

Artists needed for Chair-ity Affair

By Leona Reber

Lincoln Arts is sending out a call to all artists who would like to ply their trade on an unusual canvas – chairs!

Joanne Neft, owner of Lincoln's only delicious, fresh and natural restaurant and deli, Persimmons (across from McBean Park), which has fresh local produce, meals to go, fresh line-caught fish, and other delicacies, has donated 50 antique school chairs. The first 50 artists who contact the gallery to express an interest in decorating a chair will have their name placed on a list and will be given one at the end of July. The finished chairs – decorated from mild to wild – must be finished and returned to the gallery on September first. They will then be placed on display throughout Lincoln until the grand Art and Wine Auction on October 24, when they will be sold to the highest bidder. The Art and Wine Auction also needs sculpture, paintings, and any other media donated for this inaugural event. The silent auction will be a gala event, with live music, hors d'oeuvres, and fine wines.

Each artist that donates a piece will be given a ticket to this not-to-be-missed event. The auction event is still a ways off, but a huge undertaking like they are planning will take months to pull together.

“We are hoping that our first auction will be a stellar event, with artists from across the nation taking part, as they do each year in Feats,” said Claudia Renati, executive director of Lincoln Arts & Culture Foundation. “If it turns out as we expect it will, we plan to make it an annual event. This is a good opportunity for artists to have their work seen and appreciated as we will be doing a lot of advertising,” continued Renati. “The auction will be a fundraiser for Lincoln Arts and the people of the community will remember the artists who help us.”

. Several of those local and regional artists who have shown their work in the Lincoln gallery and taken part in arts and crafts fairs and other Lincoln Arts sponsored events have offered to take part – many offering more than 1 work. Many more are needed. Lincoln Arts would like to make their first Art and Wine Auction a huge and glittering social event, with a fine, collectible catalog that attendees will want to keep, so artists who would like to be a part of this inaugural event and donate a piece are asked not to wait but to contact the gallery soon. It is expected that the chairs will go quickly as this is a first for Lincoln, and sure to be a lot of fun for both artists and their patrons. All media will be considered for inclusion in the show.

Call (916)645-9713 or come by the gallery at 580 Sixth Street for more information.