

# The aspiring artist within us continues to bloom and grow

BY MICHELE GLANCE  
STAFF WRITER

Artist Lois Bro believes we should all allow the artist within us to start blooming and growing wherever we may be.

Bro won the prestigious Artist in Residence award in 1985 for her work as a sculptor, watercolor painter and doll maker. Since winning the award, Bro has moved to Pendleton, South Carolina where she has remained active in pursuing her love for the arts.

"When my husband retired, we moved out to South Carolina," she said. "We love the climate and the people. The art scene is inspiring here and I've met a lot of terrific people."

The artist enjoys a mountain view from her home in the South Carolina foothills.

Bro continues to work as a sculptor, paints watercolors and is also designing dolls. "I've been working with porcelain dolls and also with the new PVC clays," she said. "The poly-vinyl chloride clays can be cooked in a regular oven," she explained.

She is currently working on creating a series of dolls clad in painstakingly accurate historical clothing, including a series from the 17th century and a series of Egyptian dolls.

Bro has been choosing time periods that have captured her imagination.

**Growing as an artist**  
"I feel that the art you create is always growing and changing," she said. "Art is an ever evolving type of activity. If you don't try new things and branch out you stagnate."

Of all the modes of art Bro engages in, she finds creating the dolls particularly rewarding.

"I think the doll making requires a great deal of skill and it's



She's a doll: Creating dolls that capture one's imagination is one of Lois Bro's favorite endeavors. This 26-inch doll constructed of fabric is an example of Bro's work.

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Lois Bro artist

very challenging," she said. "There's far more to it than meets the eye. You have to be able to be a sculptor, a dress maker and a painter. It involves all of those skills to create a doll."

"Dolls are not just children's play things," she said. "They're also historical figures."

And from viewing Bro's work, it's quite obvious that they are also works of art.

**Advice to artists**

If you have an urge to create, Bro has some inspiring words of advice. "Take a class," she urges. "That gets you out there and involved and you find out if you like the medium you're working in. It also puts you in touch with other artists and you find out that you aren't all alone out there. Everyone has to start somewhere."

In celebration of the 20th anniversary this year of the Farmington Area Arts Commission Artists in Residence program, the Farmington Observer will review most of the 20 winners in upcoming months.

# Hills ballet company awarded grant

The Farmington Hills-based Michigan Classic Ballet Company has been awarded a \$5,000 grant by Target for a collaborative family entertainment performance with the Birmingham

Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra. The performance, "Animal Crackers," will feature "Peter and the Wolf" to be narrated by Sherry Margolis of WJBK

Channel 2, and "The Carnival of the Animals," to be narrated by actor G. Brian Kauffman on Sunday, March 30, at 3 p.m. at West Bloomfield High School on Orchard Lake Road north of Maple.

# Holocaust from page 13A

recounts her experiences as a young girl in hiding with Polish-Christian families, her ordeals at Auschwitz and the death march to Bergen-Belsen.

Her book is being released in a paperback edition this spring.

**A thankful spirit**

"I think I value life more now because I've lived through it," she said. "I don't take anything for granted anymore. I don't take my family or my freedom for granted."

"It's nice to go to sleep at night and not have to sleep with boots on your feet and a knapsack at your side," she said. "It's nice to be able to sleep in a spirit of peace. I feel very grateful to God that I was able to survive."

She said surviving the ordeal has increased her faith.

**Leaving her home**

"We actually had to leave our town," she said. "My father arranged for our family to go to work in a munitions factory. He thought that we would be doing work that would be so important to the war effort that our lives would be spared."

"I was 10 years old when we moved so I was too young to work in that factory," she said. "So I had to live with a Polish family that sheltered me for a year. It was a very difficult and dangerous period for all of us and it was hard to be away from my family."

Later, Kalib was reunited with her family. But the hardships were not over. Her entire family

was sent to Auschwitz - the notorious Nazi death camp. The train ride was so perilous that Kalib's father and two brothers did not survive the trip.

Her mother and two sisters did survive the trip to Auschwitz and came so close to death that they were actually ordered into a gas chamber at one point. It was only the impending arrival of Soviet forces that intervened so that Kalib and her mother and sisters were ordered back out.

The remaining members of the Kalib family were then sent on the death march to Bergen-Bergen. Finally British forces took over and liberated the area and Kalib, her mother and sisters were freed.

"Unfortunately, my mother was so sick from being in the death camps and was so emaciated by that point that she died four weeks after the war," Kalib recounted sadly.

The cover of Kalib's book features an unsettling picture of Kalib and her family standing by her mother's grave.

Kalib's book was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in Amherst.

The book is a haunting memoir recording the experiences of a young Jewish girl forced to confront the horrors of the Holocaust. Born in 1931 into a well-to-do family, Kalib begins her account with a rare portrait of Jewish life in a small Polish town in the 1930s.

Although her memories reflect the perceptions of a child, her descriptions offer a wealth of insight into Jewish education, politics and religious practices outside the major urban centers of pre-World War II Poland.

As her story unfolds, Kalib recounts in vivid detail the events that shattered the world of her youth, beginning with the Nazi invasion and occupation of her hometown, Będzin.

Kalib's observations also shed new light on relations between Jews and Christians, revealing that the expression of anti-Semitism in Poland was neither simple nor uniform.

# Deward from page 13A

Perhaps you read all the hype when this legislation passed and was signed into law. According to the proponents, this would lead Michigan into the 21st century and we would be the leader among the states.

What you didn't hear was that on January 1, 1996, under the existing law, we were all to receive intralata dialing parity which would have allowed each of us to choose the carrier of our choice to carry our toll calls. In other words, we could have chosen an alternative to Ameritech and instead of dialing an access code, merely dialed 1 plus the number.

Ameritech was successfully able to water down this provision. I for one would have jumped at the chance of choosing an alternative to Ameritech. So much for competition.

It's clear that no one can compete with Ameritech and its lobbyists. I sent a letter to each state representative and senator prior to the passage of SB 722. Of the few replies I did receive, it was clear that one representative didn't even understand one of the key provisions of the legislation.

There are a couple of ways you can fight back. Think about cancelling Ameritech and saving \$2.43 per month. But first make sure your current phone will allow you to call out and then switch to

touch tone, if needed, once the connection is made. And don't get mad at me if it doesn't work.

Perhaps Ameritech might even keep you on touch tone service — because it's cheaper for them to provide — but don't count on it.

Next, if you live in an apartment and for some reason signed up for the monthly maintenance contract, check with your apartment manager. In all likelihood the inside wire is the responsibility of the apartment owner and thus any repairs would be their responsibility and not yours. Thus this monthly fee of either \$1.50 or \$2.50 could be a waste of your money.

Or if you have noticed the decline in service since Ameritech eliminated thousands of employees, call the Public Service Commission and complain.

While Michigan has yet to do anything to correct the decline in service quality, other less "forward" thinking states have taken action and in fact levied fines against Ameritech.

Perhaps all the Ameritech lobbyists were converging on Michigan and didn't have time to convince the other states that it was inconvenient to wait on the phone for up to an hour waiting to talk to a real person.  
Tom Deward is a resident of Farmington Hills.

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