

# CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1994

## GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

## Easter lily blooms beyond the season

The Easter lily (*Lilium longiflorum*) is the classic symbol of the Easter season with its stately demeanor and white blooms. Perhaps this beauty graced your home for the occasion and now you want to keep it in good condition until time to move it outdoors.

To prolong the bloom, keep it in a cool room in low light (reading level) and out of drafts and keep the soil evenly moist - don't let it set in a saucer of water. If you remove the pollen-bearing, yellow anthers as the flowers open, they won't decline so readily.

After the flowering, place the plant in a bright window (indirect sun) and continue to care for it with regular watering, then begin light applications of fertilizer. Continue until the foliage yellows.

You may then wish to plant the bulb outside where it will flower every summer, or leave it in the pot and set it outside, then bring it back indoors in late November. Be sure to guard against an early freeze. High light and warmth will force it to flower again.

### Garden reference

Because April is National Gardening Month, here is a year's supply of garden tips for you to save for future reference.

**January:** Fertilize houseplants with a liquid fertilizer when they begin showing new growth. Turn them to the light for even growth and pinch back wayward branches to keep them in shape.

**February:** When planning a garden, decide first what its purpose will be - beauty, entertaining, play, etc. Determine how much maintenance will be required and who will do it. Also, whom are you pleasing?

**March:** To keep houseplants watered when vacationing, place a block of foam oasis in a container such as a baking dish. Add water to just below the top edge of the block. Push the plant pot into the foam for good contact, so that the water can then be transferred to the soil in the pot.

**April:** Before planting wildflower seeds, put them in the freezer for a day or two, thaw for a day and repeat a few times just before planting, to improve the germination rate.

**May:** When selecting plants at a nursery, choose those that are compact and not yet flowering. For tall growing perennials, put the support in at planting time.

See FIGLEY, 11D



MARTY FIGLEY

**Spring sight:** Easter lilies are a stately symbol of the season.

## LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week:

■ A visit to Karen Kaslik's Bloomfield Township home, where artist Audrey Belf used a paintbrush to turn a room into a conservatory.

■ Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.

■ Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.

## Toying with ideas Dolls play up art on canvases



**'The Sick Child II':** The little pale face in Ellen Phelan's watercolor touches the heart. It is one of Phelan's paintings exhibited at the Susanne Hilberry Gallery in Birmingham.



Ellen Phelan substitutes dolls for figures in her dreamlike oil and watercolor paintings. The works are on display at the Susanne Hilberry Gallery in Birmingham.

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

"Come, children, let us shut up the box and the puppets, for our play is played out," William Makepeace Thackeray wrote at the end of "Vanity Fair."

Artist Ellen Phelan has opened a special box for her watercolor and oil paintings now on display at the Susanne Hilberry Gallery, 855 S. Woodward in Birmingham. The works, exhibited through May 14, feature arrangements of dolls - Victorian style figures, stuffed animals, round-faced youngsters.

"I like dolls that are more realistic," Phelan said last week, when she was in Birmingham for the opening at the gallery, an art event with the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association and the gallery and jurying of the 13th annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition at the BBAA.

She also prefers those that aren't too contemporary or well known, which is why you won't see Barbie or Teddy bears in her paintings.

The dolls are presented like dreams. Backgrounds are bare.

See ARTIST, 9D



**'Study for Vanitas II':** Dolls from the artist's childhood are featured in this watercolor. The show continues through May 14.

## Statue settles into another home of note

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

The little ice maiden has warmed many hearts from her post at Annie's Music in Rochester Hills.

The 23-inch maiden is an art work in bronze and glass. Formerly owned by Barbara Streisand, the sculpture at the music store in the Oak Ridge Plaza on Rochester Road has many viewers singing its praises. Annie's Music owner Anne Paddy bought the work at the recent auction of pieces from Streisand's art collection.

"Everybody that sees her just goes nuts," Paddy, a Troy resident, said of the sculpture.

Titled "La Fee Des Glaces," the sculpture dates from the early 20th century. Two different deco artists worked on the piece. Julien Causse did the bronze figure and Eugene Rousseau the glass base, which lights up.

The slender maiden stands with a Special sculpture: In her Rochester Hills music store, Annie's Music, Troy resident Anne Paddy poses by the 23-inch bronze and glass sculpture that she bought in the recent auction of Barbara Streisand's art collection.

winsome expression, eyes closed and hands gently clasped before her. Her flowing gown, draped over the "ice" beneath her, is off her shoulders. Large flowers are in her cascading hair. The piece looks and feels smooth, not having the hammered appearance bronze works often have.

"I just loved it. I love French deco art."

While Paddy is a Streisand fan, she got interested in the auction because she was looking for Tiffany lamps. She bought the books listing the items and made bids by phone.

"It was like a treasure hunt."

"It was just exciting to see (all the items) . . . She (Streisand) just had that taste . . . She's pretty amazing."

The sculpture was highly bid on.

"It's like a piece of her or New York that you could bring home to Detroit."

Prices were high at the auction. Earrings that were expected to go for between \$500 and \$800 ended up going for \$4,500. A painting went for \$1.9 million, about twice what was expected.

"The people really got into this."

The ice maiden is right at home in the store. Arranged among the instruments on display are elegant

See SCULPTURE, 11D

Art best features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling (810) 644-1814.

### SPECIAL SHOW

Twice a year, the Farmington Hills-based Colorworks Studio of Interior Design offers "fine arts days," when out-of-state art brokers are brought in to make the widest possible selection of art and accessories available to their clients. This spring's show will take place 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 21-22, at Colorworks, 82806 Northwestern Highway. It is open to the public as well as to clients. The first

day is reserved for appointments, usually to look at specific works of art. The second day is open to the public. A wide range of unframed art, contemporary and traditional, will be featured, including serigraphs, monoprints, original canvases and accessories such as tableware. Among the pieces will be acrylic canvases and monoprints by Eric Waugh, acrylic canvases by Dimitrov, blown glass by Magdall and a variety of works by Turkey. Call (810) 851-7540 for information.

## Art Beat

### RECEPTION

Limited edition lithographs, silkscreens and woodblocks will be sold to raise money for state Sen. Lena Pollack's U.S. Senate campaign at a reception 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, at the Robert Kidd Gallery, 107 Townsend in Birmingham. Tickets to the reception are \$100, which may be applied to the purchase of the works. Three internationally known artists - Ann Mikolowski, Ruth Welsberg and William Weege - created the works in support of Pollack. Pollack will be joined at the reception by Mikolowski, artist and printer Norman Stewart and others prominent in the Michigan arts community.