

Cedar Crest gallery features local artist

By Lisa Mitchell
Editor

Cedar Crest College will display paintings by Brett Weber, a resident of Allentown, in the Cressman Gallery of the Cressman Library Jan. 29 to June 3.

During an opening reception on Feb. 1 at 4 p.m., Weber will discuss a selection of his art featured in the gallery's new exhibit "Voyage of Discovery. The Valley." One of his paintings is called "Escape Subtitles: Dreams, Report, Disease," a colorful oil and acrylic painting on canvas, 3.75 feet high and 11.25 feet wide.

His paintings are greatly influenced by multiple sclerosis. While finishing his doctorate in neuroscience from Temple University, Weber was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis a week before he completed his doctorate. He has been researching the disease as both a scientist and an artist ever since.

"There is a sharp distinction between art and science, and studying a disease through art is not the same as studying it through science," said Weber in a recent release. "My art is about my own emotional, intellectual and spiritual journey, and within that context MS plays a significant role."

Weber hopes that his paintings bring greater public awareness to primary progressive MS and encourage broader scientific research in the Lehigh Valley.

"Primary progressive MS can be devastating to those who are afflicted with it and to their families, but, like any major life-changing event, chronic illness can also bring new values, new appreciations, and new colors and textures into one's life," he said.

In regard to his education, Weber received a bachelor's in fine art, painting and a bachelor's in biology from Moravian College in Bethlehem. He completed his graduate and doctoral degrees in neuroscience at Temple University in Philadelphia.



The Parkland News archived photo, contributed by Bill Rosen Allentown artist Brett Weber was one of the many "Faces of MS" that were displayed on the NASDAQ building when the National MS Society launched an informative Web site in March. His paintings will be on display at Cedar Crest College.

His art has been included in numerous shows in New York, Philadelphia, Denver and the Lehigh Valley, as well as Greece.

He also volunteers for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Last spring, he traveled to the society's headquarters in New York City to be interviewed for the FacesofMS.org Web site, created in honor of the organizations 60th anniversary. He and 60 others described their experiences in dealing with multiple sclerosis. His face was one of the many "Faces of MS" that were displayed on the NASDAQ building when the society launched the site in March.

The Cressman Gallery is open during Cressman Library hours. Call 610-606-4605 for hours of operation. For more information, contact Brian Wiggins, gallery coordinator, at 610-606-4666, ext. 3469.

Lisa Mitchell is the editor of The Parkland News. She can be reached at lmitchell@lehighvalleynewsgroup.com.



Contributed photo by Cedar Crest College Brett Weber will display his paintings at Cedar Crest College, including this one called "Escape Subtitles: Dreams, Report, Disease," a colorful oil and acrylic painting on canvas, 3.75 feet high and 11.25 feet wide.

Cut on Dotted Line



CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

CRESSMAN GALLERY

100 College Drive
Allentown, PA 18104-6196

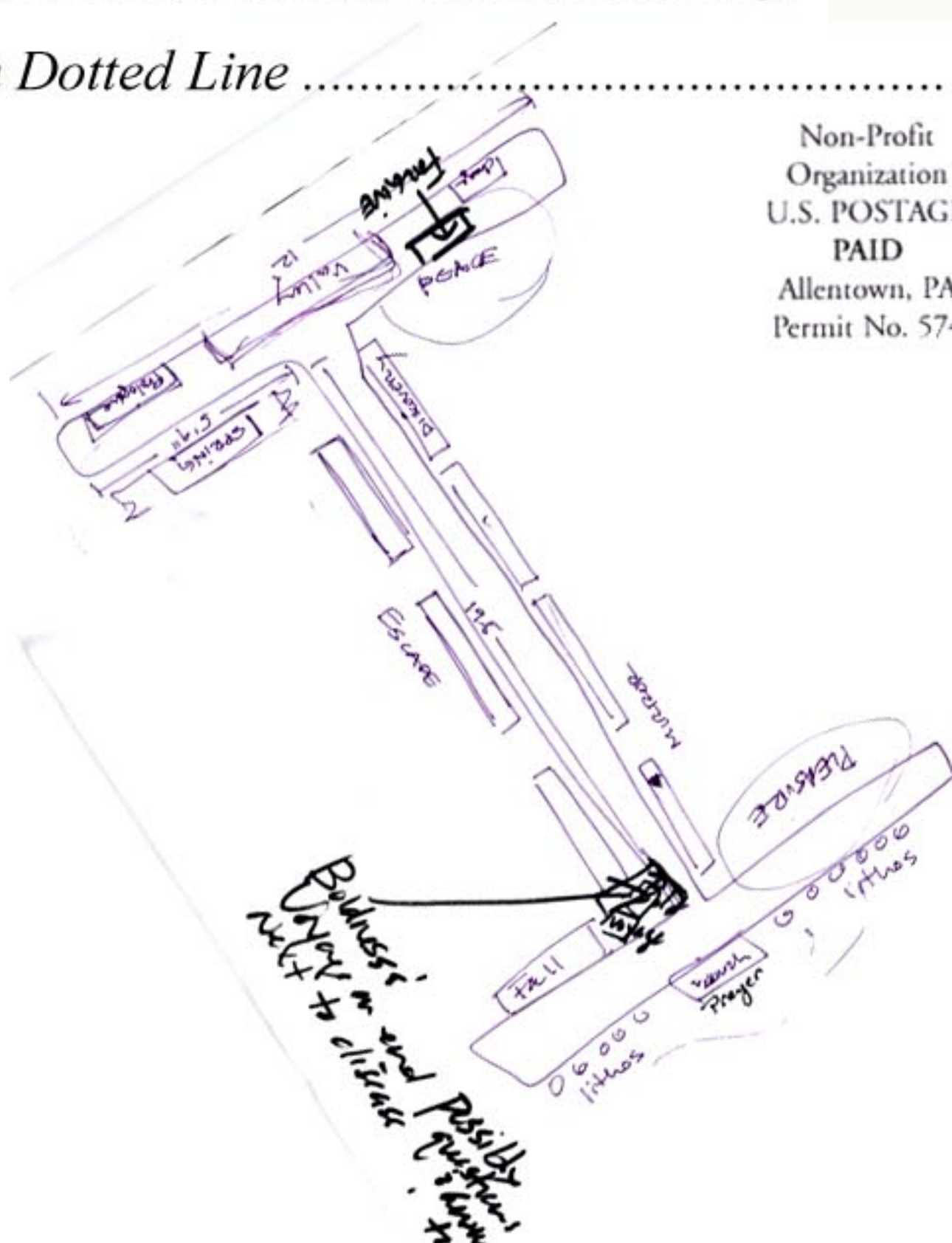
**Voyage of Discovery
The Valley**

Paintings by Brett Weber

January 29th through June 3rd, 2007

Artist talk and reception
February 1st, 4:00pm

Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm Sat Sun 12-5pm
610.606.4666 x3469
located in Cressman Library



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