

Faxon honored for support of art

By Corinne Abelt
Staff writer

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, accepted the annual Arts Award presented by Center for Creative Studies last week with a

mix of humor and seriousness. The award was given at a luncheon attended by automotive officials, CCS faculty and trustees, artists and representatives of arts organizations.

After an introduction by Samuel Sachs II, director of the Detroit In-

stitute of Arts, in which he described Faxon as "a true Renaissance man," Faxon spoke about his interest in the arts and convictions about its importance.

In Faxonian style, he opened with, "I'm told I only have two hours..." and continued, "You may remember arts was not a priority in this state in the '60s."

He said when he found how much money was being spent on outdoor recreation in Michigan, he decided it was time to seek equal amounts for indoor recreation.

"Why should people who prefer comfort be treated differently?" he quipped. He said, "Where the arts thrive, civilization is at its best," adding that there is less crime, less vandalism in the schools, even less mental illness in a society where arts are important and studies support this. "Where there is conflict — you can act it out, sing it out, show it visually."

LEON COHAN, chairman of Michigan Council for the Arts, told the audience that Faxon was responsible for the legislation that created Michigan Council for the arts and said, "He's always on the ramparts for the arts."

Cohan said the arts in Michigan are under attack by "the yahoos and the senseless bigots... censorship of the arts in whatever form, must be condemned... we resent any government control of the arts as exemplified by Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia." At the same time he urged the arts community to recognize its responsibility in respect to what is presented as well.

Cohan said goals for Michigan Council for the Arts have been defined in a statement on long-range planning — to have art education in the basic curriculum in the schools; to increase recognition for the value of the arts; and to convince legislators to allocate funds.

He said the council will work in every way possible to create a wider constituency for the arts at state and local levels.

"My strong belief is that a young person turned on to the arts is less likely to fall victim to the negative effects of society."

Others who have received the Arts Award from Center for Creative Studies include: Peter Siroh, Gilbert and Joseph Hudson, Peggy and Walter Midener, Louis Redstone, Charles McGee and Joy Hakanson Colby.

Exhibits to help AIDS research

A monthlong fund-raising event, "Art for Life," sponsored by Aid for AIDS Research (AFAR), opens with a 3 p.m. gallery crawl Saturday, May 5, in Birmingham and continues through June 2.

Galleries participating in the crawl include Cantor/Lemberg, Feigenelson/Preston, Hill, Susanne Hilberry, Husted, Kidd, Donald Morris, N'Namdi, Kochpill and Yaw.

After that the focus will shift to the Galleria Officentre in Southfield for the Independent Artists Exhibition and 5 p.m. opening reception.

THE WORK of more than 110 independent artists will be on display at 400 Galleria Officentre. In the 300 Galleria Atrium, entertainment will be provided by Ursula Walker and Buddy Budson Sextet featuring Dan Kolton, Danny Spencer, Jack Bronkshka, Larry Nozoro and Marcus Belgrave.

Food is being catered by the Beverly Hills Grill, Midtown Cafe, Puchinello's and Richard & Reis.

A commemorative anthology of the show, documenting Detroit art of 1990, will be available to ticket holders on opening night at a discount price.

Tax-deductible tickets, \$25, are available at participating galleries. Chosen Books, Royal Oak, Times Square in downtown Detroit and at Galleria Officentre on the day of the event.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS are donating a portion of the price of each artwork to the \$100,000 goal, which will go to Henry Ford Hospital AIDS Research Fund, Wellness Network of Detroit and Wellness House of Detroit.

Other participating galleries not on the crawl are Joy Emery Gallery of Grosse Pointe, Swidler Gallery and Sybaris Gallery of Royal Oak.

Troy author to speak

Italian Study Group of Troy will have Linda Lang Bartell, Troy author, as speaker for the meeting at 8 p.m. Monday at the Troy Community Center, Big Beaver at 1-75, Troy.

Bartell will talk about her latest book, "Caresa," which is set in 15th century Italy. "Caresa" (Onyx Books, April 1990) centers around the Pazzi conspiracy against Lorenzo and Giuliano de Medici of Florence in 1478.

Along with the famous Medici

brothers, Bartell has included Leonardo da Vinci, Sandro Botticelli, Andrea del Verrocchio and the bawdy poet, Luigi Pulci, as secondary characters.

Bartell is a former school teacher with a major in French and a minor in history. She has published four other historical romances. This one she considers to be her best because her publisher gave her free rein.

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