

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Artist finds inspiration in Jordan and Central New York

To the editor:

Wonderful things are about to happen with the art scene in and around Jordan - or should I say - the art scene in and around the Erie Canal, in the Jordan area?

As an artist who uses paint on many mediums from canvas to wood, I am perpetually inspired by my natural surroundings. My art, my family and my life are intertwined.

Our home is an 1842 Federal-style brick farm house and the grounds inspire me constantly. There have most likely been animals on the property from the day ground was broken 2 centuries ago. We have an old chicken coop and very old horse barns.

Personals pop up everywhere, so gardening was enjoyed by all who have lived in this home. After our long winters which are beautiful in their own way, we plant everything under the sun come summer, including flowers, lettuce, beans, herbs, vegetables and of course tomatoes. Our good and faithful fruit orchard survives each winter and so do our timeless grape vines. This time of year, I feel as though if there is a heaven, I know for me, it's here, or it will look like central New York. Nature fills me with enormous gratitude. You can't help but be inspired by the beauty of spring. Living in central New York is truly a place where the season's all take place.

I am always excited when new

opportunities present themselves. My husband, Gino, is restoring our old two-story carriage house which he's transforming into a studio for me. This wonderful old structure, on our property not far from the Erie Canal, continually inspires me when I think of all of the activity and history that took place here.

I'll be participating in the Erie Canal celebration on July 14 in the village of Jordan, and next year I will be opening a portion of my home as a gallery to display my new design collection of transportable art. I'll also be showing works from other area artists, such as Holly Knott, a fiber artist and painter of Marcellus, because I want to promote other local artists. This area is so rich in talent that I want to help provide a venue for some of these artists.

I am also energized by the spirit of artistic collaborations. We have received conceptual support for the formation of an Erie Canal Arts Trail.

Arts and cultural experiences are abundant and a Connecting Corridor will link these communities directly on and surrounding the canal. An Arts Trail will not only benefit artists, but all businesses along the Erie Canal and in the immediate Erie Canal geographic region. It will also be a boost to tourism in the area as it will provide visitors and residents alike with maps highlight-

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