

SAFE
HARBORS
OF THE HUDSON

HOUSING • ARTS • COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER

Transforming lives and building community through housing and the arts

2019/2020

Safe Harbors First Annual Newburgh Literary Festival

Debut of New logo

Ritz Theater Gets a New Roof



Photo by B. Wolfe Photography

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A Message from Executive Director, Lisa Silverstone



Over the past several years, our staff and board have considered and reconsidered Safe Harbors' logo ... how do we capture all we do in a single image ... how do we express the arts, the housing, the community building and the growth? A logo should be bold and strong. It should convey something without having to spell it out, like a good interpretive dance or impressionist painting ... it doesn't have to be literal, but it has to be expressive.

We are pleased to launch our new logo, which is making its debut on the cover of this publication. The new design is an interpretation on the original, a roof over a home - a home for people, a home for the arts and a home for community gathering.

But take another look at that roof and you will see a road going toward a point in the distance; a road we are travelling together toward a stronger Newburgh with affordable housing for all our neighbors; toward accessible and exciting arts; toward economic development and downtown revitalization. We are boldly going down that road and hope you will join us and support us on the journey as together *we transform lives and build community through housing and the arts.*

Newburgh Literary Festival (Poet Gold on cover)

Safe Harbors celebrated the written word with its first annual Newburgh Literary Festival October 18-20. The event kicked off Friday at Atlas Studios with the Spring Street Reading Series, programmed by Beacon poet Ruth Danon. Saturday's event was a lively program of interviews, readings, podcasts, film and Q&A with an impressive array of acclaimed local and regional authors. A meet and greet cocktail reception and Local Authors Fair Saturday evening gave guests and authors the chance to mingle over delicious fare from The Downing Park Shelter House. The literary weekend continued Sunday with two writers' workshops with authors Danielle Trussoni and Ruth Danon. A huge thank you to Literary Festival co-chairs Danielle Trussoni, who programmed Saturday's lineup; and Dr. Hannah Brooks who conceived the idea and shepherded it through; to our community partners Atlas Studios, the Newburgh Free Library and Thornwillow Institute and to the many generous sponsors who made the event possible. We're already looking forward to next year!



Safe Harbors Green – Doing its part to prevent global warming

In 2015, when Safe Harbors purchased the half acre vacant lot adjacent to our building, our goal was to create a beautiful, accessible park for performances, markets, art and community gathering. When we engaged landscape designer Bryan Quinn of One Nature, we got a lot more! Bryan brought his own ecological philosophy to the project and inspired Safe Harbors to take on the loftier goal of creating not only a beautiful park, but also a sustainable ecosystem. Installing rain water gardens and bio-swales ensures storm water stays on the park rather than flowing into Newburgh's overtaxed sewer system. Solar lights keep Safe Harbors Green reliant on renewable energy and off the grid; and native plants on the park ensure a habitat that is vital to preserving biodiversity. A native plant garden, like Safe Harbors Green, consists of plants that occur naturally in the region and attract the local insects that have co-evolved alongside them. The native plants and insects depend on each other for survival and the local bird populations, in turn, depend on the insects for their survival.

Landscaping choices have an impact - native plant gardens help combat climate change; they are effective at storing the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and because they are adapted to the local environment they thrive with far less water and no fertilizers.

So, when you are enjoying the Green or wondering why certain plants were selected over others, please know that a lot of thought and consideration went into creating the most beneficial space for the city and the Earth! Safe Harbors is proud to be part of the solution!

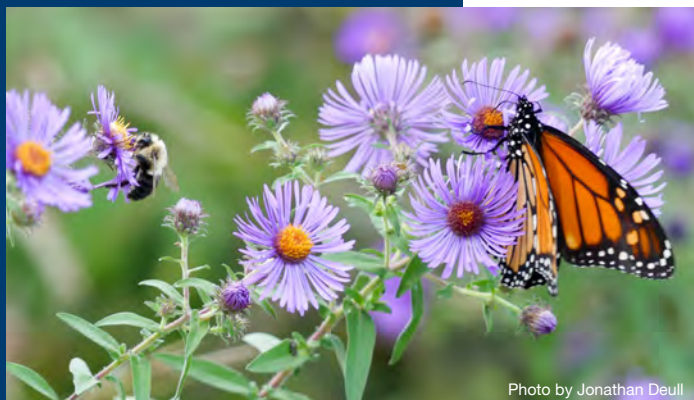


Photo by Jonathan Deull

Annual Gala - Celebrating Community

Honoring Theresa Brown and Mid-Hudson Times

Safe Harbors Green welcomed supporters on September 19 as we celebrated the Newburgh community and the people who make all we do possible! We were proud to honor Newburgh Champion, Theresa Brown and Corporate Good Neighbor, Mid-Hudson Times as our 2019 Cornerstones of the Community. We are grateful to our Cornerstones for their generous support and for their commitment to our community. Guests enjoyed special performances by Newburgh Enlarged City School District students in Drumline, Dance and Theater.

We thank our sponsors, donors and attendees for their support.



Lisa Silverstone presents the Cornerstone of the Community Awards to the 2019 Honorees - Corporate Good Neighbor, Mid-Hudson Times, received by Carl Aiello (top); and Newburgh Champion, Theresa Brown (bottom).



The Disco Ball

Shake, Shake, Shake! Newburgh LOVES to Dance! Safe Harbors Disco Ball brought out the Tony Manero in all of us! Who can resist the allure of the shiny, mirrored orb!! Ball goers enjoyed live music, dance lessons, desserts and drinks during this lively fundraiser! Watch for more dance nights to come!



Student Writing Award

NFA graduate and current SUNY New Paltz freshman, Steven Baltsas, was named the first recipient of the Newburgh Literary Festival Student Writing Award for his piece, *The Tower*, which appeared in the 2019 edition of *Colonnade*, the Newburgh Free Academy's literary arts magazine. The award, sponsored by Hudson Valley Cancer Genetics, included a spot in a six-week memoir writing workshop.



Celebrating International Day of Happiness!

Safe Harbors celebrated annual International Day of Happiness with free activities, food and fun for all ages. Many thanks to Allison Cappella for bringing this fun, community event to our community. Save the date for next year - March 20, 2020!



NECSD Art Show

Student artists, friends and families were welcomed to the Lobby at the Ritz for the opening reception and exhibition of the annual Newburgh Enlarged City School District Art Show.



visit our website at www.safe-harbors.org

Tito Puente, Jr. Returns to the Green Room

Tito Puente, Jr. and his Latin Jazz Ensemble had the crowd dancing all night at his encore performance in the Green Room. Save the date for his next concert, Saturday, May 9, 2020.



Volunteer Appreciation

Safe Harbors recognized the invaluable contribution of our volunteers of the year, Rosemarie Dicesare and our Salsa Committee members (Sergio Valentin, Rene Campos, Roger Acevedo, Yudy Gomez, Theresa Brown, Maritza Calderon-Cabellero and Jimmy Mera); and the endless generosity of our in-kind donor Dave McMillen, at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. For more information about volunteering, contact jtraugot@safe-harbors.org.



Farmers Market on the Green

Safe Harbors Green was the home to Common Ground's Newburgh Farmers Market, where community members could shop for local, fresh produce, meats and flowers each Saturday.



A run-down of Safe Harbors Annual Events

These are a few of our favorite things ...

Cupcake-a-Palooza



Bells on Broadway Holiday Market



Community Clean Up



Off Broadway 5K



Photo by B. Wolfe Photography



News and Noteworthy at The Cornerstone

Cornerstone Education - Thanks to our partner SUNY Orange, the Cornerstone GED program is entering its 13th year and our college prep course continues to prepare its students for the next phase in their education. We are pleased to partner with the Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union which will be teaching a series of financial literacy classes to our Cornerstone residents.

Entrepreneurship - The Cornerstone Collective is going strong! With support from Tenant Services, members of the Cornerstone community are successfully selling their work at local fairs, festivals and events. Jewelry classes are in the works as well.

Stand up and be counted! Safe Harbors encourages our residents to vote, to get involved and stay informed on the issues that affect their lives and their community. Safe Harbors hosted the Hudson Valley Civic Engagement which informs people about the importance of the upcoming Census 2020; helps them register to vote; and keeps them aware of local political issue. Several Cornerstone residents will be working for the Census.

Volunteerism and Employment - Community volunteerism is at an all-time high. Vocationally, more tenants are working as well. Notably, one resident, with BA in TV and Film Production, is an intern with a local film festival and working with local filmmakers.

Health and Wellness - Cornerstone Fitness, which includes Zumba, Open Movement dance, Qigong and Tai Chi, continues to thrive. The Cornerstone Walking Club now has a route that winds them through our building so they can keep moving during inclement weather. Flu shots were offered and a pneumonia shot clinic is coming soon!

Outings, Experiences and Events - The Cornerstone Community continues to flourish with a variety of events, activities and access to the arts. Residents enjoyed a trip to see Gloria Estefan's "Get on Your Feet" at the Westchester Broadway Theater and the NY Botanical Gardens orchid show. Several tenants also participated in *Humanitee Tales*, a dramatic telling of personal stories of a diverse group of Newburgh residents.

Safe Harbors Green is the scene where music, dance, art, markets and flying lessons occur throughout the year! Tenants got to soar through the air on a trapeze during Safe Harbors Circus on the Green; celebrate the 50th anniversary of Woodstock with live music; enjoy community barbecues and movie nights; participate in Community Building Circles; and shop local at the Newburgh Farmers Market.

Resident Spotlight

Jamar-EI Ferguson is an Army Veteran, Artist and Cornerstone Resident. He moved to the Cornerstone in 2016. According to him, "Safe Harbors has provided the ideal environment to refocus my mind and recharge my life. The groups, events and support resources have been excellent. During my time here, I have gained a renewed positive spirit on culture and community."

He is a native of Westchester, has been practicing martial arts since he was 12. He performed as a hip-hop musician before studying theater at SUNY Farmingdale, where he toured with their National Performing Group. The arts have always been in his blood!

Jamar-EI describes himself as a self-motivated visionary, inspired by culture and people. He attended our Production 101 class, learning to use light and sound for stage production. An avid reader and writer, he is a member of the Vet2Vet Veterans Program - Warrior Writers group. He participates in yoga and Tai Chi classes as part of Cornerstone Fitness and also volunteers around the Cornerstone.

Recently Jamar-EI was one of eight actors in this year's original production *Humanitee Tales*, in the Lobby at the Ritz. In August, he appeared in several plays in Paul Ellis's *Ten-Minute-Play Festival* at Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center. He also attends the College Prep class that's part of the Cornerstone GED program to ready himself to re-enter college.

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An Exceptional Year in the Ann Street Gallery

It is hard to believe that the end of another year is fast approaching. Holidays are on the horizon and cooler days have us cranking up the heat; nights hunkering down under a cozy blanket. Unfortunately, like other species of mammals, we humans do not share the ability to hibernate throughout the winter season and awake renewed in spring. However, we do share a great deal more with the Animalia Kingdom than we care to admit, which is the theme of our last exhibition of the year.

Through the works of twenty-seven contemporary artists, the *ANIMALIA* exhibition provides an alluring look into each artist's perspective on the intricate human-animal relationship, through a variety of media and motifs. The exhibit also affords visitors an occasion to reflect on our contemporary attitudes towards this entangled human-animal bond,

as well as, being an opportunity to renew our appreciation for the world of animality, our interconnectedness and shared existence on Earth.



Early in 2019, the gallery season started off with a compelling Panel Discussion of selected artists from the previous year's veteran exhibition - *Forget Me Not*. This panel of six artists discussed their individual creative processes; the inspiration behind the development of their artistic concepts and their military/war experiences.

On a more heart-warming note, our first exhibition, *Home Sweet Home*, opened on January 26th and was a resounding success. This exhibition explored the theme of domesticity and presented various perspectives on the domestication of the contemporary home. Topics covered in this exhibition considered not only traditional codes of domesticity, but alternative narratives and gender roles.



In early April, the gallery offered an unparalleled opportunity for visitors to make a personal connection with the renowned Newburgh based artist - Julie Tremblay - and her work. *JULIE TREMBLAY: UNPACKED* was a retrospective survey of the artist's two-dimensional and three-dimensional works organized to take the viewer on a journey through her prolific career over two decades. Nearly every type of work Tremblay had made to date, in both technique and subject matter, were represented in the exhibit. In conjunction with the retrospective, Tremblay gave a gallery talk which enthralled her audience as she brilliantly articulated the trajectory and inspirational influencers behind various bodies of her work: the human form, fractal geometry, chaos theory, mathematics and the natural sciences.



No doubt, Tremblay's solo show was a hard act to follow, however, our *MARK MAKERS* group exhibition turned out to be a stunner. This exhibition examined the practice of drawing as an instinctive mode of creative expression, showcasing a plethora of practices and approaches to drawing from the classical traditions to the more experimental styles.

In the summer month of August, the local neighborhood was once again brought together for a hands-on, collaborative, circus themed *Community Paint-In* here at the gallery. This event is always free, open to the public of all ages and guaranteed a good time! (see photos below)

Our fourth exhibition of the year, *TEXT*, also opened in August and was curated in conjunction with the Safe Harbors Newburgh Literary Festival. This exhibition explored the relationship between visual imagery and wordplay in the practice of artists who integrate a text aesthetic into their work. As a group, these contemporary artists demonstrated innovative and clever methods to enhance the central messaging of their work by engaging in semiotic word play that created narratives often associated with literature.

Would you like to learn more about Safe Harbors Ann Street Gallery and our programming? Please join us by liking our Facebook page or sign on to our mailing list for future notifications concerning our events. If you haven't done so before, you might want to visit the Safe Harbors Ann Street Gallery website and Instagram pages to view our past exhibitions and events.

Gallery Hours:

Wednesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
and 1:30 - 4 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Last Saturdays: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

We look forward to five new exhibitions in 2020!



Photo by B. Wolfe Photography



Students from The Storm King School visiting the *TEXT* exhibit.

Community Paint-In — A Hands-On, Collaborative, Community Event

The Ann Street Gallery drew hundreds of community members to the gallery at its annual Community Paint-In. This unique event harnesses the creative talents of our community members in creating beautiful, collaborative works of art! Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers and event sponsors Rhinebeck Bank, Stewart's Shops and M&T Bank.





The Arts Cannot Be Contained!

Some highlights from a full season of programming

As Safe Harbors performing arts programming expands, it is spilling out of the building and onto the Green.

Salsa Under the Stars continues to be a community favorite, gathering hundreds of neighbors with live music, dancing and food and lighting up the corner of Broadway and Liberty Street.

A 50th anniversary *Woodstock Tribute Concert* had crowds grooving out to the sounds of the 60's; and in keeping with the tradition of that iconic music festival, we kept right on dancing even after the skies opened up!



Photo by B. Wolfe Photography

Under the roof, we welcomed Russell Ger, Musical Director and Conductor of the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra, who demystified the role of the maestro with his engaging and lively multi-media presentation.

James Phillips, Associate Professor of Theater at Mount Saint Mary College, presented a moving performance of *Every Brilliant Thing*, a one-character show which explores issues of depression and suicide with tenderness, poignancy and, yes, humor.

BrewHAHA brought some levity to the stage with the Irish music and comedic story-telling of sister/brother duo Lisa and John McKenna.



Photo by Nancy Layne



Humanitee Tales

"Ordinary people with extraordinary tales" – this unique show, conceived and directed by Karen Gersch, wove together the dramatic telling of personal stories of a diverse group of Newburgh residents while finding commonality among them. Presented in three community performances, Humanitee Tales was a powerful experience for the actors and their audiences.



visit our website at www.safe-harbors.org



Ritz Kidz Summer Circus Program

The Ritz Kidz Summer Circus Arts Program continues to awe and amaze! Now in its third year, Circus on the Green, engaged over 20 area students between the ages of 12 and 16. Working alongside a professional coaching team they gained circus arts skills, confidence, self-reliance and developed team work while juggling, miming, clowning, tight rope walking and flying

high on a trapeze! The culminating community performance entertained a crowd of over 400 friends, neighbors and family members. The Trapeze Workshops were open to our community two weeks prior to the program offering a unique opportunity and fundraising effort in support of the circus program, which is free for our young students. For sponsorship opportunities for 2020, email info@safe-harbors.org.



Photos by B. Wolfe Photography



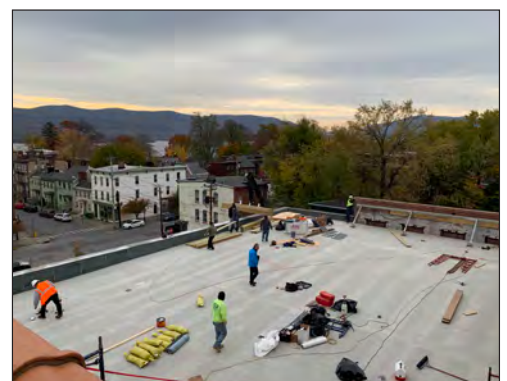
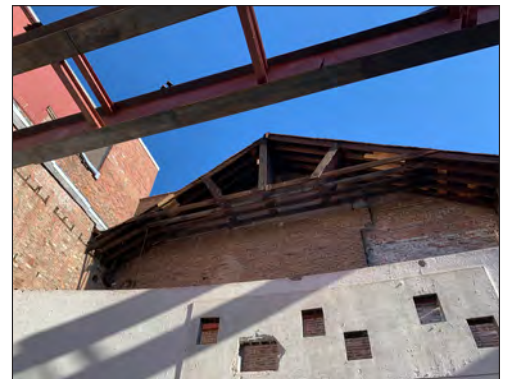
The Art of Balance and The Art of Comedy - Ritz Bitz!

The Art of Balance and The Art of Comedy, led by Karen Gersch, continues with weekly circus arts programming combining dance, mime, circus, theatre, vaudeville and physical comedy. The troupes performed together in Ritz Bitz, a variety show presented in December.



visit our website at www.safe-harbors.org

The Ritz Roof is complete!

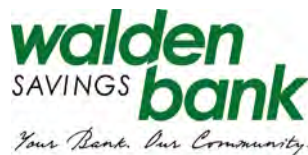


Your support makes a real and lasting impact on your community!

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Transforming Lives and Building Community through Housing and the Arts.

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Join our Mailing List

To receive e-updates on news and events for Safe Harbors of the Hudson, Ann Street Gallery and the Ritz Theater visit our website, call (845) 784-1109, or send an e-mail request to gbabbage@safe-harbors.org.

Become a Volunteer!

Safe Harbors, Ritz Theater and Ann Street Gallery have a variety of volunteer opportunities. We are seeking dependable, enthusiastic people interested in: marketing, development, special events, performing and visual arts, GED tutoring and computer class instruction. For more information call (845) 784-1107 or e-mail info@safe-harbors.org.

A Snapshot of Safe Harbors 2019 Impact ...

 **128**
Individuals Housed
at The Cornerstone

45 
Families Housed
at East End Apartments

40 
Informational tours

113
People learned to fly!

 **3,380**
Visitors to Ann Street Gallery

 **125**
Runners raced
for a strong community

87
Free Events

600
People Danced Salsa

3,800 
Enjoyed live performing arts

 **35**
Tons of garbage collected
off the streets of Newburgh

2,100
Volunteer hours 