

on the cover

ARMONK OUTDOOR ART SHOW CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

By Skyler Srivastava



Take a small hamlet in Westchester County, toss in hundreds of artists and blend with a public library and you get the formula for one of the most successful outdoor fine arts and crafts shows in the country. Famously known as the Armonk Outdoor Art Show, this year is extra special because the annual fundraiser for the Friends of the North Castle Library is celebrating 50 years of art and fun on September 24 and 25.

It's no surprise that Armonk has become a magnet for artists and shoppers alike. According to *Sunshine Artist Magazine*,

this show ranks at number two in the New York Metro area, a pretty hefty grade, considering there are hundreds of art shows in the region. Every artist's work is juried before acceptance, with a 44 percent acceptance rate in 2011. Eight categories will be represented: oils/acrylics, watercolors, mixed media, sculpture, printmaking/drawing/pastels, wearable art, fine crafts and raku. Having already outgrown three locations, this year's show will incorporate 300 local volunteers and 188 artists from 27 states, Israel, and Canada, at the Town of New Castle's Community Field, a gift to the community from IBM. The magnitude of this event might never have happened had a man named Steve Geffen not stepped up and worked his magic.

Known for his charisma and genuine interest in people, the late Geffen was an attorney with IBM for 30 years and the President of the Friends. It is no coincidence that he was one of the key factors

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in moving the show from a small collection of artists and art lovers in a church parking lot to the giant production it has become. His wife Susan remembers Steve fondly as a champion of the Library and making the community a better place.

In a recession-era economy, New Castle Town Supervisor William Weaver says the show enlivens the entire community and provides a boost to local businesses. "The organizers have it down to a science, with free parking and the shuttle bus that will run from

the show to town shops and restaurants, making it very easy for people to get around."

Local merchants will be taking part in the celebration, which will also feature entertainment and activities for one week prior to the weekend show. Included will be an art treasure hunt, demonstrations, docent tours, children's activities, and a 5K Run to kick off activities on September 18. For more information, go to: www.armonk-outdoorartshow.org



Photo by D. Shearer