

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Corporate Sponsorship and ARTview

ARTview has come to affect the lives of people with disabilities all across the country. Artists with disabilities are able to participate in our fundraisers past and present, and the number of participants keeps growing.

However, none of this would be possible without the support of our Corporate Sponsors. Thank you for your ability to see the promise in artists with disabilities and in ARTview.

This year, we would like to thank the following Corporate Sponsors (as of August 15, 2006):

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The Washington Post

Your contributions to ARTview are greatly appreciated and recognized. We could not have done without you!

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Events Calendar 2006

ARTview	September 27
PA Awards Ceremony.	November 17
DC Awards Ceremony.	December 11
VA Awards Ceremony.	December 13
NJ Awards Ceremony.	TBA

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Home Office
2201 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite C-150
Washington, DC 20007
1-800-869-3393
(202) 237-6500
(202) 237-6352 Fax

District of Columbia Office
2201 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 120
Washington, DC 20007
1-800-869-3393
(202) 274-3459
(202) 337-5459 Fax

New Jersey State Office
2137 Route 33, Lexington Square, Suite C
Hamilton, NJ 08690
(609) 586-8005
(609) 586-8096 Fax

Pennsylvania State Office
Riverview Place
520 N. Delaware Avenue,
Suite 301
Philadelphia, PA 19123
(215) 451-5053
(215) 451-5073 Fax

Tennessee State Office
7891 Stage Hills Road, Suite 116
Bartlett, TN 38133
(901) 384-3645
(901) 385-9450 Fax

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7611 Little River Turnpike, Suite 404 West
Annandale, VA 22003
(703) 914-2755
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18 Royal Street, SE, Suite 102
Leesburg, VA 20175
(703) 779-7684
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*Advancing Community Support and Opportunities for
People Living with Disabilities
www.sjcs.org*

St. John's Community Services
2201 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite C-150
Washington, DC 20007

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of St. John's Community Services

SPECIAL ARTview EDITION

Fall 2006

ARTview Celebrates its 5th Anniversary

St. John's Community Services' much anticipated benefit and fundraiser, ARTview 2006, is just around the corner. Held on Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at the Carnegie Library, formerly the City Museum of Washington, DC, from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM, ARTview 2006 has many treats to offer this year's attendees.

The artwork was chosen for this year's ARTview event by curator Margaret Bodell whom is widely known for her work, especially in the areas of rising outsider artists and groundbreaking artists with disabilities. Bodell is a pioneer for arts programs in the New York and New England areas but extends her services outside the northern United States and has spent a number of hours working with St. John's in Washington, DC, to make this event a success.

St. John's Community Services aims to amplify our mission through our largest fundraiser of the year,



"Cherries" by Greta Waller

ARTview. ARTview displays the talent and success of persons with disabilities which is visually present through the fine artwork of artists like Jessica Park, Jamal Williams, and many others throughout the United States.

St. John's Community Services is proud to acknowledge the following programs which will be featured at ARTview 2006:

LAND
 Candee Hill Studio

Flying Shuttles
 GRACE
 ARTWorks
 Fountain House
 The Kennedy Center
 TopDrawer Art Center
 BWAC (Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition)
 Spindleworks

Please make sure to join us at ARTview 2006 on Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at the Carnegie Library at 801 K Street NW. ARTview is a perfect opportunity to view and purchase unique and professional artwork and share in the accomplishments of talented artists with and without disabilities.

To purchase tickets to ARTview 2006, please contact Sandra Bishop, Director of Development, at 202-274-3405 or sbishop@sjcs.org. You can also log on to our website, www.sjcs.org, and purchase tickets directly.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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Visions Into Action... Noted Artist, Jessica Park

Jessica Park has a vision-- in every pipeline and brick of every building she encounters, Jessica envisions a masterpiece. Yet, not only is Jessica Park a skillful and dynamic painter, she is also a pioneer in the art world, working as a painter with autism in an extremely competitive forum. Notably, Jessica's unique vision has helped expand the art world to include the work of artists regardless of their disabilities nationwide. The competition between Jessica and her non-disabled counterparts has never been defined by her disability-- it is her *ability* to manipulate mundane pieces of architecture into a dream-like masterpiece that has thrust

Jessica to the forefront of recognized artists and kept her in the spotlight for a number of years.



"The Capitol Dome"

Jessica Park was born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where she has resided for her entire life. She has established and maintained a job and created an art studio in her bedroom.

Continued page 2...



Thomas F. Wilds
President

Tom's Message

St. John's does much more than just provide direct care for people with disabilities. St. John's mission is to "Advance." We create unique ways to provide supports so that people with disabilities are supported by and in their community. We help communities create new opportunities for people with disabilities to become contributing and valued members of their community.

A good example of St. John's "Advancing" the integration of community members of all abilities is our work in creating ARTview. At this elegant event, we celebrate the work of artist with and without disabilities from across the region. Yet, ARTview is not only a fundraiser for St. John's consumers; it is also an opportunity for our artists with disabilities to experience the thrill of showing their work with world renown artists. They receive personal recognition as they participate at the event as well as a sense or pride in

their creative ability and monetary rewards for the sale of the fruits of their unique talents.

Five years ago, we began the art auction to open minds and hearts locally; now ARTview is a regional event, appreciated by artists and art supporters who believe in "Advancing" the art forum to include, appreciate, and celebrate persons with developmental disabilities. Supporters of ARTview have helped to open the doors within the artistic community to the talents of artists with disabilities as competitive and professional craftsmen.

Should you wish to join us or support this event in any other manner, please contact our Development Director, Sandra Bishop, at 202-274-3405 or sbishop@sjcs.org.

You, too, can *Advance Community Support and Opportunities for People Living with Disabilities!*

When speaking with general community members, I often hear people speak of St. John's as your typical direct service provider. That is, the community sees us supporting people to live in the community or help them find and keep a job, or provide educational opportunities to prepare them to be contributing member of our community.

But St. John's is much more than your typical direct service provider. Our mission statement says it all; Advancing Community Support & Opportunities for People Living with Disabilities.

Jessica Park *continued...*

As a child, Jessica was introduced to shapes and colors by her mother as a way to combat her speech and comprehension problems due to autism. Jessica responded very well to the method, and her attention to various shades of colors blossomed. Jessica began painting gadgets and equipment in high school; however, it wasn't until a bit later in her life that Jessica shifted her interest to architecture and has since become nationally recognized for her intricate and colorful "pop-art architectural paintings." Original work by Jessica is extremely valuable and rare to the market, and she has a backlog of nearly a year for her paintings. The intricacy and rainbow of colors in her pieces lend to a world of magic and illumination that entice buyers and wow celebrities nationally.

Jessica Park is the subject of *Exiting Nirvana* and *The Siege*, novels written by her mother, Clara Park Claiborne, and one of the first accounts of living with autism from a non-clinical approach. Jessica is also featured in a five-part series, "The Mind Traveler (1998)," and the film, "Rage for Order: Autism" with renown author and doctor of neurology, Oliver Sacks. Jessica Park has been the subject of a number of articles as well, including a memoir by Megan Rutherford featured in *Time* magazine in 2001.

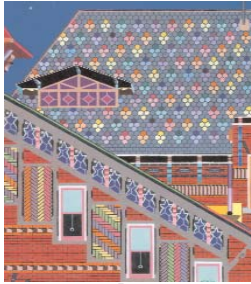
St. John's Community Services is pleased to offer an original painting, "The Capitol Dome" specifically created by Jessica Park for ARTview's 5th anniversary.



A print of "The Brooklyn Bridge #2 with Lights and Horizontal Rainbow" by Jessica Park auctioned off at SJCS's first art auction, Buiding Bridges.

ARTview Celebrates Five Years of Diversity in the Arts

The first ARTview, named Building Bridges, was held at a board member's home in 2002.



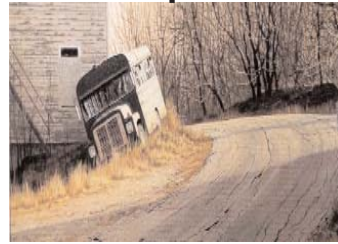
ARTview 2004 was supported by a special web-site featuring artwork available at the auction.



ARTview
2006
9/27/06



By our second year, ARTview 2003 expanded in size, featuring over 300 pieces of art.



ARTview moved to the City Museum of Washington, DC, in 2005 and was our most successful year to-date, raising over \$82,000 to support children and adults with disabilities.

Industry Insight

New Book Details the Evolution from Disability Rights to Disability Culture

Moving Over the Edge, Artists with Disabilities Take the Leap (2005) is a new book by Pamela Kay Walker, an artist and arts advocate. Riding the waves of an emerging disability rights movement, Walker and many other people with disabilities came of age as artists. The evolution from disability rights to disability culture is shown through stories about artists from the San Francisco Bay Area in the late 1980s, including AXIS Dance Company, Bruce Curtis, David Roche, Cheryl Marie Wade and Wry Crips Disabled Women's Theater.

The introduction is by Olivia Raynor Ph.D., Director of the National Arts and Disability Center at UCLA. Some covered topics are: working while on benefits, the threat censorship imposes on artists with disabilities, and allies who have assisted artists with disabilities to move forward.

This engaging book is appropriate for teen through adult audiences, including artists with disabilities, teachers, disability studies groups, parents of children with disabilities, sociologists, and women's studies programs. It is organized in such a way as to be easily used as a textbook, whether in its entirety or using specific chapters. A list of the table of contents can be found on the book distributor's web site, www.mhortonmedia.com.

"Interspersing personal stories, postscripts to each chapter, generally from someone Walker writes about in that chapter, vignettes from her knowledge of these artists, and analyses of how art and activism mesh and create something new, Walker shines as an author in this book." —Steven E. Brown, Ph.D., Author, *Movie Stars and Sensuous Scars: Essays on the Journey from Disability Shame to Disability Pride* [Quote from a DRAFT review for an upcoming issue of the *Review of Disability Studies: An International Journal* (www.rds.hawaii.edu).

The book is available through MH Media and sells for \$25 on www.mhortonmedia.com.

source: <http://www.artsdisabilitynetwork.ucla.edu/calendar.htm>

Board Retreat Opens With Art

St. John's Annual Board Retreat was held on Friday evening, June 23rd and Saturday, June 24th, at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, DC. In attendance were members of the Parent Board, Foundation, Founders Board and the five state subsidiary boards, as well as special guests and management from the Home Office and each of the states.

The evening kicked off with a thrilling choral presentation by The Art and Drama Institute (ADTI) Choir, accompanied by The Moroccan Ensemble. ADTI, located in Northeast Washington, DC, is known for its innovative approach to the care and treatment of adults with mental retardation through the use of art, music, movement and



Members of the Arts and Drama Institute, Inc. of Washington, DC, perform at this year's Board Retreat. drama therapies.

Genni Sasnett, Chief Operating Officer, then presented "Embracing the Legacy," which included a vivid slide presentation and featuring a recognition of all the employees of the year (listed on page 5). Their

hardwork and dedication inspired the rest of the attendees.

On Saturday morning, Mark Gold, Chairman of the Board, and Tom Wilds, President/CEO, welcomed all to a day of "nuts and bolts" sessions. Issues included the SJCS 5-year Strategic Plan, roll-out of the Corporate Compliance Plan, Planned Giving/Board Development, finances, and state projections.

The Retreat provided an opportunity to review the past, to look to the future, and to re-commit to the St. John's mission. While the agenda was full and the issues deliberated vital, attendees' felt most inspired by spending time with so many diverse and committed individuals-- the very fabric that makes St. John's unique.

In My Own Words...

Honoring Past and Present ARTview Volunteers

St. John's Community Services is extremely fortunate to have volunteers who have made ARTview a continuous success since its beginning five years ago. Since 2002, ARTview has grown greatly, becoming a much anticipated regional event. This would not be possible without the dedication of the unsung heroes of the event, the many dedicated staff and board members-- past and present-- who volunteer for ARTview.

"Volunteering for ARTview gives me an opportunity to expand my role within the organization beyond the technology scene. I felt it was important to lend a hand to the most important annual St. John's fundraising activity. Seeing everything come together and browsing through the art collection was especially satisfying and fun." -Lynn Sweeney



Dedicated volunteer, Bill Morgan, looks on at curator Margaret Bodell at ARTview 2005.

"I personally get a great deal of satisfaction from ARTview and have since the very beginning. A few years ago, I met one of the artists, Eddie Lin, who spoke both English and Chinese, as do I. I purchased a painting by Eddie Lin-- a very clear, vivid and distinctive piece that is of a tea set. But what I remember most about Eddie at ARTview was he hugged me twice-- once in English and once in Chinese." -Bill Morgan

"Seeing the great accomplishments of individuals with disabilities and their expression through art is a moving experience." -Vickie Taylor

"ARTview has been a great way to see many artists in one venture and to see the work of artists with challenges along with those without. The satisfaction of attending the event and to see the joy in one's face as they view the art and to understand the financial support this gives to the community." -Carolyn and Maurice Goff

"By volunteering with ARTview, I'm able to support the artistic endeavors of a variety of artists and the mission of SJCS simultaneously." -Cheryl Wesley

"ARTview is an extremely rewarding experience! I felt very privileged to be a part of the process." -Errol Ray