WATCHUNG, NJ – Watercolor artist Sister Kathy Cairone has an unconventional method of painting – she holds her brush in her mouth.

When she was 27, Cairone, of the Sisters of McAuley Hall, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a debilitating disease that attacks the nervous system causing irreversible damage to the nerves between the brain and the body. As her condition advances, Cairone now uses a wheelchair operated with her chin.

Since taking up painting 16 years ago, she has used her mouth to create various works with oils, acrylics and watercolor.

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"Although, I only paint once a week, it is a very important and vital part of my life," wrote Cairone in an e-mail interview. "My time with art provides me with many opportunities for creativity and accomplishment."

Watercolor is her main focus. Cairone said that her teacher, Lisa Brown, guided her through a media she enjoys and considers rewarding as well as therapeutic. A few of her subjects include the Twin Towers, landscapes and flowers.

Cairone has been recognized at the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America’s art contest, winning third place with a painting of her brother’s cat named “Trudy” in 2007. The following year she won second place with “Burr,” a watercolor art portraying springtime at the shore.

"Before entering contests, almost all of my other paintings I have given as gifts to those who have taken care of me, supported me and helped me," Cairone said.

She also exhibited and sold her works at the Summit, N.J., Bousas Co. in October 2010. Cairone has received honorable mentions at the Bryn Mawr rehab contest in Pennsylvania as well as earning first place in 2011.

Cairone’s work is part of the Seton Hall University Walsh Gallery exhibit “Colors of Faith,” which runs through Oct. 13. For more information contact Jeanne Brasile at jeanne.brasile@shu.edu.

For a story on the exhibit, click here.

The reporter is participating in a hyperlocal journalism partnership between The Alternative Press and Seton Hall University’s Department of Communication & The Arts.

Sister Kathy Cairone's work is part of the "Colors of Faith" exhibit at Seton Hall University.

Credits: Sisters of McAuley Hall

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By ELANA KNOPP
January 22, 2018

ESSEX COUNTY, NJ - Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr. was elected Secretary of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) Board of Trustees Monday during its annual reorganization meeting.

"The NJTPA plays an important role, overseeing the investment of billions of dollars in our region's transportation infrastructure and virtually all projects are ..."

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By MICHAEL M. SHAPIRO, CEO AND FOUNDER, TAPINTO.NET
January 22, 2018

NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ – Facebook recently announced it is changing its news feed and algorithms so that news from legitimate publishers and posts from businesses will seldom appear.

At TAPinto, we believe in serving you with high-quality, objective local news coverage. To make sure that you continue to see news from us in your Facebook News Feed:

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How Is Maplewood’s Interim Police Chief “Changing Everything?”

By JOE STRUPP
January 22, 2018

MAPLEWOOD, NJ - Interim Maplewood Police Chief Jimmy DeVaul says he is changing the culture of the police department following last year's abuse scandal that forced out his predecessor and led to calls for reform.

His plan: a lengthy list of ideas ranging from Trader Joe's customer service to police chaplain compassion – and a whole lot in ...

Rutgers Historians Collecting 2018 Women's March Signs

By DANIEL J. MUNOZ
January 21, 2018

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ - Believe it or not, we’re living through history right now. That’s why the Rutgers University Libraries want to collect artifacts and memorabilia from the present day.

People who took part in Saturday’s women’s march in Morristown, or one of the “sister” marches across the state can consider donating their signs and protest memorabilia to ...
Early Kindergarten Registration in SOMA Begins Feb. 5; Q&A Session on Jan. 27

By TAPINTO SOMA STAFF
January 21, 2018

SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ – Early kindergarten registration will be held from Monday, Feb. 5, to Thursday, March 1, according to an email from the South Orange - Maplewood School District.

Those residents who have not registered their children for kindergarten by March 1, must wait until the open registration for all grades begins on Monday, April 30, to register for ...

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Hundreds from SOMA Join Women's Marches in Morristown and New York City

By FRED SMITH
January 20, 2018

SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ - Hundreds assembled at the train stations in South Orange and Maplewood on Saturday morning, waiting for trains to both the Women's March on NJ in Morristown, and to the Women's March on NYC in Manhattan.

In South Orange local organizers and activists Sally Unsworth, Nureed Saeed, Ahadi Bugg-Levine, Ritu Pancholy, and Stephanie ...

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Site Plan for Seton Hall-Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine Approved by Nutley Planning Board

By TAPINTO NUTLEY STAFF
January 20, 2018

NUTLEY, NJ - The Nutley Planning Board unanimously approved the preliminary site plan resolution for Seton Hall-Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at the On3 redevelopment project on the former Hoffman-La Roche campus. The plan calls for 465 permanent parking spaces, 55 on-site on-street spaces, with 196 temporary spaces in Nutley.

The Board persuaded the school to ...

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