

creative impressions

This column appears regularly. Send news items to: Creative Impressions, Creative Living, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

• DSO CONCERT
Conductor John Elliot Gardiner leads the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in performances of Haydn's Symphony No. 52 and Elgar's Symphony No. 2 at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at Orchestra Hall. Pianist Jeffrey Kahane joins in for performances of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 15.

Soprano Janet Williams performs on Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall's Michigan Artists Recital Series at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 at Orchestra Hall. Assisting will be pianist Stanley Waldon and harpist Patricia Terry-Ross. The program includes works by Handel, Schubert, Ravel, Schoenberg, Stravinsky and spirituals.

For tickets, call: 833-3700.

• DANCE TROUPE
ISO & The Bobs, a dance troupe and vocal quartet, will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.
ISO is a modern dance troupe in the Pilobolus/Momix tradition. It blurs the line between modern dance, acrobatic spectacle and vaudeville.
The Bobs is a San Francisco-based vocal quartet that draws on doo-wop, scat singing, performance art and rock.
The show will alternate dance, vocal sets and the combined efforts of both ensembles.
For tickets, call 668-8397.

• HOLLYWOOD COSTUMES
Costumes, such as the one worn by Marlene Dietrich in "The Devil is a Woman" in 1935, are the subject of Sandy Schreier's program at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 at the Detroit Institute of Arts.
In this free program, "The Costuming of Hollywood," Schreier will tell why costumes became the major asset of the silver screen and how these designs influenced our lifestyle and the clothes we wore.
Schreier, a Southfield resident, gives many programs on a topic nationwide. Dietrich's photographer was William Walling Jr.

• DSO OVERTURES
The next musical chat hosted by Overtures, a group of young professionals dedicated to generating more interest in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra among young people, will be 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18 at Kyla's in Royal Oak.
Guest speaker will be Mark Volpe, new DSO executive director. His talk on the DSO's future will follow an hour of appetizer creations by Kyla's chef Brian Gallagher.
Ticket price for the chat and appetizers is \$15. Call the DSO box office: 833-3700.

• ARCHITECTURE LECTURES
A series of monthly lectures on Detroit-area architecture, given by noted architects and historic preservation professionals, will begin Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Scarab Club in the New Center area in Detroit.
The first lecture will be "From Peacocks to Sunflowers: the Queen Anne Aesthetic Style." It will be given by Dorothy Kestuch, associate professor of art history at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit.
Registration for each program begins at 3 p.m., with lectures starting at 3:15.
Sponsored by Preservation Wayne, the Scarab Club and the Center for Creative Studies, the series will cover both residential and commercial structures and interior and exterior ornamentation, with local noteworthy examples.
Cost for each lecture is \$5 for members of Preservation Wayne, Scarab Club and the Detroit Area Art Deco Society and for students and faculty of the Center for Creative Studies. General admission is \$7.
Call 577-3559.

• YOUTH SYMPHONY
The Metropolitan Youth Symphony, consisting of 250 young people in three orchestras led by prominent music educators, will present its winter concert at 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit.
The hardworking musicians, ranging from fifth through 12th grades, come from 50 communities.
The string orchestra will be conducted by Josephine Coleman, Detroit Country Day School middle school music program department head and director.
Her group will perform selections from Hopak by Moussorgsky/Alshin, Hungarian Dance No. 5 by Brahms/Isaac, Send in the Clowns from A Little Night Music by Sondheim/Forsblad and Allegro in C Major from Quartet No. 4 by Mozart/Isaac.
Richard Phippo, concert orchestra conductor, is a cellist and teacher/conductor at Wayne State University. His musicians will play Symphony No. 3 in G Major, opus 88 by Dvorak from the original score.
Alan McNair is concertmaster and assistant conductor of the Rochester Symphony and orchestra director at Wayne High. His symphony orchestra, selected as this year's Orchestra of the Year for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, will play Symphony No. 5 in E minor by Tchaikovsky.
For tickets, call 644-8105.
This volunteer youth symphony raises money for facilities rental and other expenses.

• SILENT AUCTION
The Detroit Area Art Deco Society, a Michigan nonprofit group, in cooperation with Detroit's Historic Scarab Club, will host its first silent auction at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, at the Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth.
Tickets are available in advance at Duke Gallery, Birmingham, and Deco Doug's, Royal Oak, or at the door. Vintage attire is encouraged. There will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres.
The auction will feature a variety of art deco objects, collectibles and gift certificates ranging in value from \$25 to \$500.
"The art deco society uses these funds to promote and preserve the buildings and art of the early 20th century," said committee chair Tom Rusnow.
"Detroit was one of the truly great cities of the world in the 1920s and '30s and preserving and educating people of its beauty is a big job. We use this once-a-year event to help cover the equipment and expenses that we incur with all of the programs that we sponsor throughout the year."

• MISSION FURNITURE
Bruce Szopko of Birmingham will discuss the origin, concepts and people involved in "Mission Furniture: The Arts and Crafts Movement in America," 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn. Call 271-1620 to register.
Discussion will focus on young Frank Lloyd Wright, William Morris and Gustav Stickley. Through slides and examples, special attention will be given to identifying makers, understanding the market and finding pieces of your own.

• CRAFT SHOW
Five Observerland residents will take part in the Craft Gallery Spring Show Sunday, March 3, at Roma's of Garden City, 32550 Cherry Hill, between Merriman and Vandy.
• Livonia — Rose Stebbins, country dried flowers, Victorian silk floral arrangements.
• Westland — Marel Zycik, children's clothing; Jeanne Schmidt, soft sculpture.
• Garden City — Barbara Gentile, clay miniatures.

• Plymouth — Val Davis, Debbie Jorday, country painted wood and cloth dolls.
Sixty displays will feature country folk art, Victorian crafts and early Americana.
Times are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2; children younger than 12, free. Lunches and refreshments will be available. No strollers are allowed.

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• STUDENT EXHIBIT
Visual arts students at the Creative and Performing Arts in Livonia will display their paintings, drawings and prints March 14-23 on the second floor of Jacobson's at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Store hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Call 523-8841.

• BALLET SPOTLIGHTED
The Plymouth-Canton ballet will present "Coppelia" at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, in the Plymouth-Canton High School Little Theatre.
The production will combine comedy and dance.
The company is a non-profit organization that offers opportunities for local dancers to work and perform in ballet productions.
Tickets are \$5, reserved seating only. For tickets, call the Plymouth-Canton Ballet at 397-8828 or Joanne's Dance Extension at 455-4330.



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Garden plans

It's time to plant seeds indoors

Time to plan and dream about our gardens for the coming season.
I like a poem by Rebecca McCann: "I do not guide my life with firm and hard restrictions... And now and then in my wonderings, I reach the shores of Fairyland."
Perhaps if we let a bit of imagination and magic come into our garden, it will grow into a Fairyland!

Planning a new garden? A good way to begin is to assess the area and consider the views from the windows of your home, the background and other things such as fences, trees and other buildings that will frame the garden.

LOOK AT the lay of the land. Does it slope? Is it perfectly flat? What is already there? Buildings, trees, sidewalks, faucets, utility poles and lines? Is the spot readily accessible from your door? When will you be working in it, morning or evening? How much sun does the space receive?
Although vegetables and flowering plants require six to eight hours of sun a day, many others prefer partial sun. Some tolerate shade or need a shady spot. Soil requirements differ for plants, too.

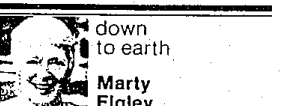
A good book from your library will give you this information. A little homework done in these winter months will save a possible disappointment when the garden is being established.

ONE WAY to check the position of the sun is to make a drawing. At different times of the day (and year), indicate on the drawing the sunny and shady areas.

After you have selected your site, decide if you want the garden to be formal or informal, since this will have some bearing on the type of materials you will use for paths, placing of the plants (and selection) and garden accents.

As soon as you can dig in the ground this spring, have the pH level tested. Certain plants prefer acidic soils while others need an alkaline one. Your county extension center will give you directions and provide you with a container for the soil, then for a small fee will analyze it.

After you have removed the grass from the proposed site, outline the area with a garden hose or clothesline.



TO CHECK the texture of the soil, take a handful and squeeze. If it feels gritty and falls apart, it is sandy. If it is dry and powdery when dry and sticky and muddy when wet, it is clay.
Peat, sand and/or compost can be added to improve the texture. Also, fertilizers (follow manufacturer's directions) can be added. Walk several days before planting if you use a fertilizer.
Dig the soil at least one spade deep. Break up the clumps with a hoe, then rake the surface smooth.

Many plants can be started from seed, and this is the month to plant them indoors. Established plants can be bought either from local nurseries or mail-order catalogs.
Some seeds can be sown directly into the ground when it is time. Sowing and planting instructions are included on the packages and containers.

A FLOWER gardening conference Saturday, Feb. 23, promises to be of help. The garden and landscape design firm Perennial Favorites of Waterford has organized "Planning Now for Flowers Later."

Topics and speakers are: "Groundwork," David Mithener, Mathari Botanical Gardens, Marge Alpern, gardener, writer, "Designing the Garden," Elka Bakalar, the Hilltop Gardener, "Selecting Plants," Steven Hill, author, "Herbaceous Ornamentals," Plant and "Productive Putting," Marge Thiele, gardener, Algonquin Nursery.

Nine area garden centers and designers are presenting the program and will be exhibiting. It will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Days Hotel in Southfield.

The \$75 fee includes lunch and refreshments. To register, call 881-7850, or send check or money order to: Perennial Favorites, 120 Lombardy, Waterford 48328, by Feb. 12.