

Stories of Anastasia...

Ukrainian immigrant Marie Igorevna Kuroshchepova, who now calls Kings Mountain home, tells tales to entertain her ill niece. More on Page 2B



# Arts



# Bras

## for a cause at Southern Arts Society

### Artists let it all hang out for cancer society

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

Members of the Southern Arts Society have found a unique way to call attention to Breast Cancer - they've decorated bras that are now on display at the Kings Mountain Art Center, in the old depot, 301 N. Piedmont Ave.

They will remain on display at the center through June 11. Johnnie Reavis, treasurer of Southern Arts Society Inc., said that they hope to make the "Bras for Cancer Awareness" a year-long traveling exhibit.

The decorated lingerie, Reavis said, is definitely "making a statement".

Collectively, the statement is simple - "breast cancer affects us all", but each bra, individually,

tells its own story.

"My sister-in-law had breast cancer and she crochets," Reavis said, as she lifted a bra she decorated with a crochet material. Soft blue beads also hung from the colorful cups. The piece was named "Jane's Party".

Another bra sparkled in the light as it hung with the others. It was titled "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" and was made by Barbara O'Neal Davis.

Ninth grader Meagan Childers decorated a rather playful bra, complete with plastic leis and starfish, entitled "Coral Reef".

Debbie Bradshaw created a beauty called "Feathered Friends" and Sue Litaker's "With and Without Miracle Grow" is

sure to bring a giggle.

There's a "Latte Ta Ta" and a "Ravish Ruby", a bra for ski bunnies and one for kite fliers.



The bra-makers used beads, feathers, ribbons, fake fur, lace, tassels and flowers in their creations.

But, in honor of fathers every-

where, one creator used something else. Titled the "1st Bra Design by Daddy", Lynn Eskridge used lace, pink ribbons, prickly balls from a sweet gum tree and added a touch of barbed wire to the bra's back fastener.

Another gesture to memorialize those lost to breast cancer and to honor those who have beaten it, a bra, tough like denim and tied with bows holds the names of some of those affected by the disease.

They all give new meaning to the term "support bras".

Inspiration for the SASI exhibit came from the Quilters of South Carolina, who constructed a similar exhibit ("Artful Bras"), which traveled across the state last year and spread breast cancer awareness.

A local industry, Hanes

Brands Inc., donated 24 bras to the Southern Arts Society. The bare lingerie tops were distributed to members last October and 17 had been returned with decorations as of Friday.

The Kings Mountain Art Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.

### Did you know...

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women of all races and Hispanic origin populations.

Breast cancer is the first leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic women and the second leading cause of cancer death among white, black, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native women.

One in eight women in the United States have battled or will battle breast cancer.

Although less frequent than women, men have also been diagnosed with breast cancer.

## 'I Am Woman' show on display now at Kings Mountain art center

The Southern Arts Society's current exhibit, "I Am Woman", celebrates all features of femininity and womanhood at the Kings Mountain Art Center in the old train depot, 301 N. Piedmont Ave.

"This is our seventh annual art competition and exhibit representing artwork dedicated to womanhood, the feminine or the essence of being a woman," wrote members of SASI (Southern Arts Society Inc.) in their current newsletter.

Paula Smith, head of the ceramics department at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, judged the entries on Sunday, May 2.

"Eve" by Linda Vista took second place in the I Am Woman contest.



This colored pencil portrait by Kenny Walker won third place in the I Am Woman contest.

ado Ceramics and was entitled "Namaste". This small sculpture of a woman sitting with legs crossed, right arm folded and left arm extended is more than it appears. The figure also functions as a tea pot.

Second place was awarded to a piece the judge feared may be a bit controversial. But where an untrained eye may see a gourd in the shape of a pear, another

may see something more. The piece was entitled "Eve", created by Linda Vista.

Kenny Walker took third place with his colored pencil lifelike portrait of his daughter, entitled "Helen's Gift".

Several

pieces of talented artists' work, ranging in all forms of media, are on display along with the winning pieces at the Art Center.

Admission is free to view the exhibits. The Kings Mountain Art Center, in the old depot, is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and is manned by volunteers.

For more information, call SASI at 704-739-5585 or visit them online at [www.southernartsociety.org](http://www.southernartsociety.org)



photos by EMILY WEAVER  
"Namaste" a ceramic piece by Carolina Preciado Ceramics won first place in the recent I Am Woman art contest at the Kings Mountain Art Center.