

Town & County Host Hidden Treasures in Asylum Hill

For the third year the Town & County Spring forum has focused on Asylum Hill, this time on the hidden treasures of art & culture that are present here in Asylum Hill.

The first part of the afternoon was a showing of the works of various artists either living or associated with the neighborhood, including paintings by Georges Annan Kingsley and Reena Shrestha, paintings and sculpture by Louisa Barton-Duguay, photography by Bernie Michel, and crafts and jewelry by Marthe Annan-Kingsley, Magrette Balogou, Lar Pwe Paw and Eman Solman. Nearly all of them are



immigrants, and bring an exciting diversity of experience to their creations.

This was followed by a panel discussion of a representation of the cultural richness available here as well, especially focused on youth. The discussion was moderated by Rabbi Donna Berman and included again Georges Annan-Kingsley who teaches art at Trinity Day School as well as Capitol Community College, Dartanion Reed, Artistic Director of Hartford City Ballet, and the Ballet School; and Bert Landman, Director of the Choir School of Hartford, which is housed at Trinity Episcopal Church and teaches choral music and piano to youth from 3rd grade through high school.

The discussion was preceded by a ballet performance by four of the young ballerinas from Hartford City Ballet. Then each of them spoke of the importance of art in the lives of their



students and how it contributed to their character and development as focused, confident and determined young people. Each spoke of the importance of art and culture in their own lives and how they were intent on passing that on to succeeding generations.

The panel discussion concluded with a variety of choral works sung by the Choir School of Hartford, many of whom are also Asylum Hill residents.

It was an inspiring afternoon, especially to witness the talent and commitment of so many young people, taking advantage of the opportunities present here in Asylum Hill.