

# BARNSTONE GALLERY

ART &  
INSPIRED LIVING

FEBRUARY 2011

ISSUE 16

## Calendar

February 17th– Barnstone Book Group  
10am – Noon

March 17th– Barnstone Book Group  
10am – Noon

April 1st- Philadelphia Water Color Society  
5 - 8pm

April 21st– Barnstone Book Group  
10am – Noon

### Looking Back Paying it Forward

When I look back over the past 5 years, the real payoff in operating a gallery has been captured in those precious moments when art and the human experience have converged to bring joy and healing to those most in need of either or both. When Barnstone Gallery opened in 2005, images of the catastrophic destruction of New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina flooded the media. For months, coverage followed both the devastation and humanitarian efforts to restore some sense of order to the areas affected along the Gulf Coast. The work continues today, but the visual images of that time will forever, for me, mark the early days of Barnstone Gallery.

That September (2005), a family displaced from the destruction in New Orleans was welcomed to a temporary home in my local community. One member became well known to my family through my daughter. Kelly came to the gallery on a First Friday in March of 2006 and instantly formed an emotional relationship with a specific work of art as well as with the artist herself, who was in attendance that evening. I think the images of the abstract barn and countryside in the painting represented for Kelly, something safe, secure and tangible during a time when she desperately needed those elements in her life. It was a vehicle that allowed her to speak of the loss and terror she and her family had lived through in New Orleans just a few months before. While she became

## Inspiring Art

attached to that image, Kelly couldn't afford to purchase the artwork, but it didn't stop the artist from spending valuable time with Kelly that evening and thereby making a profound impact on her young life. The following June, Kelly graduated from our local High School and the artist sent her a piece of her artwork as a gift. Clearly Kelly's story had made an impact on the artist as well!

I remember feeling strongly then a deep connection with Barnstone's mission; sharing emotions and experiences, discovering new ways of seeing and healing, opening up our minds to new possibilities and connecting with one another through art.

This past year has been marked by events of a similar magnitude:

\*\* The earthquake in Haiti and the human and physical devastation that is still far from being repaired.

\*\* An Oilrig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in the loss of 11 lives, impacted the livelihood of millions and caused untold environmental damage.

\*\* 33 miners from Northern Chile were trapped 2300 feet underground for 69 days before being dramatically rescued.

### Ten Innovative Charities

*From Listverse.com*

- Oaktree Foundation  
*Poverty Awareness*
- Community Voice Mail  
*Homelessness*
- First Book  
*Literacy*
- Modest Needs  
*Financial Crisis*
- Ushahidi  
*Information Technology*
- Donors Choose  
*Education*
- Kiva  
*Microfinance*
- Verizon Hopeline  
*Domestic Violence*
- Mary's Meals  
*Famine Relief and Education*
- Habitat for Humanity

*"A person's true wealth is  
the good he or she does in  
the world"*

*-Mohammed*

*"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for."*

*-Georgia O'Keeffe*



### Barnstone Gallery

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WWW.BARNSTONEGALLERY.COM

Gallery Hours

Tue Wed Thur 12-6 Fri & Sat 10-4

# U n i q u e G a l l e r y P h i l o s o p h y

Who wasn't glued to these riveting scenes as they unfolded? Who wasn't affected by the stories of those concerned and the generous outpouring of support from those driven to help? While I was not witness to similar experiences in these cases as I was with Kelly, I am sure that somewhere in the midst of these events, art was the vehicle through which someone received comfort or a voice to express fear, gratitude and perhaps grief.

As I re-examine the mission of Barnstone Gallery 5 years since its inception I am drawn to the question of how we can become more instrumental in delivering these qualities of the artistic experience to those in need.

While still in its formative stages, two people I have learned of recently exemplify the type of activities that Barnstone will be looking to get involved in as we move from the more passive presentation of art in the gallery setting to the active delivery of art to those people and organizations that can leverage it to further the mission of healing and human development.

I first read of Barbara Allen in an Inquirer article in November. Ms. Allen is the founder of [Fresh Artists](#). Her lifelong passion of art created this philanthropic venture that has placed enlarged versions of Philadelphia schoolchildren's artworks into corporate boardrooms across the region. Hundreds of the students' images have been installed in a variety of businesses. Contributions made by these corporations have gone toward purchasing \$100,000 in art supplies for Philadelphia public school art programs. Equally important to Ms. Allen is the empowering self esteem boost these children receive by creating something exceptional, beautiful and valued in the greater society.

Last month, CBS Sunday morning featured a segment on Jean Baruch, a pediatric oncology nurse and founder of [Beads of Courage](#). The Organization's mission is to provide innovative, arts-in-medicine supportive care programs for children coping with serious illness, their families and their health care providers. The Beads of Courage program begins with a single bead on a string. A child then adds colorful beads to mark milestones throughout his/her treatment often receiving hundreds of beads throughout the illness. The beads created by caring artists, offer hope, connection with others and a visual display of the child's journey through his or her illness. This simple "piece of art" gives the child a tangible touchstone that becomes the vehicle for expressing his/her pain, fears and accomplishments.

In both the catastrophic and the chronic ailments of our society, I see art playing a critical role in alleviating pain and suffering. For me, there is something relevant and essential about this combination of extraordinary need and selfless compassion, with art as the bridge between the two. As I begin the 2011 year, I am actively altering my mission to discover new opportunities and fresh approaches to deliver art and its healing properties to meet the ongoing requirements of those most in need. At the moment, my thoughts are fluid but my faith in this community and my pride in the contributions that Barnstone Gallery has made over the past 5 years leave me confident that there is another chapter to be written - one that elevates the Gallery, this space, to a higher purpose. I welcome your thoughts and dialogue as this exciting next phase takes shape.

As Always, Grateful,  
Lynn