

HAMPTON *Connects*

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Hampton Artist Ruth Halbach

"Home is where the art is." -multiple sources

There are many words to describe an artist: talented, expressive, imaginative, sensitive, etc. Ruth Halbach is all of these and more. Her work is testimony to her creativity and originality.

Ruth's interest in art began at an early age. Ruth said, "I was always drawing and sketching." Her third grade teacher, Natalie Reilly, recognized Ruth's ability and gave Ruth extra time and attention to develop her talent. Ruth remembers spending that time designing creative lettering and drawing ponies. Her teacher's encouragement gave her the confidence to continue her interest in art.

In high school Ruth found more inspiration from her art teacher, Mr. Handler. She remembers a class project where every student was given a section of an enlarged magazine picture that showed a shelf of cereal in a grocery store. Each student had to duplicate the section by transferring it onto a grid. Using pastels, the students transferred those drawings onto larger pieces of paper. The paper panels were then displayed as a mural on the entrance hall wall of the school where they remained for quite some time. Although each panel varied in style, they all worked together. The success of that project strengthened Ruth's confidence to further explore the possibilities art had to offer.

Over the years Ruth hasn't limited herself to one medium but enjoys using different ones, depending on the project. Acrylics give her the opportunity to blend and mix colors, offering endless possibilities. Photography allows her to edit and enhance photos to create different moods and perspectives. Using glass to create glass on glass mosaics is her current medium of choice. As Ruth put it, "It's like a puzzle. You have a blank canvas and must create your own puzzle pieces." She likes the challenge of beginning with little or no plan and then seeing an idea take shape as the work progresses. Several of her mosaics are on display in her home, each with a story and a special meaning.

Ruth believes creating art can be a part of everyone's life and thinks art takes many forms whether it be writing a haiku, arranging a collection, designing personal stationery, etc. Art provides independence and freedom from rules, letting the artist figure things out and enjoy the journey unencumbered. But like any journey, the artistic one has challenges. For Ruth the biggest challenge is finding the time to bring her ideas to fruition. To solve this problem, Ruth advocates letting other things go in order to accomplish what you want to do instead of what you think you must do. Self-expression is good therapy for finding joy in life. And the joy Ruth finds in her art is felt by all those who admire her work.

For more information about Ruth's work contact:
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Parish Hill world travelers visited France and Spain during spring break.

Zucchini – Friend or Foe

By Claudette Russell

If you grow zucchini in your garden, you know there's nothing you can do to stop the onslaught. Once the zucchini appear, they are relentless in their diabolical plot to take over your garden and quite possibly your entire backyard. If your wood shed is full of zucchini instead of firewood, or if you have to park your car in the driveway because the yield from one zucchini plant is filling all the space in your garage, the following suggestions may help you combat the zucchini reign of terror.

Give them away. But don't make the mistake of leaving bags of them on every neighbor's porch. By now your neighbors are wise to you and have most likely installed security cameras and No Trespassing signs on their properties. Pick a new area where no one can identify you. Rent a truck, fill it with zucchini, and make deliveries to unsuspecting people. Stealth delivery is best; go at night.

Make pickles. Yes, you'll have to buy Home Depot's entire inventory of Mason jars and purchase another refrigerator to house the finished product. Stay in the kitchen until you have transformed that mountain of zucchini (soon to buckle your deck) into jars of pickles. When you finish, invite friends and family over. It goes without saying, no one leaves without a case of pickles.

Use them as doorstops. No sudden summer breeze will unexpectedly slam one of your doors shut when there's a zucchini the size of a submarine leaning up against it. Post a video of this on social media, and after it goes viral, people will line up at your door, begging for your extra zucchini.

Cancel your gym membership. Start working out with zucchini. Bicep curls, tricep kickbacks, and overhead presses are all possible with the various sizes and weights zucchini has to offer. Clear space in your zucchini-ridden garage, and create your own gym. Invite everyone you know to join. Guarantee free membership to anyone who can deadlift a bushel of zucchini, take it to the car, and drive it far away.

Zucchini is an ingredient used in a variety of culinary delights, but how many fritters, casseroles, cakes, etc. can a person eat? Don't let zucchini get the upper hand. With planning and perseverance, you may be able to keep that bumper crop at bay.

Hampton Elementary Students Look Forward to Summer Fun

Summer is just around the corner, and some of our Hampton Elementary school students have been thinking very seriously about vacation as evidenced by their responses to, "What would you like to happen during your summer vacation?"

I would like:

Paige Bueckers to run a basketball camp in Hampton.
an ice cream truck with cheap ice cream.

to go zip lining.

to see my aunt and have a playdate with a friend.

a ride on a rocket ship to experience low gravity.

to go to Disney.

to visit my grandma in Germany.

go swimming with my cousins.

Justin Jefferson to coach a football camp in Hampton.

Steph Curry to come to Hampton and play a basketball game against my class, Team C. (He might destroy us.)

to make a lemonade stand. I'm so excited!

nice weather for camping with my family.

to go to Great Wolf Lodge.

to watch more movies.

a country fair in Hampton.

to go to Maine, Vermont, and Florida.

to find a job to earn some money and also go to camp.

to sleep more and get better at math.

more basketball.

to go to the beach.

to plant carrots.

have fun with my brother.

go to a water park.

to read a book while in a hammock.

What? No mention of video games? Kudos to the students for thinking of other ways to have summer fun. And if any of our readers know Paige, Justin, or Steph, maybe you could get in touch with them. Who knows? Maybe they would come to Hampton.

Have a great summer!

Contributors to our fourth issue include: Ruth Halbach, Frank Russell, Joy Becker, Principal Victoria Smith plus faculty and students of Hampton Elementary School, Lena Fontaine of Gulemo Printers, Joan Fox, and Claudette Russell

Check out our new website at www.hamptonconnects.com

Please email your comments/suggestions to info@hamptonconnects.com