

Island group hopes to start an art center in Jamestown

By Sam Bari

Kate Petrie and Elizabeth Congdon had an idea. They believe our island needs and can support an arts center, so they talked to their friends Dori Hirsch, Jocelyn Donahue, Jane Mitchell, and Barbara Hutchinson. Together they gave the idea life by forming the board of directors for the Jamestown Art Center.

"We are a non-profit organization committed to creating an enriching environment that inspires creativity through active participation in the arts," Congdon said. She added, "We are determined to make the Jamestown Arts Center a reality. Together, we have the needed skills to achieve our goals. We realize it's a huge undertaking with many challenges. But we're enthusiastic and optimistic, and I have every confidence that we can do it."

The JAC's plan is to become a self-sustaining, successful business, Congdon said. "With the help of benefactors and Rhode Island grant agencies, JAC can provide high level and low cost arts programs for the entire community."

She also said that the JAC is seeking to establish a centrally-located facility. "Our long-range plan is to purchase property in town that will be large enough to include painting, photography and ceramic studios, a dance/yoga studio, theater and music rehearsal space, writing and music classrooms, and a gallery.

"Ideally, the JAC will find a property with land for an open air stage, a sculpture garden, children's summer camp, and rentable event space," Congdon said.

If everything goes according to plan, the collective talents and dedication of the founding members will ensure the JAC enormous success.

"To start the ball rolling, the Schock Gallery at East Ferry will



Fourth grade students from Lawn Avenue School display masks they made to help get the Jamestown Art Center off the ground.

Photo by Sam Bari

host "Collaboration," an art exhibit designed to raise awareness of our organization and raise funds for a new Jamestown Art Center," Congdon said.

Congdon and Donahue explained that "Collaboration" is a juried show of 10-inch square works of art installed together on one wall to create a single body of work reflecting the many facets of the talented artistic community in Jamestown and beyond. Participants of all ages, abilities and disciplines are invited to participate. All entries will be included. Work can be either for or not for sale. Contributing artists will receive 50 percent of all sales. The gallery will receive 25 percent, and the remaining 25 percent will be contributed to a fund for the founding of a Jamestown Art Center, they said.

The board of directors of the Jamestown Art Center created "Collaboration," and they encourage all artists entering work in the show to let their imaginations run wild, Congdon said. "Make a collage, paint, assemble, write, photograph, sculpt, weave, etch, quilt, weld, draw, embroider, illustrate, construct, design, build, mold, or even compose a song - anything goes."

The rules are simple, Donohue said. All work must be wired and ready to hang. Each work must be 10- by 10-inches square and no more than two-inches deep. Work may be framed, presented on a stretched canvas, foam core, or any kind of board.

According to Congdon and

Donohue, anyone wishing to participate should bring their work to the Schock Gallery at East Ferry on Wednesday, March 26, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. A fee of \$5 will be charged for each submission. Artists may submit a maximum of three works. Prizes will be awarded, they said.

Those who are not artists can show a picture of their favorite artist or work of art, a child, pet, or hobby, they said. Participants can sponsor a friend or family member. The board of directors encourages everyone to become a patron by making a donation.

Family membership of \$25 is optional, but encouraged, as well as any donation to help build a home for the arts in Jamestown. The idea behind "Collaborations" is to make a collective masterpiece to celebrate the launching of an effort to raise funds for a Jamestown Art Center. Here, artists can gather, exchange ideas, work together, and offer classes in all art forms to the community.

The opening reception for "Collaborations" is at the Schock Gallery, Friday, March 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. The show will run from March 28 to April 9.

Petrie, Congdon, and the board of directors encourage everyone to submit work, and come to the Schock Gallery to participate in the festivities. "Come to the exhibit and see what we're about," Congdon said. "With community support and effort, a center for the arts in Jamestown can soon become a reality that we can be proud of and enjoy."

Quest school collage on display

Quest Montessori School is proud to present a collage entitled "The Five Great Lessons," created by its students and parents with Rhode Island artist, Holly Ewald. The collage and photographs of the collaborative process will be on display at the North Kingstown Library at 100 Boone Street, Wickford, from April 7 to 14. The public is invited to a reception and a presentation by the artist and the Quest community on Monday, April 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Artist Ewald used the five lessons which are central to Montessori education—the story of the universe, the timeline of life, the story of humans and the stories of language and numbers as the theme for the collage. These five lessons are used in Montessori education as touchstones for explorations throughout the school year in science, history, world culture, language and math.

The collage process began with each student creating a collage based upon one of these five lessons. Their parents were invited to create a collage in response to their child's artwork. Students then worked across classrooms in multi-aged groups and collaborated to create a larger, collective piece from all of the collages. The final artwork is a digitally printed image of the collage on three fabric panels.

For more information about this project, contact Quest Montessori School at 295 4012.

URI artist to create mixed-media installation

Mixed media artist Albert Chong will be the Italo Scanga visiting artist at the University of Rhode Island this spring. He will give a presentation titled "The Flight Trilogy" Monday, March 31, at 4 p.m. in the Cherry Auditorium, Kirk Engineering Building, 90 Upper College Rd., Kingston. It is free and open to the public. A reception will follow.

During his week in residence, Chong will create a viewer-activated installation that will finish his trilogy series titled "Winged Evocations: A Meditation on Flight & Divinity." The first part, titled "Winged Evocations" has traveled around the United States and Cuba. The new installation will be on view to the general public at the end of his residency in the art lobby of URI's Fine Arts Center, 105 Upper College Rd., Kingston. Chong will work with URI students to create this piece.

Chong has received various prestigious awards including a National Endowment of the Arts grant, a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Pollack Krasner grant. Chong received a master of fine arts degree from the University of California at San Diego. He is a professor of art at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

For more information, contact the URI Department of Art at 874-5821. To receive e-mails about future presentations at the URI Art Department, e-mail artdept@etal.uri.edu.

Space still available in art classes

The Portsmouth Arts Guild spring session has begun.

Several upcoming classes still have space available. They include: Ceramic Tile for Beginners, starting April 2, Painterly Pastels, on April 3, Guitar music enrichment, for ages 12 and up, on April 14, and more.

Classes are held at the Portsmouth Arts Guild Center for the Arts located at 2679 East Main Rd., next to St. Paul's Church. The gallery is handicap accessible. For more information, visit the website at www.PortsmouthArtsGuild.org or contact Edwina Sebest at 481-2285 or esebest@hotmail.com. Registration deadline is one week before the start of class.

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Among the lawyers working in our firm is Emily Jean Murphy, a granddaughter of Neale. Emily concentrates her practice in estate planning and probate administration. She has a decade of experience in guiding families as they seek to prepare themselves for inevitable transitions.

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"It's not the honors and the prizes and the fancy outsides of life that ultimately nourish our souls. It's the knowing that we can be trusted, that we never have to fear the truth, that the bedrock of our very being is firm."

-Fred Rogers

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