

## Writers gather for conference

The annual Writer's Conference is scheduled to take place Friday and Saturday Oct. 17-18, at Oakland University, Rochester.

The conference, co-sponsored by Detroit Women Writers and the Division of Continuing Education at Oakland University, is open to the public. Brochures describing the conference in detail are available by calling 370-3120.

Beginning on Friday, Oct. 17 there will be a series of Writing Labs designed for writers who would like professional advice on their work. During eight concurrent sessions professional writers will discuss manuscripts submitted in advance by conferees.

The sessions include fiction, nonfiction, juvenile, short stories, articles, religion, mystery and poetry. Enrollment for each lab is limited to 12 participants and manuscripts must be received by the University no later than Friday, Oct. 3.

On Friday evening a cocktail/dinner party will be held at Meadow Brook Hall which is also open to the public. Keynote speaker, book author, William X. Kinzie speaking on "The Invisible Writer."

On Saturday, Oct. 18, 32 separate workshops are offered for conferees covering all areas of writing. The variety of workshops includes subjects for the beginning as well as the advanced writer.

Luncheon keynote speaker is William Zinsner, Book-of-the-Month Club general editor, who comes from New York to address the conferees. His subject, "On Writing Well," is patterned after his best-selling book which has offered important guidelines for aspiring writers since publication.



William X. Kinzie



William Zinsner

Interested persons are urged to register for the conference as soon as possible to assure first selection of workshops and lab sessions.

For registration information and brochure call Oakland University, 370-3120.

## So much can be said for art history

**D**ON'T YOU hate it when the person you are talking to starts a sentence with "Of course, you know..." For example, a woman recently said to me, "Of course, you're familiar with Malevich."

Malevich? I thought to myself, I wonder if he is a hockey player. Placing my hand to my forehead, I said something brilliant: "Er... Um... Of course."

"Oh, I'm sure you would know his style," she continued. "Early on, his work was fauve, then cubistic and finally he was the founder of supermatism."

"Oh, yes... Um... sure. Malevich..." I sputtered, praying all the while that someone or something would interrupt this conversation. In desperation, I asked some fake-out question like, "His most active years were in early... or was that late?"

"Early 1900s," she beamed with joy believing that I recalled Malevich's work. Finally, I cut the act and admitted that "art history classes for me were a great time to catch up on my rest. I am the worst when it comes to history."

Sure, I felt like a dumbhead, but at least my confession left me with a clear conscience. Art is such a vast subject. You could spend a lifetime trying to learn just the different styles and techniques and terms. So, from time to time, I will interject into my column a definition of a particular technique, procedure or material—maybe even a little art history.

For example, pointillism.

Pointillism is a painting procedure in which dots or spots of color are used to create colors and values by optical mixing. For example, dots of red and yellow used side by side blend optically to create orange when viewed from a distance; closely linked with impressionism; also called divisionism; simultaneous contrast; neopressionism; and chroma luminarism; prominent artist involved include Surin and Signac. North Light Dictionary of Art Terms.

There, now don't you feel smarter?

Since this is the time for program changes on TV, I thought it might be a good time to make formal changes in my column. I receive so many



artifacts  
David  
Messing

questions that I would like to devote more space to questions and answers. Incidentally, I love to receive questions in the mail. In case you are bashful, I will not print your name with the question.

By the way, I will be interviewing my attorney soon. His specialty is patents, copyrights, trademarks etc., so if you have any questions on this subject, send them in or call me at 522-6311.

Tips and hints are such time-savers and I know everyone enjoys them so I will be including some of them. Here's some examples:

When a stretched canvas is out of shape, lay it down on a flat surface,

wet the spot with clean water and let dry. The stretched spot will be flat again.

In the coming weeks, we're going to answer lots of questions, teach you terms and define techniques, give you some tips and hints and even... ugh, throw in a little art history.

David Messing has been an art teacher for 10 years and owns the Art Store and More in Livonia and Plymouth. He welcomes questions and comments from readers. These can be directed to him in care of this newspaper at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich. 48154.

## down to earth Alice Burlingame

## Time to plant for spring color

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting Pontiac General Hospital to see the extensive landscaping of their grounds. This has come with new additions to the hospital.

I went there with members of the Pontiac branch of National Farm and Garden. Within the lobby as well as several places on the grounds this group has provided the "know how" for the selection of trees, ground cover and flowering plants.

For some time they have raised money by selling tulip bulbs and small flowering bulbs for the express purpose of this project. Two women recently went to Holland (Michigan), to buy a large quantity of bulbs to be sold by the members.

When you stroll the grounds where they have new additions you know that the hundreds of bulbs sold by this dedicated club have made possible the beautiful plantings in many places at this facility.

I NOTICED the staff dining room has a large window area, which looks upon a landscaped steep hillside of pretty trees. And bulbs will be planted this fall to create spring color to cheer those in that room as they eat their meals.

At this date, you should decide about placing accents of spring bulbs

to spur you on toward "that goal" of beginning with a super garden in 1987.

While we're on the subject of bulb planting, this is the appropriate time to buy bulbs for next spring's beauty. This growing season I have noticed some new styles of landscaping by artists in this specialized field.

The trend is to create islands of beauty where in the past we have had large unbroken lawns. In other words shrubs and trees plus annuals have been brought out in an appropriate location within the area for maximum pleasure for the viewers.

Along the perimeter of the property the usual shrubs and evergreens are placed to afford privacy. This idea of an island of beauty where turf used to be is a good concept. There could be a mass of one color of flowering bulbs in a free form pattern with a group of other colors or shades for accent. Within the described island of beauty there could be a flowering tree performing at the same time.

If we get an Indian Summer and your newly planted bulbs begin to sprout, "never fear." Bulbs are cold tolerant and no harm should have been done. Just remember not to walk in the area, or you could crush the flower beds.

## Vocal workshop slated

Northminister Presbyterian Church, 3833 Big Beaver, Troy is sponsoring a vocal workshop led by Richard Mathey of Bowling Green University 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. Mathey is professor of music, conducts the men's and women's choruses and is a church music director as well as soloist, recitalist and lecturer. The workshop is designed to improve vocal production, literature and rehearsal pacing. All denominations welcome. Registration deadline is Oct. 10. For information, call Mary Beth Jones, 644-5920.



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