

# 2012 OUTSTANDING ARTS ORGANIZATION AWARD:

## **The Art League of the Chathams**

Since its founding in 1988, the Art League of the Chathams has evolved into a vital organization dedicated not only to nurturing the artistic development of member artists by showcasing their work but also to fostering an appreciation of the visual arts in the surrounding community with classes, workshops and exhibitions.

The Art League of the Chathams holds four annual group shows for its members as well as one-person exhibitions, accompanied by free public receptions. The organization promotes and encourages artists “no matter what their level of talent,” and particularly fosters young artists, providing multiple opportunities for them to develop their talents. One nominator wrote, “As a parent of three children, I value how the Art League fosters education in the arts for our local youth. They welcome the Chatham High School art students to display their work at one of the League exhibits. The students are shown how to frame, present and hang their artwork. An award is given to the best in several categories. The Art League also awards a \$500 scholarship to a Chatham High School senior who will study or has an interest in art.”

Broadening public awareness of the arts, the Art League’s outreach includes promoting visual arts at the Farmer’s Market and the Chathams Senior Center, displaying art at the Chatham Borough and Chatham Township Municipal Buildings and volunteering over 500 hours of time to paint murals at the

Chatham Township Municipal Building. Along with guided tours and lectures by member artists, the Art League regularly offers classes (many of which are free) for the public. The Art League also collaborates with artists and arts organizations in nearby communities.

Perhaps the best summary of the Art League's impact comes from Leonard Resto, a Councilman in Chatham Borough who states: "The Art League of the Chathams has immeasurably improved the quality of life of both our communities – Chatham Borough and Chatham Township."

Therefore, for its 24 years of outstanding work in promoting the visual arts, for its outreach to students, seniors and the broader community, and for its efforts to encourage awareness of the arts in the Chathams and beyond, the Arts Council of the Morris Area is proud to present the Art League of the Chathams with the 2012 Outstanding Arts Organization Award.

NOTE:

We invite Gail Logan of the Art League of the Chathams to come up for presentation of the award

**April 10, 2012**