

The Willows at Worcester
101 Barry Road, Worcester, MA 01609
www.SalmonHealthAndRetirement.com

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Ariana Shuris, Public Relations Specialist
Office: 508.898.3490, ext. 3764
Cell: 508.320.3465
AShuris@SalmonHealthAndRetirement.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS

Willows residents unite

Worcester, MA — March 11, 2011 — Rosalie Olds and Iris Lanyon, two residents at The Willows at Worcester, Premier Retirement Community for Active Adults, have submitted pieces of their artwork to the ARTSWorcester's Biennial Exhibition.

Lanyon and Olds are just two of the many residents at The Willows who have become deeply involved with the creative arts in the tight-knit Worcester neighborhood. With the encouragement of Lori Nelson, the resident services coordinator and accomplished artist herself, residents are keeping the Creative Arts Studio and Workshop at The Willows busy.

"We have a lot of great groups and one-on-one classes here," said Nelson, who likes the resident-driven classes best, where residents get the chance to teach their own craft to others who may or may not have had prior artistic experience in that medium. Some of the classes offered at The Willows include sculpture, painting, photography, woodworking, glass etching and jewelry making.

Nelson can't help but brag about her talented crew. "Iris is just prolific," she said of Lanyon who took up painting in 1996 and, through her colorful style, has made a name for herself in the Worcester art community.

—more—

Lanyon often uses photographs as references for her landscapes and views of high-rise monuments, and at other times, she allows her imagination to take over.

“And, then there’s Rosalie, who is very avant-garde. She’s practically famous around here!” said Nelson of Olds, a master potter, who has been honored at many art exhibits in the Worcester community and beyond. Olds creates some of her pieces using the professional full-size kiln on site, which is available free to all residents.

“Every Friday, she teaches a sculpture class and you should see some of the work that they create. It’s unbelievable,” said Nelson.

The groups organized at The Willows by the resident services coordinator and the residents themselves, supply the community with variety and options. “We have a lot of fun here. The groups we put together are ones we all love, so that makes it a very successful program,” she said.

As an art therapist and former art teacher, Nelson is a supporter of the creative arts and its benefit for seniors. “I just love how art opens people up at any age. Art acts as meditation for the mind and body,” she said.

Nelson believes that by having people express themselves creatively their health can actually improve both mentally and physically.

“Art can also be a very healing thing,” she added, noting that her experience with it over time helped her to gain more patience and has taught her to enjoy the present.

She continued with, “I think that is what we are starting to see here too. They are enjoying themselves and their art to the fullest, by challenging themselves in new ways.”

Nelson, Lanyon, and Olds have all submitted pieces of their art to the ARTSWorcester’s Biennial 2011 Exhibition, which will take place from March 18 to April 29, 2011 at the Aurora Gallery. They continue to teach group and private classes to friends and neighbors.

“I think we’ve started something here that will continue and flourish,” said Nelson.

—more—

The Willows at Worcester, located on a 21-acre campus at 101 Barry Road, near Salisbury Street, offers private independent living apartment homes and cottages, with a variety of customization choices so residents' homes can reflect their personal style and taste. For more information about The Willows at Worcester, call (508) 755-0088 or visit www.TheWillowsAtWorcester.com. The Willows is part of SALMON Health and Retirement, a third-generation, family-owned-and-operated organization, which has earned the trust and confidence of families across New England since 1952.

#

Photo caption 1: *Iris Lanyon with one of her paintings.*

Photo caption 2: *Rosalie Olds working with pottery.*