

Quality art up for bids in 56 auction

By JACKIE KLEIN

Channel 56's annual fund-raising auction was conceived eight years ago with a two-day production on the nationally-affiliated educational TV station.

With stumbling steps, through trial and error, the event and the channel's image has grown. This year's auction, the longest in the public TV station's history, will be April 3 through April 18.

A new innovation for viewers and bidders will be special art boards, to be shown on prime time, combined with regular auction items. Volunteer co-chairmen of the art auction are Lee Henkin of Southfield and Joyce Bacher of Farmington Hills.

"We're really excited about our quality donations," Mrs. Henkin enthused. "Every piece is verified and authenticated. Just art for art's sake."

Mrs. Henkin and Mrs. Bacher are art appreciators who have more than a nodding acquaintance with painters, sculptors and other craftsmen as well as their works.

The women met when they were donors at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Because of their common interest, they decided to go into business together, leasing and selling art works to individuals and commercial enterprises.

"We NEVER hung a painting we didn't love," Mrs. Henkin revealed. "Maybe we went out of business because we were too discriminating, but the experience was invaluable. When my partner and I were called by channel 56 to co-chair the art auction, we both said to each other, 'I'll do it if you will,' and here we are, enjoying every minute of it."

The women started working last November. Henkin works a day, six days a week. They began calling donors on the phone, contacted persons interested in the arts and appointed them captains who in turn obtained "go-getters" to pick up donated works.

"Artists are really giving part of themselves when they donate their creations," Mrs. Henkin said. "They have to be convinced 90 per cent of channel 56's funds come from the auction, and if they like the programming they can help support it."

FOR THE first time, art boards will be video-taped, said Mrs. Henkin. Viewers will see about five minutes of tape in which the donor and his work will be described.

"We'll have 33 boards with eight pieces

of art work on each," Mrs. Henkin said. "The problems in the past have been misrepresentation of artist's names, wrong sizes of paintings given in spontaneous announcements and revealing the names of donors who preferred to remain anonymous. To avoid similar incidents and controversies, we decided to videotape the art portion in advance."

Mrs. Henkin gives top priority to Michigan artists who donate their works.

"Since all they really gain from the auction is exposure and a tax deduction, they're entitled to loyalty," she believes.

"An artist feels bad enough when a bidder pays \$20 for a \$1,000 painting. Everyone wants a bargain and there are no overbids on art."

THESE 56 special boards for very expensive, valuable works of art. Choice pieces will be on display at the Fisher Building for 11 days beginning March 23 at 10 a.m. Patrons interested in bidding on any of these can find out what day the art will be shown on channel 56.

The TV auction will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, April 2, and will continue through April 18 until 2 p.m. Channel 56's TV guide will indicate when particular artists' works will be shown.

"Everything is done by computer, not to mention some 150 volunteers," said Mrs. Henkin. "Art works are computer labeled

and numbered. Cards for last year's donors are computerized and so is the reason they may refuse this year. One reason, for example, is that an artist's \$1,000 painting went for \$40. That's on a computer, too."

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New recreation program starts

After school and evening recreation programs will begin for children, teens and adults at Shawnee and Oak Elementary schools Wednesday, April 7.

The classes which will be offered each Wednesday for five weeks are open to all Farmington area residents.

The program is sponsored by the Farmington Area Recreation Commission and qualified instructors will teach each class.

The fees are \$4 for each one-hour class and \$5 for the 1 1/2 hour classes. They are payable at registration to the recreation commission. Those interested may register by mail or in person at the recreation office, 3150 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills.

The Shawnee class schedule is:

GYMNASTICS Beginners and intermediates, grades three to six, 3:30 p.m.; beginners and intermediates kindergarten through grade three, 4:30 p.m.; intermediate and advanced, grades two through six, 5:30 p.m.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL 7:30 p.m.

DRAWING Basic drawing I for children in grades three through six, 3:30 p.m.; basic drawing II for grades three through six, 4:30 p.m.

JAZZ for grades two through six will be at 3:30 p.m.

GUITAR for beginners in grades three through six will be at 4:30 p.m., and intermediate guitar for grades three through six will be at 5:30 p.m.

SEMINARISTICS will be held from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The Gill schedule is:

GYMNASTICS for beginning and intermediate students, kindergarten through third grade, will be 4:30 p.m.; beginning and intermediate gymnastics for grades three through six will be at 5:30 p.m.

OPEN GYM for sixth through ninth graders will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL will be held from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

ARTS AND CRAFTS for grades three through six will be at 4:30 p.m.

MACRAME for beginners and intermediates, teens and adults, will run from 7:30-9 p.m.

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Pump displayed at Hills branch

An audio-visual model of the Ludington Pump Storage Plant is currently on display in the Farmington Hills branch of the Farmington Community Library.

The six-by-eight foot display is equipped with head phones which describe the processes of the hydroelectric generator on Lake Michigan.

A series of overhead lights trace the water's movement from the reservoir through its conversion into electric current.

The model, on loan from Consumers Power Co., is on display Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., until the end of April.

Area students make LIT list

Eight area students were named to the dean's honor roll for the past day-college term at Lawrence Institute of Technology. Farmington students named to the list were: James B. Eckel, 3021 Barwell, with a 3.61 average in electrical engineering; Barbara C. Miller, 2374 Warner, with a 3.55 average in mathematics; Nicholas A. Poleschuk Jr., 2288 Lee Lane, with a 3.78 average in electrical engineering; David Rube, 3610 Paddockford, with a 3.78 average in architecture; Gary VanWagon, 2558 Warner, with a 3.62 average in business administration; and Charles T. Wiese, 3243 Tall Oaks Court, with a 4.0 average in mechanical engineering.

Steven A. Bernia, of 2537 Campbell, Farmington Hills, achieved a 3.81 average in architecture.

Tim Cramel, of 3033 Ridgeway Hills, received a 3.78 average in industrial management.

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