for community and celebration, charmed the NAH students at a fundraiser. These drums, traditionally used to call people together, were African Talking drums purchased with the proceeds from a funds-raising event. They are raised for the donation of musical instruments to various schools.

African-American music is a part of Mrs. L's life. She grew up in the area and frequently attended NAH events as a child. She has since been working at the school for many years, and her first love is teaching. Nevertheless, she has played a variety of roles in the school's programs, including being a judge in the school's annual art contest.

Invited Guests

During the NAH spring session, Debbie McClaud's newspaper writing class enjoyed visits from two distinguished local women: Ruby Jenkison-Hubbard, Erie City Councilwoman and a co-founder of the NAH; and Dan Ostrowski, a drummer, percussionist, recording artist, teacher, and lecturer. Both women engaged the class in discussions about the City of Erie's youth curfew and the Honorable Dr. Stephanie Domitrovich, a local politician.

Preparations are in process! Sponsors are stepping up! Volunteers are being engaged! Excitement is growing! The 1st Annual Art&Soles 5K Run/Walk is going to take place on Sunday, June 29th. A route has been mapped out: the event will begin and end at the Neighborhood Art House. Starting time is 8 a.m., preceded by registration from 7:30 a.m. Cost of registration is: $20 (adults); $10 (children under 12); $50 (max per family). Matt Carabine, Chairperson of the NAH Development Committee, is hoping for a big crowd to help this fundraiser surpass all expectations. It promises to be a fun morning. Please come out and support this 1st Annual Art&Soles 5K Run/Walk to benefit the ongoing work of NAH.

Reflections

Artists dip their brushes in their own souls, and paint their own nature into their work. - Henry Ward Beecher

"Reflections," was the title of the annual Women's History Art Exhibit at Mount St. Benedict in the Chapter 57 Gallery. The exhibit featured works reflecting the inspiration, insight, talent and creativity of women. The following NAH students and teachers participated:

- Students: Alfiya Ayvazova, Emilia Balos, Shayquanna Mims
- Teachers: Barbara J. Hauck, Passle Helminski, Mary Lubowicki, Janet E. Mattes, Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB

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The Results Are In!

We are happy to announce the Neighborhood Art House winners in the General Federation of Women's Clubs Art Contest 2008. Teacher, Paul DeNiro, is proud of his students who participated at the invitation of the Presque Isle Women's Club. The five students who submitted art work brought home 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards and received a ribbon, certificate and cash prize.
money to support NAH’s ongoing programs. It will also draw attention to the safe haven that NAH provides so that beauty can be brought to life in the hearts of at-risk children. Henry David Thoreau said, “An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.” Please be assured that the early morning walk—Art&Sole 2008—will be a blessing for many, many days as well as for many, many children. Hope to see you there!

Congratulations

—to NAH Ophelia Project teacher Jayne Vallimont who was honored by the Ophelia Project as Volunteer of the Year;

—to NAH art instructor Janet E. Matess who took part in the Independent Council on Aging Art Exhibit. Her photo collage, “Silhouette Series” received a 2nd-place award.

CHECK IT OUT!

We are proud to announce that the Neighborhood Art House is one of the features in the May 2008 issue of Erie Life magazine, a new publication that premiered in February. Titled, “A Creative Outlet,” the feature is chock-full of pictures and insight into what makes NAH what it is today.

If These Animals Could Talk

Under the direction of Miss Shuko, NAH students created a menagerie of papier maché animals. Versatile, yet simple, papier maché is an excellent medium for creativity as proven by NAH students whose creations were impressive. Following a step-by-step process students painstakingly fabricated detailed sculptures that are a sight to behold. If these animals could talk they would surely express their gratitude for being created with such love and care.

Springtime at the Art House

The Spring Music Recital (made possible by The Lynn Gashe Levinson Memorial for Piano) and the Erie Art’s Endowment of the Arts Council of Erie’s May events at the Neighborhood Art House. Beginning and experienced students alike shared pre-performance jitters, performance concentration and post-performance exhilaration as their progress and achievements in the visual, performing and literary arts were showcased for parents, family and friends.

Wheels of Fortune

The Neighborhood Art House has its very own “wheels of fortune.” Under the guidance of art instructor, Sr. Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB, 13 NAH students submitted 16 pieces that were displayed in the first annual Festival of Birds at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center May 9-11. The works of various media were created by Christopher Rust, Alex, Nick and Beckly Ouznirz, Essemraldai Torres, Precious Johnson, Lacey Lavette, Devon McCrae, Shayquanna Mims, Indie McCoy, Keenan Gore, Cheyanne Parrett, and Veronica Kononov.

Poems, Praise, and Party

“Keep A Poem in Your Pocket” was the theme for this year’s Neighborhood Art House celebration of National Poetry Month. The observance, which included a Memorize the Poems, Praise, Prizes and Party, continued with A Celebration of Poetry, a public performance on April 17th and a Poetry Party for the student partici-