

Press Release: JSL HECHTMAN RESIDENTS SHOW – AND TELL – THEIR ART January 13, 2023

West Bloomfield, Michigan - A celebration of art and storytelling was on display January 10, 2023, at Jewish Senior Life's Hechtman Apartments, West Bloomfield, as the artistic residents displayed their artwork for residents, staff and friends.

Resident artists included Constance Bair, Josephine Dechicchis, Carole Master, Dale Saham, Lucy Secher, Ann Spencer, and Sandra Tarnopol.

The artwork spanned decades, going back to the 1990s, and featured this year's work as well. Some of the residents featured have been lifelong artists, while others recently rediscovered their passion for art. Featured art included oil and acrylic paintings, needlepoint, mixed media art, and ceramics. The event had a true art gallery feel. The staff served sparkling cider in champagne flutes with desserts for all attendees to enjoy.

"It was a joyful celebration of creativity and I hope it inspired others to know that it's never too late to try something new," Hechtman Resident Service Coordinator and Social Worker Sarah Pappas, LLMSW, said. "What a wonderful celebration of artistry within the JSL community. We have so many talented residents and this was a great opportunity for them to show off their work and engage in discussion about it." Social Worker and artist Pappas has facilitated more than 30 art classes since starting at Hechtman in 2021.

Many of the artists said they love the feeling of "getting lost in the art" while creating it and find it very fulfilling.

"JSL offering art allows me to be so relaxed. I put music on and just am present with it," said Dale Saham.

Josie Dechicchis echoes Saham's sentiments. "I've been painting forever. I get lost in the art and I get to express myself. Painting is feeling. JSL allows me to do this, and it's so fulfilling," Dechicchis said.

Pappas added that the art classes have been quite impactful for the residents as they promote self-expression, reminiscing, and socialization. They plan on hosting future shows.

Resident artist Ann Spencer added, "Being creative is peace of mind. It's a privilege to get to make art while living here. I love looking at everyone else's work too. Everyone is different and their art is too."

"I can do anything and focus on the art I want to make," Sandra Tarnapole said.

For further information about this event, contact Nicole Lupiloff, nlupi@jslmi.org, 248-592-5098