



# Sunshine Arts

Creating community through the arts.

“Year 2008 in Review”

# Newsletter

Winter 2009

## Ms. Kathi Teaches a New Film Class

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*Dennis, as Snella, getting into character*

Filmmaking is an ideal way for kids to learn teamwork and to stimulate their creativity.

On Our first day of Filmmaking Class, Dennis directed a large cast in a horror film about a woman named Snella, played by Dennis in a creepy green mask. The adventures began when Snella, who had been asleep for twenty-two years, was awakened by the intrusion of several kids into her house. Snella was NOT happy about it.

Lots of great acting, screaming, and dragging of “bodies” ensued during the filming. One scene took ten takes to perfect, but everyone

applauded when we finally got it right.

The filming of Snella continued into the next weekend and we added a few new cast members. This required Dennis and his crew to come up with some new plot lines as well.

The next class was small, so we took a break from Snella and produced a comedy about three brothers, directed by Dominick. Dominick also played one of the brothers, a policeman. Jordan played another of the brothers, a mailman, and Terry played the third brother, a piano player who gets a great new job.

We’re having a great time. Everyone is learning a bit about camera work, writing and continuity (yes, everyone had to wear the same clothes from the last class so that it would look like the same day in the film).

Keep watching the Sunshine arts website for updates and video!

**More than 80 children visited Sunshine Arts in 2008, for a total of more than 4200 visits!**

Special points of interest:



*Second Annual  
“Fun”draiser  
to be held on  
Thursday,  
May 21, 2009*

## Colorful Faces, Fun Cookies, and Community Pride



Sunshine Arts attended our third annual Upper Darby Community Pride Day on October 11, 2008.

We can all thank Bill Grove, our favorite face painter, who agreed to help again. Richard Modglin and Susan Hinchey brought large blank cookies, and icing and other colorful edibles with which to decorate them. Everyone loved the edible art.

For this year’s event, on October 10, 2009, some of our best young dancers will show their stuff on the main stage. Mark your calendars and come show your support!



## “Fun”draisers

Our second annual May Fun-draiser was held on May 15<sup>th</sup> (yes, it’s always the third Thursday in May!) Several local artists, restaurants and professionals showed their support by donating beautiful art work and services for the silent auction. We raised nearly \$10,000!

The annual Fall Fun-Draiser, “*Spotlight on the Arts*”, held on Dec.3<sup>rd</sup> at the Towne House in Media, benefitted both Sunshine Arts and Musicopia, a group that provides musical instruction to children in the Greater Philadelphia area. The evening was a rewarding mix of people, organizations and activities. Our special thanks goes to Barbara Kelley’s *Public Relations 1* class at Neumann College for organizing and coordinating the whole event. *Spotlight on the Arts* brought in an additional \$6000.00 for Sunshine Arts.

With the money we raised, thanks to the tremendous support of all of you, Sunshine Arts has been able to add pottery with Bob Deane, the summer intern, Miranda, office help from Tim Carlidge, our new artist in residence, Kathi Lehmer, as well as improvements to the building: the finished office space for Ms Kathi, new cement sidewalk, two railings, a fire alarm system and more. Much gratitude and love to you from Sheila, all the Kids, Patrick and Kathi et al.



## String, Clay, Frame and Fun

Ms Miranda Pruitt interned for several especially fun weeks during the summer. She introduced the children to aboriginal art, taught Belly Dancing, and helped make meals designed to explore the world through food: Spanish Paella, Korean Sesame Chicken, and Mexican Layered Salsa and Bean. The kids got to try many brand new foods, herbs and spices, such as shell fish, saffron and star fruit. One child said of the bean dip, “I did not think I’d like it, it didn’t look good but it tasted real good!” As the avocado was being prepared all the kids said, “eeuuuuwwuu” and when they tried a little bit they didn’t like it. But when Ms. Sheila offered to leave it out, they all said, “No, no it might be OK all mixed in!”

Pottery with Mr. Bob ran for six weeks. The children thoroughly enjoy squishing masterpieces out of lumps of clay, applying glaze, then patiently waiting a week for the firing. Then for the last week of class, since we were just picking up our finished work, we tie-dyed for the first time.

Mr. Bob Deane currently teaches at the Community Arts Center in Wallingford. We are very happy to have Mr. Bob with us at Sunshine Arts and especially appreciative of Deborah Yoder, Suzanne Hayward and the Community Arts Center in Wallingford for the financial help to make this class available to the neighborhood. We also thank them for the kiln which allows us to fire the work here on site and makes it possible for us to consider other classes we may offer in the future.



## Garden and Fish News

We now compost 100% of everything compostable, and we’re striving to show all the neighborhood the value of composting on our community garden. Mr. Patrick improved the fish pond over the last year, working through a few weeks in the hot sun to raise the sides to a safer height. Good news for the little ones who like to cling to the edge and drop their hands into the water to grab for their favorite scaled friend! And for all the sea captains on the block, Mr. Patrick bought a couple of boats. Anchors aweigh ye merry sailors! Beware the waterfall and the lurking sharks as you cast your fleet upon the mighty Sunshine Arts Sea!



*The fish wait for the coming Spring*

# Mural Mural on the Wall . . .

On the morning of September 27<sup>th</sup> a Philadelphia Trolley Works trolley rolled onto our little two block street on Sunshine Rd. What a stylin' ride! — it was spacious, with large windows all the way around. All the kids arrived early, and while some of them grabbed a donut to take with them, most were eager to just grab his or her seat.



We left Sunshine Arts and ventured on a tour of West Philadelphia and Center City murals. Our first stop was at 4714 Baltimore Avenue in West Philly, where a mural had just been finished and there was to be a dedication later that day. We were joined there by Kathryn Ott Lovell, our tour guide, Frank and Ann Reed, who introduced Ms. Sheila to Ms. Kathryn, Jane Golden (Founder and Executive Director of the Mural Arts Program) and others who were joining us on the tour.

Mural Arts employs more than 300

artists each year (a lot of potential for future Sunshine Arts artists!) They also work with nearly 3000 at risk youth throughout Philadelphia and over 100 other communities. We learned that the murals often have community members depicted in them, and the communities have much input into what the actual art work will be. Mural Arts works with crime victims and prisoners too. When weather does not permit working outside, especially in the winter, the artists paint on parachute cloth which is later applied to buildings. This allows the murals to be created year round.



We saw murals representing scientific discoveries, doctors, tradesmen working their trades, all the arts, a couple waltzing through the park on a spring day, trees in bloom, and a peacock, ornate with a glass and tile mosaic. We saw cowboys with horses lining the streets of the city, with the ghost of a horseman riding above the build-

ings, and so much more that inspires. And it wasn't just murals — for example, we also saw large metal sculptures of dragonflies and butterflies in Fairmount park.



We thanked our trolley driver and Ms Kathryn Ott Lovell. Then we returned to Sunshine Arts had homemade chicken noodle soup and pizza, colored, painted and made art sculptures with clay. The Mural Arts tour was a great success and we sincerely hope that we get the opportunity to go again next fall and take more kids from the neighborhood.

## Zoning Approved

Sunshine Arts has just received approval from the township to operate out of 41 Sunshine Rd in Upper Darby, thanks to the diligence of board members Jack Morley and Richard Modglin and resident artist Patrick O'Banion.

## Happy Birthday



Mr. Patrick, Ms Kathi and Board member Ms. Susan Ms Sheila always make each of the kids' birthdays special, so the kids turned out to help make Mr. Patrick's Birthday very special too. There was lots of help in the kitchen, resulting in four cleverly decorated cakes. Mr. Patrick wanted to know why the cakes had to be photographed "but this is obviously the children's art work today!"





# Sunshine Arts

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[www.sunshine-arts.org](http://www.sunshine-arts.org)



## Take Me Out to the Ball Game

It was a chilly spring Saturday on March 29 when Mr. Patrick, Ms Sheila, Jahlil, Jordon and Justin ventured out to the El, on to the shuttle bus then the Broad Street line. Their adventure took them to the ballpark in South Philly for the final Phillies preseason game, vs. the Toronto Blue Jays.

The three boys were especially happy to discover it was dollar dog day and Mr. Patrick was quite content to buy them their fill. Their seats towered over the field, giving them a perfect bird's eye view. After several innings, they decided to check out the stadium and ended up at the Official Phillies House Shop

to buy memorabilia. The sun was bright and warm on the other side of the stadium so they relocated there. Justin, Jordon and Jahlil were able to squeeze down to some empty seats closer to the action for the duration of the game. They all enjoyed walking down onto the field after the game ended, then took the Broad street line, El and Shuttle home. Of course, their participation marked the beginning of the Phillies' most successful season in decades: World Champions!!!! Thanks to Bill Arrowood, of Federal Yards Baseball, for providing Sunshine Arts with the tickets.

