

Event celebrates works by Michigan authors

In a celebration of Michigan writers, the Birmingham Village Players and the Cranbrook Writers Guild jointly present the second annual "Michigan Authors On Stage" beginning 8 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at the Village Players Playhouse, on the southeast corner of Chestnut and Hunter Boulevard, two blocks south of Maple in Birmingham.

Proceeds will be used by the Writers Guild for its annual conference to nurture developing writers and by the Village Players to help renovate their theater.

Last year's show packed the house (about 200 individuals) and raised about \$3,000.

Tickets are \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$150, depending on whether the purchaser wants to be an angel, sponsor, patron or benefactor, respectively.

For more information, call Writers Guild president Frank Angelo, author of "Yesterday's Detroit," at (810) 640-0658.

Angelo is among a group of authors whose books, poems and short stories will be featured.

Excerpts from their writings will be read and dramatized by a cast of Village Players actors as well as several guest authors.

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Livonia resident Sarah K. Wolf, whose publisher thought it best that she be identified as S.K. Wolf on her books (there are three so far).

Wolf "writes just like a man," said her friend Carolyn Hall, co-producer of the event. "You would swear that a man wrote her books."

So the publisher prefers to disguise Wolf's gender so as not to repel male readers before they give her a chance. "There are a number of men who won't read books by women," Wolf said.

The Village Players will perform a portion of Wolf's latest book, "Mackinnon's Machine," which goes by the title "In the Shadow of the Lion" in paperback because the publisher changed it.

As the old axiom goes, Wolf said, "The only thing worse than being unpublished is being published."

Also expected to attend the event is Mary Rodgers Schoen,

whose short story called "Father Dear Father" will be performed.

"Elmore Leonard attends d last year, and may this year," said Helen Balmer, who is on the committee. Charles Baxter is also expected to attend.

The Village Players, Hall said, are quite adept at dramatizing literary material. "They are able to really make it very lively," she said.

Other works to featured include:

- Elmore Leonard; "Swag"
- Ernest Hemingway; "Ten Indians"
- Bruce Catton; "Waiting For The Morning Train"
- Jim Harrison; "Brown Dog"
- Charles Baxter; "Snow"
- Robert Traver; "Anatomy of a Murder"
- Edgar Guest; "No Place To Go"
- Sven Birkete; "The Gutenberg Elegies"
- Brad Leithauser; "A Mosquito"
- Coleman Young; "Hard Stuff"



JERRY ZOLYAK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Authorfest: Organizing this year's "Michigan Authors On Stage" are (from left) Donna Masters of Birmingham, Helen Balmer of Bloomfield Hills and Carolyn Hall of Beverly Hills.

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