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Clarence Center creator takes top prize in first Lewiston Art Festival appearance

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

Renee Arno made a grand debut at the 57th annual Lewiston Art Festival, with her stained-glass lamp earning Best of Show on Saturday.

"I've been making stained-glass projects for about 20 years now - anything from lamps to window panels to suncatchers," Arno said. "I have seven children, so it's given me some time to do things on my own. I just started a new Etsy shop, and we came to the festival just to bring out some of the pieces and see what the interest would be. It's been really, really nice meeting everybody."

Arno's award-winning creation is an 18-inch Tiffany Wisteria reproduction lamp. She said the piece took about a year to come together.

"It's all reproduction glass," she said. "I buy it from a company near New York City. It's been really fun to make."

She explained it was, "Very exciting" to learn of her awards. "It's definitely a classic piece of art to make. Tiffany Wisteria is probably the most difficult, challenging lamp you can build."

Arno operates Timeless Glass Art, a stained-glass workshop.



Glass artist Renee Arno won Best in Show at the 57th annual Lewiston Art Festival.

In addition to the lamp, she brought "a little bit of a sampling of everything that we do" to the Lewiston Art Festival. Glass pieces included a "Tree of Life," as well as Buffalo Bills, golf and Celtic-themed objects, all custom-framed.

A Lewiston friend and some family members convinced Arno to participate in the popular, two-day showcase: "They just told

me that it was really popular, and had a lot of different types of media, between paintings and glass art ceramics. So, I just figured it would be a good fit," she said.

Arno's lamp also took first place in the "Artistic Crafts II: Ceramic, Glass, Metal" category.

•Find the full list of Lewiston Art Festival winners, plus more photos, online at www.wnypapers.com.

A note of gratitude from the Lewiston Council on the Arts

Once again, with the time and talents of an amazing assemblage of staff, board members and volunteers, the 2023 Lewiston Art Festival provided a perfect day to stroll down Center Street, take in the wonderful art and music, enjoy delicious food and spend time with family and friends.

Even the weather cooperated - after a cloudy start and a tiny cloudburst, it was blue skies and gentle breezes for the rest of the two-day festival.

Thank you to the fun group of volunteers who did it all! They bravely zipped up and down the street in golf carts helping our wonderful artists get what they needed, transported art pieces to the firehall for judging, manned the information booth, sold T-shirts - and jumped in wherever they were needed. A big hug to the brave souls who showed up at 6:30 a.m. for setup! A special shout-out to Gene Kulbago, Pat MacDonald, Ed Millar, Michael Boeck and Mike Kratts for their all-day work on the art competition.

Hennepin Park was home to this year's Indigenous Experience that showcased the rich heritage of our Haudenosaunee friends. Thank you to AMD Environmental Consultants, who sponsored the two full days of indigenous programming organized by Kehala Green Smith. So many visitors commented that it was their favorite part of the festival, and it continues to grow every year. This year's "Trail of Treaties," which explored six important and impactful treaties, was a big success. Thank you to Michele-Elise Burnett for developing the trail, and to Artpark, whose sponsorship made that program possible.

Our partners in the arts provided lots of free opportunities to get creative at the festival. Artpark brought their "Free Family Saturday" program, providing free arts and crafts activities. The Castellani Art Museum and the Lewiston Public Library



made Seventh and Center the place to be for kids and families, offering hands-on "make and take" projects. At the gazebo, Mary Annette Clause once again offered Haudenosaunee beading art projects, and shared the history and stories behind this tradition.

This annual Chalk Walk brought together 15 school, family and individual artist teams to interpret this year's theme of **SEE LEWISTON**, continued on Page 13

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