

VALLEY VISIONS



Photos provided

Left: Lewisburg artist Eddy Lopez's winning entry in the 'work on paper' category at the State Museum of Pennsylvania's annual Art of the State exhibit is entitled *La Prensa: Resistencia Ciudadana*. **Right:** *Pretty in Pink No. 2* by Sanh Tran, of Milton, won first place in photography at the State Museum of Pennsylvania's annual Art of the State exhibition.

Area artists win in state competition, share stories of diversity

By Marcia Moore
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Two Valley artists have won first place in separate categories of the State Museum of Pennsylvania's Art of the State: Pennsylvania 2020 contest. Sanh Tran, of Milton, placed first in the photography category

and Eddy Lopez, of Lewisburg, won first place for his work on paper.

Winners were chosen from 108 works selected from 1,901 entries.

Due to the pandemic, prizes were awarded at a virtual award ceremony broadcast on social media on September 13. The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Com-

mission's state-owned historic sites and museums, including The State Museum, remain closed to the public.

It's the second consecutive win for Tran in the annual juried exhibition that has been showcasing Pennsylvania artists' work at the museum since 1968.

"It means so much," he said of

the acknowledgment of his work. "My mission is to be inclusive and diverse, so it's nice to be included and thought of as a Pennsylvanian with a story to tell."

Lopez, an assistant professor of art at Bucknell University who has exhibited his work across the world, said receiving the first prize in the work on paper cat-

egory is "validating."

A native of Nicaragua, Lopez moved to Lewisburg from Miami, Fla., to take a position at Bucknell in 2016. He's continued to work at his craft and show his art throughout the U.S. and internationally.

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Amish baptismal service, wedding 'Nothings'

By Lovina Eicher
Lovina's Amish Kitchen

Another week has gone by, and it's already time to write this column and get it on its way to my editors. Once again, I'm pushing the deadline ... it must be that I work better under pressure because it seems I so often push it off until the last minute. Or maybe that is what a lot of mothers do. Is it because we decide our family is more important than anything else?

We had a few cloudy, rainy days and now our solar battery alarm is beeping out in the pole barn. That means the generator has to be started in order to recharge the battery pack. Our water pump is run by our solar battery. So far, we have water, but as soon as it gets to be daylight, someone needs to go get gas at the gas station. Yes — at 11 p.m. last night, after everyone was already in bed, daughter Loretta could hear the battery beeping. It



was too late for anyone to go get gas, the gas stations near us were closed, and we didn't have any gas left in the jugs. Of course, during the night hours no one was using water, so it was OK until this morning when activity began again. I am waiting to take a shower until the gas is here. I do not want to risk running out of water in the middle of a shower. Hopefully once it's daylight, the sun will come out, but the generator still needs to be started to help get the charge back in the battery pack.

Daughter Susan and children were here yesterday. Son-in-law Mose had a doctor appointment about his finger. The doctor took the stitches out but wasn't too happy with how it's healing. So still no "OK" to go back to work. Susan brought her laundry and washed it here. We will wash ours today if it's a nice day.

Daughter Elizabeth and children have plans to come today. Our oldest granddaughter Abigail (Tim and Elizabeth's daughter) will be four years old tomorrow, Sept. 10. Abigail is a sweet little girl who is at the stage where she asks one question after another — and then asks, "but why?" We love her so much, as we do the four other grandchildren. We will go to Tim and Elizabeth's on Friday evening in honor of sweet Abigail's birthday. She gets so excited to have a birthday!

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One soldier's unique adventures during WWII

In writing about the World War II experience of other veterans, it reminded me that my late brother Don had related some unique adventures he had survived.

At the beginning of WWII, Don was already a diver in the Navy. As the war progressed, he transferred to the submarine service, aboard the first Nautilus. We designated it that way because in later years there was a second Nautilus, which was nuclear powered and accomplished the history-making journey under the ice of the North Pole. Robert Miller of Lewisburg was the executive officer on the submarine during that mission.

One of brother Don's wartime stories about his submarine's mission was so unusual, before telling it, I thought it best to consult another WWII submarine veteran. Fred Schluter, of Lewisburg, served dur-

JOSEPH DIBLIN



ing WWII on the submarine USS Dentuda in the engine room of the undersea boat as motor machinist second class. Of interest is that the skipper of the USS Dentuda was John McCain, whose father was a vice admiral in the Pacific Theater. Submarine skipper McCain was the father of Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a pilot and POW during the Vietnam War.

The Dentuda's mission was primarily in the Pacific Theater,

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Valley Life

Amish baptismal service, wedding ‘Nothings’

SERVICE, from Page E1

Yesterday we canned 55 quarts of vegetable juice. We didn’t make it hot, so that I can use it in place of tomato juice in soups, etc. We picked six five-gallon sized buckets of tomatoes from the garden. Potatoes need to be dug up, hot peppers picked and canned, etc. Harvesting is in full swing with the gardens. Grapes will be next on the list.

On Sunday, Mose and Susan hosted baptismal services in a big tent at their place for daughter Loretta, nephew Jacob, and another young boy in our church district, Jeremiah. They prepared for extra people and had borrowed another bench wagon from a neighboring church district. I’m doing a rough estimate, but according to how many times we had to reset the tables, I would think almost 300 people were there in honor of the three young souls being baptized. Mose and Susan were well prepared with extra food, and we had enough for everyone. I made around two and a half big pots of coffee and we still almost ran out. This would probably total 200 cups. We also had 12 gallons of iced tea, but it was a cool day, so people wanted more coffee instead.

Also on the menu were ham, cheese, homemade wheat and white bread (60 loaves but we had some left), pickles, hot peppers, red beets, peanut butter spread,



Photo provided

Amish Wedding Nothings for an Eicher family wedding.

butter, rhubarb jam, and cookies (four different kinds). Popcorn was served while dishes were being washed.

Mose and Susan are living in their garage, but work on the house is slowly getting done. The bedroom, living room, and bathroom are drywalled, and my husband Joe started mudding the

bathroom, so hopefully soon we can paint that part of the house.

Until next time — God bless! I will share the recipe for “Nothings” since I have had a lot of mail asking what they are. They are a thin pastry with sugar sprinkled on top. They are almost always served at weddings in Berne,

Indiana, where we moved from more than 16 years ago. They are sometimes also called knee patches or elephant ears.

AMISH WEDDING NOTHINGS, OR KNEE PATCHES
3/4 cup cream (3 large “cookspoons” heavy cream)

1 egg, well beaten
pinch salt
2 cups flour
shortening, for frying
powdered sugar, for topping
Stir together cream, egg, salt, and enough flour to make an elastic dough. Make 7-9 balls out of the dough. Roll out each ball of dough very flat and thin, about 1/16 inch.

Cut six three-inch slits, one above the other, in the middle of each round of dough.

Heat shortening in a large pot over high heat (or use an electric skillet with a temperature control). When the shortening is 365 degrees, test a small piece of dough to see if it sizzles. When oil is hot enough, put the rolled-out dough into the pot or skillet. (Fry one at a time, unless you have a huge kettle.) When the dough turns golden on the bottom, turn once with two forks or large spatula. Remove from pot and drain on plate covered with paper towels.

Sprinkle powdered sugar over top while warm. To serve, stack the Nothings on top of one another on a plate.

One batch makes 7-9 Nothings. For a wedding, we would make 12-15 batches, or more as needed.

■ *Lovina’s Amish Kitchen is written by Lovina Eicher, Old Order Amish writer, cook, wife, and mother of eight. Readers can write to Eicher at PO Box 1689, South Holland, IL 60473 (please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for a reply); or email LovinasAmishKitchen@MennoMedia.org and your message will be passed on to her to read. She does not personally respond to emails.*

One soldier’s unique adventures during WWII

WWII, from Page E1

patrolling the area between Formosa (Taiwan) and the China coast. The Dentuda sank a Japanese gunboat in a surface battle. In addition, after area air raids by U.S. pilots, the submarine saved downed fliers on a number of occasions.

The WWII Nautilus story, as I remember hearing it from my brother, was that their submarine was assigned the mission of slipping into Tokyo Bay in early 1945, for the purposes of weather reports for the U.S. pilots and observing any military and shipping activity and reporting it via radio. They accomplished it by staying on the bottom during the day and surfacing at night for observations.

We asked Fred Schluter if it was possible for WWII subs to remain submerged for 12 to 15 hours. He advised that they could easily remain underwater for 24 hours. In the

reference book, “The Real Book about Submarines,” we found this related statement: Another important job undertaken by the Silent Service during the war was espionage. Stationed at strategic locations, they watched for and reported Japanese military movements.

Among the activities the Nautilus crew noted in Tokyo Bay was a nearly completed Japanese aircraft carrier. It appeared to be about ready to launch when the Nautilus had to leave. They cleverly went out through the harbor submarine net in the same manner they entered by cruising beneath a Japanese ship. In accordance with their orders, the Nautilus met their replacement submarine safely at sea and among other items reported, emphasized the ready new Japanese aircraft carrier.

Incredibly, the U.S. replacement submarine watched the daytime launching of the

Japanese carrier by periscope, and as it slid into the water, sent it to the bottom with several accurate torpedoes. They reported that the Japanese virtually acted crazy, depth charging the bay trying to get to the U.S. submarine. Our submarine survived by hiding under some large ships in deep water. They were able to slip out of the harbor later to tell their remarkable story.

If my memory is correct, after the war a movie was made of the unusual sinking. It would be of interest if any reader could recall the movie and its title.

■ *Joseph A. Diblin, of Northumberland, was a four-engine pilot during World War II and has worked as a test pilot and civilian flight instructor. He is also seaplane rated. If you are a veteran and would like to share your story, contact him at 570-473-2594.*

Area artists win in state competition, share stories of diversity from Valley

ARTISTS, from Page E1

It’s the first time he’s submitted work to the state museum contest and said he was “pleased and surprised by the recognition” of the first-place ranking, which includes a \$500 cash award.

Tran was a practicing attorney in San Francisco and Los Angeles for eight years before moving to the Valley in 2011 with his husband. During the past nine years, the self-taught photographer has focused on his passion for art and addressing what it means to be a gay Asian man

in rural America through self-portraits.

“I might not be as technically astute” as formally trained photographers, he said. “I concentrate on symbolism or meaning.”

To create his images, Tran learned to sew and work with props. He photographs most of his work in his home.

He began exhibiting his photographs in 2013 and in the past five years has shown them across the country.

“Sharing my story is important. It’s one way to

bridge this very growing divisiveness,” said Tran. “This is the kind of social activism I can do.”

Lopez’ work frequently features the turbulence he grew up in before arriving in the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant in 1987.

Working with newspaper and other print mediums, Lopez creates collages by layering compositions.

His winning work, “La Prensa: Resistencia Ciudadana,” was created using numerous 2018 newspaper clippings on anti-government protests in Nicaragua.



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