



November 2010

Knock, Knock! Mrs. Claus' Closet

Celebrating 40 Years!



When Judy Burke and Ruth Hopkins started the legendary Mrs. Claus' Closet in their homes on Westlake's Donna Drive back in 1970, they could scarcely have envisioned the tradition that was established by their landmark craft show.

Now celebrating 40 years, Mrs. Claus Closet is still a must-do for shoppers as the official kick off the holiday season the first week of November at Wagner's Country Inn in Westlake.

This year's show will be held Nov. 2 and 3.

Known for both its quality craftsmen, artists and artisans – as well as its role in fundraising for charitable community causes – the Closet was one of the first, and certainly one of the best, in the cavalcade of craft shows that followed in the 80's and 90's.

Those that followed all demonstrated that imitation is the highest form of flattery!

This year the reins have been turned over to a new team – Donna Stuver and Linda Loveless. They take over from Judy and Ruth with the same promise of quality and community spirit.

"We wanted to make sure the right team is in place. That is why the new partnership at the helm of the Closet – Donna Stuver and Linda Loveless – are the ones we were looking for as Mrs. Claus' Closet moves into the future," said Burke.

Promoters for noted shows like the Medina County Home & Garden Show, Christmas Around the World and An Affair on the Square, Donna and Linda assure patrons and crafters alike of a future committed to both quality and community.

"We recognized that Mrs. Claus Closet was not only one of the longest-running craft shows in the country, but one of the best," said Stuver as she prepared for this week's Peek in the Closet. "A craft show simply does not last 40 years unless it has the highest quality to maintain its community support. And, like Ruth and Judy, Linda and I are also community-spirited and will maintain the tradition of giving."

Donna and Linda met when their kids were in kindergarten. "We signed up to chair a fund raising committee that was going to put on a craft show at Medina High School. It was so successful that crafters asked us if we were going to be doing any other shows. We thought about it and decided it would be a fun business for two stay at home moms to earn some money. That was 20 years ago and we're still organizing craft shows," said Donna.

Historically, Mrs. Claus' Closet has raised thousands of dollars to support many Westlake activities – even the Clague Park picnic pavilion! In recent years, the ALS Society benefitted in memory of Ruth's late husband and last year, \$27,000 was raised for The Gathering Place, a Westlake resource that assists women and their families battling cancer.

This year, the beneficiary is Wigs for Kids, a program that caught Donna's attention when she learned a child cancer patient in the Wigs for Kids program who listed "Attend Mrs. Claus' Closet" as her sickbed wish!

"There is an interesting connection between Mrs. Claus' Closet and Wigs for Kids, the charity that will benefit from our preview party, A Peek in the Closet, on Tuesday night," said Donna. "The organization was started by the family of a little girl who had lost her hair after chemo treatments for leukemia. The girl had gotten to the point where she wasn't going to have any more treatments and she only had two requests. One of them was to be able to attend Mrs. Claus' Closet with her family, as was their tradition. She was healthy enough to go and enjoyed it thoroughly."

A Peek in the Closet

At

Mrs. Claus' Closet
FINE ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW



The event affords a more relaxed shopping experience and your first choice of the amazing variety of the over 100 talented exhibitors. It features wine and cheese and live music.

"A Peek in the Closet," which is a special preview party to benefit Wigs for Kids, will be held on Tuesday, November 2 from 4 to 9 p.m. A portion of the proceeds from this event will go toward providing a custom made wig to a child who has suffered the embarrassment of losing his or her hair from chemotherapy, alopecia, burns or other maladies. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by emailing mrsclauscloset40@gmail.com or calling 330-421-5745.

Mrs. Claus' Closet will open to the public on Wednesday, November 3 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. More than 100 exhibitors of fine crafts will be offering unique handmade items. Refreshments will be available for purchase so shoppers can spend the day whittling away at their Christmas lists.

Mrs. Claus' Closet was started 40 years ago by Judy Burke and Ruth Hopkins. They decided to have a small craft show for family and friends in the basement of

Tuesday, November 2, 2010 • 4-9 p.m.

Wagner's Country Inn
30855 Center Ridge Road, Westlake

Judy's house. Over the 40 years, Mrs. Claus' Closet has grown to become one of the most respected craft shows in Ohio and across the nation. "A Peek in the Closet," the charity event preview party, has raised thousands of dollars to support local non profit organizations.

For more information on Mrs. Claus' Closet, visit www.mrsclauscloset.com.

About Wigs for Kids

Each year tens of thousands of children are diagnosed with medical conditions resulting in hair loss due to chemotherapy, radiation, alopecia, and burns to name a few. When children lose their hair, they transform physically as well as emotionally which affects their self-image and their self-esteem.

Since 1980, Wigs for Kids and founders Jeffrey and Zina Paul have made it their mission and ministry to provide complimentary hair replacement systems for children who have suffered hair loss due to these medical circumstances. They founded Wigs for Kids after their young niece experienced her own hair loss due to chemotherapy treatments for leukemia.

Mrs. Claus' Closet is participating in the Adopt-A-Kid program to provide the \$1,900 it costs to make a custom made wig for a child who can't afford it.



A Peek in the Closet...

Holiday shopping will be welcomed by the best craft persons and artists at Mrs. Claus' Closet. Meet a few on this and the following pages.

Chaz Letzkus Chazmania

Chaz began his unique style of drawing after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Economics (Go Panthers). After a brief stint at U.S. Steel as a cost analyst, he headed west to sunny Southern California. He ended up in Laguna Beach and worked at a resort while working on a children's book and his tan.

He moved up to Los Angeles to manage a multi-media theater for ABC Television called The Hollywood Experience. There he went to movie premieres, got to meet stars and thought he was cool. But he missed his family and his native Pittsburgh. Go Steelers, Go Pirates, Go Penguins, Go Panthers, Go Home. So he moved back to the 'Burgh.

He hadn't seen snow for six years so that first winter back, Chaz hid inside and drew. He settled down and worked for 12 years at Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. The amazing specimens at the Natural History Museum were a great influence along with the works at the Museum of Art and Andy Warhol Museum. The Omnimax films at the Science Center that were about nature were favorites. The Zoo, Phipps Conservatory and National Aviary also provided plenty of inspiration and nature in all it's glory.

So Chaz bought a tent and display panels and started doing some shows. And kept doing drawings. Hope you like them.



Michelle Rodgers Nature's Impressions

Michelle Rodgers went to Columbus College of Art and Design (CCAD) and earned her BFA in Fine Arts with a focus in ceramics. She also attended Baldwin-Wallace College for her Teaching License to teach K-12 Art. For the past three years she has been subbing for the Berea City Schools.

Michelle's work consists of ceramic leaves. She has been working with clay for the past seven years. She started doing the leaves as her Senior Thesis show at CCAD. She transformed the gallery space into a forest in the middle of February. Each leaf represents the many aspects of what is found in nature – from the minerals of the earth to the beautiful colors nature is drenched in. Michelle works with clay, which comes from the earth, and turns it back into a creation that represents the leaves of the trees found in nature. Each leaf is formed into a bowl, a platter, or an individual leaf. She likes to capture the essence of a leaf as well. Each leaf that she creates has the same light airy feel as a real leaf does. Michelle does this by keeping the clay thin. Each glaze represents the last phase of the leaf, which finds red-orange-yellow-brown, which is open to the autumn's falling sun, or the warmth of autumn in a single, turning of a leaf. She sees the leaves as her pathway in life.



Dollyn Doyle, Mache Originals

The only things Dollyn purchases to go with the carolers that is not hand made are the bikes, the park benches, the musical instruments and two electric style lampposts. She makes her own back drops and at one time her own electric lamppost but can no longer get the parts. The carolers are created on a bottle with a styrofoam ball for the head. Then with newspaper, Kleenex, fabric, and wallpaper paste she assembles the carolers. They are then painted white, then painted with colors, stained, touch-up and the faces are put on then they are varnished. This process takes about 5 weeks. The Santas, dogs, cats, snowmen, etc., are basically made of newspaper & Kleenex.

The Publisher is privileged to revise or reject any advertisement which is deemed objectionable, either in subject matter or phraseology, or opposed to public policy or the policy of the paper. The Publisher shall not be held responsible for typographical errors except to adjust the charge for the first insertion only, by a space credit (in excess of contract) to be used the following issue. Errors must be reported immediately and space credit will be limited to such portion of advertisement as may have been rendered valueless by the error. Please check your advertisement and in the event of error notify the paper. The Publisher will, upon request, furnish Advertiser with a letter so worded as to relieve the Advertiser from responsibility for the error. The Publisher does not assume responsibility for an error in an advertisement other than the above stated.

*Christmas in the Colonies
Presents*

**Christmas Around
the World**
The 31st Annual celebration of fine crafts

And

MEDINA COUNTY WOMEN'S ENDOWMENT FUND

Festival of Trees

Over 20 decorated trees for sale to benefit programs for women & children of Medina County.

November 26, 27, 28, 2010
Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Medina Community Center, Medina County Fairgrounds, 735 W. Lafayette Rd. (US 42)

Admission:
\$5/Adults-ages 13+; \$4/Seniors-ages 60+ \$2/ages 6-12; 5 & under—free
Visit our website for Sunday \$1 off coupon

•90 juried craftsmen •Two Stages of Entertainment
•Alpaca Exhibit •Delicious Food

VISIT SANTA'S WONDERLAND
•Photo with Santa- \$4 •Make an ornament- \$2

www.christmasinthecolonies.com

The Villager's arts & crafts highlights

A Villager Newspaper Publication

Publisher: Robert Tuneberg

26915 Westwood Rd., Suite A-1
Westlake, OH 44145

Phone: 440-899-9277
Fax: 440-899-1929

E-Mail: Villagerpaper@cs.com

This newspaper is in general circulation in Bay Village, Westlake, Rocky River, Avon Lake, Avon, Sheffield, North Ridgeville, Fairview Park, Lakewood & North Olmsted.

Send news items, classifieds, advertising and articles to:

THE VILLAGER NEWSPAPER

26915 Westwood Rd., Suite A-1, Westlake, Ohio 44145

Call for deadline of publication.

Opinions reflected in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the management.

©2010 The Villager. All rights reserved.

Pat Sarver Pat's Cross Stitch Exp. & More

Cross stitches framed items, appliqué towels, appliqué pillows, appliqué sweat shirts, appliqué barncoats, Christmas ornaments, appliqué pins, applique Christmas stockings, snowmen.



Russ Erickson, Erickson Studio

Russ Erickson hand casts his papers, sculpt in dyed pulp and then paint with mixed medium paints. His papers are made with cotton and silk.

Zenia Lis, Jewelry by Zenia

After spending fifteen years in corporate marketing and management with Fortune 100 companies like Colgate Palmolive and Eastman Kodak, Zenia Lis discovered jewelry making and design, where she found her true passion. She has been creating and selling her beautiful one-of-a-kind jewelry" for nearly ten years.

The artist/designer may have left Cuba as a child but the beauty in the beaches from her native country has continued to influence her color palettes. Zenia takes inspiration from her love for nature and exposure to art as a child.

Zenia creates one of a kind silver pieces using the lost wax process. The process starts with hand selecting unusual and beautiful gemstones. She then sketches her design that best complements the stones at hand and carves sheet Wax. After casting in sterling silver, Zenia fabricates bezels for her one of a kind pieces, hand sets stones and polishes each piece to the desired texture. Some pieces are combined with other gemstones and strung or accented with silver chain for an artful creation.

Zenia's jewelry is recognized among her fan base for the unusual yet beautiful mix of gemstones and the high level of detail as she combines shapes, textures and colors to achieve a stunning creation. Her jewelry is feminine, tailored and always deserving of a compliment.

Zenia holds a BA from the University of South Florida and MBA from Mercer University, Atlanta, GA. She lives in Ohio with her husband, son and daughter. Zenia has trained in metalsmithing at Cleveland's Tap studios for the past three years and the globally recognized Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts in California.



Cindy McGuire, China Cupboard

Cindy started collecting dolls in 1983 and the china heads became her favorites quickly. They were not expensive and she enjoyed the home made like qualities. Fix-er-upers became her specialty and she developed a small business refurbishing other collectors dolls and redressing them. Cindy's collection quickly outgrew her home and she started to do doll shows. Unfortunately she ran out of antiques after a few years and started to make dolls and bears to fill the spaces on her sales tables. The dolls never seemed to have the panache the bears did and soon the stores were calling her.

The business has grown over the years to become a cottage industry and a full time career. It enables Cindy to do all of the design work, faces and embellishing. She has shipped bears to various areas of the world including Australia, Singapore, Germany, Canada, and Japan. Her schedule includes about twenty shows a year, held throughout the United States. She also advertises in major Bear magazines.

Cindy has a degree in Fashion Design from the "Fashion Institute of Technology", located in New York City. She worked on Broadway as a bridal buyer and free lanced in bridal design. For sixteen years she worked in the floral industry as a designer and buyer. Her home life includes a very supportive biology teacher husband, four children ranging in age from twenty to six. They also house four cats, three dogs, two turtles, and two old world chameleons, as well as anything else that comes along.



Joyce Forristell, CBPN-IC, Certified Breast Health Coordinator

St. John Medical Center Adds Digital Mammography

Women who undergo routine mammograms at St. John Medical Center (SJMC) will now have the latest diagnostic technology available to them.

St. John Medical Center is one of the first sites in Northeast Ohio to offer breast cancer screening with a Selenia Dimensions 2D full field digital mammography system. Selenia Dimensions is the latest generation of mammography equipment from Hologic, a women's healthcare company.

"I am excited that St. John Medical Center has chosen to purchase two of these state-of-the-art digital mammography machines for our community," says Robert Konstan, MD, SJMC Medical Director of Radiology. "They will help us push the boundaries of imaging technology, giving us greater power to detect subtle breast tissue changes, and ultimately enhance our ability to detect breast cancer early."

The Selenia Dimensions 2D system offers incredibly sharp images of the breast, an advanced ergonomic design that automatically conforms to the natural contour of the breast providing greater patient comfort, more even compression across the entire breast, and a flexible platform, designed to support advanced mammography applications.

"Digital mammography differs from conventional mammography in how the image of the breast is available and viewed," says Amy Sharp, RT,

manager of the Radiology Department of St. John Medical Center.

With digital mammography the radiologist can magnify the images, increase or decrease the contrast and invert the black-and-white values while reading the images. These features make it easier for the radiologist to evaluate and focus on even the smallest areas of concern.

"Digital mammography is revolutionizing the practice of mammography through its ability to yield high quality images at low radiation dose," says Sharp.

Digital mammography uses traditional x-ray generators and tubes to produce an x-ray beam just like conventional film mammography. The difference is Selenia Dimensions 2D uses a direct conversion detector, eliminating the need to convert x-rays to light. The result is exceptionally sharp digital images that allow you to visualize the finest details. The digital image is available immediately resulting in shorter exam time, easier storage and retrieval, fewer repeats and the ability to transmit images over the network for remote consultation.

For more information on breast health services at St. John Medical Center, go to www.stjohnmedicalcenter.net, or call Joyce Forristell, CBPN-IC, Certified Breast Health Coordinator, at 440-827-5459.

ST. JOHN MEDICAL CENTER

A CATHOLIC HOSPITAL



WWW.STJOHNMEDICALCENTER.NET

JoAnne Gabriel, Petals at Ivy Hill

JoAnne has been a professional floral designer for thirty years and owned a retail floral design and home accessory shop in Chagrin Falls for 13 years. She is a "seasoned" vendor at upscale shows and was a promoter of a successful holiday boutique in Chagrin Falls for twenty years. She enjoys a reputation of creating totally exceptional florals and has a faithful following at Mrs. Claus' Closet.



Jill Wieder, Purlygirl Knits

"One cold winter day I walked into a knitting store just to have a look. I hadn't picked up a set of knitting needles since I was a child and had no idea what to expect. The yarns were exquisite. The rich colors and luscious textures captivated me and I was hooked. I haven't stopped knitting since that February day when my passion was born of curiosity," said Jill Wieder.

Hand knit and hip, Jill Wieder designs and creates one-of-a-kind hats, scarves, gloves and headbands. Incorporating up to 20 different fibers in one piece, much of her work is also embellished with any combination of hand knitted and felted flowers, antique buttons and vintage jewelry. The creative process begins by choosing a unique ball of yarn and adding to it until there is a balanced blend of color and texture. Often a piece is designed as it is knitted... she takes pleasure in watching the piece develop, bringing in the various colors, textures and techniques.

Jill's artful pursuits are integral to who she is and provide her with much joy in the process. In the course of her professional life, she has curated and judged art shows in various media. Additionally, she has owned a retail shop where she served as buyer, visual merchandiser and purveyor. She studied graphic design at Carnegie-Mellon University and continue to pursue a career in that field. Jill lives with her husband of 27 years, their eleven-year-old son and their dog, Libby."



*See You
at the
Closet!*

You're invited to
A Peek in the Closet

At

Mrs. Claus' Closet
FINE ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW



A wine and cheese preview party to benefit



WIGS FOR KIDS

Helping Children Look Themselves

Tuesday, November 2, 2010 • 4 to 9 p.m.

Wagner's Country Inn

30855 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, Ohio

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by emailing
mrsclauscloset40@gmail.com or calling 330-421-5745.

About Wigs for Kids

Each year tens of thousands of children are diagnosed with medical conditions resulting in hair loss due to chemotherapy, radiation, alopecia, and burns to name a few. When children lose their hair, they transform physically as well as emotionally which affects their self-image and their self-esteem.

Since 1980, Wigs for Kids and founders Jeffrey and Zina Paul have made it their mission and ministry to provide complimentary hair replacement systems for children who have suffered hair loss due to these medical circumstances. They founded Wigs for Kids after their young niece experienced her own hair loss due to chemotherapy treatments for leukemia.

Mrs. Claus' Closet is participating in the Adopt-A-Kid program to provide the \$1,900 it costs to make a custom made wig for a child who can't afford it.



Mrs. Claus' Closet

40th Annual Celebration of Fine Crafts

Opens to the Public—Wednesday, November 3

10 am to 9 pm

Wagner's Country Inn • 30855 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, Ohio