



Art appreciation: Sisters Susan and Paula Smith browse the art show. Susan, holding 8 month old niece Anne-Marie Trehanne, is an art teacher at Mercy.

Mercy students work out feelings about Sept. 11 through art exhibit

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.com

Mercy High School students used an art exhibit held recently at the Farmington Hills school as a way to deal with the devastation, complexity and "why" of Sept. 11.

"It was a way to work out some of those feelings," said Sister Marie Henderson, head of the art department. "There was so much going on during that time."

Menghan Heires, a junior, painted a large angel looking down on New York City.

"I was playing around and sketching," Heires said. "The assignment was to make Sept. 11 a positive image. It led me to this."

Considering the basic concept of protection, Heires thought of guardian angels. She made a dress similar to one worn by an angel at the



Browser: Jillian Bonahoom looks at Mercy senior Erin Gould's art work.

Renaissance Festival. "I put it on and had my sister take pictures of me. I used multiple positions and picked the one which came out best."

She doesn't know whether she will make art her life's work, but Heires knows she can never be separated from it. Her mother is an artist.

Judy Stephens, a junior, took photographs of 50 people she knows and called it "Fifty Faces of America."

Stephens also traveled to New York with her parents after Sept. 11 and compared what the skyline looks like now with how it looked when the twin towers of the World Trade Center were still standing. Her family made a trip there last year, too.

"It was really sad," Stephens said of Ground Zero. "It was like a big space, a big hole." Her photos show people painting messages on banners as well as fences around Wall Street. "No one is allowed to drive down the street past the Stock Exchange anymore," Stephens said.

Classy 'Red Hat' ladies celebrate life after 50

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.com

Eleven ladies dressed in purple and bedecked in formal red hats filled one room of Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy in Farmington recently.

All older than 50, they say they retain their beauty by staying young at heart. Women younger than 50 — the "wannabes" — are allowed to attend, but they must wear lavender and sport pink hats.

The Classy Lassies formed as a result of mutual friendships and includes residents from Farmington, Plymouth, Canton Township, Westland and Garden City. Seven women belong to Walkers at Westland, who exercise at Westland Mall.

"It was friend to friend," said Lillian Selke of Farmington.

The chapter, which held its first outing at Mrs. Lovill's, is

among more than 60 in Michigan and hundreds in the United States and internationally. Their inspiration is Jenny Joseph's poem, "Warning," written in 1961.

A portion of the poem reads: "When I am an old woman I shall wear purple with a red hat which doesn't go and doesn't suit me. But maybe I should practice a little now?"

The movement started a few years ago with a woman named Sue Ellen Cooper, who purchased a red fedora while visiting a friend in Tucson. When she stumbled on a copy of Joseph's poem, she was touched and decided to give friends vintage red hats as birthday presents, along with a copy of the poem.

Silliness provides comedic relief and a "We're all in it together," philosophy around which the groups are centered.

Every organization is encouraged to make up its own offices.

Shirley Hewitt, a Plymouth resident, is the local chapter's Queen Mother.

What qualifies her to play that role? "They said so," Hewitt quipped. The others laughed.

"You have to like to eat out and have fun," Hewitt said.

The group plans to tour the Jiffy Mix factory in Chelsea, go to Frankenmuth and visit the Big Boy factory in Warren yet this year.

Canton resident Betty Shaw said at a national convention in Chicago in April, two women who were geriatric specialists and who did not know each other — one from the east coast and the other from the west coast — were studying the benefits of groups like the Red Hat Society.

"They wanted to see if groups like this would help people grow old gracefully," Shaw said.

For more information, visit www.redhatsociety.com

Greyhound rescue

Owners speak at Lanigan Career Day

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.com

"No more racetracks."

That's the view espoused by four women — all volunteers — who spoke to Lanigan Elementary students recently during a Career Day presentation.

Teri Kroll, a Redford Township resident, Sue Fisher of Trenton, Colleen Greene, Brownstown Township, and Suzanne Kimmery, an Auburn Hills resident, brought their rescued greyhound pets and a deep, open and adamant opposition to greyhound racing.

They are part of a group called Retired Greyhounds as Pets, known as "Regap."

About 20 different occupations and vocations were represented at Career Day. Organizers were staff members Jan Tobie, Karla Walkley, Steve Vercellino, and Principal Marva Turner.

The greyhound owners said

■ The greyhound owners said greyhounds suffer abuse at racetracks and wanted the children to know the consequences of greyhound racing.

greyhounds suffer abuse at racetracks and wanted the children to know the consequences of greyhound racing. Each had adopted one or more former racing greyhounds.

"While they are at the track they sleep in very small cages," Kroll said. "Sometimes they sleep on shredded paper."

She pointed out the missing fur on one dog. "That's from sitting on a hard cage and not having anything soft," Kroll said.

She contrasted the comfort of some students' dogs who sleep on comfy couches and soft beds. Race dogs sleep on shredded paper.

Sometimes retired greyhounds are adopted but often not, and are put to sleep, she said.

"They are considered livestock, not dogs," Fisher said.

Florida has more racing greyhound tracks than anywhere in the United States, Kroll said. "Florida has 18 tracks. It takes 1,000 dogs for every track. When you go to Florida make sure nobody ever goes to a race track. If you go to a race track, the race track makes money and they stay open and race more. We want to stop racing. We want these dogs to be like regular dogs."

"Greyhounds can see a half mile away," Greene said. "Never let a greyhound off a leash."

The students enjoyed the visit. "I like the dogs because they were cute," said Amy Rechlemer, a kindergarten teacher.

For more information on Regap call 1-800-Go Hound or visit www.rescuedgreyhounds.com.

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