

Stone Belt

Lifelong Learning Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2011

This newsletter is produced and distributed by a committee of Stone Belt clients and staff. Please send comments, calendar events, story ideas, and requests to receive this newsletter electronically to LLnewsletter10@stonebelt.org.
November Newsletter Committee: Jeff B, Sarah F, Brandon K, Julie, Richelle, Tina, Adrienne Proppom, and Shawna Arnesen.

Stone Belt partners with BPP



Photo by Jeff B.

October 7th marked the opening of the new Stone Belt Art Gallery at the Bloomington Playwrights Project. A catered event, with entertainment by a string trio, the opening reception was well

attended by the Stone Belt community and patrons of the Stone Belt Arts Program. Many of the artists were on hand to talk about their work, and new relationships were sparked as playgoers entered the lobby toward the end of the event. All in all, it was a huge success with over twenty works of art sold by the end of the night.

The exhibit is a collection of mixed media mosaics, with pieces by various artists including Tasia, Kelly, Kimmi, and Ann. When asked how it felt to sell a piece of her art, Ann said "it makes me feel good to know that I sold it." Ann plans to save her art commission for "something special" like horseback riding lessons at PALS. The current show is just the first of many exhibits to hold residence in this amazing location. The next installation will open on December 2nd. Be on the lookout for more details about the event. In the meantime, be sure to stop by the Bloomington Playwrights Project Theater (107 W. 9th Street) to see the current display. The gallery is open to the public weekdays from 10am to 4pm and the first Friday of every month from 5pm to 8pm.

Spotlight on volunteerism



Photo by Jeff B.

When asked if interested in helping the Office of the Monroe County Prosecutor, Chris Gaal, start a recycling initiative at the Justice Building, Denise didn't think twice before answering with an enthusiastic "Yeah!"

Since then, once a week Denise has been sorting and bagging recyclables in the staff kitchen and hauling them in her cart, affectionately known as "Ben", down to the refuse area where they will be picked up and sent to a recycling center. When asked why she likes recycling, Denise said she likes "helping people throw away their trash... if we didn't recycle there would be trash all over the place." She takes pride in knowing she is "helping the flowers and trees" and enjoys showing staff the work that she does.

Lara Weaver, who spearheaded the recycling campaign at the Justice Building, describes Denise as an exceptional and dedicated volunteer who "brightens the day for those with whom she interacts... Denise makes it possible for our office to have a recycling program. Because of her volunteerism, we have diverted many pounds of recycling from the landfill." A goal of the initiative is to encourage recycling throughout the Justice Building. Denise looks forward to expanding her efforts to include more offices and to saving more trees.

Client Council to be established



Keeping with the time honored tradition of November elections, the Monroe County Lifelong Learning program is gearing up to elect a Client Council this fall. Individuals interested in running for office will begin meeting Friday mornings with instructor Beth Barnett to start planning their campaign.

Photo by Brandon K

Elected council positions will include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, and Photo Historian. Speeches are slated for later in the month and clients will be casting their ballots on November 30th.

The overall goal of the Council will be to provide Lifelong Learning clients with an opportunity to have their say and help make decision about activities and programs. Once elected, Council members will attend a weekly meeting, where they will be expected to represent the ideas and interests of their peers. An additional goal of the Council will be to work on projects that help the community. Individuals interested in running for Client Council should let staff know and plan to attend the first campaign meeting in Room 1 on November the 4th.

Dress the part

As the leaves change color and temperatures get cooler, it is time to say goodbye to long days full of warm sunshine and to our warm, summer clothing, such as shorts, tank tops, and sandals. Cooler weather invites you to challenge your inner fashion-ista. Work on putting together warm, comfortable layers to protect you from the morning chill, breeze, and dare we say snow. Still a little unsure of what to wear? Try working with family and staff to put together a list of items that will help you stay warm and dry and enjoy the wonders of autumn and winter.

As Newsletter Committee member Sarah demonstrates, be sure your list includes winter essentials like a warm coat, hat, gloves, and scarf.



Photo by Brandon K.

Say Hello to...

Matt & Catherine

The Monroe County Lifelong Learning Program is happy to welcome back two returning clients.



Photo by Jeff B.

Catherine attends afternoons in the Mosaic Lighthouse (Room 100). She enjoys getting her nails painted in nail care class, spending time with friends, and physical comedy. She loves when people stop to say hello.

Matt rejoins the program after participating in work services. He attends art on Monday and Friday and joins the community volunteer group one afternoon a week. The rest of the week he can be found helping out and having fun in Room 100. Newsletter Committee member Brandon K. recently sat down with Matt and here's what he learned...

Favorite Music: Rap

Favorite Drink: Root Beer

Favorite Snack: Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

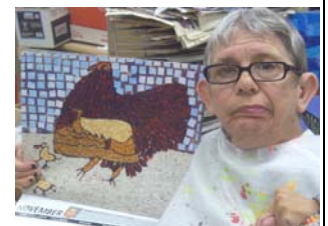
Favorite Sport: Basketball

When you see Matt and Catherine in the halls or in the classroom be sure to say hello and make them feel welcome.

Stone Belt 2012 art calendars have arrived!

The 2012 Stone Belt Art Calendar is here, hot off the press. This gorgeous wall calendar features 13 glossy images created by 12 of our talented client artists: Carolyn, Betsy, Claudia, Tom M., Pat, Sarah, Denise, Kelly, Polly, Sandy, Tasia, and Kimmi. The calendar also features all of the disability community holidays. Each of the images is accompanied by a photo and bio statement about the artist.

The calendars are now on sale for \$15 + tax (\$16.05 total) at 10th Street and at our Stone Belt Art Gallery downtown. These calendars make great holiday gifts for friends and family. Congratulations to the gifted artists featured in this year's calendar.



Sandy with her November's feature "Mamma and her Chicks"

NOVEMBER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 YOGA 1:30-2:30 COSTUME DANCE 6:30-8:30	4 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-11 COOKING 1-3	5
6	7 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	8 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	9 DANCE 10:30- 11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3	10 YOGA 1:30-2:30	11 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-11 COOKING 1-3	12
13	14 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	15 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	16 DANCE 10:30- 11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3	17 YOGA 1:30-2:30	18 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-11 COOKING 1-3	19
20	21 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	22 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	23 DANCE 10:30- 11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3	24 THANKSGIVING (CLOSED)	25 THANKSGIVING (CLOSED)	26
27	28 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	29 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	30 ELECTION DAY DANCE 10:30- 11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3			

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS (DAY PROGRAM CLOSED)		<h3>COSTUME DANCE PARTY</h3> <p>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3</p> <p>6:30-8:30 PM</p> <p>STONE BELT 10TH ST. GYM</p> <p>THIS FREE EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL CLIENTS, STAFF, AND FAMILY MEMBERS AND WILL BE HOSTED BY THE MEN OF PI KAPPA PHI FRATERNITY, WHO ARE GENEROUSLY PROVIDING ALL DECORATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND REFRESHMENTS.</p>	
11/24 & 11/25	Thanksgiving		
12/23 & 12/26	Christmas		
1/2/2012	New Year's Day		