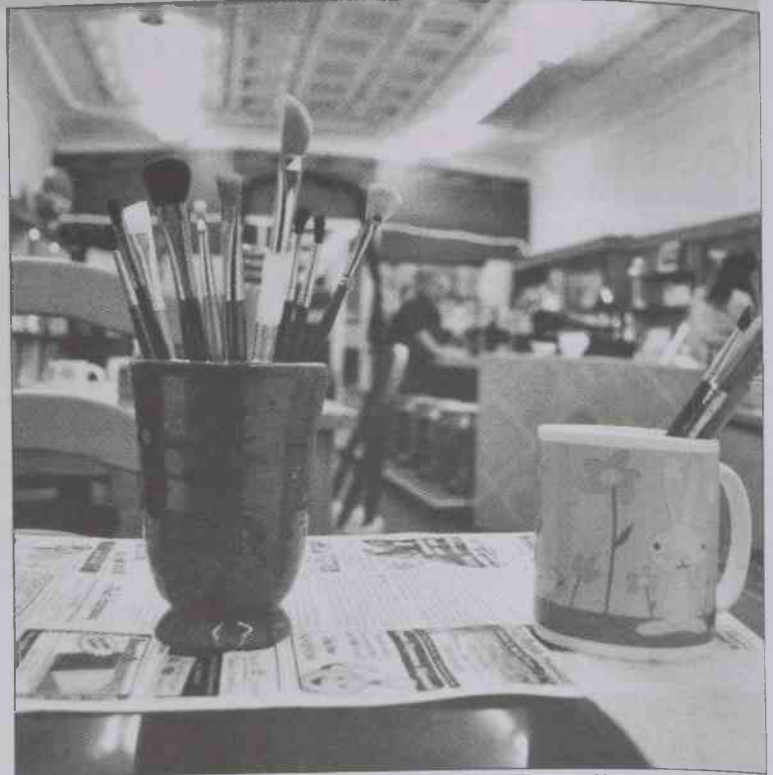




Painted and fired finished items wait for their owners to pick them up. It takes about five days to fire them. MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer



Visitors can paint a number of items including pottery, bisque and porcelain. MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Pottery shop keeps tradition, creativity alive

Audrey Horwitz
Reporter

Even the owners of 114 N. Main St. in Graham are unclear as to whether they run an orangeade shop that happens to sell paint-your-own pottery or a paint-your-own pottery shop that sells orangeade.

After some deliberation, the jury is in. The Square Palette is, in fact, a paint-your-own pottery shop. But it does serve killer orangeade.

Across the street from the old-fashioned Graham Cinema sits the quaint establishment run by the Honus family.

When Martha Honus and her son Justin opened the shop, a friend told

Martha that he had a location in mind.

"I said, 'Well I need a place that's got shelves.' He said, 'All it's got is shelves,'" Martha said.

The Honus' friend wasn't kidding. The walls are lined with shelves filled with bisques — unglazed figurines that customers can paint. There are a variety of bisques ranging from plates, mugs, ice cream cones, animals, masks, Christmas trees and Darth Vader figurines. Prices, starting at \$3, include studio time, paint, and firing.

The shop and its owners are new to town. The Square Palette opened Oct. 1 of this year, but is already fitting right in with the locals. Establishing the shop started with the orangeade maker: local lore states that whoever

occupies the building is obligated to serve up icy orangeades.

"It's a wonderful neighborhood," Martha said. "We've got this little boy across the street whose mom owns the consignment store. He comes here every day for orangeade. You can set the clock."

Martha said she and Justin are still settling in and working out the kinks of owning a small business. The shop is open seven days a week, but the owners find themselves putting in much more time than just business hours.

"You have to be here to know when to be here," Martha said. "It seems like we're here all the time. We'll have to fine-tune that."

The mother-son team has not been

shy about stirring up business. Martha Honus is full of ideas.

"We wanted to work out something where the kids come here when the parents go see a movie," she said. "Or the other way around."

The Square Palette is also partnering with local schools. They are giving 10 percent of profits to North Graham Elementary the first weekend of every month when customers say they are affiliated with the school.

Closer and cheaper than Greensboro's shop The Mad Platter, The Square Palette is a home-grown answer to creative burn-out.

Even if you don't care for arts and crafts, a refreshing cup of orangeade is sure to satisfy your palette.

Hillel Shabbat serves hope for global hunger

Rebecca Wickel
Design Editor

"Elon" is the Hebrew word for "tree" or "oak tree," a piece of trivia that students, faculty and staff quickly learn after arriving on campus. But on Nov. 11 members of the community focused on a different phrase in the traditional language of Judaism.

"Tikkun olam" is a Hebrew saying that means "repairing the world." The tenets of Judaism promote service through social justice, encouraging people to gain awareness of issues in the community and across the world.

Elon Hillel, the campus Jewish life organization, hosted a global hunger Shabbat to discuss hunger issues and understanding a call to activism.

"By having a global hunger Shabbat dinner this Friday, we are making people realize that hunger exists across all communities, including Elon," said sophomore Mason Sklut, public relations chair. "Once people see how serious of an issue global hunger is, then hopefully they will feel the urge to participate in service work to help those suffering from hunger."

The dinner featured a simple meal of corn, peas, rice and beans, donated by ARAMARK. Students and faculty in attendance focused on the importance of being Jewish with the ability to improve the quality of life for those in need by participating in a roundtable discussion.

The conversation revolved around the connection between Judaism and social justice. The struggles of the Jewish people during its enslavement in Egypt and the abuses of the Holocaust offer them a responsibility to work toward solutions for injustices, according to senior Michael Gross, vice president

of Hillel.

"Healing the world is a big Jewish goal," said sophomore Caitlin Byrne, co-chair of social action. "Tonight we have country studies. We're doing Colombia and Haiti, trying to figure out what we can do as a small Jewish community."

Despite concern for the hungry in other countries, conversation also focused on solving starvation in the United States. Students said they had witnessed homelessness and hunger.

Students agreed that malnutrition resulting from poverty is an issue plaguing American society. Freshman Sophia Koh compared the poor's reliance on cheap, fast food like McDonald's, lacking in vitamins and nutrients, to the Jews' dependence on matzah during their exodus from Egypt.

Understanding the link between Judaism and social justice is what brings Hillel together, and strengthening their community enables them to initiate change, members said.

"The underlying meaning of these events is to bring the Jewish community at Elon together," Gross said. "Sometimes we don't get to see each other during the week, so Shabbat is a chance to come together and remember what we're here to do."

Hillel members said they believe they can discover practical solutions to hunger crises both in the United States and abroad. Being conscious of the gift they have to eat a hot meal every day is a first step toward solving the problem.

"I feel like the impact of global hunger deserves more attention than it gets," Sklut said. "As an Elon student, with access to food 24/7, I will do my best to make more of an effort to show moderation with food."



Clockwise from left, Tom Vecchione, Jordan August, Arielle Weil, Kimberly Gersh and Elissa Krapf participated in the Hillel global hunger Shabbat. The event brought awareness to worldwide hunger. CLAIRE ESPARROS | Staff Photographer