

Farmington Community Center benefit staged

Items and services collected for the auction block

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

A weekend at a Holiday Inn, a membership to Vic Tanny, jewelry by Yankee Designs, tickets to the symphony, sports equipment, original paintings and a trip to Boblo will all go up on the auction block Friday to benefit Farmington Community Center.

More than 100 items have been collected in addition to gift certificates for meals, shows and services by center volunteers for the summer benefit.

"And most of them are in my bedroom," said Kathy Dowling, a long-time volunteer who recently accepted the post of assistant to the center's executive director, Betty Paine.

Dowling reverted to her past position of volunteer to chair the auction and worked on her own time with eight others to get the summer event under way.

The outdoor auction is a something new in the way of benefits for the center, staged in the hopes of picking up some of the gap in the shortage of its 1982 fund-drive goal.

THE AUCTION is one of a long string of benefits. Some have become yearly events, some were staged once and dropped. All are geared to raise money to keep the house and grounds open.

Dianna Webb, newly-elected president of the center's board of directors, backs the auction as a fund-raiser for a twofold reason.

"It will bring newcomers into the center to see what we've got here. A few times we've had to move the fund-raisers out of the center because we couldn't handle the numbers we expected on the premises," she said.

"Also the auction is going to take the time of a minimum number of our volunteers."

While the center has a larger number of volunteers than it's ever had on the roster before, Webb said, "we just have to justify taking these people away from their families when we ask them to do a volunteer job for us."

"We can't continue to have 25 women working in a kitchen all morning to raise \$100. My own feelings on volunteer work is to utilize all talents to the fullest."

There will be 30 volunteers acting as hostesses for the benefit on the night of the auction, but only eight acted as solicitors for the items that will go to the highest bidder.

"THE MERCHANTS were very good to us," Dowling said, rattling off a gamut of donations that ran from trees to car tune-ups, from travelogues to tax preparations.



Kathy Dowling



Bob Feezey



Dianna Webb

"Fifteen restaurants gave us certificates for dinners," she said. "And bidders can bid for a lunch with Ernie Harwell or dinner with Jack McCarthy."

Joe Glover will host the high bidder through his "Live at Five" television news show, and Bob Hines will turn tour guide for a walk through radio station WJR.

"A group of very generous givers is

es. Dave McCabe, local mortician who is also an actor specializing in voice characters, takes up the gavel for the auctioneer's job inside the building at 9 p.m.

Tickets for the event are \$7 now on sale in the center.

Both Feezey and Webb said they expect to carry on the next year of operations with the balance of programs offered in former years with some space given to groups without charge, and some community service programs given on a break-even basis.

"We intend to keep our uniqueness," Webb said. "We are not in competition with other classes offered here. Our heritage craft classes keep drawing people from a radius of 60 miles. That's unique."

ter's board of directors, sees the auction as a lure to those who might not be familiar with what the building and grounds have to offer members of the community.

Feezey is at work now recruiting male members for the volunteer roster "to help with the carpentry or other jobs that men traditionally have knowledge of because that old building needs a lot of tender loving care," he said.

His plans carry to forming a men's club that will utilize the center as well as provoke interest in perpetuating it. Feezey, along with other members of the board who took their posts early this spring, face the problem of coming up with \$4,000 for a sewer and another several thousand dollars for immediate repairs to the historic building.

"Yet it all could be handled easily if every family just gave \$1 a year. But that hasn't happened it," he said.

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At Art Alcove

Show displays the art of beautiful handwriting

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

Works of calligraphy, the art of fine or beautiful handwriting, have been gathered from 15 artists to combine for an exhibit in Art Alcove, 33305 Grand River, through July 24.

Lou Malin, owner and operator of the combined gallery and artist's supply shop in downtown Farmington, believes the exhibit is the first of its kind staged by a private gallery.

Most of the calligraphers whose work is on display are teachers, and all of the work is original, with the exception of those brought by Lothar Hoffmann.

Hoffman is a teacher of the center in Center for Creative Studies who has gained international recognition for his work.

"When it came down to having an all-original show or including Hoffmann's reproductions, we

choose to go with the reproductions. He's an international star in the world of calligraphy," Malin said.

SHARING THE star billing is Sue Ebel, the Farmington Hills resident who was one of the first to introduce the ancient art to adult education program throughout southern Michigan. She is the founder of the Michigan Association of Calligraphers.

Ebel's teacher was a student of Edward Johnston, who rediscovered the use of the broad pen and how the decorative letters were once made.

From this line, that started sometime in the late 1800s, Ebel feels she has a direct legacy to the revival of the art.

She guips that she has pretty much produced her own followers, through teaching calligraphy to many who eventually became teachers in this area.

Ebel points to Carolyn Katz, a Novi resident who is a specialist in Spenserian script, as "one of the finest calligraphers in the country."

Work by Katz is joined in the exhibit by well-known teachers in the metro suburbs, Eugenia Holland, Judy Scuto, Claudia Williams and William Bostick.

The artists have shown their lettering skills combined with talents in the use of watercolor and design. Some used letters of the alphabet or words to form designs, called calligrams.

Some of the calligraphers used words of philosophy or religion for their works, and some used words of wit.

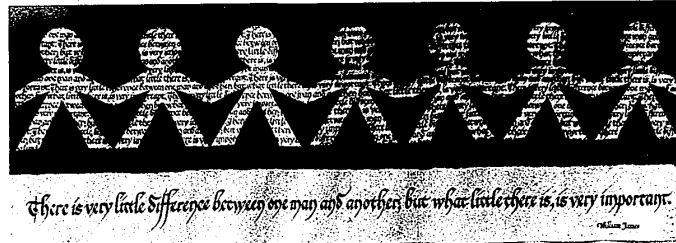
Many of the pieces on display are for sale. Some have been loaned only for display.

LEADING THE way to the exhibit is an out-sized quill pen created by Gail Yurasek for the window display which announces the calligraphy show to passers-by.

Yurasek took the Artist-in-Residence Award from Farmington Area Arts Commission in 1980. Since she turned to decorating windows for several area merchants and has consistently won awards from both Farmington Beautification Committee and Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce for these creations.

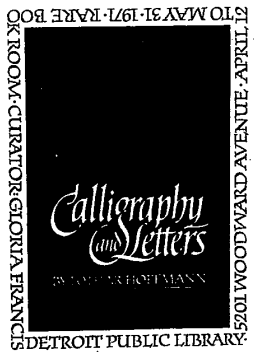
She used some of the calligraphy loaned for the show in the window display along with books printed in limited edition by Hoffmann that will be on sale during the run of the show.

Art Alcove hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.



Sue Ebel used a repetition of the words from a quote by William James to form the figures for this piece of work

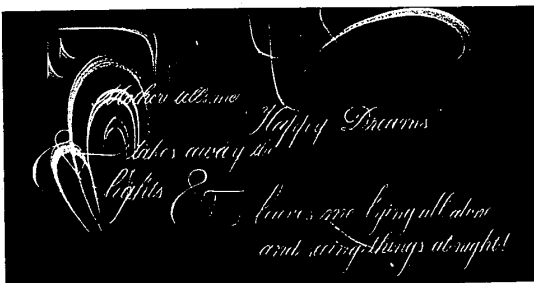
that is now on display in Art Alcove. Ebel is the founder of Michigan Association of Calligraphers.



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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The words that form a frame around Lothar Hoffmann's work have become similar to a trademark for the teacher of calligraphy at Center for Creative Studies.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A quote from Eugene Field is chosen for this piece of calligraphy executed by

Carolyn Katz. The Novi resident is a specialist in Spenserian script.

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