

# Friedman Gallery grand opening is Aug. 22

Exhibit by legendary artist Christopher Ries entitled 'Guiding Light' will open new gallery at Misericordia University and be on display through October 25.

The new Pauly Friedman Art Gallery at Misericordia University is holding its grand opening exhibit, "Guiding Light," featuring a stellar exhibition of large and extraordinary pieces by legendary artist Christopher Ries. The much-anticipated installation will run from August 22 through October 25.

"It is with well-thought planning Christopher Ries is the opening artist for this historic occasion at Misericordia University's new art gallery," said Brian J. Benedetti, gallery director. "The art of Mr. Ries is like that of no other and shall leave a lasting impression on individuals that experience it."

A meet-the-artist champagne reception is set for 5 to 7 p.m. n Saturday, Aug. 22, with a gallery talk by Ries immediately following in the 2,700-square-foot art gallery in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall on campus. The event is open free to gallery members and the public.

The two-month exhibit will feature a myriad of original pieces ranging in size, scope and color, and a talk with the Tunkhannock-based artist.

"Glass is the essential material which gathers, focuses, reflects, refracts, amplifies, filters and transmits light," Ries said, describing his sculptures that are on display around the world in art galleries, museums and in private, public and corporate collections. "I use these special light-altering abilities to create a kind of optical poetry."

"We are living in the age of photonics, where heretofore,

theoretical knowledge of electromagnetic radiation (light) is now being transformed into practical life changing applications. My work is a tangible symbol of this time," he added.

Unlike many artists who work with glass, Ries is not limited by size. The size of his sculptures does not affect the quality, but it does heighten the impact of the quality. The larger the piece, the greater the impact it has on its setting, according to the artist. His pieces transcend his limitless, creative talents and vision. Similar artists' pieces are rarely larger than three feet in any direction, but Ries oftentimes sculpts contemporary works that are two feet or more in one direction, like his "Moonstone," "Opposing Views," "Clear Flame," "Copper Cove," "Victory," "Motion," and "Chevron 1" sculptures.

Ries and his team create works that weigh between 200 and 2,000 pounds. Six years ago, he created, "Opus," a disc-shaped sculpture weighing 1,476 pounds and spanning nearly 4 feet. He "communicates truth and beauty" through his sculptures by using near flawless glass blocks from Schott Glass Technologies in Duryea to create "an absolute engagement between the object and its setting because the optical glass contains and reflects the colors, shapes and movements throughout every axis of its environment," Ries said.

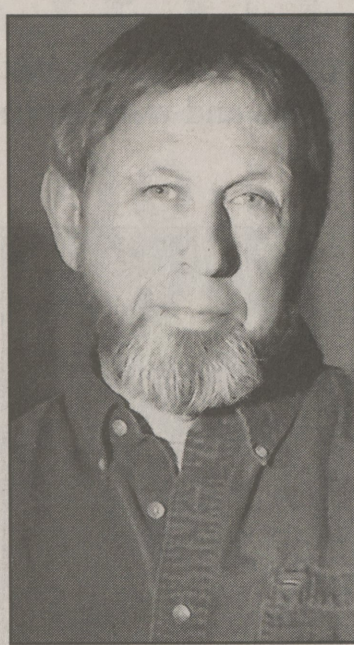
Most artists working with glass melt it down and cast it for form, but Ries takes Schott's sol-

id blocks of crystal and sculpts it like an artist working with traditional marble or even wood before polishing it over and over again. "My work celebrates the awe-inspiring beauty and intellectual wonder of glass," the artist said.

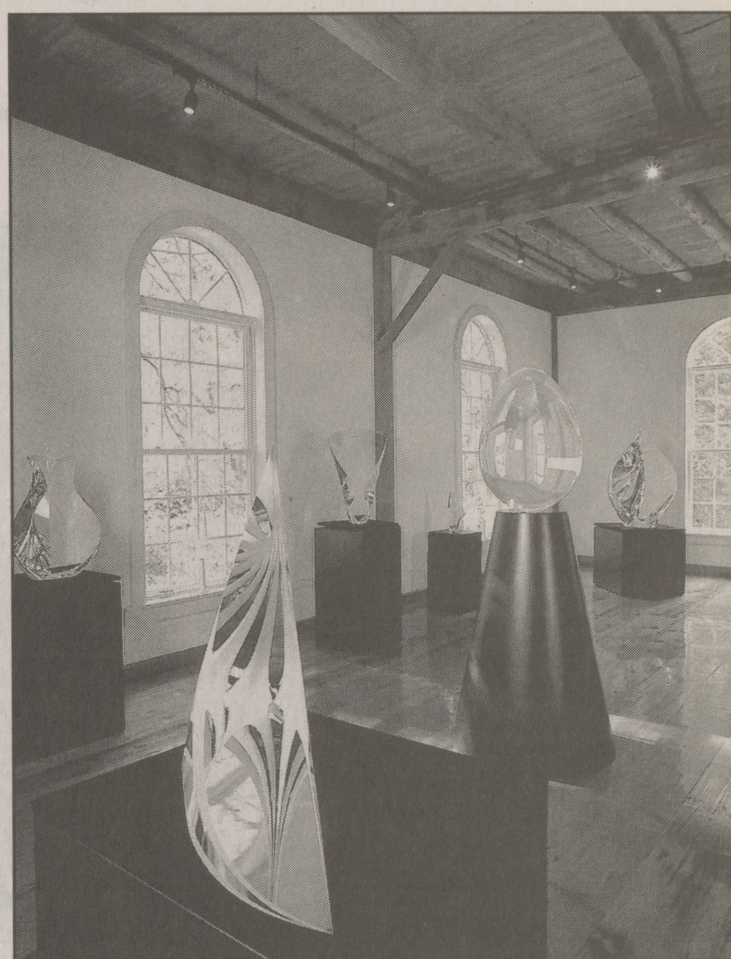
Born and raised on a farm in Ohio, the rural Tunkhannock resident has a unique working relationship with the international company, Schott Glass Technologies, as an Artist-in-Residence. The local facility provides free glass and support for a percentage of his commissions and recognition wherever his sculptures are displayed. Today, Ries is represented in dozens of art galleries and displayed in collections from Mainz, Germany to Los Angeles, Calif., and Tokyo, Japan to Pittston, Pa. He also participates in annual group exhibitions as far away as the Netherlands and as close as Scranton, Pa.

His career and sculptures have been recognized by many in the art world. "The compelling beauty of Christopher Ries' glass sculptures gives an eloquent expression to the ideals of excellence," said Sondra Myers of the National Endowment for the Arts. Irvin J. Borowsky, founder of the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia, said, "His work is timeless," while James Yood, professor of contemporary art theory and criticism at Northwestern University, described his work this way: "This is an art of such suggestiveness and fineness, of ceaseless transition and surprise that it constitutes one of the most intriguing exercises in the poetics of optics anywhere in contemporary art."

Ries earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in ceramics and



Artist Christopher Ries will display extraordinary pieces during opening of Friedman Art Gallery.



An exhibition of large and extraordinary pieces by artist Christopher Ries will be on display at the Friedman Art Gallery.

glass from Ohio State University and founded OSU's glass department. As an undergraduate student, he became the department's first instructor. He also received a Master of Fine Arts in glass from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. During his career, he has received numerous awards, including the Aid to Individual Artists Fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council, the Ohioana Citation for Distinguished Service to Ohio in the Field of Art, the Distinguished Artist Award from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pa., and the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia named him the Artist as Hero in 2005.

For more information about the grand opening of the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery at Misericordia University, call Dona Po-

satko, gallery curator, at 674-6250. Beginning August 22, gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; closed Friday; and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Misericordia University's Pauly Friedman Art Gallery occupies more than 2,700 square feet of space on the second floor of Insalaco Hall. The multipurpose gallery will be used for performing arts as well as visual arts, and will have a portable stage that can be used for small musical performances and poetry

readings. The gallery also features a surround sound system, motorized blackout shades, three types of track lighting and a bamboo floor. A custom-designed storage area will double as a small theater for short, creative films produced and directed by Misericordia students.

The gallery staff is working closely with Misericordia faculty to provide an academic component to exhibits bringing in installations that coincide with course material students are studying.

## DES students learn about food guide pyramid

Students at Dallas Elementary School have learned all about the food guide pyramid in lessons taught by their health teacher, Mrs. Angela Lizonitz.

In celebration of National Nutrition Month, the school district's dining management provider, Metz & Associates, Ltd., expanded on those important lessons with an interactive program that introduced students to various food items from each group of the food guide pyramid.

"We developed a special program for elementary students that featured table displays of each of the five food groups, complete with samples from each group, as well as a tasting of unique fruits and vegetables," said Michelle Marker, nutrition educator, Metz & Associates, Ltd. "The students really enjoyed the opportunity to further expand on the lessons learned in Mrs. Lizonitz' classroom."

Students in grades one through five participated in the two-day program, which focused on grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy and meat. They learned that the various groups each provided different nutrients that their bodies needed for good health.

Some of the unique items available for sampling, courtesy of Kegels Produce, included jicama, white asparagus, star fruit and avocado. Jicama was a big hit with many of the students, so much so that it was served in the school cafeteria the following day.

Marker and the Metz team at the school created colorful and inviting table displays representing each food group. As a special



Students at Dallas Elementary School enjoy learning about and sampling a variety of fruits and vegetables during a program focusing on the food guide pyramid. From left, first row, are Anne Yanik and Griffin Stone. Second row, Timothy Elston, Edward Geist, Mira Patel and Cassidy Muldoon.

incentive to visit the tables, students received a special gift representative of each group when they visited the various tables to learn the health benefits of the group. Some of the give-aways included Commissioner Nutrition tattoos, Cow pencils, fruit and veggie bookmarks, General Mills granola bars and honey wheat pretzels and more.

"The students learned through these visual displays that it's important to eat a variety of foods and that a balanced diet includes items from each of the five groups," Marker said. "I think many were surprised that they could get their daily recommended doses of items such as whole grains just by making better selections of their break-

fast cereals and daily snacks."

The students also learned fun facts about the various food items, such as how asparagus is kept white by depriving it of sunlight and harvesting it quickly. In addition to educating on the important nutritional benefits of each food group, the benefits of exercise were also discussed.

The intent of the funded internship is to have a transforming impact upon the students' intellectual, professional and personal development through exposure to work, research or community involvement that he or she may not otherwise encounter through coursework.

and Lisa Brown, of Shavertown; and Mona Lotfipour, daughter of Asghar and Nargas Lotfipour, of Trucksville. All three students are graduates of Wyoming Seminary.

### Nataupsky serves internship

Jillian Nataupsky, of Shavertown, is spending the summer interning for HERvoices, Inc. in Newton Center, MA, working in the non-profit field.

Nataupsky interns through Connecticut College's Career Enhancing Life Skills (CELS)

disciplinary Studies from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah.

### Three locals named to Honors List

Three Back Mountain residents have been named to the Honors List for the spring 2009 semester at Franklin & Marshall College.

They are: David Janerich, son of Albert and Celeste Janerich, of Shavertown; Sara Brown, daughter of Fredrick

## PEOPLE BRIEFS

### Russell named to dean's list

Michael Russell, of Tunkhannock, has been named to the Dean's List at Kettering University for the spring 20089 semester. Russell is pursuing a degree in chemical engineering.

### Costello receives bachelor's degree

Summer Costello, of Tunkhannock, has received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Inter-

## DALLAS KNIGHTS DONATE TO ST. JOSEPH'S CENTER



The Dallas Council 8224 of the Knights of Columbus supported WNEP-TV meteorologist Joe Snedeker in his bike ride throughout the viewing area in GO JOE XII to raise money benefiting St. Joseph's Center in Scranton. Shown here during the presentation of a check representing a check for \$1,000 are, from left, Jack Cacoza, Grand Knight; Snedeker and Joe Canfield.

## LIBRARY BOARD HONORS DR. CRAIG AICHER



Back Mountain Memorial Library Board President Shirley Moyer and board members recently presented Dr. Craig Aicher, honorary board member, with a clock and certificate to commemorate his dedicated years of service to the library board. From left, are Ron Moran, past president; Martha Butler, library director; Shirley Moyer, president; Dr. Aicher; Mrs. Aicher; and Joe Stager, board member.