

THE BARRYTOWN GAZETTE

VOL 5 NUMBER 1

EDITOR: HENRY CHRISTOPHER

(845)633-3264

c47henry@gmail.com

Summer 2011

Seminary hosts exciting sports & cultural festival

By Henry Christopher

It's been kind of quiet around the Unification Theological Seminary at Barrytown since the Seminary moved to NYC, but last week was different. The Seminary—which is planning to open a four-year undergraduate college next year on the Barrytown campus—hosted the Unification Church's (UC) seventh annual Blessed Culture and Sports Festival (BCSF) from August 9-12.

Young adults from around the country came to participate in sporting events that included ultimate frisbee, volleyball, basketball, soccer, tennis, and table tennis.

In between sports, poker and blackjack tournaments were available for the daring, with part of the proceeds going to a college scholarship fund.

On the cultural side of things, they could compete at ballroom dancing, perform at an open mic, and be entertained by a New Jersey based band called Junction.

The organizers of the festival also put together a talent show, a fashion show, and an art gallery.

The Fine Art Gallery was well organized by Shinyoung Chang, the editor of the UCNews, a monthly church newspaper, and Red Hook resident Shannon Forringer. They worked tirelessly setting up the art work of over 10 young artists in the beautifully wood-paneled meeting room of the Massena Mansion, which included examples of their own art.

"Next year we will have twice as many artists' work on display," said Shinyoung.

The show featured a broad range of mediums, including oil and acrylic paintings, colored pencil drawn illustrations, pencil on Bristol paper, photography, and handmade pottery. The depth, skill, creativity and beauty of their works was impressive to see.

Theo Wilson, 27, from Red Hook,



NY, showed two beautiful and very different oil paintings. "Half Moon Bay" is a seascape in blues and greens capturing the surf crashing on the beach, with the sun sitting above a rose colored sky. The other is called "Konjikko," which is an interpretation of Kawase Hasui's wood block print by the same name. He was a prominent Japanese painter and master print

maker of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The scene is of a kimono-clad monk walking up a broad stairs to a temple as the snow gently falls among the pines. A lovely rendition in blue, white and browns.

Sun-ae Patterson, 20, from Irvington, NY, had on display a number of paintings of people in acrylic, expressing various internal states of mind and

heart, with titles such as: "Heartache," "Lost in Thought," "Longing," "Chill," "Comfort," "Waiting," and "Preoccupied." Sun-ae painted close-ups of the torso and limbs of her subjects, with the focus on hands in most of these painting, using strong, vibrant colors to capture the moods she
See Art, continued on page 2

Art, from the front page

wanted to portrait.

One of my favorites was a portrait of “Captain Jack Sparrow” in mixed media, done by Alka Callahan, 16, from Indianapolis, Indiana. It was so lifelike that as I looked at Sparrow’s face, I thought someone was looking back at me through holes cut in the face where the eyes were!

A breath-taking group of photos of the mountains and sea in Kodiak, Alaska was offered by Tim Forringer, 22, from Red Hook, NY, who is actually in the middle of a 4-year degree program at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. He took advantage of his art of food preparation with photos of a delicious looking grilled tomato and chicken sandwich, and some fancy meatballs garnishes with sesame seeds.

Since the art show was in Barrytown, it was convenient for local teens to bring their work, and as a result, around half of the artists were from Red Hook, including an amazing collection of hand-crafted pottery made by Jeung-il Tsumagari, 21.

Jeung-il selected a group of around fifteen pieces of cups, bowls, pitches and small bowls with tops. She clearly is an accomplished and creative potter. Her choice of designs and colors are full of life and of course of practical use. One piece, a bowl with spider web design showed Jeung-il’s humorous



side, as well as her great talent.

And more art from Red Hook was provided by Yuri Mickler, 22. She did a “Tattoo” series of paintings in oil, featuring intricate blue tattoos either from her imagination, or actually on some real bodies. (I didn’t get a chance to ask her which it was.)

One was of crossed arms adorned with “When No One Believes In You” on one arm, and “Believe In Yourself” on the other. In the middle of her display, to show what is really important, was a colorful still life of fast food and drinks.

The artists had their work on sale, and it seems from the many “sold” signs on the art work, many who visited the gallery walked away with their own piece of art to take home.

Shannon and Shinyoung wanted to

make sure that the Fine Art Gallery—at some distance from all the sports on the UTS soccer field, and the other activities in the main building wasn’t overlooked—so they cleverly made attractive gallery signs placed on easels strategically around the campus, pointing to the Massena Mansion and the art show.

It worked! The gallery was visited frequently by most of the festival’s participants during the four days of events. According to a report in the UC Community news online, the visitors “described the gallery as ‘amazing,’ ‘inspirational,’ ‘beautiful,’ and ‘intriguing.’”

Shannon and Shinyoung didn’t just set up the art show—they also are accomplished artists and had their own work on display as well.

Shinyoung, 33, who lives in New York City and is from Toronto, Canada, is herself an extraordinary artist. She started off studying theater and set design, learning to sketch out scenes on large canvases. She moved into acrylic painting and says she hasn’t liked to work in oil mainly “because the oil paint smells bad, and stinks up your clothes!”

For the art show, Shinyoung choose to present some beautifully created color pencil illustrations that were intended to be used for a children’s book. Sadly, the artist died before the book was published. She says about pencil drawing, that she has to focus intently on getting just the right colors and design, “because with pencils, you have to be precise, and once you sketch it, you can’t take it back.”

Also on display was one of her acrylic paintings named “The Path.” It is a colorful city scene under the starry sky—at once mysterious, intriguing and enchanting.

She loves the feeling of creativity and “making it happen. I’m my worse critic so if I can blow myself away, I know others will like it too.” And I do blow myself away!”

Other artists who had their work on display were: Abi Zambon, 24, from Bridgeport, CT; Kristi Laurel Mas, 27, from NY; Naria McGee, 22, and Inwha Hendricks, 20, both from Red Hook.

Local artist Shannon Forringer excels at abstract portraits

Shannon, 23, from Red Hook, has been drawing and painting since she was little, and you could say that all that practice has paid off. She works in oil on canvas, and was showing her “Summer Girls” series—beautifully painted portraits of her friends in warm, pastel like colors. Shannon has captured the summer moods of hope, beauty and joy in her portraits, with a twist. One half-body length girl with an expression of “what next,” is surrounded by leaves blowing around her,

as she holds up her shirt to reveal only her ribs and spinal cord.

Another painting shows the body of a girl in a pretty flowery dress, with one arm extended, holding her smiling face in her hand!

“I have been taking art courses from the Academy of Art in San Francisco, and would like to work in oil painting and children’s book illustrations in the future,” Shannon explained, as she sat by the guest book table welcoming visitors to the art gallery.

