents' creations in Lancaster, Lititz, or Ephrata.

In the meantime, county residents may meet the artists at the opening reception on Jan. 13, and view the artists' work at the LCAA from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays through Sundays until Thursday, Feb. 14. Admission to the art exhibit is free, and donations are accepted. Running concurrently at the LCAA will be a themed membership exhibit

titled "What's Cooking?"

For more information about the "heART of Friendship," readers may contact Yeaworth at 656-2466, ext. 172, or tyeaworth@friendshipcommunity.net. Volunteers to work individually with the artists are welcome, as are donations of art supplies, including picture frames in good condition. Additional information about the LCAA is available by calling 687-7061.

Puppet Theater Posts A Show

The Hole* in the Wall Puppet Theatre, 126 N. Water St., Lancaster, will present "Peter Pan" on Saturday, Jan. 12, through Saturday, Feb. 16. Performances will take place on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

The musical adaptation of J.M. Barrie's classic story was written by Robert Brock, artistic director and puppet

master. Brock will operate a full cast of marionettes that he created.

The performance is appropriate for audiences of all ages. Tickets are available for a fee. For reservations, readers may call the theater at 394-8398.

Readers may also visit www.holeinthewallpuppets.com.

Spring Football Sign-Ups Slated

The Lancaster Football Association (LFA) will hold a final registration session for its spring 2008 boys' junior, youth and teen flag football leagues on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the LANCO Fieldhouse, 1901 Miller Road, East Petersburg, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

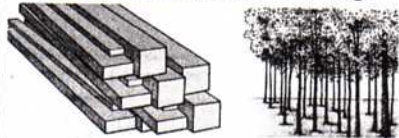
There is a fee to participate in the minimum eight-

game season, which will begin on Saturday, March 29. Participants may register as a team or as an individual. Space is limited.

Readers may contact LFA director Joe Galante at 892-7098 for additional information or visit the LFA's Web site at www.lancasterfootballsociation.com.

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