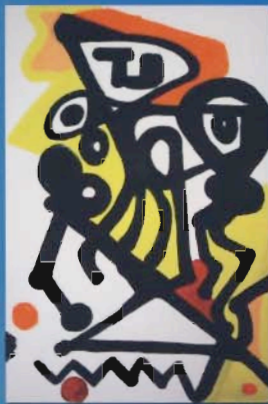


From Our Heart

Spring
2009

RIVAA Art
Gallery Opening



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ART FROM THE HEART III



With the help of the Michael Cahn Foundation, The Angelica Program, and Coler-Goldwater's Therapeutic Recreation Department, patients and residents exhibit their art in the RIVAA Gallery on Main Street.

Excitement filled the air at the opening reception of "Art from the Heart" at the RIVAA Gallery on Saturday, April 25, 2009. "Art From The Heart III" is a collection of patient and resident art from Coler-Goldwater. This is the third exhibit of patient and resident art at the RIVAA Gallery, located on Main Street in the heart of the Roosevelt Island community.

A variety of mediums were on display, showing the talent and creativity that abounds on both campuses. Pastels, pen and ink, watercolor, acrylic, 3-D computer imagery, photography and nature crafts filled the gallery with texture, color and movement. The variety of techniques and mediums is one of the reasons this show is met with such appreciation.

The exhibit was funded by the Michael Cahn Foundation, in memory of Michael Cahn's love of the arts. Michael was a resident at Coler for many years. His parents, Lee and Alfred Cahn, are active members of the Coler Community Advisory Board. The professional materials that the patients and residents use throughout the year are provided by the Goldwater Auxiliary and the Angelica Patient Assistance Program. Both organizations make it possible to keep materials available for the artists, inspiring their creativity



and encouraging self-expression. Under the guidance of Therapeutic Recreation staff, the resident artists enhance their skills and self-expression, culminating in annual exhibits on each campus. The RIVAA Gallery has offered this exhibit every other year since 2005.

The gallery was filled with admirers and energy. Fifteen artists answered questions, shared their stories and built strong relationships with the Roosevelt Island community. Visitors from Manhattan and Queens were also present.

The artists were invited back by Tad Sudol, President of RIVAA, "...for all upcoming shows to develop an ongoing relationship to learn from each other and continue building collaboration between artists."

Thank you to RIVAA for opening their doors once again to support of our art program, and to their board members Valeriu Boborelu (BoBo), Esther Piaskowski Cohen and Georgette Sinclair, who helped curate and hang the work for the exhibit. Congratulations to all of the participating artists on a wonderful show. The exhibit confirms that artistic expression is a vital part of life, enhancing the quality of life for artists and the community in which they live. Each exhibit is more impressive!



Angelica's Sweetheart Ball

Love was in the air as patients, residents, staff and volunteers shared smiles and hugs, danced to great music, and enjoyed delicious food during the annual Sweetheart Ball. The Gala was celebrated on February 13 at Goldwater and February 19 at Coler. It was Coler's first year to hold the Sweetheart Ball, and the huge crowd enjoyed every minute.

A dance contest filled the dance floor at both campuses. Those with the best rhythm and moves were Linda Fontenetta, Phyllis Burrell, Richard Hurley and Jose Rivera at Coler, and Dolores Rigaud, Teresita Tonge, Edward Pthinnith and Linda Washington at Goldwater. Top dancers received candy and picture frames with clocks.

Raffles were called throughout the night, with appreciative winners taking home bed sets, beautiful robes or sweaters, stuffed animals, candy, watches and other great gifts. The menu began with an assorted snack party mix, followed by shrimp cocktail, turkey wraps and fresh fruit, and ended with delicious cake.

As part of the celebration, a poetry contest focused on Valentine's Day sentiments. Beautiful poems were submitted and covered the walls at both campuses.

Winners at Goldwater were: James Hauser, First Place, Tony Tsikitas, Second Place. At Coler, the winners were: Fernando Vargas, First Place, Robert Harrington, Second Place and Moses Williams, Third Place. They each received Macy's gift certificates of \$50, \$35 and \$20 respectively.

The crowds roared as Johnie Mae and William Horton were crowned Queen and King of the Ball at Coler, and Migdalea Dejesus and Paul Horton were crowned Queen and King at Goldwater. The newly crowned royalty went home with a collection of colognes and toiletries. Goldwater held an additional contest for Mr. and Ms. Congeniality. Winners were John Barossi and Jasmine Hernandez.

A Disk Jockey from Harmony Entertainment kept the music and rhythm going at Goldwater, while our very own Nelson Rosa, of Therapeutic Recreation, kept the requests turning at Coler. Patients and residents had the opportunity

to request song dedications, which highlighted the friendships and warm feelings people shared throughout the night.

The evenings ended with the announcement of the Angelica Award winner. The award is given to a staff member, who is nominated and selected by patients/residents, and reflects the attributes of an angel: caring, compassionate, helping others beyond what is required of his/her position, and is patient, positive and kind. This year's deserving winners were Joyce Billups, Nurse's Aide of Coler Nursing, and Ozella Shields, Nurse's Aide of Goldwater Nursing. They each received a beautiful music and jewelry box inscribed with a message reflecting their compassionate and caring nature. Congratulations to these staff, who reflect the heart of Coler-Goldwater.

This annual event, including all the awards, is generously funded by the Angelica Patient Assistance Program. Angelica members attended both events and made new friends, escorted patients, served food and helped judge the different contests. Sweetheart Ball committee members are patients and residents. On both campuses their planning efforts were coordinated by

Paulette Evans and Ron Becker, Therapeutic Recreation. Patients and residents selected the menu, entertainment, decorations, activities, contests and prizes.

Empowering patients and residents is one of the goals of Angelica. This event provided committee members many opportunities to work together and make

decisions about the events. The committee also selected and helped bag the "give-aways," which included a selection of sweets and valentine trinkets for everyone.

Over 120 patients and residents attended each event. The hours of friendship and fun were talked about for days. The committees did a terrific job and should be very proud of their efforts, which made the events a huge success. A special thank you to Therapeutic Recreation, which decorated the auditoriums and provided staff support at both Sweetheart Balls.

