

Creative dancing

Her movements project images of life

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

When Barbara Selinger rehearses this fall, she dances with an outsized manner. The better-than-life-sized soft sculpture is one more art form she integrates into her own works of modern dance.

But that's what Dance Collective is all about — an outlet for her extensive repertoire of original works. She calls it "letting the creative part out of me."

She may dance against a film of an ocean or slide projections. In one work, a movie of herself is shown on stage while she is dancing so it appears as though she is dancing with herself. Dancing in a museum is her favorite because of her own feelings that somehow those paintings are coming alive.

"Modern dance means changing with the times," the Farmington Hills resident said. "The dance can portray all the things that are going on now by creating images. It's somewhat like looking at an abstract painting. The viewer can take those images and make them their own."

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Her works run from whimsical to political, set to the classics, jazz, country or original music.

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DANCE COLLECTIVE was formed by four Wayne State University dance students finishing up work on their master's degrees at about the same time. Selinger was first introduced to Detroit audiences in 1976, through Wayne State's dance company. The collective was formed in 1980 and has been at home on Oakland Community College's Royal Oak Campus since its inception.

"It took eight years before we had our first review by a major newspaper," she said.

In short, the review was filled with hurrahs for the hometown troupe.

In the interim, Dance Collective had made its mark over the rest of the state.

Selinger estimates the collective has performed yearly for 30,000 children, teens and adults under auspices of Michigan Dance Association, Young Audiences of Michigan and the company's statewide outreach called Dances for Series.

Grants for her solo pieces as well

as the company's have come from the Arts Foundation of Michigan and the Michigan Council for the Arts.

"We do about 20-35 concerts a year now. One year we did 62 when we did a residency in the Upper Peninsula, but that was a killer," she said. "But we were so well received. They'd never seen anything like us before, so it was a wonderful experience — for everybody involved."

SELINGER GREW up in Milford, Mass. As many other 3-year-olds, she took her first dance lessons of tap, jazz and ballet at the neighborhood dance school. She continued dancing through college.

"Everyone laughs, or thinks I'm kidding, when I tell them I got my degree in chemistry," she said.

There was almost a 10-year gap between that time and the time she entered Wayne State for her master's study. Meanwhile, she taught science and math in a Plymouth junior high school and did substit-

people

tute teaching for Farmington Public Schools.

The teacher within her is still there. She won the National Dance Association Pataudit Award for dedicated and inspiring teaching while she was at Wayne. In 1987, she was named "Dance Teacher of the Year" by the Michigan Dance Association.

She conducts teaching residencies in colleges and universities, is a consultant for Michigan Dance Association and teaches ballet and modern dance at Oakland Community College.

She moved here in 1970 when her husband took a job with General Motors.

"I'm very comfortable in the Midwest," she said. "There is a closeness among people who are in the arts. The dance community is a very open community. It's small. Everyone knows everyone else within it."

Dance Collective's next performance is set for Nov. 12, when Berkeley High School opens its new auditorium. Following that, Dance Collective will be in concert Dec. 3-4 when OCC's Royal Oak Campus hosts its annual Winter Arts Festival.



Barbara Selinger, a founder of Dance Collective, creates images in her work called "Rainspell."

Opinions are split on mineral rights leases

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"We're not anticipating any action to be taken at all. It's a question of what the council wants to do ultimately," Blazell said, adding it's possible the council will schedule further discussion for a later meeting.

Some legislators believe it's unlikely any new legislation on oil and gas exploration or drilling will be introduced with the legislative session end in sight.

"I have not been contacted about the resolution, but I don't intend on starting any new legislation because there are only a handful of days left in session before Dec. 31," said state Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville.

NORTHVILLE TRUSTEES also received a response from the state supervisor of wells, which said that residents may contest the issuance of any permits for drilling, said Northville Township deputy clerk Eunice Switzer.

Farmington Hills resident Crane believes many of the residents' concerns about the environment, declining property values and physical hazards are unfounded.

Before signing her five-year lease with Energy Quest, Crane consulted her attorney. "He said the contract was fine, everything was fine," Crane believes Energy Quest representatives have been honest with her and fully answered her questions.

Crane said she also consulted a colleague who owns property in the Pigeon River area, where companies are drilling. Not only has the colleague found the drilling to be personally profitable, but she has not encountered any problems. Property values have increased, Crane said.

"There is a benefit to the people involved. It has not ruined anyone. They are not going in to search and destroy in a neighborhood," Crane said. "The lease is a

standard lease. It is not going to allow oil derricks in anyone's yard."

But Andrikides said residents also are concerned about homeowner liability. "If there is pollution to the ground, sometimes the homeowner can be held liable in the cleanup."

Subdivisions targeted by gas and oil acquisition companies in Farmington Hills include Meadowbrook Hills and Woods, Farmington Square and Green Hill Woods.

ENERGY QUEST is seeking leases in Meadowbrook Hills and Woods, north of Eight Mile, between Halsted and I-275. The Marine City-based M.J. O'Connor & Asso-

ciates, Inc. is seeking leases in Farmington Square and other subdivisions in the Nine Mile-Halsted area.

The Marysville-based Elenco Co. is seeking leases in Northville's Grand View Acres subdivision on Seven Mile, west of I-275. Thirty of the approximately 106 households have signed leases. But at least 13 of the homeowners are trying to have their leases rescinded, Andrikides said.

Livonia Hills subdivision on Eight Mile also is targeted for lease acquisition, Andrikides said.

Staff writer Bruce M. Weintraub contributed to this report.

Section 36 wants identity

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Hills Beautification Commission.

The Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will act as co-sponsors for the Neighborhood Builders Alliance grant. Grants can range \$5,000-\$200,000. Grant recipients will be announced in January.

"THESE GRANTS are designed to provide support for self-help activities of existing neighborhood or community-based organizations that have demonstrated initiative and success in improving their community and the lives of its residents," according to the grant program statement.

But first things first. A name. Residents will pick a new name for their area, comprised of about 20 or more small unplatted neighborhoods that have long been without names of their own.

"We really have not had any identification. But we have too many subdivisions in here to be naming them all," Kurzeja said.

To fix that, residents will be given

a choice of about 30 suggested names from which to choose. They will cast their votes during the Nov. 8 general election. A ballot and ballot box will be available at precincts where Section 36 residents cast their votes. Residents are asked to check only one name on the list, Kurzeja said.

Farmington Hills Mayor Jody Soronen develops the idea of giving Section 36 its own identity, especially with the use of entrance signs. The problem was how to pay for it.

"We're putting together the cost of what we want to do," Soronen said, adding she isn't yet sure how much money will be requested. "We have some pretty tough competition. But nothing ventured, etc. . ."

Work is also needed on the section's Waldron Park. Efforts will be made to eliminate the parking, which is shared with the basketball court. "At present, parking seems to be the problem," Soronen said. "It seems to be a collection place (for teens and young adults) after dark."

SORONEN SAID the association also would like signs specifying the

park as a neighborhood park.

But there's uncertainty whether the Neighborhood Alliance Grant would pay for any work on the city-owned park. "I think whatever problems with the park, the city has to take care of," councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said, adding he doesn't believe the grant would pay for such improvements.

A report is expected from city administrators documenting the number of people who use the park and what steps can be taken to resolve residents' concerns with the park.

The proposed project got off the ground with an association meeting in mid-September with the beautification commission and Soronen. A task force is expected to be formed comprised of neighborhood residents, business leaders in the area and the beautification commission, Soronen said.

Each application will be evaluated on how the project will improve the neighborhood's quality of life, the ability of the association to complete the project and the amount of neighborhood involvement in the project.

INVITATION

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Specialist will discuss how young children learn

Patricia Moylan, a pediatric neuropsychologist at Children's Hospital of Michigan, will speak on "Developmental Neuropsychology: How the Young Child Learns," at Fairview Early Childhood Center in Farmington Hills on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

She will discuss how the brain develops in children and how that development affects learning.

She will also explore why the "hands-on" approach — which the Farmington school system has in its Early Five kindergarten programs — has proven more successful than traditional pencil and paper methods.

She will then trace how the child makes a transition from the concrete to the abstract.

Moylan's talk is the first in a series of five programs sponsored by the Fairview Parents Group during the current school year.

ASPECTS OF child development she plans to cover include:

- overall cognitive ability,
- language,
- attention and concentration,
- memory,
- academic achievement, and
- motor and sensory development.

In addition to working in the neurosurgery department at Children's Hospital, Moylan is an assistant professor at Wayne State University Medical School and an adjunct professor at Wayne's psychology department.

She earned her doctorate in neuropsychology from Boston Univer-

sity in 1983 and completed two years of research in sex differences in learning, and two years of clinical training in pediatric neuropsychology at Harvard Medical Center.

Before entering her current field, she taught for five years at the Birmingham Montessori Center, Detroit Public Schools and at Brookside School at Cranbrook.

She also holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Oakland University and a master's degree in child development from Marygrove College.

Fairview Early Childhood Center is at 28500 Oak Crest in Farmington Hills, just northeast of Northwestern Highway. Everyone is invited to attend, admission is \$1. Call Fairview for reservations at 636-6236.