

NOVEMBER 2011 MID MONTH OUTLOOK ON THE ARTS by NEDRA FISHER

*It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas* at the Art Reach on Broadway gallery this month. That tune has been running through my head since I stopped in on the 12<sup>th</sup> to do some early holiday shopping. A new artist, David Dinsdale, has used his magnificent photography to create wall hangings, coasters, cutting boards, and mouse pads (great gifts for two friends in Nebraska). I've got to go back for two more mouse pads. Each year glass artists, George Bochnig, Rick Shapero, and Gail Leone seem to outdo themselves with the vibrant colors they use for their Christmas ornaments. They make such perfect gifts not only for family and friends, but also that small "thank you gift for teachers, doctors, mail deliverers or other service persons. Another excellent small gift would be some of the candles and soaps by Green Daffodil.

Diane Zakala has a beautiful new glaze on her pottery that is very striking and Donna Brandon has created tea lights and candleholders using antique glass, while Cynthia Judge has painted glass vases with floral themes. With each artist there are a wide variety of items to choose from that will make great gifts. Kim Bigard, our gift shop manager has found dozens of new artists or objects for the store this year. Over 160 Michigan artists are participating with paintings, pastels, fabric art, sculpture, photography, jewelry, cards, basketry, and more. The shop itself defines one of our important goals as a community arts center; to provide a venue for Michigan artists' creations, and to provide the public with an opportunity to discover the talents of those artists. You don't have to purchase anything, just come in, browse and examine those talents. I will admit I'll be back for several more gifts we need - just as soon as my credit card stops whimpering.

A special *Thank You* to all the artists, businesses, individuals, committee members, and staff who helped to make the 2011 Art Reach Auction for the Arts a success. Without their help and that of the people who attended the auction we could not continue programs such as the Art Reach Picture Program, Let's Do Lunch, the Wellspring series, the Winter Concert series, the Day With the Artist, Children's concerts, gallery exhibitions, classes, and more. I wish I had the space to name all these wonderful people individually.

Thinking of classes, we hope you will help us in a survey. Another one of our goals is to provide arts education in the form of classes at the Center. We are interested in which classes that you and your children would want to take. On our web site ([www.artreachcenter.org](http://www.artreachcenter.org)) you will find 4 questions: 1. What classes would you consider taking at Art Reach?; 2. What classes would your child enjoy taking?; 3. How would you prefer to receive information about class offerings?; 4. If you have or have not participated in Art Reach classes, why? If you enter your first and last name and e-mail address you will receive a \$5.00 coupon to redeem towards any class that we offer. If you don't want to go on line, you can pick up a questioner at the Center, fill it out, and receive the same benefit. Thank you for your help with this. It's so important that we offer classes that this community really wants. Children need to discover the arts in as many forms as possible – and so do adults.