

Romancing the tale is big business

IT TOOK A poet — Geoffrey Chaucer, in fact — to find romance in the day marking the beheading of St. Valentine, an early Christian martyr. Chaucer mentioned that Feb. 14 was the day when birds began to pair, and from there came the exchange among friends and lovers of heart-shaped perfumed cards, then candy, then flowers — or so the story goes.

And if romance is in the air this week, it's merely business as usual at the bookstores. Big business.

It's not unusual for the romance publishers, giddy with continued success, to announce first printing figures upwards of 100,000 for little-known or even first-time authors. And those books sell, often before they even hit the shelves. Romance fictionades order by the dozen, by author or byline (Silhouette Intimate Moments or Harlequin Superromance, for example).

AND NOWHERE IS romance more evident than in the current shocking pink, valentine bedecked issue of Romantic Times magazine.

If you've never seen Romantic Times, you might not know that some of our own area writers are among the "names." This month at least four of them are featured or pictured as the magazine covers the Fifth Annual Romantic Times

Convention held last fall in New York.

Southfield writer Ruth Ryan Langan and Farmington Hills' Marianne Williams were workshop leaders at the conference. Langan's latest book, "The Proper Miss Porter," is among the 100 books reviewed in what publishers Kathryn Falk calls "the biggest issue yet."

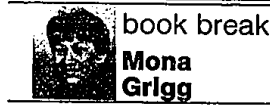
Troy writer Linda Lang Bartlett rates a review plus a full-page ad, Bartlett's second novel, "Alyssa," was selected by Avon as one of two novels marking the debut of their increased two-month Ribbon line.

Set in Norman England, "Alyssa" is "related" to her popular first historical romance, "Brianna." Roland, the lead male character in her first book, is twin brother to Hamlet, the romantic interest in "Alyssa."

Bartlett, a former French and history teacher, is already at work on a third novel set during the same period. She says the research, including the proper use and rhythm of the language, is what she loves best. She spends so much time at it, "it can be pretty embarrassing when all of a sudden I begin talking like my 11th-century boyfriends."

"Brianna should be on the shelves now," Bartlett says. Romantic Times rates it as "sensual."

Bartlett will be autographing "Alyssa" at the Novel Trader in



book break
Mona Grigg

Troy from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Then there's Bloomfield Hills writer Jan Greenburg, better known as Jill Gregory. RT highlights her (in a feature with the Grand Dame herself, Barbara Cartland) as Berkley Publisher's "number one bestseller." Her latest is "Moonlit Obsession."

All four writers belong to the very active Greater Detroit chapter of Romance Writers of America. On March 23 three of the four (Langan, Bartlett and Willman) will serve as workshop leaders at a seminar at Oakland University's Sunset Terrace Center. "Tapping the Source: Query to Contract," Local RWA president Marianne Shock, inspirational writer Carole Rugenstein and others will fill the program.

Craig Carver, individual arts coordinator for the Michigan Council for the Arts, is scheduled as keynote speaker. The deadline for reservations has been extended to March 15. Manuscript labs, however, are

closed. For information and applications write to Terry Ramla, 223 W. Rutgers, Pontiac 48055.

MICHIGAN WOMAN magazine is seeking manuscripts for a literary journal, scheduled for publication in the bimonthly magazine's May-June issue.

Editor Betsy Hull is looking for fiction (short stories or novel excerpts), essays, poetry or plays by Michigan writers. Hull says selections can be on any subject except pornography.

Michigan Woman is geared toward the successful, upscale business and career woman. Recent articles spotlighted Lieutenant Governor Martha Griffiths; Jeanette Lerman, communications veep at Burrells Corp.; and Catherine Comet, music director for the Grand Rapids Symphony.

Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced and limited to 2,500

words. Include a return envelope and send before the March 1 deadline. Payment is seeing your words in print in the first installment of the slick magazine's foray into the literary world. There will be more, Hull said, if this one goes well. Send to: Betsy Hull, Editor, Michigan Woman Magazine, P.O. Box 1171, Birmingham 48012.

MAINE POET Baros C. Wormser ("The White Words" and "Good Trembling," Houghton Mifflin) will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in the Greek Room on Wayne State's main campus. The event is sponsored by the Miles Modern Poetry Committee, WSU's English department. It's free. Call 577-2450.

Geoffrey Wolff's Feb. 17 reading for U-M's Visiting Writer's series has been cancelled. Susan Richards Shreve, author of the recently ac-

claimed "Queen of Hearts," (Simon & Schuster), is scheduled to read at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, in the Rackham East Conference Room. Call 764-6295.

FRRIENDS OF THE Livonia Public Library will have Howard Levine discuss his book, "Life Choices: Confronting the Life and Death Decisions Created by Modern Medicine" at Carl Sandburg Library, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. Taking part in the discussion will be Robert Skolneczy, education coordinator of respiratory therapy at Mount Clemens Hospital. The public may attend.

Mona Grigg is a free-lance writer who lives in Westland. She welcomes comments and questions from readers. They can be directed to her in care of this newspaper at 38253 Schoolcraft.

This week's best sellers

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| <p>FICTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "The Eyes of the Dragon," Stephen King "Death Quest," L. Ron Hubbard "Red Storm Rising," Tom Clancy "L," Stephen King "Watchers," Dean R. Koontz "Whirlwind," James Clavell "Night of the Fox," Jack Higgins "The Panic of '89," Paul Erdman "Patience of a Saint," Andrew M. Greeley "Flight of the Intruder," Stephen Coons | <p>NON-FICTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "A Season on the Brink," John Feinstein "Fatherhood," Bill Cosby "The Rotation Diet," Marita Katsah "Men Who Hate Women and the Women Who Love Them," Forward and Torres "The Frugal Gourmet Cooks With Wine," Jeff Smith "McMahon," Jim McMahon "His Way," Kitty Kelley "Word for Word," Andy Rooney "Dancing on My Grave," Gelsey Kirkland "You're Only Old Once," Dr. Seuss |
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—Associated Press (Courtesy of Time, the weekly newsmagazine)

Art Fair directory now available

The Michigan Council for the Arts' 1987 Michigan Art Fair Directory is now available. The directory lists more than 300 art fairs and festivals throughout the state and includes information for artists who wish to participate and individuals who wish to attend.

To obtain a 1987 Michigan Art Fair Directory, send a self-addressed stamped business size, 4-by-9-inch envelope, with 55 cents postage on the envelope. Do not send cash, checks or money orders. Send to Michigan Council for the Arts, Public Information, 1200 Sixth Ave., Detroit, 48236-2461.

with a lot to say'

Metropolitan concert spotlights pianist Kargul

INTERNATIONALLY recognized pianist Laura Kargul will perform in concert at Metropolitan Methodist Church at 8 p.m. Friday. She will be performing on the church's new Bechstein grand piano in a highly favorable acoustic setting.

Kargul was invited to the Eighth International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow last spring. Already familiar to audiences throughout the Great Lakes Region, she is now receiving high acclaim in European music centers as well.

In 1985, the Rotterdam Nieuwsblad heralded her debut in The Netherlands as "one of the most remarkable recitals given in our country" and called her "a pianist with a lot to say." In 1986, at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Haagsche

Of Laura Kargul's concert in The Netherlands, a Rotterdam music critic said: 'One of the most remarkable recitals recently given in our country.'

wrote "world class playing n...nalmost feverishly inspired from the first to the last note..." She belongs on the big concert stages of The Netherlands."

A NATIVE OF Redford Township, Kargul has recorded for national radio in France and The Netherlands, for Minnesota Public Radio, and was recently featured on a PBS televi-

sion broadcast by the WKAR-TV Fine Arts Series.

She has won prizes from numerous American competitions, most notably a top prize in the 1983 National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition. She has also appeared at the Ordway Music Theater and Wechsauer Auditorium in St. Paul, Minn., Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, the Midland Center for the Arts, the Potter Center in Jack-

son, and numerous colleges in the midwest United States. From 1984 to 1986, she was artist in residence at Albion College.

Kargul started piano studies at age six with Rebecca Frohman in Detroit and made her solo debut with orchestra at age 13. After winning Interlochen's all-state scholarship to the University of Michigan, she studied with Leon Fiescher and Theodore Lettvin. She has had major classes with Gary Hoffman, Murray Perahia and Andre Watts.

Metropolitan Church is located on Woodward, five blocks north of Grand Boulevard and near all major expressways. Free, lighted and supervised parking is available next to the church. Additional information can be obtained by calling 875-7070 during regular business hours.

OPEN SUNDAY 2 TO 5 P.M.

FREE* TRAINING
Tuition free Pre-License course starting soon.
Call any office listed below for a reservation.
*Small materials fee.

<p>FARMINGTON</p> <p>11711 Cash, \$78,000 477-1111</p> <p>17901 Lakeside, \$119,900 477-1111</p> <p>22718 Lorton, \$64,900 477-1111</p> <p>25107 Thomas, \$68,900 477-1111</p> <p>25208 Bacon, \$72,900 477-1111</p>	<p>ORCHARD LAKE</p> <p>4554 Cherry Hill, \$179,000 681-6700</p> <p>5222 Denham Terrace, \$129,000 681-6700</p>	
<p>FARMINGTON HILLS</p> <p>30508 Oak Haven, \$164,900 681-6700</p> <p>30970 Southcrest, \$139,000 681-6700</p> <p>31701 Lakeside, \$169,900 477-1111</p> <p>22571 Tulane, \$68,900 477-1111</p> <p>30701 Greenbush, \$119,900 477-1111</p> <p>34278 Cass, \$115,000 477-1111</p> <p>21178 Adams, \$91,000 477-1111</p> <p>29222 Lorain, \$119,000 477-1111</p>	<p>SOUTHFIELD</p> <p>1118 Bay, \$39,900 477-1111</p> <p>1120 Newport, \$26,900 477-1111</p> <p>1011 Downe, \$39,900 477-1111</p> <p>LIVONIA LAKE</p> <p>1424 Ardmore, \$79,900 681-6700</p>	
<p>BEAUTIFUL OLDER HOME in downtown Farmington. Built in 1900, mint condition, completely restored inside and out in neutral tones. New kitchen, roof, furnace, siding, Pella windows and much more. \$268,900. 477-1111.</p>	<p>FOUR BEDROOM DREAM! Perfection throughout this lovely colonial. Feature rich oak floors, large open floor plan, family room with hand-carved fireplace, and much more. Super location with privacy. \$219,000. 851-1900 (RUT)</p>	<p>A NOVI CHARMER. Three bedroom colonial, large efficient kitchen, new tile floor, full basement, central air. Walk to Watford Lakes public beach. Novi schools. \$74,900. 851-1900. (WAL)</p>
<p>DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON. All brick 3 bedroom ranch in desirable Alta Loma area. Neutral decor, new carpet, Florida room and family room. Move-in condition. Immediate occupancy. \$111,900. 477-1111.</p>	<p>GATEHOUSE COMMUNITY. Executive 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath Quad in prestigious area of Farmington Hills. Tastefully decorated, fully equipped kitchen, family room with natural fireplace. \$217,000. 851-1900. (FOX)</p>	<p>THE BEST FOR THE LEAST. 3 Bedroom Eldon built brick ranch. 1 1/2 baths, newer carpeting, roof and hot water heater, central air and more. Take the first step to better living. \$43,500. 866-2300.</p>
<p>CONTEMPORARY RANCH. Sharp 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath + 2 half baths, with Florida room in beautiful wooded setting. Huge family room with wet bar and game area in walk-out lower level. MUST SEE. \$249,000. 477-1111.</p>	<p>COUNTRY LIVING HERE! Warm family ranch surrounded by many mature trees and fruit orchard, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and large country kitchen. Full finished basement and 2 car attached garage. \$74,900. 851-1900. (WAL)</p>	<p>EXCELLENT FAMILY HOME. 3 bedroom Colonial, family room, beamed ceilings, dormer to patio with barbecue. Natural fireplace. Large country kitchen. \$73,900. 856-2300.</p>
<p>DORCEOUS BETTING in a great location, 2 or 3 bedroom ranch on a large lot. Recently remodeled kitchen. Immediate occupancy. \$74,900. 477-1111.</p>	<p>WELL MAINTAINED HOME. Original owners show tender loving care. Kitchen, breakfast area, first floor laundry, paneled family room with fireplace, treed lot, new roof. \$71,000. CALL 664-4700.</p>	<p>1828 CONVERTED BARN has spring-fed pond on 2+ acres. Michigan Historic plaque. Great home for entertaining. 3 bedrooms, 2 full, 2 half baths. A must to see. \$429,000. 348-6430.</p>
<p>COMMERCIAL 4400 LATHRUP VILLAGE 529-2300 WESTLAND 329-4900 FARMINGTON 477-1111 FARMINGTON HILLS 851-1900 LIVONIA 261-0700 PLYMOUTH/CANTON 456-7000 NORTHVILLE 348-6130</p>	<p>MOST POPULAR MODEL in Highland Lakes. 3 bedroom Condo. Newly decorated. Sunken living room. Formal dining room. Natural fireplace with gas logs. Premium lot. All appliances included. Finished basement with large work room. \$69,900. 348-6430.</p>	<p>AFFORDABLE CHARM. Quality-built older Cape Cod, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, den, formal dining, fireplace, abundant storage, large lot, quiet street close to main roads. \$66,000. 681-6700.</p>