

Give the gift of artwork

By Nancy Tuttle
Sun Correspondent

Holiday shopping is in full swing in Lowell — and its artists are ready with original creations for all.

Those at the Brush Gallery and Artists' Studios urge shoppers to "think global, buy local" at their annual Holiday Marketplace that features an array of artwork and gifts in its space.

Besides handmade items, they add holiday sweets to the mix at Sugar and Spice weekend on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11. Sample cookies while shopping, and then vote for favorites at the annual event. The holiday marketplace runs through December, with special events planned all month. The Brush is located in the Market Mills complex across the courtyard from the Lowell National Historical Park Visi-

tors Center on Market St. Visit www.the-brush.org for info.

Winter Lights IV opens this week at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios. The showcase expands each year to offer locally-made, affordable works to give to others, or buy for yourself. From jewelry and fashion to ornaments and glassware to photography and paintings, the gallery is stocked for holiday shopping. A reception takes place Saturday, 5-7 p.m., and the exhibition runs through Sunday, Jan. 1, at the gallery, located in the 2nd floor of the A Mill, 122 Western Avenue. In addition to *Winter Lights*, the artists at WAS host holiday open studios this Sat-



Creations by Ann Lee of Lowell at Western Avenue Studios



The Holiday Marketplace at the Brush Gallery and Artists' Studios

COURTESY PHOTOS

urday and Sunday and next from noon-5 p.m. Visitors can enjoy holiday ambience as they shop and meet the artists. Visit www.loadingdockgallery.com or call 978-349-8069 for info.

The Arts League of Lowell (ALL) has opened a temporary gallery at 227 Merrimack St. through December to showcase and sell members' work. A reception is planned on Saturday, Dec. 17, 6-8 p.m. Visit www.artsleagueoflowell.com for info.

Resident artists at Ayer Lofts, 172 Middle St., present a holiday showcase in the gallery there through the end of December. The gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays, noon-4 p.m. A final reception takes place Friday, Dec. 30, 5-8 p.m. Visit www.ayerlofts.com for info.

COMMON THREADS: A reception for fiber artists participating in *Common Threads* in the Owen Smith Shuman Gallery of the Groton Public Library, 122 Main St., takes place Saturday, 1-2:30 p.m. The exhibit, featuring the work of Linda Branch Dunn, Eileen Marie Friedrich, Stacey Piwinski and Terry Ragot, all of Groton, runs through Dec. 28. Visit www.gpl.org for info.

SEASONS GREETINGS: The Powers Gallery, 144 Great Road, Acton, invites browsers and buyers to *Season's Greetings 2011*, its annual holiday open house and trunk show. The opening on Saturday, noon-6 p.m., offers a wide range of artwork chosen with gift giving in mind. Floral arrangements, oils, pastels, watercolors, acrylics, ceramics and more on view, plus a jewelry trunk show from Melinda Barlinger. The show runs through the month. Visit www.powersgallery.com or call 978-263-5105 for info.

MORE OPTIONS: *Women's Works: A Celebration of the Creativity of Women*, a showcase of arts, crafts and specialty foods by UMass Lowell students, faculty, staff, alumni and regional artists takes place today from 2-7 p.m. at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center, 50 Warren St., Lowell. Free and open to public... The Gallery at Floral Arts, 129 Littleton Road, Westford, hosts an open house this Saturday and again on Saturday, Dec. 17, both 1-3 p.m., to showcase paintings and photographs for sale by local artists. The gallery is open Thursdays-Saturdays.

Nancy Tuttle's email address is nancyedt@verizon.net.



HARRIETTE COLE

sense & sensitivity

'Goodbye' can be a hard thing to say

DEAR HARRIETTE: I just planned a really huge banquet for a nonprofit group that I'm about to leave. They don't know I will say my goodbyes next week, but I've already accepted another job.

What is the best way to depart a job where you've

been employed for at least 10 years, especially after you did a phenomenal job with a major event? — Goodbye Girl, Albuquerque, N.M.

DEAR GOODBYE GIRL: Because you are a valued member of your team, your exit should be graceful and responsible. Request a meeting with your direct supervisor and announce that you have accepted another position. Make it clear that you have enjoyed the time you have spent with this company, but it is now time to move on.

Give your company at least two weeks' notice. One week could put hardship on your company, and sour your relationship. Personally say goodbye to everyone at your company and reinforce your gratitude for the time that you worked there.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I am dreading spending time with my family for the holidays,

mainly because we do not share political views. In the past, we have gotten into ferocious debates about political candidates, and it has occasionally caused friction among us. I was surprised at first when I realized how differently we think about party politics. These are my in-laws, so they aren't my blood, but I do love them. I want to have a quiet holiday, and I don't feel like arguing. How can I make that happen and still visit with them? I don't know if it's possible. — Reluctant Debater in Miami

DEAR RELUCTANT DEBATER: It's healthy to have lively, well-informed discussions about politics, especially when we are heading toward major elections. Healthy dialogue is one way that people can clarify their views. To protect yourself and your family, ask about establishing ground rules. Agree to debate at particular times and challenge one another to come to the debate with facts and figures to back up your views.

Agree to end the debate before it gets too tense or destructive. Also, agree to love one another despite your views. Honestly, it is probably more interesting to be able to talk about different ways of looking at the same topics, as long as people do the research and aren't just spouting off.

Email askharriette@harriettecole.com.

★ Lowell Memorial Auditorium
(978)454-2299
www.lowellauditorium.com

THIS SATURDAY!

GARY HOEY

HO HO HOEY'S
www.garyhoeys.com
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
All Ages Show!

With Special Guest
Lita Ford

Farren Butcher Inc.
Featuring Charlie Farren & John Butcher

DECEMBER 3, 2011
Time: 8:00 PM