

Alliance aims to bring artists and public together

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

Carol Hansen and Deborah Braun are looking for a wall. Any outside wall within the area that has a surface which could be used to paint a mural will do.

The mural will be painted by area artists, chosen by the partner-owners of Referral Art Service Alliance, a new business that has set up offices at 23580 Grand River.

"The finished wall would be something like a grand opening for us," Hansen said. "It would let people know we are here and let them know what we can do because the whole idea of the alliance is to get artists together with the public."

The alliance can be best described as a cross between gallery, art agency and art cooperative.

"We took a bit from each of these concepts and came up with a new way of benefiting both the artist and the client," Hansen said.

"And we have the blessings of the (Farmington Area) Arts Commission," Braun added. "We met with them the other night. They think we have a good idea and we have their full support."

HANSEN AND Braun are both working artists.

Hansen is a free lancer known mostly for her portraiture that have been seen in past Farmington Artist Club exhibits, the Founders Festival and arts and crafts shows throughout Michigan. She's a native of Farmington who, after several years of living in different cities, recently returned to resume art studies in Oakland Community College. Braun is a graduate of Cass Technical High School and has worked steadily since as a commercial artist. She paints and sketches in off-hours, mostly for enjoyment.

What the two have in common is the belief that, in Hansen's words: "Too many good artists are falling by the wayside because of no direction."

In Braun's words: "Nobody teaches



Carol Hansen

an artist how to be a good businessman."

Hansen explained, "Supplies are high, and some of them are hazardous



Deborah Braun

to your health. No teacher I ever had told me that. No one told me that the acids in mats might eat your work, or how to write a contract. Or that galler-

ies charge 60 percent to hang your work. Or that if one person didn't like my work that meant I was a bad artist."

"All I know about being a business person was learned through a long series of bad experiences. I never even had the sense to ask a client for a down payment. After someone asked me to do a painting for them I went home and painted and just hoped they would pay me," she said.

BRUN BELIEVES the new alliance will serve the artists both as business and personal mentors.

"So many artists can't take the gaff. Any criticism is a personal affront to them, and we lose too many good ones that way," she said.

"With a true alliance we can get some of those bumps out of the way as well as keep the truly fine artist from being undercut."

She called gallery fees "totally unrealistic."

She called the art fairs "nice, but not a good outlet if you are trying to do a \$125 painting when the guy next to you is

selling a \$3 macramé."

Member artists who work in all media will be screened for the alliance. All work handled will be original of quality, they said. And all affiliated artists will be serious about wanting a career in art.

"We will organize portfolios to be on display so patrons can choose artists or subject, and we will be there to help our clients get what she or he wants and their money's worth," Hansen said. "So it is important we have artists who are involved and moving and enthusiastic and serious about their work."

The partners hope to hear from someone who has a wall they can paint before summer runs out.

If the wall is in disrepair, they think they can handle that with the cadre of artists now affiliated with the alliance. There will be no expense for the owner of the building, whether business or privately owned.

They can be reached by calling 477-7975.

Publisher to address Farmington Men's Club

Philip H. Power, founder and chairman of the board of Suburban Communications Corp., will be the guest speaker of the Farmington Men's Club at noon Thursday in Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. Power's topic, "The Communication Revolution," stems from his 20-year commitment to the media as a reporter, editor and publisher.

In 1958 Power founded Observer Newspapers, Inc. Eight years later he established the Suburban Communications Corp. The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are subsidiaries of the group along with other Michigan and Ohio newspapers.

His involvement in professional and cultural organizations is extensive including lectures, participation in the Voice of Freedom Conference, representation at the World Press Freedom Committee Conference, Michigan Foundation for the Arts and Michigan Cancer Foundation.

Following Power's program, guests are invited to help themselves to the sandwiches and dessert bar. Program and luncheon reservations are \$3 and may be made 48 hours in advance by calling the center, 477-8104.

This meeting concludes a successful first year for the men's group. Attendance has grown from 20 to 80 men from Farmington and surrounding areas.



Phil Power

Some of the men have volunteered their time to do maintenance work on the center's building and grounds, executive director Betty Paine said. "Their help has added to the volunteer assistance which is vital to the center," Paine said.

The steering committee is in the process of planning the programs for next session, which will resume on the third Thursday of each month beginning in September.

Ins and outs of labor negotiations told by management consultant

A management consultant with more than 25 years of specialized labor negotiations experience will give an introductory program on the labor negotiation process Tuesday, June 14, in Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration in Troy.

"The program is for business owners, managers and department heads who need to know the ins and outs of collective bargaining," said John Falahee, who will lead the program.

"Experts agree that small companies cannot afford to maintain labor negotiators on staff," the Farmington Hills resident said. "Nevertheless, even small union shops must go through the labor negotiations process."

Falahee called his program a "practical how-to-guide" that will focus on the process and strategic considerations of the bargaining process that will steer negotiations toward a desired result.

He invites participants to bring their own agreements and problems so that specific company needs can be addressed through a brief lecture and discussion.

TOPICS to be covered are the determination of bargaining objectives; data collection; understanding the union and its demands; special cost factors; how to package offers; narrowing the issues; and when to make the final stand. The program will run from 8:45 a.m.



John Falahee

to 12:15 p.m. in the college, 3538 Livermore, Troy.

The fee is \$50 and registrations are taken by the college's Continuing Professional Education Department at 688-8222.

Falahee's work as a chief company spokesman covers the entire gamut of employee relations and improving employee performance. His work has included dealing with numerous unions in behalf of small, midsize and large employee groups.

Dinner dance will mark garden club's 25th year

Hill and Dale Garden Club members mark 25 years of continuous service to the community with a dinner dance this week in Bolstead Inn. The regular end-of-the-season installation of new officers will be turned into a gala celebration as the group gathers together with many past officers and members.

Persons who have been affiliated with Hill and Dale in the past may call Mrs. David Camp, 555-0932 for tickets.

The event begins at 7 p.m. Friday. Hill and Dale became a member of Michigan Federation of Garden Clubs 25 years ago this month.

It was in 1961 that the club assumed the responsibility of giving garden therapy classes to special education students in the area. That project is now the main function of the club and involves all of its members.

CLUB MEMBERS landscaped the grounds and continue to maintain the Noble school on Middlebelt Road. They have planted and tended the flower beds on Farmington Community Center grounds since the center opened in 1968.

Some of the members are in turn members of the Farmington Historical

Museum's Garden Guild who work toward the beautification of those grounds.

Twenty-four flower arrangements were made by the members to be placed in the museum for its Michigan Week festivities, and the flower arrangement now in the Quiet Room in Farmington Hills Branch Library was placed there to commemorate the Silver Anniversary.

Parents invited to camp orientation day at Roeper

Roeper Summer Day Camp orientation for parents and new campers is set for 2 p.m. Saturday. Openings are still available for children 3-11 years old to attend two, four, six or eight weeks of camps 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

Camp sessions begin June 20 and run in two-week sessions until Aug. 12. The orientation will include a campus tour and explanation of programs.

Activities such as swimming instruction, arts, crafts, land sports, drama, music and field trips are included. For children ages 6-11, activities such as archery, computer, rocketry, soccer,

gymnastics, baseball, horseback riding and kite-flying are also available.

A four-week French camp program is also available. French language instruction and activities directed in French, including swimming and cooking, are all part of the French camp program. Counselors for French camp are fluent speakers of the language.

Camp buses are available for most metropolitan areas.

For questions about the programs at Roeper Summer Day Camp, call Roeper School, 642-1500.

Scout takes Eagle award

Matthew Steven Blake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Blake of Farmington Hills, took his Eagle Award at Troop 389's Court of Honor early this month.

The Harrison High School senior completed the community service project for the Eagle rank by doing maintenance work for Peace American Lutheran Church in Southfield.

An usher and a communion assistant for the church, his project involved beautifying both the building and the grounds. The most complex of the work was restoring boiler room to safety standards and repairing bathroom stall doors.

In school, Blake is a member of the symphony band, orchestra, jazz band and jazz quartet. He plans to continue music studies in college as he pursues a career in design.

Troop 389 is sponsored by Nardin Park Methodist Church. Scoutmaster for the troop is Edward Hansen.



Matthew Blake

WXYZ calls local talent

WXYZ Radio is searching for performing community groups; singers, dancers, actors, instrumentalists and comedians, for the "WXYZ Radio Community Showcase" in Southfield Civic Center, Aug. 19-21.

The "Showcase" is part of the World's Biggest Discount Show and Fun Fair sponsored by Leisureworld Expositions Inc., which consists of local retailers offering their name brand merchandise at 75-75 percent off. In addition, ethnic foods will be served in the plaza area.

If interested in performing either on Saturday, Aug. 20, at a time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., or Sunday, Aug. 21, within the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., contact Pam Cleveland or Chris Gach at the station, 527-9015.

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