

DECEMBER 2011 OUTLOOK ON THE ARTS by NEDRA FISHER

On Wednesday, December 7, at noon our *Let's Do Lunch* program will feature Sue Ann Martin and Pam Gates' presentation and discussion about children's books. With the holidays so close this is the perfect time for their event. My favorite gift to any child is a book, but I don't really keep up on new children's literature. Martin and Gates certainly do, and they can help you choose the right books for the age of the special children (grandchild, niece, nephew, or neighbor) who you are shopping for. There's plenty of time for the Book Shelf on Mission to order any books you need. This program is free and open to the public. Just bring your lunch and love of literature down to the Art Reach Gallery, 111 E. Broadway. Cookies and water are provided courtesy of Meijers, Inc.

Here's some good information for you shoppers trying to find unique gifts for family and friends on your list. Area artists participating in the Holiday Collection sale at Art Reach on Broadway include: 8 glass artists; 8 wood artists; 12 pottery artists; 6 fiber/textile artists; 31 jewelry artists; 2 handbag artists; 20 painters; 12 photographers; 26 card/stationary artists; 4 book artists; 2 basket artists; 2 metal work artists; 2 stonework artists; 2 pressed flower artists; and 3 dyed silk artists. There are an additional 14 working in other forms of art and 4 producing bath and beauty products. Added up, that is 159 artists offering unique items for your approval. With that kind of talent available, you are sure to find many beautiful gifts, and perhaps even finish off that list. Just walking through the area is a treat. Kim and her volunteers have done a wonderful job of displaying each item – and new things are still coming in each day. Holiday hours at the shop are: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

The *Day With the Artist* at Ganiard Elementary School on November 18 was wonderful! Students traveled from station to station in the school to learn about the arts. Music, dance, sculpture, painting, performance art, cake decorating, cartooning, drawing, clowning, fiber jewelry, hand built and wheel thrown pottery were all discovered and enjoyed. Found objects sculptor, Cre Fuller, came all the way from Ypsilanti to display his magical robots that lit up when touched. Other artists included MPHS students James Castillo, Winnie Ervin, Isabella Ruffino, Tito Felix, Bryanna Hallock, Sam Keeler, Amadria Sloan, Kloie Ramos, and Jaide Cotter. CMU student artists/musicians include Jessica Stefani, Melissa Dembinski, Miranda Orta, Katy McAllister, a trombone quartet, and Jared Sessink and Haruki Hakoyama (both MPHS graduates). Local artists include Dennis Egan, Betty Clark, Tami Melton, Ben Jankens, and Stephanie Sims from Meijers Bakery. Kristin Bennett from Alma College led the children in dance, while Val Wolters taught students about the early history of Ganiard school. Sara Gochenour and Alicia Podolsky helped throughout the *Day*. Nancy Cantrell and Cindy Smith did a fantastic job of organizing the event, and worked with Art Educators True Muszynski and Deb Shephard throughout the day to keep things running smoothly at the school. Lunch was provided by the teachers who brought delicious salads, deserts and soups, and Freddie's Restaurant. If you know any of these artists, please thank them for giving their time and using their own supplies to give the children and teachers at Ganiard new experiences and an extraordinary Day.

Have you filled out the Art Reach survey yet? We need your input to assure that the classes and programs we offer are the ones you and your family want to take. It's sad to have to cancel a class because not enough people signed up. There are only four questions to answer: 1. The kind of classes that would interest you; 2. The kind of classes that would interest your children; 3. How you would prefer to receive information about classes; and 4. If you have (or have not) taken classes at Art Reach, why or why not? You'll find the survey on our web site, www.artreachcenter.org. If you enter your name and e-mail address you will receive a \$5.00 coupon to use towards any class we offer. If you don't want to go on line, you can pick up a questioner at the Center and receive the same benefit. Thank you so much for your help.

"Lilium by Parise" an exhibition of photography by Paula Clark Nettleton, will be the premier show in the Art Reach Gallery for 2012, running from January 4-31. "Devine Light", her photo of a dish plate dahlia, was chosen to represent Art Reach and our art community for our 2012 poster. Paula is a graduate of the Kendall School of Design and an extremely gifted artist in many fields including graphic design, painting, graphite, pen and ink, and contemporary art dolls. She states, "My inspiration has always come from that which is continually creating and recreating ... nature. Photography now has me seeing that world through different eyes, focusing less on creating from what I see, then on discovering the art that is already there. I am learning to see-in-the-moment, so as to capture the fleeting image that appears for a mere second and then changes forevermore." Please join us in the Gallery at a reception for this fine artist on Thursday, January 5 from 5-7 p.m.

Winter classes at Art Reach start on Mondays, January 16- March 12, with a Beginner Drawing Class for children age 6-12. Led by Kari Chrenka, students will learn basic composition, perspective, still life, special construction, pointillism, and more. A Children's Clay Class, Wednesdays January 18- February 8 with Donna Hoff-Grambau for children 6-12 will explore the basics of hand building clay to make works of art. Also on January 16 from 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. is Kids Day Off. Your children will have the day off from school. Why not send them for a fun day of creative arts at the Center where they will be able to do art projects and activities throughout the day? To register, call 989-773-3689 or register on our web site, www.artreachcenter.org.

The holiday season is a busy, joyful time. There's food to prepare, cards to send, gifts to wrap, and gatherings to attend. It's also a good time to reflect and remember all the reasons we have to be thankful. At Art Reach, we are grateful to be located in Mt. Pleasant, a fine city, and for our wonderful volunteers. The gift shop is staffed by those volunteers, as is the Art Reach Picture Program. The ARPP is reaching over 9,000 students in 29 area elementary schools this year because almost 200 people volunteer for the program. Our Committees work to arrange gallery shows, schedule Let's Do Lunch programs, Day with the Artists, and more. None of these things could happen without them. A special thank you to all of you who have helped us by volunteering, with financial support or in other ways! A very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy, New Year.