

Mid-Hudson



Kelvin Antonelli of New Paltz shows off her cast-iron statue to friends, including Christine Cohoe of Accord (at left). She said she bought it about 17 years ago thinking it looked like the Virgin Mary. JACK HOWLAND/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

TRASH OR TREASURE?

Rhinebeck's antique appraisal day puts value to hundreds of people's items

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RHINEBECK - Kelvin Antonelli bought the cast-iron statue about 17 years ago thinking it resembled the Virgin Mary, placing it among the antiques in her living room.

Over the years, though, she said she noticed the black figure was flashing one exposed leg, making her more Mary Magdalene than "Madonna. She said she

"has no idea what she is" or where she comes from, and has longed to find the historical details that help explain the old relic.

The 74-year-old New Paltz resident was one of hundreds who poured into the gymnasium of Rhinebeck's Good Shepherd Church this weekend to speak with appraisers from Astor Galleries to see if items around their homes are trash or treasures.

She didn't get any answers on the statue, saying they took a photo to continue researching it. An oil painting from Rio De Janeiro she bought for \$250,

though, was worth between \$400 and \$600.

"I think it's interesting in the fact that we all have things ... we have no idea what they're worth, many of us," Antonelli said. "When I buy something, I don't buy it because of how much it's worth, or what I think I could sell it for. There's an energy about it."

There were at least 90 people waiting in chairs at the "antique appraisal day" as of 1 p.m. Saturday. And the people — towing such items as paintings, furniture

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Mara Dean of Astor Galleries looks at a painting on Saturday. There were hundreds of people who showed up to the antique appraisal day in Rhinebeck to have their items inspected.

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Antiques

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and jewelry — reported waiting around two hours.

Geraldine Browne, president of the Good Shepherd Women's Society, said the church hosted one other appraisal with an Albany-based group but only got about 50 attendees. With this event hosted by the Kingston-based Astor Galleries, she said, more people came out of the woodwork, and she joked that it showed that "we're all a bunch of hoarders."

"We didn't even expect this many," she said. "It's

fun to watch what people bring in. And a lot of times, if we get a chance, we'll say to them, 'How'd you make out?'"

It cost \$10 to have one item appraised, and \$25 for three items.

John, 79, and Nancy Thomas, 77, of Hyde Park, brought in a chair believed to be from the early 19th century worth about \$300 to \$500. She said she liked "watching other people's things," and he joked that he didn't like one item they saw.

"I wish they had driven a truck over the top of it," he said with a laugh. "It's an individual thing."

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