

HAWTHORNE

Keegan shares her view of world

BY DON E. SMITH JR.
Staff Writer

Denise Keegan admits she sees the world through a camera lens.

"Everywhere I look, I see just about everything in a picture frame," she said.

Keegan, a 26-year-old resident of Cliffside Park, has a photo display in the William Monaghan Gallery at Louis Bay 2nd Free Public Library in Hawthorne, featuring several images of the world she sees through a frame.

Keegan said to show her work off at a library is an amazing step in a career that is just beginning.

"I have been taking photos since I was a little girl," she said. "I am still fairly new at this and for me to be able to do this is an honor."

Keegan began taking photos at the age of 12 when she begged her mother for a camera for her birthday.

"She bought me the camera and the rest is history," she said.

Keegan credited her mother for her interest in photography.

"I would watch my mom take photos of everything," said Keegan.

"I couldn't help it," said Nancy, Denise's mother. "I was just a mother taking pictures of birthday parties, first days of schools and first steps. I would take pictures of gifts for my kids, the gifts being opened up, them holding their gifts and I just wanted to keep the record of my kids."

Keegan said she was able to add the artistic aspects of seeing the normal in a different light.

"For instance, you can take a simple photo of a tree, but there are so many ways of taking a picture of the tree. For example, you can take it up close, concentrating on the bark, or a close up of the trees or limbs," she said.

Keegan said her style of photography is reflective of herself. She pointed to her unique collections of oddities and the unusual.

"I have several hundred shot glasses. I collect anything associated with Kermit the Frog," she said.

She said she also collects pressed pennies with different logos. She said during a recent trip to Disney World she dragged three friends across the park collecting



PHOTO/DON E. SMITH JR.

Cliffside Park resident Denise Keegan currently has her photographs on display at the Louis Bay 2nd Library in Hawthorne.

pennies stamped with images of attractions.

Jeanne Marie Ryan, director of the library, said she was glad the library could provide a venue for artists and photographers.

"We think the library is a great place for the residents to come and be able to view works of art," said Ryan.

She said Keegan's photos, as well as those by Gideon Steele of Haledon and Judy Kopitar of Hawthorne, which are also on display, show the diversity of their different subjects.

"We get a feeling of the photographer's vision," said Ryan.

"I saw them on display at a café in Edgewater and thought they would be a great addition for the library," said Thomas Frawley, head of adult services at the library.

He said he was convinced after meeting Keegan.

"Her photos reflect her personality," Frawley said.

Though she loves photography, Keegan works as an interior design assistant with Polo M.A. Inc. in

Fort Lee. Her photographs have appeared in "201" magazine, "Elite" Lifestyles" and "Weird New Jersey."

"I love 'Weird New Jersey,'" she said, admitting it was a "dream come true."

Besides taking photos of structures, Keegan explained the subject matter of the earlier part of her career.

"I would always take photos of things up close and blurry. For instance, the concept of having a photograph, which is a still image, showing movement, like snapping a picture of a Ferris wheel spinning," she said.

Her work is on display at the library until September and she encourages all to come out to see it.

"I like to show things in a different light because looking at things differently can give you a different perspective," she said.

Don E. Smith Jr.'s e-mail is smithdo@northjersey.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENISE KEEGAN

Photographs by Cliffside Park resident Denise Keegan, like the one pictured above, are currently on display at the Louis Bay 2nd Library in Hawthorne.

Continuing the tradition of The Shopper News

The Gazette

HAWTHORNE • HALEDON
NORTH HALEDON • PROSPECT PARK

12-38 River Road, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410-1802

©2006 North Jersey Media Group Inc.

The Gazette publishes every Wednesday.
Offices are located at 12-38 River Road, Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410-1802.
Average audited circulation verified by Certified Audit of Circulation.

Member C.A.C.
Subscriptions: \$65.00 per year via Standard Mail, Postage Paid Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410.
Single copy: 25¢.
Postmaster send address changes to The Gazette, 12-38 River Road, Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410-1802.

Photo Reprint Service and PDF Full-Page Sales
We will reprint most print and freelance photos and 10% of pages that appeared in this newspaper since 1/1/02. Photos and PDFs are sold for personal use only. All commercial and/or other uses are strictly prohibited and may subject one to civil penalties.
Photo prices: 25¢ for 4x6; 25¢ for 8x10; PDF files: \$30. Prices include sales tax. Call 973-569-7037 or e-mail reprints@northjersey.com.

ADVERTISING (973) 569-7269
FAX (973) 569-7259
CIRCULATION (201) 791-8400
FAX (201) 794-3259

CLASSIFIEDS 1 (866) 318-7095
FAX (973) 569-7440
EDITORIAL (201) 791-8994
FAX (201) 794-3259
thegazette@northjersey.com