

# Films detail cultural history of Chinese

A colorful detailed history of the culture of the Chinese people from their beginnings to 1911 will be presented as a three-part film series at 7 p.m. on three successive Tuesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21.

The programs, sponsored by the Michigan Chapter, American Society of Interior Designers, will be held in Southfield High School auditorium, 10 Mile and Lahser, Southfield.

Tickets are available at a reduced price for the complete series or may be purchased individually for each performance. Price for the three programs is \$15 per person. Individual tickets are \$7 each. Student and senior citizen tickets are \$3 for each performance.

Advance registrations or information is available by calling 553-4156. To order tickets, send check or money order to China Films, C/O Walter Herz Interiors, 29425 Northwestern, P.O. Box 606, Southfield 48037.

## World premiere opens orchestra's 27th season

The new season marks the 27th consecutive year for the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony Orchestra, making it the oldest community orchestra in Oakland County.

The orchestra opens the new season on Oct. 12 with a gala event to honor the return of one of Pontiac's most famous sons, composer/conductor Joel Thome. He recently won the Koussevitsky International record award. The prize was for a Candide Vox recording by the Orchestra of Our Time in Lucia DiGregorio's "Fire Fragile Flight."

Thome was the conductor for the recording.

The orchestra has commissioned Thome to write a composition for this occasion. He will conduct the world premiere of his work as well as the Beethoven Second Symphony and "Pulcinella" by Stravinsky.

Thome is conductor of the Orchestra of Our Time in New York City and is recorded on leading labels such as Vox, Desto, CRI, Mercury and Decca.

Thome will be in Pontiac, Oct. 6-11 rehearsing with the orchestra and giving workshops for students in the Pontiac area, grade school through college.

The week will climax with the 3 p.m. concert on Sunday, Oct. 12. A dinner in his honor will be given that evening at Roma's of Bloomfield. Ernie Jones will be the emcee for the dinner to which the public is invited.

On Nov. 7, the moment conductor, David Daniels, will join with pianists Flaviano Varani and Joyce Adelson to present the Concerto for Two Pianos by Poulenc. The program will include the Bruckner Fourth Symphony.

The Oakland University Chorus, with John Dovanar conducting joins with the orchestra on Dec. 6 in Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicholas." Dovanar will also conduct the orchestra in Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony."

The Feb. 20 concert will feature the winners of the Oakland University annual Student Concerto contest. Daniels will conduct the orchestra in Rossini's Overture to "Il Turco in Italia" and Respighi's "Pines of Rome."

On April 12, the orchestra will play the New World Symphony by Dvorak and Sinfonia Concertante by Pleyel.

The films, produced by Wan-go-Weng for the China Institute of America, employ a rich variety of artifacts, documents and art materials from around the world. They draw on the combined resources of 62 museums and institutions as well as 15 private collections in this dramatic study of a major civilization — the one with the longest continuity in history.

The series consists of 13 vignettes which describe significant identifiable cultural eras.

Topics to be covered on Oct. 7 include:

- China — The Beginnings, 600,000 years ago to 1,100 B.C. — The search for origins, neolithic cultures and the development of the first, Shang, dynasty.
- The Making of a Civilization, 1,100 B.C. to 475 B.C. — Conquest, political upheaval, Confucius and the evolution of theories for building a better society; Hundred Schools to One, 475 B.C. to 221 B.C. — Outward expansion, social changes, schools of philosophy.
- The First Empires, 221 B.C. to A.D. 220 — The first peasant rebellion, establishment of the 400-year Han dynasty which based its rule on the practical application of the theories of Confucius, the Silk Road links to China and the West.

Films to be shown on Oct. 14 will cover:

- The Great Cultural Mix, A.D. 220 to A.D. 581 — Invasion of northern barbarians, introduction of Buddhism, merging of rival cultural traditions of the North and South, development of ocean trade.
- The Golden Age, A.D. 581 to A.D. 907 — Stability under the Tang dynasty stimulated the growth of industry and advancement of the arts, union of the teachings of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism, development of the managerial class.

The Heavenly Khan, A.D. 618 to A.D. 907 — Encouragement of trade and foreign visitors, protection of Christian and Islamic faiths, spread of Chinese influence into Persia, India, Java and Sumatra, trade with Japan, the Central Kingdom was an open forum, a world market of ideas, people and things.

The Age of Maturity, A.D. 907 to A.D. 1279 — Prosperity, trade and urban living made peace more attractive than conquest, expansion in knowledge, understanding and the arts of living.

DURING THE FINAL showing on Oct. 21, areas to be covered are:

- Under the Mongols, A.D. 1279 to A.D. 1288 — China became the headstone of the vast Mongol empire after being conquered by Kubli Khan, Marco Polo, deterioration and fall of the empire; The Restoration, A.D. 1368 to A.D. 1644 — First Chinese ever to rise from pauper to emperor ousted by the Mongols and named his dynasty "Ming" or brilliant, reestablishment of civil service, height of maritime exploration, east Africa and the Persian Gulf, beginning of China's decline; The Manchu Rule, A.D. 1644 to A.D. 1911 — Early prosperity, later oppression, resistance to Western inroads reveals military weakness, revolution, Sun Yat-sen's rebirth.
- Coming of the West, 16th and 17th centuries — An examination of the confrontation between Western and Chinese civilizations, waning of Ming China coincided with Europe's Renaissance, differing responses of China and Japan to Western Civilization; The Enduring Heritage — A recapitulation, despite internal and external pressures, Chinese civilization possesses enduring qualities of continuity, the use of the same written language within China's boundaries from the time of the first dynasty to this day forges a unity in time and space unmatched by any other people.



### Schaffer-Becksford

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schaffer of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Susan Eileen to Leon Ray Becksford, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Becksford of Holland.

The bride-to-be and her fiancé are both graduates of Michigan State University.

A November wedding is planned in Northwestern Baptist Church, Southfield.

### Kokko-LaFleur

Key Marie LaFleur and Kent Steven Kokko were married in St. Fabian Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. LaFleur of Farmington Hills, and he is the son of Kenneth Kokko of Southfield.

The bride is a graduate of North Farmington High School and Eastern Michigan University. The bridegroom is a graduate of Southfield-Lathrup High School and University of Michigan where he is doing graduate work.

The couple received guests in the bride's parents' home. They will make their home in Ann Arbor.

## New gardens dedicated

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association will host a party for members and special guests 4-6 p.m. Oct. 4 to dedicate a new garden area.

The gardens were donated by Reva Shwayder in memory of her son, Richard M. Shwayder. Irving Shwayder, president of Samsonte, donated the outdoor furniture. Guests have been invited to bring perennial flowers from their gardens for planting in the area.

In conjunction with the dedication, there will be an exhibition of paintings by Mrs. Shwayder's students in appreciation of her generosity as a teacher and friend.

The garden was designed and planted by Al Goldner of Goldner Walsh and it includes a deck which overlooks the rolling lawn and a variety of plant materials.

Guests may also view the Robert Thom memorial exhibition in the gallery through Oct. 18.

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, a community sponsored art center, is funded in part by a grant from Michigan Council for the Arts. It is at 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham. Gallery hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

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Gale E. Wasson graduated with a B.A. from Bowling Green University where she organized and became president of the Interior Design Association of Bowling Green. She's worked at a number of varied interior design studios before joining Gorman's and has been responsible for designing home interiors for a national home manufacturer. The freshness and creativity in Gale's designs might be just right for your house or office. Come in and talk to Gale about your design needs at Gorman's.

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