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NEWARK POST ❖ LIFESTYLE

'Pirate Tales and Beyond' at Delaware Art Museum

SCHOOLS will soon be closing for the Christmas holidays. (Children may now cheer while parents suck air!)

Certainly everyone is excited this time of year, but sometimes parents and caregivers are not sure how to make the best use of the child's time over an extended break.

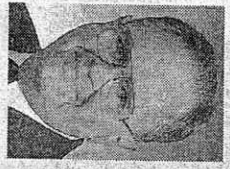
Today I offer an idea, which I think the young ones will love and older folks too. It will be an excursion into good fun, good reading and a trip to a fine art museum quite close by.

Fun is in store for the entire family with "Pirate Tales and Beyond: The Adventures of Rip Squeak and Friends" at the Delaware Art Museum on view through January 29, 2006. The exhibition presents more

THE

ARTS

By PHIL TOMAN



than 60 original paintings and drawings by children's book illustrator Leonard Filgate. The colorful artworks created for the Rip Squeak children's books written by Susan Yost-



Illustrations from Rip Squeak children's books illustrated by Leonard Filgate will be on display at the Delaware Art Museum through Jan. 29.

Filgate, depict the adventures of an unusual group of friends: a mouse named Rip Squeak and his younger sister, Jesse, an abandoned kitty named Abbey, and Euripides, a thespian frog. The friends use their imaginations, improvisational skills, and

each other's unique qualities to care for one another, overcome challenges and have fun. The stories emphasize themes of tolerance, diversity and openness to new experiences. It's a perfect holiday show for young minds. If your children are

not used to the museum experience, this exhibit would be a great way of establishing a beginner's interest in, and eventually a life-long love of, museums. Not a bad idea over this Christmas season?

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The Delaware Art Museum is located at 2301 Kentmere Parkway in Wilmington, not far from Rockford Tower. It is an easy drive from the Newark area. You may go right up Interstate 95 to the Delaware Avenue exit, then left on Delaware Avenue to Bancroft Parkway, right on Bancroft Parkway, then left on Kentmere Parkway to the museum.

"Pirate Tales and Beyond" will enjoy a perfect context at the Delaware Art Museum where Filgate's lively images will be in the company of the Museum's wonderful collection of American illustration, including many of Howard Pyle's pirate paintings on view in the newly expanded museum.

Some of these paintings inspired Leonard Filgate's illustrations for Rip Squeak's pirate adventures. An exhibition catalog accompanies the exhibition and includes essays by the Museum's curator, Joyce K. Schiller, exploring the evolution of the Rip Squeak stories as well as Leonard

Filgate's working style and the creation of the story's images.

While you are all enjoying the exhibits at the Delaware Art Museum, especially if this is your first visit or the first one in a long time, enjoy the "new" museum. The location has been closed for three years for a major reworking and lots of new areas. It reopened earlier this year. It was worth every penny spent on it.

The newly-redesigned Delaware Art Museum includes 17 galleries of 19th and 20th century and contemporary American art, a nine-acre Sculpture Park, interactive Kids' Corner, Education Wing, Helen Farr Sloan Library and Reading Room, reception areas to serve community groups and special events, DeLART Cafe, Outdoor Terrace and Museum Store.

I wouldn't suggest too much time on the Outdoor Terrace this Christmas season, but you can get a look at it through the plentiful fenestration at the museum. On the other hand I would suggest a visit to the museum store. There are many wonderful things for sale that would make great Christmas presents and/or great

mementos of a child's first visit to a museum!

The Delaware Art Museum is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Wednesday it is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The museum is closed Monday. Admission is adults, \$10; seniors, \$8; college students (with ID) \$5 and the youth ticket is only \$3. Children 6 and under free. On Sundays, everyone enters free of charge. The museum is closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

Plan your visit now. Put an extra festive "Art Touch" to your Christmas plans this year. Merry Christmas!