



Creative Living

Mary Klomic editor/644-1100

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Art Beat

ArtsBeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

For information and reviews of musical performances, please turn to the Entertainment section.

William W. Stahl Jr., senior vice president and director of the American Decorative Arts Division of Sotheby's New York, will speak on "New Views of Collectors and the Market" at the Birmingham Antiques Festival Preview Luncheon on Tuesday, April 7, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham.

The luncheon will feature a hospitality hour 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., during which reproductions of "real ladies" ball gowns will be available for viewing. Luncheon will be served at 12:30 p.m. and Stahl will speak at 1:30 p.m. Reservations, \$30 each, are limited. Call The Community House at 644-5832 for more information.

The festival, Friday-Saturday, April 10-11, will include a Preview Evening on April 9. Call The Community House for information.

Birmingham watercolor artist Julie Dawson will speak on "Life in Africa Today" at the Wednesday, March 25, meeting of the School of Government Inc.

Dawson's talk is based on 4 1/2 months of independent travel with her husband in Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa and across the Sahara Desert. It will be illustrated with slides of her watercolors of the African people, animals, flowers and scenes. For reservations and more information, call Wanda Sepanski at 822-1474 or Frances Wisner at 471-0473.

Attention, members of the Michigan Chinese Women Association: The organization's annual membership meeting will take place Saturday, March 21, at the Somerset Inn, 2601 W. Big Beaver in Troy.

The program includes a workshop featuring a panel discussion on "Life and Health" and a dinner dance banquet. Nationally well-known writer Hsi Tsen Pan Lee will lecture. Professor Maria Tou from the University of Illinois and Oakland County Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert will be the honored guests at the banquet.

The purpose of the MCWA, established in 1990, is to nurture the Chinese culture, help the needy and encourage the Chinese-American community to become better acquainted with Chinese culture and traditions.

Members and guests of the Birmingham Muscale were treated Thursday, March 12, to a performance by award-winning violinist Gabriel Bolkosky, the first recipient of the Jean Hohmeyer String Scholarship. Hohmeyer, who established the scholarship last year, and Bolkosky's former teacher, Laura Sias, performed in the Birmingham Muscale String Ensemble as part of the program. Bolkosky, 18, has been playing the violin for more than 14 years. He is a freshman at the University of Michigan School of Music.

During the month of March, the Rubner Gallery in West Bloomfield will present "Introductions '92," an invitational exhibit featuring 15 artists living and working in Michigan. The wide range of media in the show includes oil and acrylic painting, watercolor, pastel, ceramic relief, construction and bronze sculpture.

The collection attests to the wealth of creative talent in Michigan. Many of those featured studied art at Wayne State University, the Center for Creative Studies, the University of Michigan, the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University and Western Michigan University. The gallery is at 7001 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 430A. Call 626-3111.

Arts advocate urges involvement

By Mary Klomic
staff writer

The view from Leon Cohan's 24th floor office in the Edison Plaza in Detroit one recent morning showed a bleak panorama of gray and brown buildings and slowly moving vehicles, sullen and silent in a harsh blast of winter that had suddenly intruded on the area.

But even the staunchest pessimists struggling in the cold couldn't deny

that spring with its promise of warm weather, cheerful skies and bright colors was near.

In many ways, the day was like the situation facing advocates of the arts: Things may look dreary now as government support for the arts drops — slashing or obliterating programs and leaving talents languishing un nurtured — but they will change for the better.

That's the long-term prediction of Cohan, chairman of the Michigan Council for the Arts 1987-91. But people must speak out, the arts advocate said.

"I think many people don't understand how important the arts are, for example in the education of our children," said the Bloomfield Hills resident, a member of the Arts Commission of the city of Detroit, which is the governing body of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"I don't think the arts are a luxury, I don't think they're elitist. They tell us about what we are and open up new worlds."

COHAN AND seven other Wayne State University alumni will be honored at the Arts Achievement Awards ceremony Saturday, March 28, at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center at WSU. The awards program is part of a two-day Celebration of the Arts to showcase regular WSU arts features. (See related story.)

Among the award recipients is Sharon McColl, chairwoman of the commission on children's dance for the National Dance Association and full-time artist in residence at the State Arts Council of Oklahoma. She taught art-oriented curriculum in East Hills Junior High in Bloomfield Hills, the Livonia Public Schools, WSU and Friends School in Detroit.

The other recipients are Mark Alan Leithauer of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, artist and educator Lillian Wolock Elliott, Dallas/Fort Worth TV co-anchor Clarence Tinsley-Giles, writer Julie Jensen, trumpeter Gordon Mathie and actor Tom Spaekman.

"Mr. Cohan has a distinguished record as an arts advocate," said Arthur L. Johnson, vice president of community relations at WSU and chairman of the selection committee.



Leon Cohan speaking out

"We are all aware of the strong leadership he has provided as chairman of the Michigan Council for the Arts. We are honored to be honoring him."

"I think it's wonderful that over the years Wayne State University has recognized artists but also people who advocate for the arts," said Cohan, 62, senior vice president and general counsel for Detroit Edison.

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Awards, events celebrate programs

The annual Arts Achievement Awards program is part of a two-day Celebration of the Arts, Friday-Saturday, March 27-28, to showcase the arts programs and events that are regular features of Wayne State University.

Most activities are free and open to the public. They include a display of art, dance and theater. For more information, call the WSU Office for Community Relations at 577-2246.

A slide lecture by artist and educator Lillian Wolock Elliott, one of this year's award recipients, will precede the celebration at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28, in Room 156 in the Community Arts Building.

THREE OF this year's award recipients will be featured in events March 27. Actor Tom Spaekman will conduct a question/answer opportunity at 1 p.m. in the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass. Trumpeter Gordon Mathie will have a master class at 3 p.m. in Room 102 of the Music Building. Mark Alan Leithauer of the National Gallery of Art in Washington will lecture at 7 p.m. in the Community Arts Building.

Also March 27, a production of George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man" will take place in the Hilberry Theatre and a spring dance concert will be presented by WSU dance faculty in the Bonstelle Theatre, 2424 Woodward. Both performances will be at 8 p.m.

Call 577-2972 for Hilberry ticket information and 577-4273 for information about the dance concert.

ON MARCH 28, the celebration starts at 1 p.m. with a performance of the spring dance concert. After the Arts Achievement Awards presentation at 4 p.m. in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center, a reception and the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Show will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Arts Gallery.

Another dance concert-performance is scheduled for 8 p.m. that day in the Bonstelle Theatre. A production of "The Cocktail Hour" by A.H. Gurey will be at 8 p.m. in the Hilberry Theatre.

Plant closings have little effect on art galleries

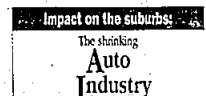
By Mary Klomic
staff writer

Editor's note: The recent announcement by General Motors that the Willow Run plant would be closed hits home in different ways. In this article, the first in a series looking at the impact on the arts community, gallery representatives in the area discuss what effects, if any, GM's move will have on the establishment.

The Willow Run announcement hasn't brought a new perspective to galleries.

"We're more affected by the building economy than the manufacturing economy," said Allen Rubiner, director of the Rubner Gallery, 7001 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. The gallery was in Royal Oak for the first 20 of its 28 years in operation.

"If the population went from 6 million to 200,000, we'd all suffer."



FACING COMPANY layoffs and a recession, executives may be more reluctant to buy art for their offices. But on the other hand, people may want to buy art for their home, where they spend more time.

"I think if anything people are (decorating) their homes instead of maybe traveling," said Mary Wright, director of the 11-year-old Xochipilli Gallery, 568 N. Woodward in Birmingham.

"GM was a large purchaser of art in its facility for many years, but they completely stopped that a year ago," Rubiner said. "When the recession hit they stopped purchasing."

REPRESENTATIVES OF new galleries expected general effects from bad economic news.

"When you first hear about the



GUY WARREN/Staff photographer

Gallery directors such as Jeff Guldo, here at the face of layoffs and a recession. But the effect on their businesses is slight.

news of the layoffs . . . psychologically I think that has an effect on any kind of business," said Kenneth King, gallery director of the Art and Soul Gallery of Fine Arts, 18915 W. 12 Mile in Lathrup Village.

"I had a feeling that the recession would have an effect on luxury things like art and my gallery itself, but I couldn't compare."

King was an automotive designer who opened the gallery in November.

ber. It features African and contemporary decorative art.

"I think that whenever there is a downturn in the economy and something as public as the layoffs at GM . . . (it) ultimately will impact every business in the sense that people are much more conservative," said Jeff Guldo, gallery director of the Habatat/Shaw Gallery, 32255 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills. The gallery opened in September.

"I opened the Birmingham gallery in January 1991 just in time for the big recession and it was a very slow year," Wright said.

GALLERIES OPERATE under two rules that on the surface seem to contradict each other: to take one day at a time, but also to look ahead. "We're already looking to Kwazara and Black History Month of next year," King said.

Famed designer speaks volumes

By Joan Boram
special writer

Anthony P. Browne claims that he has never been modest, and one isn't inclined to argue the point.

"At the age of 14 years, I was walking into friends' houses and telling them what was wrong with their decorating schemes," said the voluble, British-born designer, the first speaker at the (Troy) Michigan Design Center's new Viewpoint lecture series for interior designers and their clients recently.

"Well, if you do that long enough, people begin to ask you for your opinion before you have the chance to volunteer it. Then it's only a matter of time before you can charge them for your ideas."

BROWNE, 50, said he now long it took him to work up to his present \$100,000 retainer fee, but he did say that his greatest talent is the ability to attract and retain rich clients.

As his client list includes Averell Harriman, Oprah Winfrey and Andrew Lloyd Webber, you can't very well debate that, either.

My clients use interior design not to announce wealth, but rather to reflect taste, solidity and the comfort of home," said Browne, whose trademark is "the inherited look."

HE ILLUSTRATED this point with the story of the "rightfully rich" owner of a stud farm in Versailles, Ky. ("It took me a long time to be able to pronounce it 'Versailles'.")

Her sons had sold the 5,000-acre farm out under her, so she bought another 5,000 acres across

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Be on red alert when taking photos

Have you ever taken flash pictures of family or friends and only to pick them up at your photo finisher and have blazing red eyes staring at you? This phenomenon is called "red-eye" and is not the fault of your camera or the lab.

Red-eye is caused by physics. If you use flash position, not the lens of the camera, the burst of flash enters the pupils of your subject's eyes and bounces directly off the blood vessels, causing that devilish red glow.

Here are some tips to eliminate red-eye and put a more natural look in your shots.

Use bounce flash off the ceiling, walls or a reflector card attached to your flash. Automatic units will adjust for exposure with bounce flash on their own. Bounce flash will give



Monte Nagler

your photos a soft, natural appearance with good modeling of features.

OR SIMPLY use a flash connecting cord that enables you to remove the flash from the camera and hold it high at an angle. The angle will not allow the reflection of the blood vessels to enter the camera.

Turn up the room lights. The brighter lights will not affect exposure but will close down the pupils of your subject's eyes. With a narrower path to travel through, the flash's reflection is much less likely to produce red-eye.

Use a diffuser. A handkerchief, thin white paper, even a kitchen storage container will work fine. Simply place the diffuser over the flash. Because the light will be scattered and softened, red-eye will be minimized or eliminated.

Shoot at an angle or have your subject looking away from the camera. If the flash enters the eye at an angle, you're reducing the chance of red-eye.

YOU CAN also use a point-and-shoot with a preflash feature. The camera's flash makes two or three initial bursts of flash before actual exposure. The idea is that the initial flash bursts cause the retina to narrow, once again making red-eye less likely.

Tell your subjects you have this type of camera. By warning them about preflash, they won't blink and you'll get a more natural look.

Monte Nagler is a professional photographer based in Farmington Hills.



No red-eye here, just pleasing "catch lights." Monte Nagler used bounce flash to capture this natural and delightful portrait of West Bloomfield resident Lou Keshdan.