

# AUTUMN AT THE ARTS CENTER

Clinton Recorder, October 20, 2005

## Nonprofit school expands, offers new classes

**KILLINGWORTH** – The Arts Center at Killingworth makes its new home in a garden-like setting near a serene pond. This organization is dedicated to providing children and adults on the shoreline with concerts, art events, theater, workshops and classes.

At the recent Killingworth Town Picnic, six artists and teachers from the Arts Center held mini-classes, a sampling of what's to come this fall.

Artistic Director Barbara Nair literally did her homework before she launched the Arts Center. Nair came up with the idea "from doing my homework at NYU where I studied Nonprofit Arts Management and from owning a home in Killingworth for several years," she said.

She also sought input from the community and friends. "The rest is listening to people [and] a lot of hard work by many dedicated volunteers."

Nair believes art should be fun, and encompasses this motto in her school. Art instructors encourage both new and veteran artists to take their classes.

"I want people who've never done artwork to be able to pick up a pen, learn the strokes, and apply them to simple, fun projects they can use in everyday life" said Gloria Nilsson, who will be teaching Calligraphy and Pastel classes to adults this fall.

The classes aren't just for "budding artists" ages 3 to 6 – even their parents get into the act.

"What's really fun are the parents' reactions. They get to do arts and crafts, sing, and do some acting with

their kids," said Andrea Wilson, who teaches the "budding artist" group, an art and theater class.

New class offerings for the fall are clay for adults and children, and a piano studio. Evelyn Foster, who has been a teacher and sculptor in the tri-state area for over 30 years, will be teaching an adult clay class.

At the Killingworth Town Picnic, both children and adults eagerly worked with clay, at her table, not seeming to mind as their hands and clothes turned the reddish brown color of the modeling material. One child offered his clay "rose" to the "sad puppet princess" at a puppet theater that was setup for the afternoon.

New to the Arts Center is a piano studio directed by Kumar Nair, a recent Wesleyan graduate and pianist, teacher and student of music for the past 16 years. Nair was pleased with the center's growth.

"It started as a small, struggling organization, basically an idea, [and] it's amazing to see it take off."

Coming up this Fall is the *Autumn Art Trail*, a two-day art trail featuring demonstrations, a month long exhibit at the Art Gallery at the Millhouse in Chester, and art for sale at some of Killingworth's celebrated artists' and crafters' studios. Preview reception will be Oct. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Millhouse at 5 West Main Street in Chester. The Trail will be open Oct. 15 from 10 to 6 p.m. and Oct. 16 from 11 to 5 p.m. A two day package is \$30 and

See ARTS, Page 16

## Arts

From Page 3

one day tickets are \$20. Children under 12 are free.

On Nov. 19, the Arts Center will begin its second year of concerts with *Alturas Duo*, a classical guitar, viola and charango group who seamlessly combine their classical training and Latin influences. They will perform at the First Church of Christ in Clinton at 7:30 p.m. with a reception to follow. To continue its commitment to local artists, the Arts Center will feature an appearance by Erica Iverson, an accomplished flutist from Madison. For teens and children, there will be a free one hour workshop with the musicians (4:30 to 5:30 p.m.) the same day in the church Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$15 for students, and \$8 for children under 12.

The Arts Center at Killingworth is in the midst of its first Annual Campaign, *Love Your Arts Center*, working to raise \$30,000-40,000. Anyone interested in donating, teaching, ordering tickets, volunteering or joining the mailing list should call the Arts Center at 860-663-5593. More information is on their website, [artscenterkillingworth.org](http://artscenterkillingworth.org).

***"It started as a small, struggling organization, basically an idea, [and] it's amazing to see it take off."***

- Barbara Nair,  
Artistic Director

# Classes and Workshops Offered by The Arts Center

Clinton Recorder, October 10, 2005

