



Miss Avery Cattier, age 6, pointing to the poster for the Painting for Peace art show.

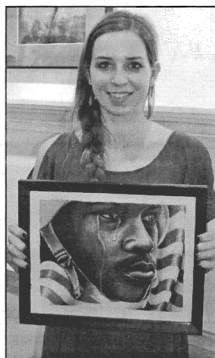
Normandy Honors Locust Valley With Painting For Peace Exhibit

Operation Democracy brings paintings to Normandy for D-Day

Operation Democracy's 2nd Annual Painting For Peace art exhibit was on view over the Memorial Day weekend in the gallery above the Basil Leaf Café in Locust Valley. The display of artwork with the theme of peace was translated into iconic American images by Locust Valley High School students.

Last year the students put their heart and soul into their masterpieces for Operation Democracy (OD) with the Painting for Peace theme in mind. OD is a non-profit organization spearheaded by Kaye Weninger, OD president (and manager of J. McLaughlin, Inc. of Locust Valley) to carry on the legacy of the original founders in 1947. The mission for the newly rekindled charity is to spread the concepts of freedom, peace and democracy through friendship and education. One of their goals is to educate students about humanitarianism but also to create educational, cultural and community exchanges between schools in Locust Valley and Normandy, France.

Ms. Weninger created the art exhibit as a way to remind students of the importance of remembering Memorial Day and what it stands for. It gives the students an opportunity to express through art, their interpretation of peace and also to honor those



Julia Ryan with her painting.

whose service should never be forgotten.

Ms. Weninger has been in contact with the community of Sainte Mere Eglise, France, which was Locust Valley's original sister city in 1947, and they loved the idea of the student art show; therefore, during D-Day (June 6) of this year they had the same type of art exhibit for their students but with the honor of having the



Nassau County Legislator Delia DiRiggi-Whitton; Thomas Camilleri, LVHS art teacher; LV Middle School Principal Tom Hogan and Kaye Weninger, president of Operation Democracy.



Veterans from the Howard Van Wagner American Legion Post 962 of Locust Valley: RB Peele, Tony Bliss, Commander of LV American Legion, Kaye Weninger and Legionnaires Charlie Mills and Joe Rydowsky.

art from the Locust Valley students shown as well.

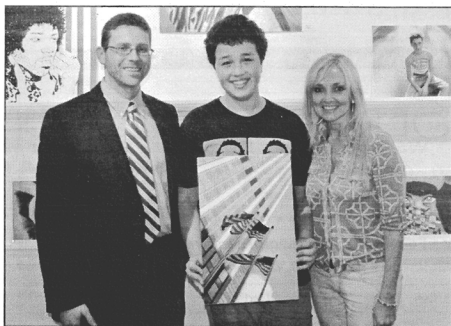
"This is exciting for our students to be a part of a historic day in Normandy especially in Sainte Mere Eglise, being the first town liberated in WWII in 1944. This is a great opportunity for them to showcase their art here and overseas," commented Kaye. "We need to continue to encourage our young students to express themselves through art. This is a fantastic opportunity to spread a positive message about peace through our next generation."

The newly rekindled OD has been working very hard to rekindle the bond between the two villages and this year all their hard work has paid off. Locust Valley was officially honored on June 3 in the village square of Sainte Mere Eglise for what the community did in 1947. Mayor

Marc LeFerve of Sainte Mere Eglise honored the community of Locust Valley, by putting up new signs stating Locust Valley is a sister city (similar to the signs at the entrance to Locust Valley).

Plans are being worked on to resurrect a rock (just like the one Locust Valley has, near Chase Bank on Forest Avenue) with the story of Operation Democracy, that honors the founders, Mrs. Martha Breasted and Col. Augustin Hart and acknowledges the unique bond of these two communities. "These two villages were set apart by an ocean but were united by the hearts of the local people not only in 1947 but 65 years later the next chapter is about to be written through our next generation through friendship and art," said Ms. Weninger.

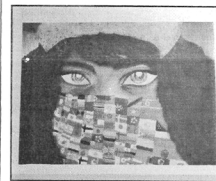
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Mr. Camilleri with student Madison Davidson and Terri Muran of Upper Brookville.



Tom Camilleri with students from the LV High School, Sara Taheri, Gabriell Yeager and Julia Ryan.



"Freedom Wrap" by Gabriell Yeager.



The "A" in America is linked graphically to the "V" for victory sign by Daniela Sanchez, grade 10 in "Flying Free."

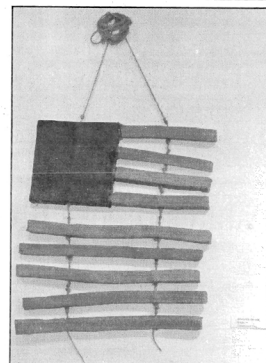
Normandy Honors LV With Painting Exhibit

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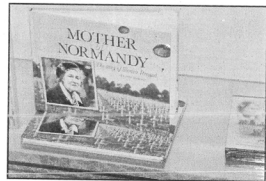
There were 47 Painting for Peace in the exhibit. Tom Camilleri, Locust Valley High School art teacher, worked with Ms. Weninger in not only putting together the event on Memorial Day weekend but they were responsible for selecting the 24 pieces that traveled to France with Kaye. This year during the annual weeklong ceremonies honoring D-Day veterans and soldiers in Normandy, there was an International Painting for Peace Student Art Exhibit in Sainte Mere Eglise, on D-Day, June 6. The art show was sponsored by OD of LV and the AVA (Amis des Veterans Americains of SME, France) and showed the artwork of students from the two communities/countries.

The show was held to recognize the bond of the two sister cities and the connection that was formed in 1947. "Our mission is to educate the children of our communities to 'never forget' and there is no better way of doing this than by letting them have the freedom to paint, sketch or draw their interpretation of what peace means to them," said Ms. Weninger.

"Many of the students came to gallery opening on May 24 with their parents and grandparents and stood tall and proud as everyone was walking around taking in the patriotic setting of the gallery. The veterans from the Howard Van Wagner American Legion Post 962 of Locust Valley were there to show the support to the students that were honoring them with this show," she added.



"Translucent Flag" by Alexandra Nararra, grade 11.



The book *Mother of Normandy, the story of Simone Renaud* by Jeff Stoffer was on display as was the new Arcadia Publishing's *Images of Locust Valley* by Joan Harrison and Amy Dzija Driscoll with an introduction by Herb Schierhorst.



Kaye Weninger, Tom Camilleri and Legislator Delia DiRiggi-Whitton.