

Silver Spring arts groups take part in Bethesda Beatniks event

People and Places
Meredith Hooker

The Bethesda Beatniks Dinner Club held a special event earlier this month that featured dinner, a lecture by author and researcher on mental illness Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, an art show featuring Silver Spring organizations, and live music.

The club is an independent social organization for mental health consumers, family member and friends.

During the event, held at Alfio's Trattoria in Friendship Heights, more than 80 people attended.

Jamison spoke on the connection between creativity and mental illness.

The visual arts show featured original paintings, sketches, photos and sculpture by mental health consumers from around the region. Organizations represented included Studio Downstairs/CREATE Arts Center of Silver Spring, St. Luke's House of Bethesda and Silver Spring, Montgomery College Office of Disabilities of Rockville, On Our Own of Montgomery County of Gaithersburg, the DC Mental Health Consumers' League of Washington, D.C., the Silver Spring Drop-in Center and the Beatniks.

Musicians Steve Gellman and Julia Rose, both mental health consumers, performed original live music.

The Beatniks club plans to host a musical showcase on Jan. 5. For more details, visit www.bethesdabeatniks.org or call 301-279-2578.



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Mitch Berkowitz/Special to The Gazette
At Alfio's Trattoria in Friendship Heights, (from left) Tamar Hendel, director of Studio Downstairs/CREATE Arts Center in Silver Spring and Rochelle Banta, manager of the New Hope Foundation in Kensington, browse the artwork on display at a recent Bethesda Beatniks dinner club event.