

COMMUNITY



If You Go

What: "Robert Engman's Legacy: The Gutman Center in New Hope 1974-1994," exhibit of works by Engman and his sculpture students at former University of Pennsylvania art facility in Upper Makefield

When: noon to 5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday or by appointment through March 5

Where: New Hope Arts Center, 2 Stockton Ave., New Hope

Information: 215-862-9606 or newhopearts.org



"endless Knot," forged iron, by Steve Sears

NEW HOPE ARTS CENTER



"perpetuus," repurposed shop table, by Edward Murphy

NEW HOPE ARTS CENTER

For 20 years, sculptors trained in Upper Makefield under the tutelage of a major modernist, a period recalled in an exhibit at the New Hope Arts Center.

Bounty from an art farm



NEW HOPE ARTS CENTER

"forward leaning," stainless steel, brass, aluminum, Japanese yew, purpleheart, redwood, ebony, bloodwood, Douglas fir and beechwood, by John Rodgers

By GWEN SHRIFT
Staff Writer

"Robert Engman's Legacy: The Gutman Center in New Hope 1974-1994," on view at the New Hope Arts Center through March 5, is one of the richest sculpture exhibits a critic could ask for.

But the backstory — who made the works and where and how, and why they're here — is one for history and art-loving Bucks Countians to contemplate.

The first retrospective for Engman, an eminent modernist, closed earlier this month at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown. That exhibit paid tribute to his signal esthetic accomplishments starting in the 1950s. This one discusses his far-reaching influence as a teacher, with reference to his own and six of his students' work.

Engman, a former professor at Yale, originated the graduate program in sculpture at the University of Pennsylvania. In the 1970s, when New York banker and philanthropist Monroe Gutman was considering where to donate his 210-acre farm in Upper Makefield, Penn required its master's-degree candidates to attend and teach classes at the campus in Philadelphia for two years, then spend a year away working independently on their ideas.

The sculptor presented Gutman with a proposal to redevelop the "gentleman's working farm" into an art farm, where third-year students could live and work, unencumbered by classroom duties and undistracted by city life. In 1974, the financier left his Bucks property to Penn, and soon his former farmhouse was full of artistic talent. An early supporter was the Grundy Foundation, which gave \$50,000 to the fledgling Edna and Monroe C. Gutman Center for the Fine Arts.

It took a few years to renovate the property at the corner of Windy Bush and Street roads for full use. Former student Mark Pettegrew recalled that, per Gutman's wishes, the facility had to keep its country character. The exterior of the barn remained barnlike. Big industrial gas tanks that powered the foundry were stashed inside an old silo.

At the time, the university administrator in charge of fine arts said he thought preserving the farm as an artists' colony would help buffer development pressure on Upper Makefield. When Penn closed the center in 1994 after changing the graduate sculpture program to a two-year course, the land and buildings were quietly reabsorbed into the surrounding community.

See ART, Page B2



Robert Engman

JAMES A. MICHENER ART MUSEUM

Pop right into this family restaurant

By CHUCK THOMAS
Staff Writer

The Pop Shop in Medford, New Jersey, is one of those perfect family restaurants. The menu is both kid- and adult-friendly, but more important than that, the food they serve is just fun.



On this episode, I not only try some of their Bacon Bettys (that's what they call their pancakes), but I feature one of their 30-something different grilled cheese sandwiches, the Lenape. The Lenape is made with Angus beef, American cheese, mushrooms, caramelized onions and is served atop a grilled pretzel. So good.

Check out this week's Eat This! episode by visiting www.letseatthis.com.



the Lenape grilled cheese sandwich at the Pop Shop in Medford is the featured dish on this week's episode of Eat This! the sandwich is made with Angus beef, mushrooms, caramelized onions, American cheese and served on a grilled pretzel.

BILL FRASER / photojournalist



"Triune," bronze model, by Robert Engman

NEW HOPE ARTS CENTER

Art

Continued from Page B1

"It kept the rural area intact," said Pettegrow.

But the center did not vanish without a trace. It is there in the sinuosities of Pettegrow's "Tidal Series" of bronzes, in Edward Murphy's subversively textured bark-and-aluminum works, in John Mathews' confections of wrought metal and blown glass.

Yvonne Love contributed work from her "Alluvial" series of textured resin and modeling paste, John Rodgers his hybrid wooden and metalwork compositions and Steve Sears a group of lyrical forged iron pieces.

Small-scale works by the master — many of whose sculptures are enormous and on view in important public spaces — start with a bronze cast of Engman's "First Piece: Moons" from an original of 1955. It was a seminal work, the result of the sculptor's early explorations in hammered metal, undertaken after his own teacher, Josef Albers, exhorted him to find his own direction.

Among other Engman works is an indoor-scale version of "Triune," the 28,000-pound bronze that has been a Philadelphia landmark on 15th Street near City Hall since 1975. "Triune" was cast in Chester County and assembled in Bucks, according to Pettegrow.

"Bob was a very important modernist sculptor," said Pettegrow. What I wanted to show (was) that the thread of work is still ongoing. It's a way of looking at sculpture as a cohesive body of work."

As Kirsten Jensen of the Michener pointed out recently of myriad former Engman students in the area, "He is now to them what Albers was to him."

Many of those who studied at the Gutman Center liked the welcoming nature of the area, and settled here to continue their own work. And of those in the exhibit, Love, Rodgers and Mathews became teachers themselves.

The attention to recent history constitutes a niche for the New Hope Arts Center, according to executive director Carol Cruickshanks, pointing out that she is trying to raise awareness of important events on the local art scene beyond the point when the New Hope Impressionists planted their easels in New Hope around World War I.

Among these is the New Hope Experiment, a design and architecture atelier set



NEW HOPE ARTS CENTER
"First Piece: Moons," cast bronze, by Engman

up on a Solebury Township farm in 1938 by Noémi and Antonin Raymond. The Raymond Farm Center was recently established to preserve the site's heritage and historic buildings.

Antonin Raymond helped secure woodworker George Nakashima's release from a World War II internment camp and his settlement outside New Hope, where he established a world-famous studio of his own.

Gwen Shrift: 215-949-4204; email: gshrift@calkins.com



Works on view by Robert Engman and his students at the New Hope Arts Center.

PHOTO BY BURNS AUSTIN



NEW HOPE ARTS CENTER
"Tidal series: Cycle," bronze with steel base, by Mark Pettegrow

Since 1964
DOYLESTOWN FIRE CO. #1 AND AUXILIARY

PANCAKE DAY
Saturday, March 18
6:30 am - 12 noon
at the Firehouse on Shewell Ave., Doylestown

ADVANCE DOOR TO DOOR SALE
Saturday Feb. 25
10 am to 4 pm
(weather contingent day, Sat. March 4)
Discount Advance Adult Tickets \$5.
Firemen will use Red lights for safety.

NEW THIS YEAR:
Additional ticket buying opportunities
Visit our website for more details
www.doylestownfireco.org

OIL OR GAS
DON'T GET TRAPPED!
Burn oil or gas *efficiently!**

Cuts home's heating fuel bills **UP TO 40%**

System 2000® is proven American technology with Hybrid Energy Recovery®!

NO energy is left wasted in the boiler!

Plus, get near endless hot showers!

Heating • Air Conditioning • Fuel Oil • Propane • Gas • Generators

HARRIS
"Comfort Year Round"

BRISTOL 215-788-4596
206 Otter Street
Bristol, PA 19007

NEWTOWN 215-968-7477
P.O. Box 506
Newtown, PA 18940

www.HarrisComfort.com

What's Your Wealth Strategy?

Listen in to Find out How to Retire with Confidence!

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM on WBCB 1490AM

866-296-8156
www.tfgwealth.com

Offices in Newtown-Doylestown-Chadds Ford
Retirement & Investment Specialist

TFG
Wealth Management LLC
A Registered Investment Advisor

Mark Fried, CRPC®
President

HOME BUYERS' SPECIAL
Limited Time Only

30 Yr Fixed Rate Mortgage

3.990% Interest Rate **4.032%*** APR

ZERO POINTS

Call 215-596-4757 today!

Fidelity Savings
A Banking Tradition Since 1885
www.fidelitysavingsonline.com
Toll Free Information 1-877-788-0448 Member FDIC

*Ex: \$476.84 for 360 months on \$100,000 with auto pay on purchases only. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) shown is available for qualified borrowers and loan properties to \$700,000, 1-4 family, owner occupied. A \$300 origination fee is included in the APR. Homeowners insurance required. Private mortgage insurance required in excess of 80% LTV. Title insurance required. Flood Insurance required if applicable. Loans are subject to approval. Rates may vary for different terms or amounts. Rates may change at any time.

What Makes Us Different?

- ▶ Doctor of Audiology with 15 years experience
- ▶ Full computerized testing suite (yes, we have a booth)
- ▶ The latest in hearing aids from several companies
- ▶ Repairs
- ▶ Reasonable pricing and 0% financing
- ▶ Trusted, reliable service - 10 years in business!
- ▶ Two offices servicing Bucks County - Newtown and Doylestown

Newtown - Langhorne Office
207 Corporate Drive East
Luxemborg Corporate Center
Newtown - Langhorne, PA 19047

Doylestown Office
101 Progress Drive Lower Level
Doylestown PA 18901
(Across from Doylestown Hospital)

215-860-3154
www.cadencehearing.com

Cadence
Hearing Services, LLC
Lynda Wayne, Au.D