

Creative Living

Mary Klemic editor/644-1100

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Art Beat

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban area world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. For information and reviews of musical performances, please turn to the Entertainment section.

The current exhibition at the Susanne Hilberry Gallery, "Richard Artschwager: Objects in Multiple," has been extended through Jan. 11 because of the holidays.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday at 555 S. Woodward in Birmingham. Call 642-8250.

Urban Park, an exhibition space dedicated to showcasing the works of Michigan artists, has opened in Trappers Alley in Detroit. The art center has the feel of a SoHo/Greenwich Village artists market.

Future plans include expanding the show space, "openings," poetry readings and performances as well as exhibits.

Artists interested in exhibiting work at upcoming shows are encouraged to contact Dave Roberts, director, by writing Urban Park, The Alley, 508 Monroe, Detroit 48226, or calling 983-5445.

Although the snow may be flying in Michigan, organizers are in the thick of plans for the 1992 Ann Arbor Street Art Fair.

The third art fair will open at 9 a.m. July 22 and close at 5 p.m. July 23.

Artist applications will be mailed. They must be postmarked by Feb. 15. To request an application, write the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, P.O. Box 1352, Ann Arbor 48106. For more information, call 994-5260.

The fair is the original joint fair of three concurrent art fairs in downtown Ann Arbor July 22-25. In 1991, more than 400,000 visitors attended this nationally renowned visual art fair. A total of nearly 1,000 visual artists from 35 states presented their work in all media.

Also featured at the fairs are artist demonstrations, scheduled musical performances, wandering street musicians, children's art activity areas and even free long-distance telephone calls.

The Arnold Klein Gallery now offers the custom calligraphy of William Bostick, who has done the calligraphy for the Detroit Institute of Arts for 30 years and recently published "Calligraphy for Kids."

He will design and calligraph the desired piece for reproduction by the client's printer. The gallery has a portfolio of more than 100 samples of Bostick's printed calligraphy.

The gallery is at 4520 N. Woodward, Royal Oak. Call 647-7709.



The Flute Lady, Jane Erickson Hopkins of Bloomfield Hills, plays the instrument to sick youngsters in the hospital. She has found the music helps the children and their parents as well.

'Flute Lady' plays cheer

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

Jane Erickson Hopkins has a magic wand.

It's long and shiny, and in her hands it does wonderful things. It talks in a language of its own, but can be understood by anyone.

You see, Hopkins of Bloomfield Hills is The Flute Lady, and with the old instrument in hand she visits sick children in the hospital.

She raises the instrument to her mouth and blows, swaying to the smooth melody that flows out. Each gentle note is as lasting as a bubble, but it can help push the pain, fright or tedium away for a little while.

"I'VE BEEN very blessed in my life is the way I look at it, with a lot of good things, and it's my way of giving back," she said.

Hopkins plays a student flute she has had since she was 15. Her mother gave it to her.

"It's the only sterling silver thing I own."

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Ballet film project growing by leaps

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

Three years ago Rose Marie Floyd of Troy sold M&Ms in her Royal Oak dance studio to raise money for a documentary on legendary dance master Enrico Cecchetti and his method of teaching ballet.

On Feb. 1, Wayne State University's Department of Dance replaces Floyd's candy concession with a black tie optional gala fund-raiser. Thanks to the university's support, the project is nearing reality for Floyd and Eva Powers of Bloomfield Hills, associate professor of dance at WSU and director of its dance company.

"An Evening in Tribute to Maestro Enrico Cecchetti — Continuing the Ballet Tradition" is set for Meadow Brook Hall, Rochester, and includes a silent and live auction, food, drinks and music.

AMONG THE items destined for the auction block are a baby grand piano, furs, art works and a 45-inch color television.

Donna McKechnie, a former student of Floyd's, has promised to donate to the auction an item of memorabilia from the Broadway musical, "A Chorus Line." McKechnie, who is expected to attend the auction, won a Tony Award for her role in the musical.

Organizers anticipate the event to draw a mixed bag of Hollywood celebrities, professional dancers and a lineup of local big names.

Among those expected to attend are actress/dancers Ruby Keeler and Cyd Charisse; Cynthia Gregory and Dennis Nahat, principal dancers with the American Ballet Theatre; Karen D'Chiera of the Michigan Opera Theatre; Neeme Jarvi, conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; and Marshall Fredericks, sculptor.

State Sen. Jack Faxon and metro area radio personality Bob Allison are also expected.

FOR FLOYD, the night presents an opportunity to have a reunion of former students who danced in her Contemporary Civic Ballet Company and went on to major dance groups.

That group includes Jan Janniford of the Jeffrey Ballet, Kathleen Vander Velde of the Houston Ballet and Joan Wenson of the Cleveland Ballet.

Powers, another former pupil, is helping Floyd achieve the dream and complete the film. She sees the film as a valuable record for the international dance community.

All of these people support the project because they credit the Cecchetti system in part for their own successes, Floyd said.

THE METHOD uses a specific

sequence of exercises performed on different days of the week. It marries discipline with art. Many students use that sense of discipline in other phases of their lives.

Floyd and others involved in the project realize that many of the first generation of the method's teachers who learned the techniques from Cecchetti himself have died. The film will act as a historical record of the surviving pupils and their impressions of the dancer as well as of movements they've learned from him.

Aside from "A Manual of the Theory and Practice of Classical Theatrical Dancing," written in 1922 by the English historian and critic Cyril Beaumont in collaboration with Cecchetti, there aren't formal records of the Cecchetti canon.

CECCHETTI WAS a ballet master in the 1850s at the Russian Imperial Ballet and an instructor at its school

in St. Petersburg. Ballet greats Vasily Nijinsky and Anna Pavlova number among his students.

His methods are kept alive through an international network of Cecchetti organizations.

Floyd is past president of the Cecchetti Council of America and holds the most advanced certificate in the ballet branch of the Cecchetti Society, the Maestro Enrico Cecchetti Diploma. She has been on the faculty of 10 Cecchetti summer programs in England.

Filming has been going on sporadically for the past three years. If all goes well, segments involving professional dancers demonstrating Cecchetti movements will be shot in New York this spring.

Tickets for the tribute to Cecchetti are available at \$50, \$100 and \$125 by calling Powers, the project's finance chairman, at 642-2555.

Pledging support

Artists display, sell works to benefit Girl Scouts

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

More than 250 people braved an early December snow storm to participate in an art exhibition and sale benefiting the Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council.

The preliminary total shows that the Dec. 5 evening at Ross Roy Inc., Bloomfield Hills, netted the Scouts

approximately \$18,500, said Wendy Hanson, communications coordinator for the Scouts. This is \$7,000 more than last year's similar event, she said.

The council received 40 percent of the sale price of each painting. That money will help to provide programs and activities for the council's 28,000 girls throughout the year. In addition to camping, there are cultural and

travel programs and training sessions for troop leaders.

Last year, Birmingham artist Julie Dawson came up with the idea of the sale and became the sole exhibiting artist. This year, she was joined by Detroit artists Rose Brown and Carole Harris, Tracy Gallup of Royal Oak and Lola Sonnenschein of Bloomfield Township.

FOR DAWSON, the benefit sale and exhibit is a labor of love. In addition to staying in the program throughout her childhood until she became a Senior Scout, Dawson originally came to the Detroit area in 1963 from Chicago to work for what was then the South Oakland Girl Scouts.

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For Birmingham artist Julie Dawson, the exhibit and sale is a labor of love. She was joined by Lola Sonnenschein of Bloomfield Township and three other artists for this year's event.

Holiday time presents good opportunities for camera

Holiday time is one of the best opportunities of the year for recording treasured family memories with your camera.

Christmas and children go hand in hand, so let's begin with them. Move in close to fill the frame and get down on their level. A short telephoto will work just fine.

Concentrate on candid shots as the youngsters unwrap their presents under the tree and begin to play with their new toys. Your photos will appear natural because in all the excitement the children won't even know you're there.

DON'T OVERLOOK other family members. For group shots, avoid stiffly posed compositions by having everyone sit or stand around casually. Try including yourself in the picture, too, by using the self-timer and placing your camera on a tripod or a steady table.

Be sure to check backgrounds for unwanted and distracting objects.



photography
Monte Nagler

And watch out for reflections from windows, mirrors or picture glass that may ruin a treasured shot.

Be on the lookout for other Christmas subjects that will add variety and interest to your holiday photos.

A beautifully wrapped gift, a glowing tree ornament or a colorfully filled stocking will all reward you with a fine holiday shot.

Take advantage of today's fast film by lighting some scenes only by candlelight. Your dinner table or a family member lit only by candlelight will produce a memorable shot.

Or try night photographs of decorated home exteriors to liven up your

holiday album.

NEED A last-minute stocking stuffer? A photographer is always thrilled to find his or her stocking packed with film on Christmas morning.

Or surprise them with one of the Kodak or Fuji one-time panoramic cameras that sell for less than \$12. These cameras are fun and produce excellent quality panoramas.

Here's an unusual gift idea: "Borrow" someone's old home movies, slides or prints and have them transferred onto videotape. Imagine their delight when you slip the tape into the VCR on Christmas morning.

At holiday time, we're usually deep in nature's blanket of winter snow. So take this opportunity to bundle up you and your camera and head outdoors to capture some dramatic snow scenes on film.

Monte Nagler is a professional photographer based in Farmington Hills.



Christmas is a great time to head outdoors with your camera. This dramatic snow scene was taken by Monte Nagler with a panoramic camera.