

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS NEWSLETTER

CHECK OUT THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT THE ARC ONTARIO!



Introducing Our New Person-Centered Supports Manager, Mary Ellen Jesmer

Hello there! I am new to The Arc Ontario and delighted to be here. Part of my role is to oversee the Creative Expressions Group. My background is in education with additional experience working in healthcare. Those experiences were a wonderful way to prepare me for this new role. Creative Expressions has three wonderful instructors: Claudia Cohen, art specialist; Nathan Merrill, music specialist, provides music classes and works with our band, The Dapper Rats; and Chris Ellison, horticulture specialist, provides opportunities for individuals to be part of our greenhouse experience. Since my arrival in May, I have been able to observe classes where individuals are encouraged to sing, dance and play instruments. They are provided with a vast genre of music and get the chance to join in a way that works for them. I have observed planting in our green house, growing and nurturing our flowers as well as selling plants to community members interested in trying out their own green thumb. The Creative Expressions group incorporates the agency value words innovation, integrity, respect, teamwork, quality and commitment when working together, with colleagues and all of the individuals that participate in the classes.



The Arc Ontario's Own Rock & Roll Band!

The DAPPER RATS performed at Cruisin' for a Cause on August 17 and at Birdhouse Brewing in Honeoye on September 1st. Members of the band include people who receive services at The Arc Ontario, including Peter Luna and Nic Damon. The band rehearses weekly at the Eberhardt Center and has many upcoming shows planned.

Art Sale Ceremony Held for Our Creative Expressions Artists

On June 23rd, we handed out checks to all the artists who sold their work at this year's Wine Mixer fundraiser at the NY kitchen in Canandaigua. We had live music and a dance party broke out! We also honored the members of THE DAPPER RATS band who played their first paying gig at a Rotary Event on May 6th. The band performed for an hour at the circus themed event.

Claudia Shares What is Happening in Art...

Our artists continue to make great strides in the area of painting. They are learning about new strategies and then applying them to their painting. They are all working so hard and are so pleased with their products. We will celebrate their work in several ways.

Our group has contributed their art work to the ARC NYS digital art competition. In the Creative Expressions group this included 28 of our artists. Birdhouse Brewery in Bloomfield invited our artists to submit 20 pieces of art to display on Friday, September 1, 2023. Dove Block will hold its Signature Show with 60 pieces of artwork created by our artists. Our Annual holiday card project is our last big event of the year for our artists. In January Creative Expressions will be holding an open house to showcase our musicians, horticulture experts and artists as we celebrate the hard work and growth that all of the people we support have made this half of the year.

Jackie's Pick of the Month!



By SANDRA S. -- In our study of Panda Bears we learned about the colors black & white and how often they are neither black nor white, but rather a reflection off the many colors that make up their shadows. Each artist was given a reference photo of a panda bear and was asked to study the black and white areas to see what colors they saw there. Sandra saw a lot of yellow and was inspired to create this beautiful panda bear in watercolor.

Upcoming Events

We are looking forward to a busy fall where we will be preparing for more art shows, several opportunities to get out and see our Dapper Rats, and making wreaths, ornaments and holiday cards. Also coming soon to a performance near you will be the opportunity to support our band by purchasing Dapper Rats t-shirts! Stay tuned!

Horticulture Corner with Chris Ellison

We've been busy at the Greenhouse, planting the plants we started from seeds in the spring and starting new flower beds for our cut flower project. We still have more plants to plant outside and hope to begin work on the Courtyard at Eberhardt soon. I'm really excited of the development of the Sycamore Trees we started from seed, they are almost 22 inches tall in just 7 months, hard to believe.



Agency Holds Staff Appreciation Picnic

On July 14th, we hosted a staff appreciation picnic for employees at the Eberhardt Center. Money for the picnic was donated by Judy Forte; member of our Silver Connections program. Judy sold a piece of her original art at our Wine Mixer fundraiser, and was kind enough to donate it towards a staff appreciation picnic. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a blast!