

Arts

Cambridge Street Victuals — more than a restaurant

By MARY LANCASTER
INDEPENDENT WRITER

If you thought cozy Cambridge Street Victuals was only a restaurant and a bar, you have another think coming. Since Trish Collette and Meghan McCutcheon bought the business in 2005, with Collette's husband Tim serving as a silent partner, they have displayed the work of island artist Hannah Stone on their walls.

Beginning today, the women are initiating a new program featuring local artists who have never shown their work before, are emerging artists just beginning to be known or even established artists whose paintings fit well into the restaurant's environment, to help promote their talent as well as give restaurant patrons something new and interesting to look at each week while dining or enjoying drinks.

"We wanted to get more involved in the art community," said Trish Collette. "Cambridge Street is a little eccentric and there has always been a good relationship between us and different artists. This helps both of us. It helps us branch out to people who wouldn't necessarily be coming to Cambridge Street and it gives the artists an opportunity to showcase their work."

Collette said she has friends on the Nantucket Arts Council who sent out word that the restaurant was looking for submissions. The acceptance process entails artists sending about three examples of their work by e-mail, and if the women like them they will contact those artists and invite them to display. Victoria Harvey, formerly executive director of The Homestead, is the program's premiere artist whose work will be seen tonight when Cambridge Street opens at 5 p.m.

"It's not that I'm picky or choosy, I just want to make sure [the art] goes with the dining and cocktail experience," said Collette. "It's nice for [patrons] to have new pieces to look at with rotating art. I'm really excited about this. It seems really easy and natural and we are looking forward to it."

Displays will change every Wednesday. Collette said it is too early to know whether the art will influence the menu or if it may be the other way around.

"We have a very versatile menu as it is, so it is unique, especially for Nantucket." ■



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL GALVIN

Peter Brace, Nantucket Independent writer



relief



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALVIN AILEY II

Alvin Ailey II

Alvin Ailey performance to benefit Unitarian church

By MARY LANCASTER
INDEPENDENT WRITER

The dramatically beautiful, passionate and supple dancers of the Alvin Ailey II troupe are coming to an island stage on August 18 and 19 in performances to benefit the Old South Church Preservation Fund for restoration of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

The 12-member New York City company, led by artistic director Sylvia Waters and associate artistic director Troy Powell, has performed on Nantucket twice, most recently last year, and looks forward to a return visit.

"We love it up there in Nantucket," said Powell. "The people are so hospitable — that's part of why we love doing what we do — to go to other cities and be accepted as when we are performing in our own city."

Ailey II, as it is called, was formed in 1974 as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble when Alvin Ailey, founder of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1958, who died in 1989, began a workshop with outstanding scholarship students from The Ailey School. The school was originally the Alvin Ailey

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