

Reflections from the Director

The Hamilton Hill Arts Center



April 3, 2017



I am because we are
I am fortunate to have joined the Arts center at this time. We have a good core group of board members who are committed to giving the best of what they have to offer to make our community a success. They are nurturing, kind and supportive. Some offer knowledge, some time with the children, others offer community connection or technical skills. I have dedicated staff and volunteers who love their work and view it as their life mission. They are dedicated to working with me as a team to offer their Art form, their love and their skill to make this community thrive. I am proud of what we are building, and of the mosaic of personalities we are building with.

This summer I began reading a book called *The Hidden Life of Trees*. It talks not only about the complex communication that goes on between trees but about the intense sharing of resources. The author explains that not only do the trees feed their young, their elders, their sick, and at times their dead, they even feed those that you might consider to be their natural enemies, those with whom they compete for resources.

This doesn't happen in less developed forests it happens in the ancient ones, the ones that have been thriving for generations. In these forests a tree that lives only to a hundred or a hundred and fifty, has not lived passed its infancy.

The trees support each other's growth and wellbeing because the ability to live in a well nurtured and flourishing forest has more impact on the survival of the individual and the species than the immediate consuming of resources.

This means that the individuals quality of life is improved when everyone's life is improved that giving to others is giving to yourself.

The benefits of volunteering are proven, they offer physical and psychological improvement, extending the lives of those who give their time to change their environment.

It is through the Hamilton hill Arts Center that my board, staff, volunteers and I nurture our community. We do this to create a well-developed forest, one that will support our community for generations. One in which we will thrive.

I invite you to join us, stop by and fill out a volunteer form or join Minister Muhammad and his Temple at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center from the hours of 12:00 to 1:30 each Sunday for some community clean up. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to bring a group, Minister Muhammad can be reached at 518- 253-3808

We thank Muhammad Temple # 13 for the work

they have done as well as the students from Union College and the College of Saint Rose and give them some love. Who recently came by to visit and volunteer their time to improve our grounds. Please enjoy these pictures.

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