



# Our Galaxy



Starlight Studio and Art Gallery  
A program created by Learning Disabilities Association of WNY  
340 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14202  
www.starlightstudio.org 716.842.1525

## Architecture Exposed

by Ricky Hogan and Janet Harrison

Beginning in August 2011 and going through November 2011, we got involved in a project of looking at historical architectural sites and taking pictures of them. We learned so much thanks to the expertise of Fred Schrock of Preservation Buffalo Niagara and Lauren Tent of CEPA Gallery.

It started with slide lectures of the history of Buffalo including the space where Starlight is located (it was once owned by the Rumsey family). Lauren showed us slides of photographic techniques and both of them took us on walking tours of Buffalo with our cameras.

We learned a lot at CEPA about processing digital and film photos; we found ourselves amazed and excited by what we could do. It was like being on a sight-seeing tour of our own city; now we want to take more pictures! We were excited to interview Fred and Lauren for this article and want to thank them for their time and services—they were great.

### Fred Schrock Education Coordinator

#### How did you get interested in Buffalo History? And for how long have you been studying it?

I recently found some local history research I did for a fourth grade history project! In college I began to focus on local history, so it has been at least thirteen years. I began volunteering for Buffalo Tours in 2006 and I applied what I knew to local architecture.

#### Do you have a favorite Buffalo building, and why?

I guess I am partial to the Market Arcade building (1892) since I work there next to the CEPA Gallery. It has a bright, open atrium that's very inviting.

#### How do you feel about "The Aud" being torn down?

The Aud was torn down for all the wrong reasons. In fact, there was no reason at all—they did so without formal plans to replace the building with something else. Buffalo has torn down too many buildings hoping it would encourage new development, when it actually discourages it instead. I'm one of many people who has kept a part of the Aud as a memento, which shows you how important a building can be to a community.

#### How did you feel about the project with Starlight?

The project was great! It was nice to talk to the participants about the Rumsey estate, for example, and show them that Buffalo history was *literally* right in Starlight's own backyard. *I hope we can do it again next year!*



Starlight Artists taking pictures during the Buffalo walking tour.

### Lauren Tent CEPA Gallery

#### How did you get interested in photography?

In 9<sup>th</sup> grade I took a photography class and it is one of the only things I remember from High School because I liked it so much. The first thing we did was make our own pinhole camera. I took a photo of a stapler, not believing it would really work. The quiet magic of it all really hooked me. I still have the photo of the stapler!

#### What school did you go to for photography?

I first went to Villa Maria College where they had a two-year program in photography. It was small classes, great instructors and I learned a lot about the art of photography as well as history and technical skills such as studio lighting. After that I went to UB and majored in photography. While I was at Villa Maria, I did an internship at CEPA. When I was at UB I worked with an architectural photographer and soon started my own freelance photo business. I learned a lot in school, but learned so much more as an intern in these two very different worlds of photography.

#### How do you like film photography compared to digital photography?

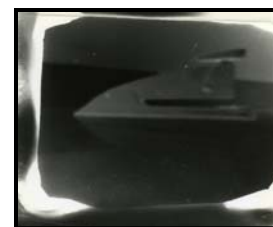
I love the ease and instant satisfaction of digital photography, but I miss the dark-room experience with the red light, running water and actually creating the images with my hands. There is something really relaxing about that process that one doesn't get in front of a computer.

#### How did you feel about the project with Starlight?

I was so happy working with all the artists at Starlight. Unlike other classes I have taught, everyone at Starlight already had a strong foundation in art so it didn't take much instruction before we were ready to just shoot. Everyone captured unique and inspiring images. *This was a truly fun and rewarding project for me!*

## Upcoming Events

- **Friday, February 3rd, 6-8pm**  
Opening reception. *Trifecta*, 3 artists from the Arts Experience. Show continues thru March 9th.
- **Saturday, February 4th, 7-10pm**  
Opening reception. Starlight Photographers in CEPA's Members' Exhibit. CEPA Gallery, Market Arcade Complex, 617 Main St. Suit #201. Show continues thru March 17th.
- **March 13th—April 13th**  
*Individuals* by Dario Mohr  
Opening reception: April 6th, 5-7pm.



Lauren's photo of stapler using a pinhole camera she made!

## Starlight's Bird Lady Becomes "Shining Artist"

by Andrew Calderon and Sheila Bush

Each time an issue of our newsletter is released, we here at Starlight hold a drawing for the next "Shining Artist". This time around Lisa Kobis has the honor.

We recently sat down with Ms. Kobis for her thoughts. First we asked Lisa how she got interested in Starlight to which her reply was, "Through my friend Nancy Hirsch and one thing led to another and I got in".

Here at Starlight there are many sources of inspiration. Birds, however, inspire Lisa to create. When we asked Lisa "Why birds?" she said, "I have three parakeets at home named Petey Weety, Joey and Henry. I love watching them eat and play." We asked Lisa what else inspires her, she then said to us "I love working with clay".



Shining Artist, Lisa Kobis, working with clay at the Starlight Studio

## 2nd Annual Family Night, "A Fun Evening"

by Andrew Calderon and Debbie Medwin

On September 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 Starlight had its 2nd Annual Family and Friends Night, emceed by the studio's own Debbie Medwin. On that night we traded places with loved ones as they became the Starlight Artists and we became the teachers.

In three different creative activities ranging from the visual to the written word, Angela Robb hosted "Bead wrapping", "Classified Art" was hosted by Agnes Love, as well as "Poetry Writing" hosted by Andrew Calderon and Janet Harrison. At the end of the night there was a poetry reading with snacks.

Fun was had by all!

## Vocational Development at Starlight

by Kimber Rodgers and Janet Harrison

Edgar Henderson said he likes to work with us at the program. He said it is pretty neat to work with the artists at Starlight and he is excited to see the program working.

Edgar grew up in Buffalo and says he likes Buffalo a lot. Edgar is doing career development with the Starlight artists to help them expand their reach in the community. He helped with resume writing and how to build a website for portfolios so far.

Edgar said working with Starlight has changed his life.



Edgar Henderson with Starlight Artist Janet Harrison

## Saints and Structures in the Blue Sink Café

by Andrew Calderon and Margaret Clark

Recently Starlight has begun having shows in "The Blue Sink Café" which shows off an artist's single collective work. In the most recent "Café" show is Noah Filk showing off his mastery in architecture.

We had a chance to delve deeper. We first asked Noah how he felt about having his own show, in which his reply was "I like it". Then we asked Noah, "What are some of your favorite buildings to draw?", to which he answered, "houses, churches and other miscellaneous buildings." To continue, we asked Noah how he became interested in architecture to which Noah said, "One day I just took an interest." Lastly we asked Noah how he liked being a Starlight Artist, to which he said "I like it".



Noah Filk next to his Richardson Towers wall drawing in the Blue Sink Café.

Stay tuned for the next "Blue Sink Café" show, as it should be good.

## Holiday Show, Winter Works

by Michelle Miller

On December 2nd Starlight had the *Winter Works* Holiday show. Many people attended and snacks were enjoyed. People admired and bought new artwork, as well as our 2012 calendar and note cards.

A whole bunch of people listened to a poetry reading in our library. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the Holiday gifts that were purchased at Starlight!