

# Get in seasoning at herb event

BY MARTY FLEURY  
STAFF WRITER

Herbs have been used in many ways for centuries as medicines, in cooking, as dye plants and in crafts. Many herbs that are grown in our gardens today originated in other parts of the world, although some of them are native to the United States. Legends have been associated with these plants as long as they have been used.

You will have an opportunity to hear some of these stories when Betsey Williams, proprietor of The Proper Season in Andover, Mass., shares her vast knowledge of their mythological and religious meanings as well as how they were associated with Victorian times.

In celebration of the spring season, the Southern Michigan Unit of the Herb Society of America Inc. will present Williams at its annual event, "An Herbal Enchantment," 10 a.m. Saturday, May 7, at the First Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1589 W. Maple in Birmingham.

Advance tickets, \$18.50 each, may be bought from any unit member or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope (with check made payable to Southern Michigan Unit-Herb Society of America) to: "An Herbal Enchantment," 61041 Miriam Drive, Washington, Mich. 48094. For information,

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Jackie Walley  
chairman

tion, call Pat Sager at (810) 781-7035. Ticket price at the door is \$20. An herbal luncheon is included.

"We have had much fun preparing for this occasion, working to create unique items for the Marketplace," said Jackie Walley of Macomb, chairman of the day. "Williams' appearance gives us an opportunity to learn more about herbs and to share with the public."

Co-chairmen are Annmary Gruber of Pleasant Ridge and Mary Halpenny of Leonard.

## Special features

In addition to crafts made in workshops, members have been creating one-of-a-kind "goodies" especially for this affair. The popular unit note cards will also be available.

Early herbalists recorded information about these plants and still today many books are being written about herbs. A large selection will be found in the Marketplace. Two of them, hot off the presses, are "A Master List of Herbs" and "Landscaping with Herbs."

"A Master List of Herbs" is

horticultural needs.

All aspects of using herbs in the landscape are thoroughly covered, from borders, fragrant gardens, gray and silver, herbs as edgings, in walls, pavings, containers and much more. The encyclopedia lists more than 100 herbs, including the best ornamental cultivars.

## Activities

"Proceeds from our yearly event have been used to fund the culinary herb garden in the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., the children's garden at Michigan State University, and for scholarships for horticulture students," said Sue Trevarrow of Bloomfield Hills, national past president of the Herb Society of America Inc. and currently serving as treasurer of the Southern Michigan Unit.

The Southern Michigan Unit, founded in 1968, consists of 44 members who enjoy growing and using herbs in various ways. Unit meetings take place monthly. Study groups meet to learn more about the horticultural requirements of herbs, lore and legends, medicinal and historical uses, and cooking techniques, and to share recipes and to learn new craft projects using these plants.

For membership information, call membership chairman Wanda Barnhart of Troy at (810) 879-9552.

# DIA sets May programs

The Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, offers a variety of programs in May.

The programs are free with museum admission unless otherwise noted.

Sunday public museum tours will be offered in English and Spanish at 1 p.m., and in English with American Sign Language interpretation at 2:30 p.m. Meet at the Rivera Court information desk. The 1:30 p.m. Sunday exhibit tours of "Art of the American Indian Frontier: The Chandler-Pohrt Collection" will be offered in English with ASL interpretation. Meet at the exhibit entrance.

To celebrate Arab-American Culture Week, award-winning novelist Mona Simpson will read from her works 2 p.m. Sunday, May 1, in Lecture Hall. The presentation is designed to share Arabic and Arab-American arts and culture with a wider audience. For more information, call 833-3586 weekdays or 833-7900 weekends.

The DIA Shop & Shuttle makes it easy to visit the DIA while combining fine art with the fine art of shopping. Motor coaches will leave the Somerset Collection at Big Beaver Road and Coolidge in Troy 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 4, and deliver passengers to the DIA.

Docent volunteers will meet each group for a tour of the permanent collection and allow free time for visitors to browse the galleries and museum shop and catch a bite to eat at the American Grille or Kregge Court Cafe. Coaches will pick up riders at the

Farnsworth door 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. for a return trip to Troy.

Tickets are \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members, and include transportation, admission, guided tour and pass to the exhibit "Art of the American Indian Frontier: The Chandler-Pohrt Collection." Tickets are available at the museum shop at the Somerset Collection; call (810) 649-2222.

The "Art for the Young at Heart" day for seniors Thursday, May 5, includes three films, artist demonstrations, talks, tours and an American Indian-inspired "make it and take it" workshop.

Tickets are \$4 per person and are available through the DIA ticket office at 833-2323. Group ticket discount and special senior box lunch available with advance ticket purchase only; call 833-1719.

The ticket includes admission to the DIA, all "Art for the Young at Heart" special programs and the special exhibit "Art of the American Indian Frontier: The Chandler-Pohrt Collection."

A Mother's Day brunch with music will take place 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 8, in Prentiss Court. Call 833-1857 for information and reservations.

"Native American Art: An Introductory Course" will be offered 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays in the Holley Room. This four-week, slide-illustrated class will complement the exhibit "Art of the American Indian Frontier: The Chandler-Pohrt Collection" and will be taught by Linda Margolin, associate curator of education at the DIA.

There's Lots Of COOL Things  
To Read In The  
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers



# SOMETHING EXTRA:

## ART PALETTE

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

The number of forms art can take is limitless, just as imagination is boundless.

Finding unusual works of art in the area is like going on a treasure hunt in which besides paintings and sculpture, anything can reveal distinctive artistry.

For example, you can look between the covers of children's books, delve into antiquity, explore the world of dolls or turn to memories of cartoons.

## Book look

The Elizabeth Stone Gallery, 536 N. Woodward in Birmingham, specializes in illustrations from children's literature.

"It makes people feel happy," owner Elizabeth Stone said of the art. "It just brings a lot of pleasure to them."

Both men and women of all ages are fascinated with the works.

"They come in here and a smile comes over their faces immediately."

Such visitors and clients include people in their 20s who have been reading children's books and have a love for children's literature. Older clients, whose books when they were youngsters had black and white drawings or only text, are discovering and enjoying the beauty of today's illustrations.

School groups often visit the gallery. A doctor's office on the seventh floor of Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak is decorated with works from the gallery, and the books are there as well.

## Antique angle

At Donna Jacobs Gallery Ltd., upstairs at 574 N. Woodward in Birmingham, visitors and customers get in touch with cultures from centuries past.

"I think they have an interest because (pieces have) been used by people that lived in cultures that are distant," said the gallery's David Armstrong.

"You find people who are interested in Egypt, so they are fascinated in the pharaohs and the pyramids. A little scarab or piece of art (is a part of that). The same is with the Greeks and the Romans."

At the gallery you find such items as containers that were inkwells or held ointments. Some works that adorned pots of staffs or were worn as jewelry.

Besides admiring the delicate artistry done with relatively crude instruments and still evident thousands of years later, you can tantalize your imagination by wondering who may have used the piece. Was it Cleopatra? Someone who served the pharaoh?

"I think it's more than just being an antique, more like collecting a letter from Abraham Lincoln," Armstrong said. "You experience that part of history."

Some customers are collecting items from particular cultures. Others may want a piece of ancient glass to round out a glass collection.

## Different dolls

The Backdoor Gallery, 37220 Eight Mile in Farmington, features a variety of non-traditional doll forms. The works are more abstract than the usual realistic, porcelain dolls.

"People are drawn to any type of doll because of the reproduction of the human form, the different way that the form is presented," said the gallery's Kristy Britt.

Most of Backdoor Gallery's visitors and customers are women, many of them in the health care field, Britt said. Some are fiber artists themselves.

## Animated art

Gallery Animate, 574 N. Woodward in Birmingham, presents art from animated film. Cartoon creations from movies and TV cavort in frozen images in the gallery.

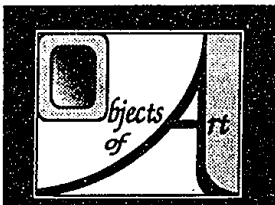
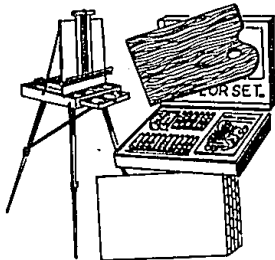
"I think one thing they like about it is it's not serious," said co-owner Robert Athey. "It's something that the average person can walk right up to and . . . recognize."

Everyone is familiar with cartoons, Athey said.

"The Baby Boomer grew up watching Saturday morning cartoons, the older generation grew up going to the movies to see Snow White and Bambi. It's something that's readily recognizable."

People in a wide age range have bought works at the gallery, Athey said. Youngsters 5 or 7 years old have bought Fred Flintstone items and people in their 80s have made purchases too.

"Everybody collects something different, for a different reason — commercial pieces from a funny commercial, Tom Terrific from 'Captain Kangaroo.'"



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