

Artist-in-Residence

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"It changed my life — that and joining the Farmington Artists Club," she said. "From my teacher and the club members there was encouragement and camaraderie that kept me disciplined, determined, made me grow, gave me faith in myself. It was a very special time for me. The club is still very special to me because we all keep growing. There is still so much to try, still so much to be learned."

MOST of Tomkow's works are landscapes. She often sets up an easel in her own back yard, but her favorite spot for working is on the northern tip of Michigan's lower peninsula.

"Most of my prize winners were painted there. It's a place for myself to escape, to dream. I can lose myself in all that fauna," she said.

Her work is reminiscent of the French impressionists. A Tomkow is distinguishable by its short strokes executed in corn fields, orchards or the sea grass in sand dunes.

Her work can be seen in Providence Hospital's oncology depart-



Gwen Tomkow

ment, in Boisford Hospital's Doctor's Building, in Mount Carmel Hospital's administration building and in St. Joseph Hospital, Ann Arbor.

Her work is handled in Michigan by Joppich's Bay Street Gallery in Northport and Partners Gallery in Okemos.

She serves the seniors

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wants that talent shown throughout the community. And she is persistent in her pursuit of involving other artists in her club to lend their expertise to her classes.

"I work in all media. I never really settled on one, and I'm certainly not adept at all," she said. "I have a co-chairman and five or six artists who sign up regularly to help out, but I think students need input from many different artists with many different techniques so I do one-on-one solicitations at every single meeting to get the rest of our members involved."

She thinks she hit some sort of a record on that score with a total 48 guest teachers in a year's time.

She also arranged for a record number of exhibits for her students. Four of them took place last year. Her students' work lined the halls in the Mercy Center in late April. And her students' work will be on display in the Farmington Branch Library for the month of June.

Matovina's art will be up for show and sale when the Farmington Community Center hosts its "Art and

Flowers" show all day Saturday. Immediately after that she will be the Farmington Community Center's "artist-on-display," when her paintings hang throughout the house for a month.

THE ARTIST was raised on a dairy farm in Capac, Mich. Those roots have stayed with her, along with a love of a nature that comes through in most of her paintings and the farm animals she often draws for humorous greeting cards she sells in Hearts and Flowers in Farmington Hills.

Her largest painting is a mural she did as a gift for the walls of the pediatrics playroom in Boisford Hospital. The mural is filled with trees, flowers and a variety of little critters.

She has been a resident of Farmington Hills for 14 years and has served the Farmington Artists Club in several capacities. But when she was asked to take an office for the club she refused. The job she had as chairman of the senior adult classes was far too enjoyable and satisfying for her to give up.

club circuit

HILL AND DALE GARDEN CLUB meets at 7:30 tonight in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile Road east of Farmington Road.

Speaker for the evening is Jane Dye, who will lead a program on the Chama School of Ikebana flower arranging. She is a master of the art and teaches the art in Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor. Dye is also a flower show judge and member of Ann Arbor Garden Club, the Greater Detroit Flower Arrangers Guild and the Ann Arbor Chama chapter of Ikebana International.

This meeting is open to guests without charge.

FARMINGTON SINGLE PROFESSIONALS will be bowling tomorrow night in Drake's Lanes, eating dinner in Mexican Village Saturday, have a theater party scheduled for May 18 and will be traveling to Pennsylvania for a white water rafting trip May 20-22.

The agenda continues with two or three outings scheduled every week. Single professionals from 25-35 years are invited to learn about the club and its activities when members host "Single Mingle," an open house that runs 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, May 27, in Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

Admission of \$5 is asked at the door.

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet for a dance party at 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 13 in Roma's of Livonia, Schoolcraft Service Drive, west of Inkster Road. Open to all singles over the age of 21. Admission is \$4 at the door.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, Brodhead-Farmington Hills Post 2089, and its auxiliary will host officers for the coming season at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 14, in the post home, downtown Farmington.

Post members will be installed by Paul Savage.

The new commander will be Fred Essex. His senior vice commander is Wayne Wright and junior vice commander is Harry Ross. Other incoming officers are Fred Collet, Jake

Wisencel and Jerry Rodebaugh.

The auxiliary members will be installed by Irene Rodebaugh.

The new president is Irene Johnson. Her senior vice president is Ann Collet and her junior vice president is Viola Neibling. Other incoming officers are Leona Belanger and Joan Simonson.

The new officers will assume their duties after the VFW Michigan State Convention in June.

MICHIGAN BATES COLLEGE CLUB meets at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 15 in the home of Ruth and Norman Kemp, 2576 Roseland Drive, Ann Arbor. The meeting is open to all alumni, families, and friends of Bates.

Reservations are necessary, made with Raymond T. Zelch, 28953 Ramblewood Drive, Farmington Hills.

ALCOHOLICS FOR CHRIST meets at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Harvest Temple Worship Center Church of God, 23233 Drake Road. The support group is open to both substance abusers and their families. Inquiries taken by Joe or Marie Jacobs, 476-4715.

FARMINGTON KIWANIS CLUB moves to the Novi Hilton for its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 17. The hotel is on Eight Mile and I-275, Novi.

Speaker for the evening is Bob Snider, weatherman and district chairman of Kiwanis International Relations.

The meeting is open to guests who can make reservations by calling Lloyd Smith, 474-2431.

FOCUS ON LIVING, a support group for cancer patients and their families, meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, in First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, 16609 Maple. Inquiries are taken by American Cancer Society, 357-3353.

I CAN COPE, a free six session series sponsored by Harper Hospital for cancer patients and their families, begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, in Southfield Public Library, 26000 Evergreen.

Registrations are requested by

calling Marilyn Jarvi, 354-4864.

DETROIT ALUMNAE PANTHEON ASSOCIATION meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 19 for its annual meeting, installation and luncheon in Lochmoor Country Club, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Mrs. Joseph York of Farmington Hills concludes her term as president and passes the gavel to Mrs. J. C. Colling of Detroit. Inquiries are taken by Jane Schneider, 886-1126.

NETWORK CONNECTION, a

chapter of National Association of Female Executives, meet at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 20 in Embassy Suites Hotel, 28100 Franklin Road.

Inquiries are taken by Dara Tolbert, 478-5136.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

Theater party benefits Leukemia Foundation

The stage is being set for an evening of music, comedy and cowboys as the Birmingham Theater hosts one of the best-loved musical comedies in a benefit performance for the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF).

"Girl Crazy" features some of the finest show tunes written by the master songwriter of the American stage, George Gershwin, at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 17 at the theater.

Adding to the evening of song and dance will be the traditional CLF after-glo reception, in Machus Sly Fox,

72500 Hunter, Birmingham.

Tickets are \$22 per person for performance only. Patron tickets are \$50 and include show and after-glo party. Benefactor tickets are \$100 and include performance, after-glo and listing in the program and a keepsake gift.

Proceeds will support statewide research in the fight against leukemia and related malignant blood disorders.

For reservations call Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan at 352-8222.

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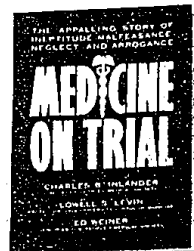


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Medicine on Trial (The Appalling Story of Ineptitude, Malfeasance, Neglect, and Arrogance) by Charles B. Inlander, Lowell S. Levin, and Ed Weiner. Prentice Hall, hardcover, \$18.95 list—\$17.05 Borders price.

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