

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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for immediate release
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Works by Alba Gennarelli at City Hall through July *Reception for the Artist on July 10, 2-4 p.m.*

During the month of July, visitors to City Hall, 83 Broadway, can enjoy the artistic talents of Alba Gennarelli. Petite, white haired and quiet voiced, Alba Ghezzi Gennarelli began art classes in the early 1980s in Brooklyn College Adult Education classes, and then continued on to study watercolor techniques with Mary Izzo, Philip Blatt and Terri Ferrier. After resettling in the Town of Newburgh, she studied with Richard Ochs. This nonagenarian (95 in October!) artist has specialized in painting seascapes and landscapes, choosing to capture the vibrant colors of sunrise or the brilliance of the setting sun, and the constant movement of the sea.



Mrs. Gennarelli has exhibited locally at the Newburgh Free Library, the Legal Arts Gallery in Goshen, and Orange Community College, as well as the Bay Ridge Festival of the Arts and the Galleria Alba in Brooklyn, the West Palm Beach Art Show in Florida, and the Englewood Library in New Jersey.

Born in Cetraro, Province of Cosenza, Italy, Alba Ghezzi Gennarelli arrived in the United States when she was nine years old. Her father, Francesco Ghezzi, an ardent and active anti-Fascist in his home town, escaped Italy before Mussolini arrested him. With his wife Rosina and their only child, daughter Alba, they arrived in New York in 1923. Typical of the times, her parents encouraged their daughter to study and she graduated from PS 206, Erasmus HS, and Brooklyn College (1937) with a degree in English and Italian. In 1939, Alba Ghezzi married Anthony Gennarelli, her childhood sweetheart, and they had four children. Music and art were important to them both. Tony owned his own textile business and in the early 1970s retired to become a full time sculpture and musician.

Alba Gennarelli has always enjoyed a challenge. After studying violin in her teens, she began piano and cello studies in her thirties. She was instrumental in overseeing her children's music practice as well as their academic studies. When her husband needed help with his new business, Alba returned to Brooklyn College and studied accounting. She was responsible for the family finances and investments. Her interests led her to invest in property upstate. When she decided to do substitute teaching, she returned to BC to take education courses as well as philosophy courses. She took graduate classes, studied French, and then joined IRPE at BC. She taught languages (Italian, French and Spanish) and English Language Arts at Seth Low Junior High School in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Gennarelli's love of learning has persisted to the present, as evidenced by her recent study of Chinese and her continuing study of the works of Umberto Eco. For the past ten years, Alba has taught Italian in the LIFE (seniors 55 and over) classes at the Desmond Campus of Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY. An avid reader in both English and Italian, she does her best to impart her knowledge and love of her Italian heritage to her students. Seemingly indefatigable, she continues to run her household, entertain and cook for her large family, paint, teach, and attend concerts, especially those of her son Franco, a professional violinist active in New York and New Jersey

City Hall is open from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information or to inquire about prices call 778-3862.