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## **BID ON A GOOD CAUSE AT THE HARVEST FESTIVAL**

BETHEL, NY (September 12, 2008) – As part of the 10th anniversary of The Harvest Festival, a series of one-of-a-kind cedar wooden benches have been decorated by local artists and will be auctioned off to raise money to support programs offered in the Festival's Children's Area.

A variety of talented local artists have contributed their skills to the fundraiser, and customized the benches with paint, collage, decoupage, and other creative processes. The benches are on display at The Harvest Festival each week. The silent auction began on Labor Day and will end on the last day of The Harvest Festival, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Bidding will close at 2:00pm and winners will be announced from the stage at 3:30pm.

The benches were crafted by Catskill Outdoor Furniture and have been decorated by area artists including L Susan Allsop, Tobi Magnetico, Jack Yelle, Molly Stahl, Sally Amthor, Jacob and Susan Melnick, Matthew Sherman and Paul Kean. Many of the artists used Harvest Festival themes as inspiration for the direction of their work.

To place your bid for one of the benches, please visit the Welcome Tent at The Harvest Festival, where you will be assigned a bidding identification number for the duration of the silent auction. Please call 845.295.2448 for additional information or questions.

The benches featured at this year's festival are as follows.

### **"Woodstock Wine" Bench by L Susan Allsop**

Woodstock Wine is designed and executed by L Susan Allsop of Chisel Me Timbers custom carvers in Livingston Manor, NY. Fashioned after wine casks, the bench was pickled to faux age it using (appropriately) red wine vinegar as the pickling base. "Inspired by the Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods being at the site of the original Woodstock, it seemed natural to celebrate that cultural and historical event in the bench by creating Woodstock Wine for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wine Festival. Simple and elegant, but with a whimsical note, like a good wine, this bench will mellow with age... and hopefully will top Forbes' "Most Expensive Wine Bench" List when auctioned for charity." - L Susan Allsop

### **The French Quarter Cajun Bench by Tobi Magnetico**

Tobi Magnetico holds a Bachelor Degree in Fine Art with a concentration in painting from Binghamton University. After graduating, Tobi created the program Fine Art for Kids at Peach Tree Studios in Monticello, NY, where she has instructed several classes for children based on creative expression and a basic knowledge of art history. She has participated in many group art shows, including a showcase of New York State's "Up and Coming Artist" in Albany, and a one woman thesis show in Binghamton. Her work is on permanent display, outside the Sullivan County Museum in the form of a large scale multi-

panel mural depicting "A Peoples' History of Sullivan County." Tobi is an accomplished portrait painter. She will begin teaching art and acting classes once again this fall in Jeffersonville, NY.

"This outdoor bench was inspired by a Cajun theme. The hand painted design is pulled from the wrought iron railings of the French Quarter in New Orleans. The coloration is reminiscent of weather work wood found in the ocean. Overall, this bench has an elegant playfulness that would be a wonderful accent to any home." - Tobi Magnetico

#### **"Woods and Waters" by Jack Yelle**

Watercolor was the primary medium for the fly fishing bench, but being that watercolor is not permanent Jack enlisted the help of his artist wife, Patricia, to provide her expertise in mixing acrylics. "When I first saw the bench, it immediately formed a visual picture of the scene...The oval shape seemed the proper containment for the design as did the fly fishing subject. I have painted this subject as a tribute to the woods and waters that surround me. Although I have painted similar subjects numerous times, each time the finished work reassures Patricia and I that we have indeed chosen the right place to live. I think the bench will be right at home in this area... and I wish the new owner as much happiness sitting on it as I enjoyed while painting it". - Jack Yelle

#### **Le banc de paix en decoupage by Molly Stahl - Sponsored by Catskill Art Society**

Molly Stahl is a fifteen year old sophomore at Livingston Manor Central School and a Scholarship Student at the Catskill Art Society. She plans on majoring in art and would like to attend Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia. Art has always played a major part in her life. "I am thoroughly fascinated by the art and cultural revolutions that took place in the 1960's. The events that happened back then still play a large role in our society today. These influences compelled me to create the "peace bench." - Molly Stahl

#### **The Ag-Experience by Sally Amthor**

Sally Amthor grew up in the Catskill Mountains and has been drawing and painting ever since she can remember. Sally graduated in 2007 from Houghton College with a double major in Art and Writing. She will be teaching art at Light and Life Christian School in Liberty, NY beginning in September. "Painting a bench for the Harvest Festival was a fun and challenging project for me since my usual medium is oil on canvas. My current paintings are still lifes and florals in vibrant colors, but I wanted to do something different with this project. I've always been enchanted by medieval art, so I decided to create a medieval agricultural scene based on medieval manuscripts." - Sally Amthor

#### **Earth Day in Autumn by Paul Kean**

Paul Kean is a commercial artist who resides in Livingston Manor, NY. He owns and operates two art-related businesses in Wurtsboro, NY. The first, Graphic Detail is a graphic art business, which focuses on sign and lettering design and manufacture; custom, hand painted graphics are a specialty. The other is the art gallery, Kean Artworks, which displays art ranging from paintings on canvas to multi-dimensional wooden wall sculptures. Subject matter of the work spans thought provoking to smile inducing.

#### **The Bethel Woods Artists' Signature Bench – 2008 Season**

The Bethel Woods Artists' Signature bench has been signed by members of the Steve Miller Band, Heart, Cheap Trick, The Allman Brothers Band's drummer, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, the Del McCoury Band, David Bromberg, John Pizzarelli, Tony Dedesco, Adam Ward, Bucky Pizzarelli, Debbie Shaw, Angel Reed, Walter Porter, Matt Pilli, Mark Braud and Walter Post.

#### **"Wish You Were Here" by Jacob and Susan Melnick**

Jacob and Susan Melnick of the Common Ground Café, a popular restaurant at both concerts and the Harvest Festival created the "Wish You Were Here" bench. The Melnick's live in Bethel with their two sons. The famous Pink Floyd song "Wish You Were Here" inspired the design as well as their own personal adventures and experiences.

#### **Alpaca Festival by Matthew Sherman**

Matthew holds a BA in Art and an MS in Art Education from Queens College. Matthew contributes as an artist and an instructor to the fine arts, theatre arts and the technical arts. He has worked with all age groups and levels of study in formal and informal settings. Matt, a backbone of the Harvest Festival Children's area for ten years, creates new and exciting arts and crafts projects every Sunday for the

young ones. He has also exhibited at the Liberty Museum, the Catskill Art Society and the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. The Alpaca bench is a whimsical tribute to the annual Alpaca Festival and features an artistically fun silhouette of these soft and friendly animals. "Art is the unifying thread in the fabric called life." – Matt Sherman

### **"Skinny Dipping at Dawn" by Ann Finneran**

Ann Finneran received her BFA in Painting from Buffalo State College. She lives in Hurleyville with her husband, Richard Seehausen and daughter Nina. She is a member of the Catskill Art Society and the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. The bench is intended to convey the experience of a pond, specifically "Skinny Dipping at Dawn". The seat of the bench looks into the shallows of a pond, with young lily pads floating, and grasses reflected. A school of small minnows swim through. The backrest of the bench shows a lily pond scape, with the dawn sky, although it could easily be post sunset, depending on where one sets the bench! The rear of the bench portrays the nude backs of a couple sitting on a gray weathered deck facing the water with soft ripples reflecting the dawn light. The arms also portray a weathered deck, with the "wet" footprints of the artist.

The Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods is held every Sunday from 11am – 4pm through Columbus Day weekend, rain or shine. Located approximately 90 minutes from New York City at the site of the original 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is the perfect day trip or weekend getaway. Admission and parking are free. Harvest Festival attendees can also add a ticket and visit The Museum at Bethel Woods, which explores the 60's and Woodstock, and make a full day of their visit.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of The Harvest Festival, an annual event celebrating the bounty, talent, and beauty of Sullivan County and the region. In ten years, the festival has grown from a small farmer's market with a handful of vendors and a few guest musicians who provided background music, to a full festival featuring close to 100 vendors each week as part of the farmer's market, craft village and festival food areas. The Festival also presents special events and live performances, a children's area with enrichment activities that include arts and crafts as well as corn and hay mazes, pony rides, "gathering of the scarecrows" and more.

A sense of community is reflected throughout the Harvest Festival. The corn and hay mazes are operated by local volunteer organizations that are able to benefit from this fundraising opportunity, as well as the chance to share information about their group and possibly recruit new volunteers. The Children's Area features various activities each week that are presented by community organizations, providing an opportunity to educate others about their mission.

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of the Harvest Festival is presented by The Chapin Estate and supported by the Gerry Foundation, as well as event day sponsors; A&J Hometown Oil, Inc., Catskill Regional Medical Center and M&M Auto Group who share the same commitment to the community and regional economic development.

The Harvest Festival schedule is as follows, for more information please visit

[www.BethelWoodsCenter.org](http://www.BethelWoodsCenter.org)

<b>September 21</b>	<b>Earth Day in Autumn (sponsored by A&amp;J Hometown Oil, Inc.)</b>
<b>September 28</b>	<b>The Ag Experience</b>
<b>October 5</b>	<b>Cajun Festival</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>Chili Cook-Off (sponsored by M&amp;M Auto Group)</b>

#### About The Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods:

The Harvest Festival is one of several programs that reflect the commitment to community that serves as the fundamental mission of the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. The festival reflects our mission to support sustainability and continued regional economic development through this annual commitment to provide a venue for our local farmers, artisans, community organizations and businesses. A visit to the Festival offers the opportunity for people to gather and form relationships in ways that are absent from traditional retail/buyer transactions. We connect local and regional growers and artisans with the community and provide an opportunity for shoppers to buy local and support a regional economy. The benefit of being able to interact with the hard working families who produce and harvest their food and the thrill of watching artisans create their wares keeps Festival goers coming back week after week; year after year. The grown and harvested food and crafted items are acts of personal inspiration, and the festival offers visitors the opportunity to learn more about this process and to better appreciate and understand its value.

### **About The Chapin Estate**

The 2,500± acre Chapin Estate encompasses hundreds of acres of unspoiled wilderness, including two boating and fishing reservoirs, a private trout fishing stream and miles of hiking trails which are also suitable for mountain biking and horseback riding. The Chapin Estate also adjoins more than 13,000 acres of forever wild forestlands owned by the State of New York. The Chapin Estate homes are specifically designed and built to reflect the owners' unique lifestyle and personal desires, while accentuating the natural beauty and balance with its setting. Located just two hours from New York City, The Chapin Estate provides an "Adirondack experience" all year long, offering amenities including a members only Lake Club and a community exclusive Concierge Service. For more information please contact The Chapin Estate at (866) 5834900 or visit [www.ChapinEstate.com](http://www.ChapinEstate.com).

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