

PRESS RELEASE  
May 11, 2009

**SOLAR CIRCLE AND AMAZWI CONTEMPORARY ART TEAM WITH  
SAUGATUCK ART & MUSIC STUDENTS TO RAISE FUNDS AND  
AWARENESS FOR SOLAR OVENS IN TANZANIA**

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For further information:  
David Balas, Saugatuck host  
(269) 857-2520  
Judy Martin, Solar Circle president  
(517) 349-4531  
<http://www.solar-circle.org>

Mike Tischleder  
Amazwi Contemporary Art  
(224) 766-5200  
<http://www.amazwi.com>

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CITY, DATE, 2009 -- The non-profit Solar Circle and Amazwi Contemporary Art, which primarily focuses on paintings and sculpture from Africa, will host their fifth annual African Art Fundraiser on Saturday, May 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Amazwi Gallery, 249 Culver Street in downtown Saugatuck. The fundraiser helps Solar Circle place 1,000 solar ovens in homes and schools in Masasi, Tanzania, a town located in East Africa. The group began its work to harness the power of the sun six years ago, because the wood and wood charcoal used for cooking result in extensive deforestation and high levels of respiratory disease among women and their children.

This year students from Saugatuck Middle School began learning about Masasi's solar oven workshop, and how to cook using the power of the sun. Nearly 30 of the 8th graders, led by their music teacher Andrew Holtz, formed an African Drum Circle, and will be performing at the Coghlin Park gazebo, across the street from the gallery, at 1:30 pm on Saturday, May 23. Paintings created by other 8th graders, the students of art teacher Lindsay Moynihan, will be exhibited in the Amazwi gallery throughout the day.

The public is also invited to participate in a silent auction of African paintings and wood carvings, as well as small quilts made from African fabric. The silent auction will feature a framed acrylic on canvas painting from Zimbabwe entitled "Women's Affairs" by the artist W. Zuze donated by Amazwi owners Mike Tischleder and Wally Petersen, who also contribute a portion of their day's sales to Solar Circle.

For their welcome support, Solar Circle thanks 2009 Saugatuck area fundraiser co-chairmen David Balas and Jim Sellman, and hosts Judy and Damien Jarzembowski, David Cofield, Judy Oberholtzer, Stacy Honson and Dick Bont, Nancy and David Evans, Cindy and Matt Peterson, Bill Galligan, Carol Sarosik and Shelley Padnos, and Judi and Howard Vanderbeck.

(more)

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A demonstration of solar cooking will also be given outside the Amazwi Gallery on Saturday afternoon during the event. In addition, light refreshments--African red tea, and Masasi's feature foods, mangoes and cashew nuts--will be served. All are invited. A suggested contribution for the event is \$25.