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**ink**  
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A guide to finer living in  
Connecticut & abroad.

**September 2010**  
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We encourage the public to submit stories, poems, photography, essays, and all things creative. If you know of a person or place of interest, please submit your ideas to: [submissions@ink-pub.com](mailto:submissions@ink-pub.com)  
We will do our best to put your ideas in INK.

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**Publishers Note**

The book bags are packed, firewood is being stacked. It's slowing down. Time to hit the farmers markets. Apple picking. The post road opens up. That's a wrap on another New England summer. We hope everyone had a great vacation season!

In this issue: First we visit what could be considered an Essex landmark. The Silkworm boutique has been a staple on Main Street for 27 years. It's new owner, Erica Morizi is "living the dream." A lifelong interest in fashion combined with a formal education at the Fashion Institute of Technology. She has turned her passion into her business.

Then we are off to one of our favorite places to both go-to and also carry-out. If your on the shoreline and you looking for a meal that consists of light, pleasantly complicated seasonings combined with fresh ingredients, Som Siam is worth of a visit.

In our next feature Mary Lee Blackwell takes us on a fly fishing adventure on the Farmington river with owner of Rich Strolis, owner of Catching-Shadows. Quality time was had by all...

Good deeds and great stories. Every year Dr. Serle M. Epstein of Madison travels two full days to the Mission Clinic of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the rural Zamora-Chinchipe to offer his medical services. In our next feature Reverend Timothy Haut of Chester and The Eye Doctors Elgart, Pinn, Gordon, make a difference in the Dominican.

Then it is on to a look into a dreamy and surreal world created by Czech artist, Katia Jirankova Levanti of Waterford. Nancy La Mar Rodgers sat down and spoke with her after a recent one person show at The Hygienic in New London. Lastly, we visit with Linda Webber, the curator of art at the UCONN Health Center. Yes they have a curator and indeed they do have art!!!

Still and always, INK is dedicated to the enrichment of life through the arts. We aspire to bring to light the art of living. We celebrate with each month, life's journey and it's destination...  
*from all of us at Ink*

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# UConn Health Center





## The University of Connecticut Health Center

*Rx: One dosage of art with each visit*

by Barbara Malinsky

Images courtesy Linda Webber

"The symbol Rx means 'dispense as written'. Sometimes a prescription can be very helpful. But information alone does not lead one to change unless it is combined with inspiration." Bernie S. Siegel, M. D.

At the University of Connecticut Health Center, the healing arts join the visual arts. From ancient to modern times, physicians have been aware of the mind-body-spirit connection necessary for well-being. Plato taught that the mind was necessary to heal the body while the contemporary physician Dr. Bernie S. Siegel, considered to be a pioneer in holistic medicine, has written numerous books about the power of positive thinking as a weapon against disease.

The University of Connecticut Health Center's (UCHC) ubiquitous art collection enlivens every sector of the campus and is an enlightened endeavor to humanize its bricks and mortar with the spirit of Connecticut's artists. Its vast array of visual arts includes various media and serves as inspiration and hope to all patients and employees



who course through its rooms, corridors, and outdoor spaces - its Pathways of Healing.

The aesthetic journey begins with the building itself. Designed in 1965 by architect Vincent Kling, it gracefully curves around a windowed central courtyard where the interior relates to nature in every season. Kling likened it to a "cathedral sitting on top of a hill in a village...a cathedral of health idea". The UCHC encompasses the disciplines of medicine, dentistry, research, and patient care.

Approaching the Center, visitors are first welcomed by Wolfgang Behl's 16' high sculpture of a family of figures analogous to the family of the healing arts housed within. Once inside, behind the information desk, the DaVinci Touch by Marlborough artist James Grabowski resonates with kinetic power; its bursts of color and expressive composition punctuating the formal space with positive energy. That is just the beginning of the many interactions viewers will have with art during their visit here. The







present collection comprises about 1,500 pieces representing sculpture, painting, printmaking, drawing, photography, decorative leaded glass, and more. How the melding of the visual arts and healing arts came to be is a fascinating story.

In 1979, Celeste LeWitt was working as a volunteer at the UCHC when she had a revelation. Though the building itself had achieved acclaim, no money was allocated for making it a more welcoming and humane environment for healing. A New York City native, LeWitt is a life-long devotee of all the arts and believed that art was the pathway to that humanization. She organized and later chaired the Auxiliary's Arts Advisory Committee; the Connecticut Collection was created and grew rapidly. It is the state's only permanent exhibition of contemporary Connecticut artists.

Virtually every piece in the collection was donated by an art patron or artist. Anni Albers, Isadore Berson, Wolfgang Behl, Alexander Calder, Bonnie Johnson, Joyce Kaplan, Les Litter, Barbara Levin, Sol LeWitt (cousin of Celeste LeWitt), Frank Stella, and Victor Vasarely are

some of the local, national, and international artists whose works grace the Health Center today. Personally working with artists, she encouraged them to donate their work to the



Carol T. Moore. *New York El*

Center. In 1986, ownership of the collection was transferred to the UCHC while LeWitt remains on the advisory committee. "I derived such personal pleasure in putting the collection together," she said.

Enter Linda Webber. Also a native of New York City, Webber has spent a lifetime involved in the arts. She attended the prestigious High School of Music and Art in New York. Her credentials include a BFA from Boston University and an M.Ed with a minor in art from the University of Hartford. Her professional career has focused on teaching from elementary school to college including a stint at the Paier College of Art in Hamden, Connecticut.

Webber came to the UCHC as a breast cancer patient. She, too, had pondered the blank walls and felt that something inspirational should greet patients. At the same time, Celeste LeWitt was very committed to finding a qualified individual to take charge of the collection. Their meeting resulted in the creation of a paid position for a Curator and that Curator was Linda Webber.

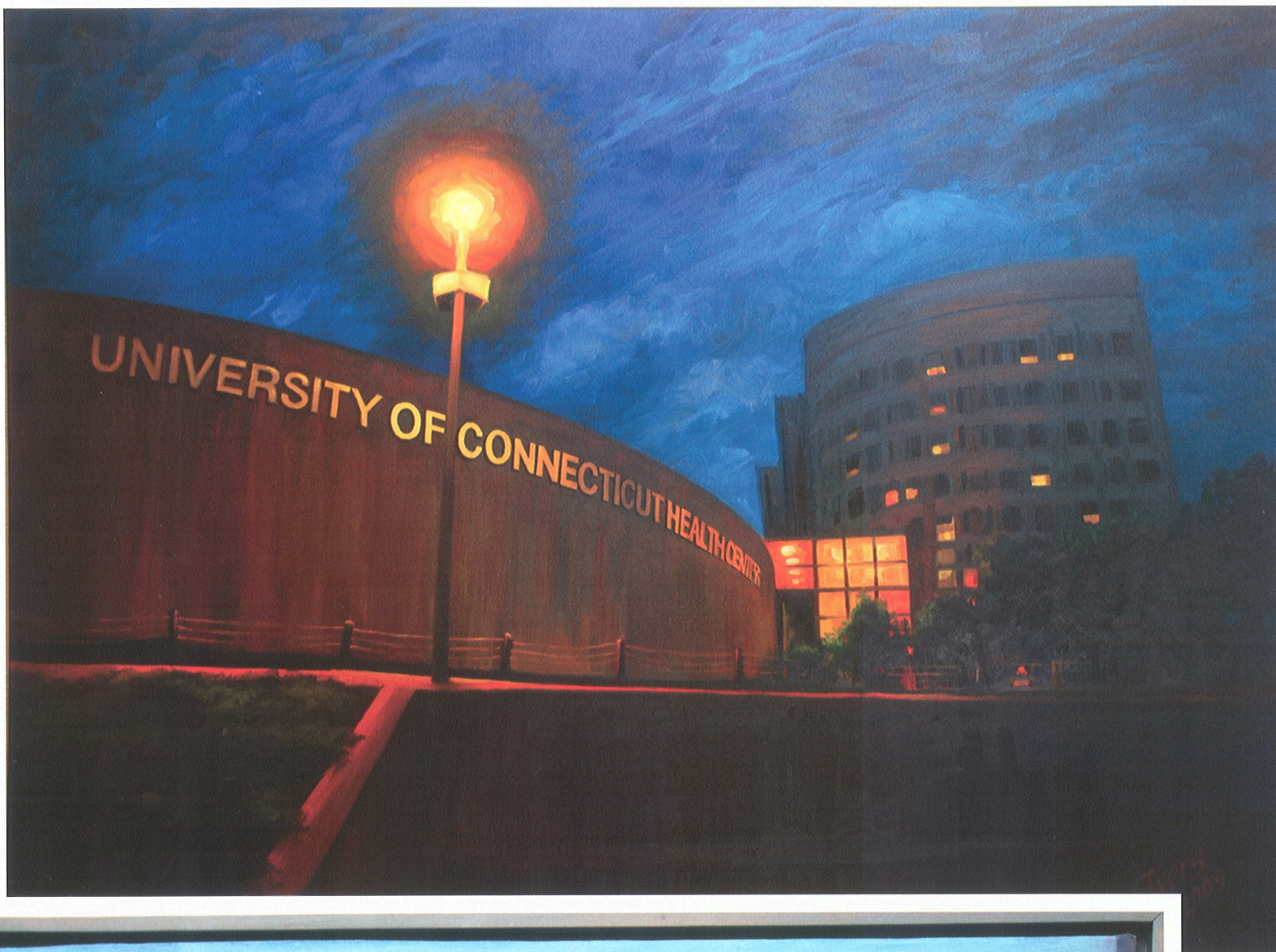
"As a breast cancer survivor, I felt that I wanted to do something for the Health Center. I felt indebted to the hospital," she said. One of her first projects was enhancing the interior design of the Hollfelder Center for Women's Health.





Donna Morency, *Windows to the Soul*





Top: Christine Ivers, *Always Awake* Lower: Constance La Palombara, *Downtown*





Janice Sorokin, *untitled*

Her curved mural, *Forces of Life*, suggesting the sea, sun, and sky, is a life-affirming addition to the waiting area; an attempt to capture the sense of "women in motion influencing the lives around them".

As Curator, she is entrusted to fulfill the goals and objectives set by the Art Advisory Committee – to add to the collection, provide for its stewardship, and expose it to the public through a variety of programs.

During her ten-year tenure, she has fulfilled these mandates and continues to experiment with outreach projects. She has just about doubled the number of pieces in the collection to approximately 1,500 by soliciting artists in various ways. Sometimes, they are approached personally but also, at various art exhibitions, a small note might be attached to a work of interest inquiring as to whether an artist might want to donate something to the collection. This, of

course, means that she often attends various art exhibitions throughout the state. Art patrons too may donate a work. She is also steward to the collection, creating databases for the extensive inventory, and attending to repair and maintenance.

Perhaps one of the most dramatic changes since her appointment is the increase in the number of showings of contemporary artists. Fourteen one-person

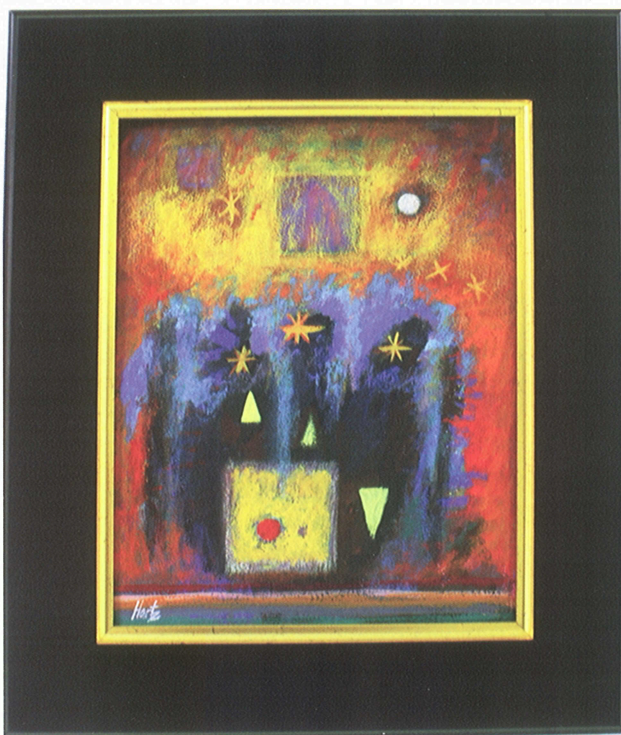
is framed by Denise Stillwaggon Leone's abstract and colorful geometric glass panels, which playfully refract light.

"I obviously can't do all this myself. I have a staff of about 20 volunteers who help with all of these tasks. Unlike the usual museum, we're coming from a different place. The artwork we seek is inspirational and uplifting; it's not just for patients but also for people waiting for appointments and employees," she explained.

The art is simply everywhere. Snow White, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Bambi, and Lady and the Tramp come into view as you enter the hospital's neo-natal intensive care units. Barker Animation of Cheshire, Connecticut donated these 8 original Disney cartoon sericels. Realism is also depicted in other works. Chet White invites the viewer to take a sunset boat ride in an awaiting canoe in *Evening Passage*. In *Windows to the Soul*, Donna Morency paints a poignant portrait of mother and child. Avid golfers will appreciate Donald Moss's *The 16th* at Cypress Point while the enduring allure of orchids is deftly articulated by Linda Tenukas.

Other works are more abstract engaging the viewer's imagination. Tory Cowles delights the eye with pattern and color using mixed media. Janet Sorokin's vibrant serigraph plays with shape and color enhancing the lobby. The

dental area is home to Richard Malinsky's *Giant Sea Fan*, which suggests a coral reef teeming with sea life. Janine Gelineau captures the radiance of light refracted through glass in her



Denise Hartz, *Abstract*

shows per year take place in various venues throughout the facility, many in the Celeste LeWitt Art Gallery, a 440 square foot space dedicated to rotating exhibits. The gallery itself



James Grabowski, *The daVinci Touch*



Janine Gelineau, *Energy*Suzanne Howes-Stevens, *Inland Scape 21*

photograph *Energy*.

How important is the collection to the staff at the UCHC? Webber described an incident at

an orientation meeting for new employees including a wide spectrum of service providers as well as health care professionals. Each person had to stand up and describe his or her position. "When I stood up and said that I was the Curator of the Health Center Collection, everybody clapped. I was shocked that everyone was so excited about my job in the Health Center," she said.

To further the importance of art in relation to health, Webber has created two synergistic programs including a course for physicians at the New Britain Museum of American Art and an internship at the Hartford Art School of the University of Hartford.

Webber emphasized her mission. "We are looking for living artists in the community who really care about art and health and we focus on artists who want community involvement." At the UCHC, art surrounds you in its interior spaces and on its outdoor pathways with surprising sculptures animating the natural landscape. As you explore

its diversity, give some encore applause to the curator and staff as well as the artists who have given you a healthy dose of inspiration, hope, and a sense of well-being. It's just what the doctor ordered.

For further information or to donate art go to [webber@uchc.edu](mailto:webber@uchc.edu) or 860.679.2684







Chet White, *Evening Passage*



Janet Shafner, *Peaches and Flowers*



Peake-Virgina, *Lily Garden*



Janice Hechter, *Botanical Dream*



Francine Liftig, *Ocean Beach*



June P. Webster, *Ives Farm*