

# Headlines



## **“The acorn does not fall far from the tree”**

July 29, 2008

### **Rock Island Library Art Show Celebrates Family Talent**

Is artistic ability passed along by nature or nurture? Whatever the answer is, the Gierke family of Bettendorf, Iowa, seems to have sprouted quite a bit of talent, producing artists in pottery, architectural drawing, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

The Rock Island Public Library will provide a showcase for a forest of works by potter Sally Gierke and family in “*The acorn does not fall far from the tree*,” showing August 15 to October 24 in the second-floor gallery of the Main Library, 401 19<sup>th</sup> Street. The public reception for the show is Monday, August 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Main Library’s 2<sup>nd</sup> floor community room.



The show features the works of Mrs. Gierke and her children: Tiana, age 27, a printmaker and sketch artist; Andrew, age 25, an architectural graduate student, and Abigail, age 23, a photographer and metal sculptor. A potter since 1978, Mrs. Gierke says, “It is a thrill to be able to put up a show that includes my family. I have worked with clay during my 31-year marriage in my basement studio and at my children’s schools. My husband has been very supportive over the years and as he says, ‘is the strong back’ when it involves carrying pottery.”

While careful not to take full credit for her children’s love of art, she notes that her children helped with many an art fair. “My husband and are so pleased that each one of our children enjoys the arts and know that their creative endeavors will leaven the rest of their lives,” she adds. Daughter Tiana majored in law at the University of Iowa, where she also studied printmaking, and is currently studying for the bar exam in Maine. Son Andrew, a graduate of Iowa State, is in graduate school in Pennsylvania. Abigail, a graduate of the University of Iowa, where she took classes in clay and photography, is currently working in New Zealand.

Mrs. Gierke often works as an artist in residence at area schools, just recently completing a 262-square-foot mural for Neil Armstrong Elementary School in Bettendorf. She is a frequent exhibitor and workshop presenter, and has served as the Artist in Residence in at Acadia National Park in Maine, Buffalo National River Park in Arkansas and at the Cape Cod National Seashore Park in Massachusetts.