

CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1992



MARY KLEMIC

Growing art center shows works of heart

Something special was on display Nov. 22 at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts. It wasn't the kind of exhibit that hangs on the wall or stands on the floor or lays on the shelf. It was a showing of works of heart rather than works of art: a gala open house to celebrate the PCCA's 10th anniversary.

The non-profit PCCA, in an unpretentious building at 407 Pine in Rochester, serves more than 127,000 people a year. It offers classes, workshops, exhibits and programs.

Drawing praise

"It feels like 30 years a lot of times and other times it feels like only yesterday," Rochester Arts Commission executive director Betty Tuediesi said at a brief ceremony Nov. 22, at which special mugs were presented to 44 former PCCA board members.

"This is the first 10 years. I think there's a lot that can still happen here."

"I am very proud to be part of this," said Annette Bellan, current PCCA president. "We're very excited about our next 10 and 20 years."

Kenneth Cerny, the PCCA's first president (1982-83 and 1986), praised workers who came after the initial volunteers.

"I think it's one thing to start an art center but ... it's another thing to keep it going," he said.

Colorful story

While visitors at the celebration enjoyed a chocolate birthday cake (which was decorated with white frosting and purple flowers), punch and cookies, Cerny and Bellan talked about the history and future of the center.

The acquisition of the building and subsequent growth of the center is a story of groups and individuals working together. The structure, built in 1880, was the Avon Township Hall.

With \$500 borrowed from the RAC, committees were formed with the 16 people on the original board of directors. Each person had a responsibility, such as programs, the community and the Michigan Community Arts Association, among other groups, helped dreams become plans and reality.

"We envisioned this not as a site (but) as a gallery that would reach out to the community," Cerny said. "We didn't want it to be a building on site, (but) energy that would reach out in the community."

The Rochester Symphony used the center, which reached out to other fine and performing art groups. The Rochester Historical Society assisted.

Since 1982, the art center leased the building from the city of Rochester Hills for \$1 a year.

Renovation

Almost a year ago to the day, the center marked the completion of a renovation project that featured two new front doors, an improved staircase, updated electricity, and track lighting, refinished wood flooring and carpeted walls in the second floor Main Gallery.

The Greater Rochester Area Community Foundation approved a \$20,000 grant to renovate the structure. The city of Rochester Hills, in turn, allocated a matching grant of \$20,000 in its 1991 budget. The PCCA raised its \$20,000 share from donations, memberships and such fund-raising events as the Art 'n' Apples Festival.

People place

Life goes on in a variety of ways with the PCCA. It sponsors exhibits at Rochester Hills City Hall, and houses the Celebrated Michigan Artists exhibition and the Holiday Gift Gallery, both annual events. Displays of sculpture and photography continue this month.

Little stories also illustrate the life of the PCCA. What is now the second floor was once the first floor of the old township hall — the whole level was raised. When the board was told not to put nails in the old walls, volunteers built display panels from which works could be hung. Two volunteers met while working at the center, fell in love and married.

Involvement is behind the center's success. "Definitely involving the people and reaching out and let these people see their own dreams come true," Cerny said.

"I think that it offers something for everyone, all ages, (from) the children that come in for the first time to the adult wanting to continue an art career," Bellan said.

Holiday home excursion

Miss Michigan to offer greetings in tour to aid cancer prevention group

Houses in Troy and Birmingham are among those who will be opening their doors for holiday tours next week. Proceeds from the tours will benefit Parents Against Cancer Plus and Kensington Academy.

"There's no place like home for the holidays," the song goes.

That will be true in a special way with five exceptional homes in Troy and Birmingham next week.

The houses, decorated for the holidays, will be featured in the third annual Holiday Tour of Homes noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6.

Proceeds from the tour will benefit Parents Against Cancer Plus, a non-profit, environmental health organization for parents and others working to prevent cancers, birth defects and environmentally caused diseases.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 on the day of the tour at the door of the first house, 5543 Whitfield, off Northfield Parkway, north of Long Lake Road between Crooks and Coolidge in Troy.

Tickets are available at the Look-

ing Glass Hair Salon in Troy, on Long Lake just east of Rochester Road (524-2552), Niles School in Troy, on Square Lake between Crooks and Livernois (879-7682), and MT Hunter Country Store in Birmingham (648-4440).

Visitors should bring slippers or else walk in their stocking feet while at the houses. No strollers or children under age 6 will be permitted. For more information, call PACP president Phyllis Gorski at 649-6134.

The event involves more than views of glorious rooms beautifully pre-

See TOUR, 4D



Miss Michigan: Terri Sue Lifford will be at one of the houses on the Parents Against Cancer Plus tour in Troy and Birmingham on Sunday.

Academy to benefit as houses welcome visitors

Kensington Academy's second annual Christmas Tour of Homes, a fund-raiser for student scholarships at the Bloomfield Hills school, will take place Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 8-9.

The event will feature an Opening Night Celebration as well as a tour of

area houses decked out in the finest Christmas decorations, event chairperson Marilyn Balous said.

Tickets to the Opening Night Cele-

bration are \$50. Admission to the Christmas Tour of Homes is \$25 per person. A combined Opening Night/Christmas Home Tour ticket is avail-

"We invite the community to join us in this worthwhile cause that assists in underwriting the education of our children."

Julie Oldani

Kensington Academy public relations director



Poolside: One of the houses on the Kensington Academy Christmas Tour of Homes features an indoor pool.

able for \$65. For ticket information, call Julie Oldani, Kensington Academy public relations director, at 647-8060.

The Opening Night gala, scheduled 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, will include a cocktail party at a lakeside Bloomfield Hills house. Featured will be delicious treats from area gourmet restaurants, including Nick Sorise's newly opened Wooden Horse, and elegant decor by Jerry Earle and Twigs and Blossoms.

Holiday entertainment will be provided by Kensington's Chamber Singers, directed by Betsy Lilly.

A silent auction, with student-designed wreaths on the block, will take place. Bev Paisley and Patty Reles' "Out of the Woods" boutique, Lisa Rye's "Wimbleton Designs" and Thom Leffler's "Antique and Haberdashery" booth will give opportunities to shop early for holiday gifts.

The tour is scheduled 10:30 a.m. to

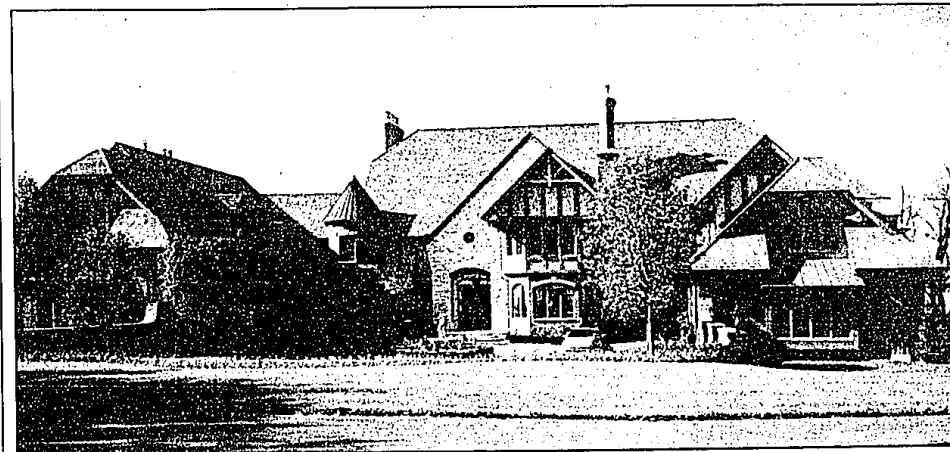
4:30 p.m. Wednesday, with visits to three elegantly decorated Bloomfield Hills residences. Contracts will be featured with trips to a stunning traditional home nestled deep in the woods, an elegant and expansive lakefront abode and a dramatic, contemporary condominium.

Refreshments and boutiques will be at each of the stops.

Kensington Academy is an independent, coed, Catholic school encompassing pre-kindergarten through eighth grades. It attracts students from 32 different communities.

The tour and celebration are important annual events for the school because they raise scholarship money for tri-county area students, Oldani said.

"We invite the community to join us in this worthwhile cause that assists in underwriting the education of our children while having some holiday fun at the same time," she said.



Gala site: The Opening Night Celebration for the Kensington Academy house tour will take place at this Bloomfield Hills home Tuesday.

Arbont features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 605 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

For information and reviews of musical performances, please turn to the Entertainment section.

OPEN DOORS

"Snowprints: A Winter Tour of Homes," sponsored by the Seaholm High School PTA, will include a tour of six houses in Birmingham's Seaholm district 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7. Tickets, \$10, are available at Seaholm High School. For information, call Mary Kadro at 644-6851. Tourgoers will see traditional to contemporary styled houses and be entertained at each stop by student musicians and choral groups. Many houses will be decorated for the holidays.

Art Beat

POTTERS MARKET

The Royal Oak Potters Association of Oakland Community College in Royal Oak will have its 17th annual Potters Market Friday-Sunday, Dec. 4-6, at the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Hall in Madison Heights. The event is the largest pottery sale in the country. Admission is free. For more information, call 544-4974.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The hall is two blocks south of 13 Mile, between Stephenson Highway and John R, at 876 Horace

Brown Drive.

BOOK LOOK

The Elizabeth Stone Gallery of Birmingham is exhibiting original illustrations from children's books at the Rochester Hills Public Library, 600 Old Towne Road, this month.

Selected pieces from James Stevenson's "Grampa's City Tour," Margot Zemach's "The Little Red Hen," Robin Spowart's "Two Rabbit Town," Tommie De Paola's "Too Many Hopkins," Wendy Watson's "Mother Goose," Rosemary Wells' "Benjamin and Tulip" and "Voyage to the Bunny Planet," Arthur Giesert's "Pigs from A to Z," Gail Gibbons' "Surrounded by the Sea" and Michael McCurdy's "American Tail Tale" are on display in the Youth Room of the library. All pieces are available for purchase.