

SOCIETY

Ideas, shapes and sizes take form at Wayne Art Center

By Joan Bang
For Digital First Media

RADNOR » While downtown Philadelphia and its environs has a wealth of art museums, schools that teach the subject and patrons dedicated to either procuring more works to view or making sure that what's already established is fully safeguarded, there's a place along the Main Line that's just as well established and cared

for. It's named the Wayne Art Center (WAC) and has been around since the Great Depression hit the USA.

Though it arose through humble beginnings, it sure has grown since then — in more ways than one.

Now housed in a tucked away spot off of Maplewood Avenue right beside the Radnor Trail (with easy on/off access for walkers to pop in and see an exhibit), WAC has be-

come a "jack-of-all trades" for those who want to experience the satisfaction that comes from viewing not only what others are producing in art forms but also what they could be indulging in as well.

What's intriguing about WAC is that it isn't just about paintings that hang on walls but the myriad of ways in which to express one's visual creativity. From ceramics to clothing and paintings to pot-

tery, this center has it all.

Another aspect that's appealing to those who frequent the establishment is its top-notch kitchen center where anyone from kiddies to grannies can come and immerse themselves in learning how to update their culinary cuisine talents.

For several years, the center has held a winter "wonderland" of creativity titled CraftForms. Artisans from around the

country, along with a few

from other parts of the globe, arrive to show their unique pieces of art made out of glass, wood, iron, metals and fabrics. Also on display and "ripe for the picking" when it comes to holiday gifts are precious and semi-precious pieces of jewelry.

The 24th annual CraftForms runs through Jan. 26, featuring 109 works in ceramic, wood, fiber, metal, glass, mixed media

and 3D printing.

A preview party was held Dec. 7, with guests enjoying heavy hors d'oeuvres, martinis, live entertainment and a silent auction.

As winter wends its way to spring, WAC ramps up its initiatives with classes and workshops that can drive away the "blues," giving the "greens" of spring and the Plein Air Festival more thoughts.



PHOTOS BY JOAN BANG — FOR DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

Wayne Arts Center's executive director, Nancy Campbell, receives rave reviews on the show from Don and Nancy Weaver, of Malvern.



Ryan Becker finds a seat beside event sponsor Allstate's representative, Rachel Gerrity, of Wayne.



Perry Price, of Houston, Texas, gets a pat on the back for his craftwork from Alan McIlvain, of Villanova.



Villanova friends Maureen McAleer and Beth Coppola stop by to raise a toast to inveterate WAC supporter Kathleen McCoy, of Gladwyne, and her daughter, A. Kip. Bowman.



Craft Forms artisan Liz Alpert Fay and spouse Steve take stroll through the Wayne Arts Center's boutique shop.



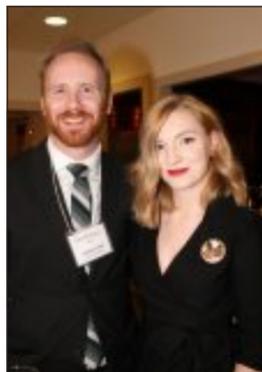
Wayne Art Center's Abby Laible and John Radford, of Berwyn, stop to admire an intricate ice carving in the center's dining and cooking area.



Michael Pones, of Maryland, encounters WAC staff member Louise Dusingberre, of Devon, as they peruse an unusually crafted item.



Wayne Arts Center development associate Anne Schmitt stops to speak with Shannondale residents Jane Wright and Frank Bernard.



Exhibiting artisan Matthew Cote, of Philadelphia, and companion Tawnie Hinkle are awed by the Wayne Art Center's unusual array of craft forms.



Judy Mesirov, of Lafayette Hill, came to see the annual craft show with her Penn Valley friends, Louisa O'Neal and Emmett Miller, and the Smiths of Center City, Ed and Barbara.



Wayne resident Bob Thomason stops to speak with Wayne Hotel's David Brennan, Deanna Doane and Kitty McQuaid, of Villanova.

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