

Musicale sets April program

The Birmingham Musicales will meet 1 p.m. Thursday, April 6, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham.

A tea will follow the program. Guests may attend for a small donation.

The program will feature the 1995 scholarship winners. The Birmingham Musicales, directed by Mary Pardee, will perform with a string ensemble.

Susanne Sack is chairman of the day.

PCCA offers scholarships

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts is offering two \$500 merit scholarships to graduating high school seniors residing in Oakland, Wayne or Macomb County who plan to major in visual arts at the college or university of their choice.

Candidates must submit eight to 10 slides of their work, a brief description of their work, and two letters of recommendation. The application deadline is Saturday, April 15.

Scholarship applications are available at the PCCA, 407 Pine, Rochester 48307, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. For more information, call education coordinator Lisa York at (810) 651-4110.

Workshop covers bookbinding

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts offers a three-session bookbinding workshop for adults 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 25 to May 2.

Explore the techniques of simple bookbinding to make softcover and hardcover books in various styles. Registration deadline is Tuesday, April 18. For more information, call the PCCA at (810) 651-4110.

Fresh outlook can beat photo blahs



MONTE NAGLER

Every creative endeavor has its pitfalls, traps, even a room of private torment. It's difficult to keep a wave of creativity in constant momentum.

This applies to photography, too. Even with our modern cameras, lenses and knowledge of the craft, we all have those dark nights of confusion and doubt and we seem to lose perspective of what we're doing.

Well, don't store away the camera in favor of a long vacation in front of the television. The recognition of frustration and a tendency to be overly critical of your photography are part of creativity. After all, it often takes a setback to achieve further growth.

So at those times you feel you're at the end of your creative rope and you're ready to pack up the camera — don't! Here are some ideas to beat the blahs and get you back on the road to creativity.

Review your past work and begin to ask yourself some questions. Are there any particular trends or themes you may be overlooking? Is there a variation of your subject matter that will produce a fresh outlook? Can you get a different perspective by another lens, camera angle, or by shooting at a different time of day? Are there ways you can add more of your own individuality to your

pictures? Knowing where you've been will help you chart a course for the future.

Take another look at the world around you. There may be subject material you never considered photographing before that will now interest you. If you've always shot landscapes, perhaps now is the time to begin to photograph people. If you've always shot distant scenes, maybe now is the time to take an intimate look at textures, patterns and closeup details. If you've always been a realist, how about taking a look at some abstracts? A 180-degree turnabout may not ultimately be for you, but it will keep the creative juices flowing.

Start looking at more photography. A trip to one of the local photography galleries or a leisurely browse through the photography books at your library or local bookstore will be rewarding and inspiring.

And keep some inspiring thoughts in mind, too. Remember that you are making photographs, not just taking snapshots. Shift your photographic vision from the recording of a scene to an expression of mood. Remember that the two most important things when you photograph are you and your subject and strive to really get to know your subject. And remember to use your imagination and spontaneity when you photograph.

So don't let your creative bubble burst. Rather, let it help you to soar to new heights of photographic excitement.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.



Fresh outlook: Try photographing something different when the creative bubble bursts. A trip to your local botanical gardens may reward you with a picture such as this one taken by Monte Nagler.

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Entries sought for May art exhibition

The Michigan Gallery, 2661 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, is calling for entries for three exhibits in a series: "Earthen VIII," "Water" and "Fire."

Call the gallery at (313) 961-7867 for more information.

Michigan artists working with

clay are invited to submit up to 20 slides with a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the May show "Earthen VIII" before Monday, April 10. Noted clay artist John Albert Murphy will curate and jury this exhibit of expressions in clay.

"Water" will open at the gallery

in June. Artists who have work related to this theme may submit up to 20 slides with a stamped, self-addressed envelope before Monday, May 1.

"Fire," the final show of the series, will open in July. Artists may submit up to 20 slides with a stamped, self-addressed envelope before Monday, May 15.

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Real Estate Facts

by Sandra Ladd
Max Broek, Inc.

Have High Expectations!

Would you take a doctor's advice if you knew he had never studied medicine? Would you use a tax accountant who had a doctorate in anthropology? When you pay for professional advice, wouldn't you expect the provider to have the specific education, knowledge, and experience to properly serve your needs?

Real estate is also a complex field of endeavor. It requires an in-depth knowledge of financing, surveying, agency law, contracts, negotiating, psychology, taxation, database management, zoning, statistics, computers, and market values — to name just a few.

Financing alone requires a thorough grasp of fixed-rate vs. adjustable rate mortgages, discount points, qualifying ratios, and discount points. With hundreds of lender loan packages available, financing can become an enigma more to home buyers.

Real estate agents, through computers, have access to massive databases of housing information, sale prices, and statistics. In moments, a savvy agent can cut through the bewildering array of available homes, locating a selection which matches a buyer's needs. Weeks of fruitless buyer searching can be cut to a few hours of bountiful research. The result? Home buyers can put wasted time behind them, looking only at homes which meet their objectives.

By choosing an agent to represent them, sellers have instant access to statistics which show current home prices. There's no need to guess at asking prices which scare away buyers and result in a frustrating No Sale.

Whether buying or selling a home, it makes sense to ask a real estate agent to explain the process. Those who do will find the agent to be a friendly, helpful information resource, someone who can provide dependable answers to most real estate questions.

HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS.
Want to know more? Call Sandy Ladd anytime at 810-646-1400, in Bloomfield Hills.

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