

Center for Discovery receives art donation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Center for Discovery has been gifted five original works by renowned abstract expressionist painter Cleve Gray, each ranging in value from \$30,000 – \$50,000.

BY PATRICIO ROBAYO

SULLIVAN—The Center for Discovery has received a generous donation of five paintings by celebrated abstract expressionist painter Cleve Gray. The donation was facilitated by Thaddeus Gray, son of the late artist, who sought to honor his father's legacy by placing the artworks where they could inspire and uplift.

Dr. Theresa Hamlin, President and CEO of the Center for Discovery, said, "Each piece holds its own beauty, like the children in our care. Cleve's work resonates with themes of depth, expression, and interconnectedness, reflecting our philosophy of holistic care."

The paintings, which range in value from \$30,000 to \$50,000, are displayed across various facilities, including the Children's Specialty Hospital and the Carrus Institute's family room.

Thaddeus Gray described the motivation behind the donation, explaining, "My mission, frankly, is to find great homes for these paintings. It doesn't do my father's legacy any good to have paintings of this quality sitting in a barn, in darkness where no one's going to see them. If they can be tools for young people to learn about art or develop emotionally or any of the above, that's definitely the mission of the foundation."

Thaddeus shared that his friendship with Jeff Stevenson, a parent connected to the Center, initially sparked the idea for the donation.

"Jeff and I were chatting about the idea of donating these paintings. He put me in touch with the director, who expressed a strong interest in possibly taking a donation," he recalled. "So, she came down, and then there was a second visit, and the paintings were selected and shipped to the Center for

Discovery."

The five paintings span different series created by Cleve Gray, including pieces from the "Zen Gardens" and "Release" series. These works, known for their vivid colors and gestural brushstrokes, are prime examples of Gray's mastery in blending elements of Abstract Expressionism with influences from traditional Chinese scroll paintings.

The Center for Discovery integrates art into its therapeutic practices, a concept that made Cleve Gray's paintings a natural fit. Conio Loretto, head of the Integrated Arts Department at the Center, emphasized the importance of art in therapy, saying, "We have art therapists on staff who engage our students and adults in creating their own artwork, giving them the opportunity to express themselves. Beyond self-expression, they're also developing self-image, an awareness of themselves, and even physical skills like motor skills."

Loretto highlighted how the presence of Gray's art can transform the atmosphere. "The more interesting and inspiring an environment can be because of the artwork that's in it, the better it is for the folks that are here," he said. "Walking into a space filled with such vibrant and thoughtful artwork can help mitigate stress and uplift spirits, which is crucial for the healing process."

For Thaddeus, the donation not only honors his father's artistic achievements but also extends Cleve Gray's influence into a meaningful setting. "It's fantastic for a number of reasons. First, because my mission is to find great homes for these paintings... And secondly, because if they can serve as tools for young people to learn about art or develop emotionally, that aligns perfectly with

the foundation's goals," he added.

Cleve Gray's career spanned decades, during which he developed a distinct style characterized by bold, gestural strokes and a deep appreciation for color. His works are housed in major collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Whitney Museum, and the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.

Thaddeus hopes that this donation is just the beginning of a lasting partnership. He plans to attend a future event at the Center to officially commemorate the installation of the paintings. "I've been told by the team at the Center for Discovery that they'd like me to come. They're going to do some kind of opening for this, the installation of the artwork, and I'll definitely come up for that," he shared.

Dr. Hamlin shared that the donated paintings serve as more than just decoration; they play a role in storytelling. "Cleve Gray's art helps us convey the importance of understanding the whole person—biology, behavior, and environment—all of which are central to our approach here," she said. The colorful, layered compositions found in the "Zen Gardens" series, for instance, evoke a sense of tranquility and interconnectedness that aligns with the Center's ethos of creating a calming and therapeutic environment.

With the addition of Cleve Gray's paintings, the Center for Discovery continues to lead the way in blending art, therapy, and care, offering a holistic model that nurtures the mind, body, and spirit.

As Dr. Hamlin added, "Art allows us to see the world through a different lens, and that is a gift we want to give to every child, adult, and family who walks through our doors."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Five vibrant paintings by acclaimed abstract expressionist Cleve Gray have been generously donated to The Center for Discovery.



The Village of Jeffersonville honored its past mayors with plaques of appreciation on Monday night. From the left are: Ed Justus (2002-2013), Leslie Bogert (1993-1994), Charlie Schadt on behalf of his uncle, the late Frederick W.V. Schadt Sr. (1945-1987), current Mayor William Chellis and Susan Busing (1995-2002).

Village of Jeffersonville kicks off Centennial Celebration

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY FRED STABBERT III

JEFFERSONVILLE – The Village of Jeffersonville is having a birthday party – and they are planning on it lasting for a year.

With events planned for the next 12 months, the Village is going to celebrate its Centennial in grand style while paying tribute to the roots of its founders.

On Monday, October 14, village leaders, residents and friends of the community gathered at Tavern on Main to mark the 100th Anniversary of the vote to incorporate, thus forming the village.

Village Mayor William Chellis greeted the 50 well wishers and described briefly how Swiss and German residents gathered around the community to form the village.

One of six incorporated villages in Sullivan County, Jeffersonville is noted for its bustling main street made up of small, entrepreneurial business owners.

"Small is beautiful," Mayor Chellis said. "We set our own agenda and we embrace small businesses, small artisans and small firms that make up our village."

"Thank you to everyone who came out tonight, especially all who ever served on the village board and the Town of Callicoon board," the mayor continued. "And we cannot forget to recognize and thank the great mayor, the late Frederick Schadt Sr. – Fred Magnus."

Mayor Chellis then raised a toast to the Village made up of a small beer, symbolic of the heritage of the place he now calls home.

Everyone enjoyed the birthday cake while past mayors in attendance were honored with plaques.

Tentative Schedule for the Village's Centennial

Thursday, October 31st, 2024 – Halloween Jeff Style
Place: Jeffersonville – Village wide from The Backyard Park to Hughson Park opposite Dollar General and everywhere in between
Time: 3:30 – 6:00 PM (or until the Candy is gone)

Thursday, November 7th, 2024 – Historic Show and Tell
Come and talk with other community members about Jeffersonville, share your memories, whisper about the scandals.
Place: Town of Callicoon Town Hall – 17 Legion St. in Jeffersonville
Time: 7:00 PM

Friday, November 29th, 2024 The James



Village residents even enjoyed a birthday cake.

Dworetzky Holiday Parade
Place: Main Street
Jeffersonville Time: 7:00 PM
Don't forget to visit the Backyard Park for the spectacularly decorated Holiday Tree display.

Saturday, December 7th, 2024 – It's a Swiss Christmas in Jeffersonville. Join us for a fun filled day celebrating Swiss Traditions throughout the Village. Gingerbreads, Fondue, Swiss Market, Christmas Caroling, Swiss Dinner and more!! Don't forget to visit the Backyard Park for the spectacularly decorated Holiday Tree display.

Friday, December 20th, 2024 – Walking tour of Advent Windows
Join us for a walking tour of the advent windows of Jeffersonville a long standing Swiss Tradition of Advent Calendars with a twist (This tour can be done individually – list of participating homes and businesses available at Village Hall)
Place: Tour starts at Village Hall, 17 Center Street
Time: 7:00 PM Don't forget to visit the Backyard Park for the spectacularly decorated Holiday Tree display.

January – Jeff Centric New Year New You Celebration. Month long specials at area businesses.

February – I Love Jeff, come to Jeff, hang out, and discover all the reasons to fall in love with Jeffersonville

Thursday, February 6th, 2025 – Historic Show and Tell. Come and talk with other community members about Jeffersonville, share your memories, whisper about the scandals.
Place: Town of Callicoon Town Hall – 17 Legion St. in Jeffersonville
Time: 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 15th, 2025 – St. Patrick's Day Parade.
Place: Main Street Jeffersonville
Time: 1:00 PM

April – Jeff Festifool. Join us at Toast for an evening of laughs and Foolery – Comedians and more

Thursday, May 1st, 2025 – Historic Show and Tell. Come and talk with other community members about Jeffersonville, share your memories, whisper

about the scandals.

Place: Town of Callicoon Town Hall – 17 Legion St. in Jeffersonville
Time: 7:00 PM

Monday, May 26th, 2025 – Memorial Day Ceremony in Park
Place: The Backyard Park (21 Lovett Lane). Time: 2:30 PM

Saturday, June 14th, 2025 – Party in the Park. Let's Celebrate Dad with live music and BBQ.
Place: The Backyard Park (21 Lovett Lane). Time: 6:00 PM

Saturday, July 5th, 2025 – Walk down Memory Lane followed by fireworks. Join us for a Parade featuring all the blasts from the past!!! Antique automobiles, fashionable favorites, historic figures and more!
Place: Main Street Jeffersonville. Time: 7:00 PM

Thursday, August 7th, 2025 – Historic Show and Tell. Come and talk with other community members about Jeffersonville, share your memories, whisper about the scandals.
Place: Town of Callicoon Town Hall – 17 Legion St. in Jeffersonville
Time: 7:00 PM

Saturday, August 9th, 2025 – Block Party in the Park. You bring your family and your food, we will provide the games and entertainment.
Place: The Backyard Park (21 Lovett Lane)
Time: 4:00 PM

Saturday, September 13th, 2025 – Jeff Jamboree

Friday and Saturday, October 10th and 11th, 2025 – Oktoberfest. Join us for a fun filled couple of days celebrating the Village's German Heritage. There will be Breweries, Games, Food Vendors and more. Sample the brews, challenge your friends to a keg roll eat 'til you can't take another bite and most importantly – show off your lederhosen!!
Place: All over the Village
Time: Schedules available Summer 2025

Saturday, October 11th, 2025 Sealing of Time Capsule
Place: Village Hall, 17 Center St.
Time: 7:00 PM