

## The Ocean Star

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## Library celebrates talents of Georgian quilter

By Alena Competello

Quilts — the word evokes images of women sewing squares of cloth together to create a patchwork blanket. The quilts of Rusudan Resseque, a native of the Republic of Georgia, look nothing like the patchwork quilts of memory. Rather, they are exquisite tapestries woven with a mixture of Georgian and American quilting standards, with plenty of originality sewn into the mix.

Ms. Resseque attended an artist's reception in her honor at the Upper Shores Library in Lavallette on Saturday afternoon and she was greeted by about 50 people eager to hear about her work and the inspiration behind it, said Upper Shores branch manager June Schneider.

"It was a nice mix of local clientele ... who were very excited to meet her ... and many people from the Republic of Georgia who also came," Ms. Schneider said.

"There was such a sharing of cultures and lifestyles," said Ms. Schneider, who noted that Ms. Resseque explained her quilting techniques and the significance of



SUEANNE GOSS, The Ocean Star

**Rusudan Resseque, a native of the Republic of Georgia, spoke to a large crowd gathered at the Upper Shores Library in Lavallette on Saturday afternoon during an artist's reception in her honor. Ms. Resseque displayed several of her quilts at the library. The quilts shown are made in the style of traditional Georgian carpets.**

her pieces. "It was just really beautiful. We stayed here late in the day."

Ms. Schneider has known Ms. Resseque for about "five or six years now," she said. "We forged a strong relationship through the years and I've tried to get her to share her artwork beyond family and friends."

"I'm blown away by the inordinate amount of talent that she has," said Ms. Schneider. "She plays classical piano, she is a fashion designer — she creates amazing original clothing. Her sewing and quilting skills are way beyond average."

Ms. Resseque was equally enthused about the artist's reception. "It was perfect," she said. "It was really interesting because I didn't realize so many people were interested in my quilts."

Ms. Resseque said she was surprised by the number of questions people asked of her, like how long it takes her to make one of her quilts.

"Nobody can tell you how long it does take" to create a quilt, Ms. Resseque said. "It depends on what you are doing, how big the quilt is. For me, it depends what kind of mood I have. Sometimes I am in no mood to work at all," she noted. The most time is spent on making the final decisions for the quilt, adding the final touches, she said.

Ms. Resseque said that she is never quite sure how a piece of her work will turn out because "the ideas come to me while I work."

Ms. Resseque began quilting in Georgia in 2002, she said. "I was a tailor. I always like to sew clothes that I like for myself that you do not find in the store. I had my own ideas and designs."

She began quilting after meeting the wife of the Georgian

ambassador to Switzerland at an exhibit in Georgia, Ms. Resseque recalled.

"I was wearing my own skirt that I embroidered myself and she touched my skirt and said, 'Did you make this?' I said yes and she asked me if I know how to quilt."

Ms. Resseque said she did not know what the word quilt meant at the time. The ambassador's wife, Ms. Resseque continued, was a professional quilter who insisted that Ms. Resseque come to her house to learn how to quilt.

"She saw something in me," said Ms. Resseque. "I started going to her house and she taught me how to quilt. She was the sweetest person and she gave me all examples and lessons on how to quilt professionally."

Today, almost six years after emigrating to the United States from Georgia in November 2003, Ms. Resseque strays from the traditional quilts that she learned how to create in Georgia and now mixes a variety of techniques together. She uses both a sewing machine and a sewing needle to create her quilts, she noted. The quilts Ms. Resseque presented at the library on Saturday were made in the style of traditional, Georgian carpets, she said.

Ms. Resseque does not currently sell her quilts, explaining that she would not know how to go about pricing her quilts if she did decide to sell them, which is an idea she is entertaining, she said.

"She always kept her quilting to herself," Ms. Schneider said. "I've been trying to get her to think about selling her work. She always felt too attached to them but I have a feeling that she is going to start changing course because everyone was asking her if she was willing to sell some of her work" on Saturday.

The large majority of her quilts, Ms. Resseque said, are given as presents to friends and loved ones. "If I love somebody very much, I'm doing it for them and making people happy," she said.

Ms. Resseque said that, though she is considering making some of her quilts available for sale, there are some with which she will never part.

Saturday was not Ms. Resseque's first experience sharing her work with the public. She participated in an exhibit at the Manchester Library two years ago

with an entirely different array of quilts. Ms. Resseque said she is open to hosting another exhibit in the future, but said she needs time to create new pieces.

"It would not be interesting to show the same pieces," she said. "I need some time to make some new styles ... When I do the same thing I am bored. I want to learn more and do something which is new, new for me."

The event on Saturday, which Ms. Schneider deemed a "great multicultural celebration," was especially meaningful for Ms. Resseque.

"I was very, very happy. It was the best day of my life," said Ms. Resseque. "All of my friends were there and I met a lot of interesting people. June [Schneider] made the best day for me."

## Registration for SBB8K now open

The annual Save Barnegat Bay 8K is set for Saturday, June 27.

Volunteer check-in is scheduled for 6 a.m. with registration slated for 7 a.m. The race begins at 8:30 a.m. at Baltimore and Washington avenues in Lavallette.

An award ceremony will follow at 10:15 a.m. with an after party sponsored by the Crab's Claw Inn. The race will be run rain or shine.

Pre-registration for the 8K race, postmarked on or before May 31, is \$25. Standard registration postmarked June 1 and after is \$30. Race day registration is also \$30.

Pre-registration for the 3-mile fitness walk, postmarked on or before May 31, is \$18. Standard registration for the fitness walk postmarked June 1 and after is \$23. Race day registration for the fitness walk is also \$23.

Walkers will not be timed this year. Any walkers wishing to be timed must sign up as a runner.

For a registration form visit or more information visit [www.sbb8k.com](http://www.sbb8k.com).



## Lavallette Community Calendar

To submit a calendar listing or Lavallette news story, e-mail [acompetello@theoceanstar.com](mailto:acompetello@theoceanstar.com)

## WPICA

## Scholarships

The West Point Island Civic Association [WPICA] is offering three \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

Two of the scholarships will be awarded to the child or grandchild of a current member of the WPICA [dues must be current for the present year]. These scholarships have been established to honor the memory of William S. Carey, a founding member of the WPICA, and Aileen M. Barow, former president of WPICA and Lavallette mayor.

The third scholarship is being offered to a graduating senior who is a permanent resident of Lavallette, including West Point Island. The Memorial Scholarship is offered in memory of WPICA members who have died in the past 12 months. Essays are required for all scholarships.

Applications are available at Point Pleasant Beach High School, 700 Trenton Ave., Point Pleasant Beach, Monsignor Donovan High School, 711 Hooper Ave., Toms River, and Lavallette Elementary School, 105 Brooklyn Ave.

All applications are due by April 30 and should be mailed to WPICA, P. O. Box 131, Lavallette, 08735. Winners will be notified no later than May 31 and scholarships will be presented at the WPICA general membership meeting on July 10.

## Spring Rummage Sale

The Lavallette Women's First Aid Auxiliary will sponsor a rummage sale at the Lavallette First Aid building on Bay Boulevard and Washington Avenue on Friday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m. to noon.

There will be something for everyone, including clothing, household items, books and many special treasures. On Friday, attendees can fill a bag for \$5 and on Saturday, a bag can be filled for \$3.

Please drop off donations at the first aid building on Thursday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to noon only. No furniture will be accepted.

## Women's Auxiliary Card Party

The Lavallette Women's First Aid Auxiliary will hold a card party on Monday, April 20 at 12:30 p.m. at the first aid building on Washington Avenue and Bay Boulevard with a donation of \$3. There will be prizes, dessert and coffee.



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\$24.95 Adults \$9.95 Kids

Stop by after church, or anytime between 10:30a.m. and 2:30p.m. on Sunday, April 12th

Reservations Recommended: 732-892-2090

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