Library Second Floor Reorganized

People coming back to campus this fall were in for a surprise when they reached the second floor of the library. Once again, things were rearranged to accommodate our ever-growing student body. In order to allow for the expansion of the Academic Support Center without having to use another classroom, additional space was created by removing all of the books (PS-Z) from the shelving in the open area above the stairs and attaching the shelving units to the hallways and walls along the second floor’s periphery. Shelving was also extended into the atrium area behind the study carrels. A reception area was created for the library staff took the opportunity to weed out some old or obsolete volumes from the collection in order to make room for new arrivals. However, no books were removed solely for the sake of expedience. The entire project was completed in one week, in plenty of time before the start of the fall semester.

If you have trouble finding a book in the new arrangement, please ask one of the librarians for assistance.

The upstairs study room is being used this year by the Academic Support Center. Students needing a quiet place to study may use the Eastern Church Resource Center. Located on the first floor of the library, this space is equipped with a computer and a monitor, dvd player and vcr for viewing audio-visual materials placed on reserve. Individuals wishing to reserve the Eastern Church Resource Center can go to the library circulation desk or call 216-373-5267.

Library Gets Ohio Humanities Council Grant

This September the Clara Fritzsche Library received word that it was the recipient of a grant for $1263.00, the full amount requested, from the Ohio Humanities Council for its upcoming humanities project entitled “KinderToys: The Courageous Children of the Holocaust,” to be presented from November 7th through December 20th in the library gallery. “KinderToys,” conceived and awarded-winning artist Boni Suzanne Gelfand, will focus on the youngest victims of the Nazi persecution, telling their stories through their toys and drawings to engage the community in a heartfelt and historical depiction of the Holocaust. It will consist of three components building upon one another: 1) an interactive display of photos of the children’s toys as a medium of storytelling; 2) gallery talks; and 3) an essay contest for middle and high school students. Utilizing still photos, collages, statements, replica toys and historical literature to highlight the youngest victims of this moment in history, the project will serve as a springboard for discussion.

This is the second OHC grant the library has received for its exhibits. In 2005 the library was awarded a grant for “Symbolic Beauty: Croatian Textile Design,” an exhibition of costumes, headaddresses, scarves and other traditional needlework pieces from the private collection of Stepan Vlahovich of Columbus, Ohio. That exhibit attracted over 350 people, a record for the library gallery’s event attendance at that time. The library is grateful for the support of the OHC and looks forward to another successful collaboration.

For more on the upcoming “KinderToys” exhibit see “Gallery Talk” in this issue.
Over 55 people attended the opening of the Clara Fritzsche Library's latest exhibit, "Sights that Hurt, Visions that Heal," a photographic exhibition, presentation and book signing by local author, photojournalist, philanthropist and urban activist Jan Thrope. Thrope is the founder of Inner Visions, a non-profit organization with a mission to stimulate and support Cleveland's inner city residents' visions for change via workshops and collaboration with other nonprofit and social service organizations. In her gallery talk, Thrope related a deeply personal account of how she came to establish Inner Visions and complete her book. She talked about her work with the grassroots organization and her photographic approach through which she shares the inspirational stories of those she serves. Following the presentation, Thrope signed copies of her book, Inner Visions: Grassroots Stories of Truth and Hope (Orange Frazer Press, c2011), the Grand Prize winner of the 2012 Next Generation Indie Book Award and a 2013 Nautilus Silver Medal Winner, awarded to authors for their excellent achievements in writing books that contribute to the body of knowledge and understanding for a better world. In an unusual occurrence, Thrope had two boxes of books at the book signing and gave copies away. The reason was that, happily, the depressing images in the book depicting urban blight and despair had all changed for the better since its publication, truly a cause for hope and celebration.

A licensed social worker and chemical dependency counselor, Thrope has a BA in sociology and masters in art from Michigan State University. In her quest for solutions to Cleveland's poverty problem, she reached for her camera and set to photographing the inner city streets from the perspective of their residents. While recording much despair, brutality and hopelessness, she also discovered rays of light in the form of creative, talented and positive individuals who were implementing numerous projects that are transforming the fabric of urban Cleveland. These stories of hope and renewal were the inspiration for her award-winning book and the organization she founded, Inner Visions of Cleveland. This organization utilizes Thrope's "friends first" approach to providing resources for community projects by establishing or promoting existing purpose-driven connections among individuals. In addition to serving as founder and Executive Director of Inner Visions, Thrope is Project Manager for MaryRuth Books, a leading publisher of books for emerging and struggling readers designed for use by Reading Recovery teachers and students. She also serves as a board member at Rainey Institute, an organization that promotes positive change for Greater Cleveland's youth and families through education and participation in the visual and performing arts. A resident of Shaker Heights, Ohio, Thrope is a co-founder of the Shaker Arts Council, founded in 2002 with the purpose of creating a citizen-directed effort to coordinate the arts and cultural resources of the community.

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**Upcoming Events**

November 7-December 20, 2013
"KinderToys: The Courageous Children of the Holocaust"

An exhibition of works by local artist Boni Suzanne Gefland that focuses on the youngest victims of Nazi persecution through their toys and drawings. Utilizing still photos, collages, paintings, installation art, quotes, replica toys and memoirs and historical literature, the exhibit will tell the stories of the children from a personal level and serve as a springboard for reflection and discussion. An opening reception will be held in the library and take place on Thursday, November 7th from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. A gallery talk by the artist will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by a lecture by Louise Prochaska, Ph.D., professor of theology and women’s studies at Notre Dame College and humanities scholar for the project. Live music will be provided by violinist Reed Simon, associate professor of fine arts at Notre Dame College.

Technical advisor for the project is Blake Cook, M.F.A., professor of art at Cuyahoga Community College. The exhibit is free and open to the public and will run from November 7 through December 20, 2013. A 2001 visit by Gefland to Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority, in Jerusalem planted the seed of an idea for the present exhibit. While there she spent an entire afternoon gazing at art, toys, dolls, and games, made or carried by children into the camps, ghettos and in hiding. The majority of these items survived the children, serving as a poignant reminder of their innocence. Before leaving she purchased a portfolio of the many dolls, toys, games and several young artists’ postcards from the gift shop. Inspired by this trip as well as her father’s collection of Judaica, Gefland studied the Holocaust extensively. In 2010 she took a class on “Hitler and the Holocaust” at Tri-C and became particularly interested in the forgotten children. She spent over four years researching the Holocaust (Shoah) in preparation for this exhibit, learning as much as she could about the 1.5 million children of whom only 11 percent survived. Little did she know then that (Continued on page 3)
(Continued from page 2) this trip, this pilgrimage and this portfolio, would one day (12 years later) result in her own exhibit entitled, “KinderToys: The Courageous Children of the Holocaust.” In 2012 after her first solo exhibit at Notre Dame College, she mentioned the idea for the “KinderToys” exhibit. And things grew from there. The library staff is delighted to have Gelfand back for a return engagement to stage this show.

The exhibit will be a multimedia immersion experience. On the left wall and back wall of the gallery will be oversized headshots of children from the books Children with a Star by Deborah Dwork, The Girl in the Green Sweater by Krystyna Chiger, The Boys by Martin Gilbert, and The Girl with the Red Coat by Roma Ligocka, accompanied by and with quotes or statements from the children. These books, in addition to other key titles on the subject will be purchased and included in the Clara Fritzsche Library collection and made available to the public throughout the duration of the project. On the right wall will be interpretative paintings and letters will be left for future gallery visitors to ponder. Both installations and her work has been juried by Robert Thurner, director of the Ohio University Museum of Art, and helping to clean up local beaches. She also assists in fundraising for Ursuline College’s and Cuyahoga Community College’s art therapy and counseling programs and volunteers at the Malz Museum, the Shaker Heights Public Library annual book sale, and the annual Armenian Church Bazaar. Since her last show at the Clara Fritzsche Library, Gelfand has had a busy schedule. She has had two solo shows at Eclectic Eccentric on Larchmere and participated in juried art shows at the Shaker Heights Public Library and Cuyahoga Community College. Gelfand is a proud member of the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve, a unique archival facility created to preserve representative bodies of work by Ohio visual artists, and serves on its Board of Directors.

Gelfand is skilled in various media, and has in over 25 competitions and exhibitions to date. She has won several awards for her paintings and installations and her work has been featured in various publications such as the Cleveland Jewish News and the Sun Newspapers. In 2008 she received a Certificate of Mention award for “humanity,” an installation of eleven abstract paintings at the Tri-C Gallery East Student Art exhibition juried by Cleveland art dealer William Basta. In 2010 her installation entitled “Jewels of the Pacific” won Best Sculpture at the Tri-C 2010 Student Art Exhibition. That same year it also won First Prize at the Artist Archives of the Western Reserve’s “Seeing Green: Creating Art in an Era of Sustainability” exhibition, juried by Robert Thurner, director of the Cleveland State University Art Gallery and retired architect Berj Shakarian. Called “Zenlike” and “original,” by the judges, this piece consisted of a series of plastic tubes filled with miscellaneous recycled plastic found objects in hues of blues and greens. The tubes are then filled with tap water and when viewed in their totality, create an image of tranquility from what is normally thrown in the trash. Both installations were featured in her 2012 “humanity” solo show at the Clara Fritzsche Library.

“The exhibit is sponsored by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.”

KinderToys Bibliography

Library Announces Essay Contest

In conjunction with the library’s “KinderToys: The Courageous Children of the Holocaust” exhibit Notre Dame College’s Clara Fritzschke Library will sponsor an essay contest relating to the themes of the exhibit. Toys, games, drawings and books by and about these children communicate the resilience of the human spirit and the common bonds we have with children everywhere.

Notre Dame College is inviting middle school and high school visitors to the exhibit to enter the contest which will have two categories. After viewing the exhibit, middle school students (grades 5-8) are asked to write a letter (500 words or less) to one child or group of children their age that they learned about who experienced the Holocaust. They will be asked to address the following points in the letter:

- Describe your favorite toy(s) and how you imagine your perfect world. Share a frightening time and how you managed to survive it. Share your feelings for these children and your hopes for children now living in different places in the world.

High school students (grades 9-12) will be asked to write an essay (1500 words or less) according to the following prompt:

Reflect on the toys, stories or songs you loved as a small child and answer at least 3 of these questions:

- Why is it important that these toys survived even though the children did not?
- How did your own childhood toys help you hope for your future?
- Why was it important to make some of your own toys?
- What meaning did they hold about your family, your neighborhood, your country?
- Do you still keep any of these toys? If so, why are they valuable to you?
- Do any of your old toys hold the secret to your future as an adult?
- How might you help children in your city find or make toys that will give them hope?

Judges will be Karen Zoller, Director of NDC’s Clara Fritzschke Library and curator of the exhibit, Louise Prochaska, Ph.D. and artist Boni Suzanne Gelfand. Children related to the judges, NDC faculty, or NDC staff are not eligible. Prizes will be cash awards of $200 for the winner in each category. Also, the winning essays will be included in future installations of the exhibit for visitors to read. Entries should be sent electronically to kzoller@ndc.edu no later than midnight December 11, 2013.

Mystery Photo

If you can identify the whereabouts of the object pictured on the first page of this newsletter, send your answer to kzoller@ndc.edu. The first person to correctly identify the location will receive a $10.00 gift certificate to the Falcon Café.

WANTED

The Godfather
Haward’s End
Go Tell It on the Mountain
small boxes
packing envelopes
new textbooks

(If you can’t sell them, why not donate them to the library?)