

# LIFE

Tuesday, March 4, 20

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## One stroke at a time

Art teacher uses unusual techniques to help bring out students' inner artists

By CARI SCRIBNER

For The Saratogian

SARATOGA SPRINGS

**A**rtist Anne Baldwin Butler of Nantucket and Saratoga Springs doesn't believe anyone is all thumbs when it comes to drawing.

If you don't believe her, she might just suggest you go ahead and sketch your own thumbs, or your fingers, or the palms of your hands.

At a recent class at the National Museum of Racing, surrounded by a group of re-enlistees who had just completed a winter series of her drawing courses at the Saratoga County Arts Center, Baldwin Butler refreshed the students on the 90-10 technique. With this technique, students spend 90 percent of their time focused on the object they are drawing, such as their fingers, and 10 percent of the time looking at the sketchpad itself.

Odd as this may sound, it actually brings about stunning results.

This and other unusual teaching



Photo provided

**ABOVE:** A.C. Riley of Saratoga Springs drew this sketch of an arch in Canfield Casino.

**LEFT:** Instructor Anne Baldwin Butler gives student John Nelson tips on perspective while sketching the starting gate at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame.

she now spends the summer months working and teaching. She developed the Sketching Tours of Nantucket, now in their seventh season, during