

FINE ARTS

Slide lecture to feature prominent Ohio bead artist

Arbent features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Mary Klenic, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling (810) 644-1314.

■ **BEAD-DAZZLES**
The Needlework and Textile Guild of Michigan will present a

slide lecture by nationally prominent Ohio bead artist Jeanne Laessig 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 9, at First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, 1689 W. Maple. The public may attend for \$5. In her talk, Laessig will focus on bead embroidery. For more information, call (810) 689-4478 or (810) 644-4718.

The Great Lakes Beadworkers Guild will sponsor a slide lecture and two-day workshop by Laessig Thursday-Saturday, April 11-13. Call (810) 977-5935 for information.

■ **CLUB MEETING**
The Farmington Artists Club will meet 7 p.m. Wednesday.

April 10, at the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile. Admission is free. The public may attend. Speaker will be wildlife artist Marty Naud, who travels extensively with her work and has many pieces in print. She will talk about her watercolor style but primarily about artists getting their work into print.

Bloomfield Hills artist Patricia Hill Burnett will speak at the April meeting of the Palette and

Brush Club. For membership information, call Johanna Bleick at (313) 681-4198 or Olga Pawlowski at (313) 668-6087.

You'll love 'Romance, Romance'

Village Players of Birmingham presents "Romance Romance" weekends through April 13 at the Theater 752 Chestnut, at the southeast corner of Chestnut and Hunter. Call (810) 644-2075 for ticket information.
By VICTORIA DIAZ
SPECIAL WRITER

Spring has arrived, and love is in the air at the Village Players Theatre in Birmingham, with the current production of "Romance Romance." Directed by Dan Castle and Bill Haycock, the breezy musical is enhanced throughout by some knock-out musical talent.

"Romance Romance" is actually two musicals connected by a theme that is obvious in the title. The opener, "The Little Comedy" is set in and around Vienna at the turn of the century, as Alfred and Josephine — both pretending to be someone they aren't — fall hopelessly in love with each other. There being at least two sides to every love story, we see this one from higher viewpoints, as each lover "writes" to a close friend, telling the tale and reconnecting it for us at the same time.

As the pompous rich man/starving poet, Alfred, Ken Elough turns in a good performance, although he's more winning as a vocalist than as an actor. As the street-wise innocent Josephine, titian-haired Jodie Wagner Kuhn is often a kind of glimmer, shimmering show unto herself. Appearing to flirt with her audience as much as with her leading man, she's always entertaining to watch. Ultimately, though, it's her singing ability that really carries the day, and makes her performance decidedly worthwhile for playgoers.

Patrick Barnard and Sally

Savoie make up a capable supporting cast in "The Little Comedy" playing multiple, brief roles. Jump ahead approximately 100 years to the second part of "Romance Romance," and a slightly more complex, bitter-sweet piece, "Summer Share." "Share" is the key word here, referring not just to a vacation home in the Hamptons, but to the love among and between the two married couples visiting it together. Suddenly (maybe it's all that moonlight?), one man and one woman — not married to each other, but "best friends" for years — find themselves romantically attracted, as their long-time mates look on (musically) in the background.

As the mad-for-each-other couple, Jodie Wagner Kuhn and Patrick Barnard appear made for each other. There seems a chemistry between these two as warm as summertime, which makes their troublesome situation all the more engaging for a playgoer, and lends a credibility to the characters that is absent in "The Little Comedy." Combine this subtle, crackling magic with Kuhn's spirited performance, Barnard's irresistible singing style, and the back-up musical talents of Ken Elough and Carlos Castle playing the "left-over" mates, and you have a little piece of musical theater that will melt your heart. And don't miss the harmonious finale, a spot in which all players shine, and seem truly in their element. You'll love it.

Costumes, sets, and lighting complement the colorful picture of both musicals (some eye-catching street lamps in "The Little Comedy" almost steal the show).

Paint Creek classes start soon

Deadlines are next week for a variety of classes offered by the Paint Creek Center for the Arts.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, April 10, for adult workshops on tile making, black and white photography, and more. Registration deadline is Friday, April 12, for an adult workshop on fabric marbling. Call the PCCA at (810) 651-4110 for information.

The six-session tile making workshop will take place 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 17 to May 22. Explore the design, firing and glazing of decorative and functional tile.

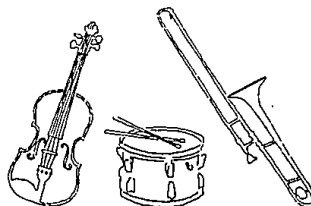
The two-session photography

workshop will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, April 17, and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20. Learn the fundamentals of black and white photography from developing to printing with intensive darkroom operation.

In the two-session mat workshop, learn how to select mat colors to complement your art work or photographs and how to measure and cut mats. The class meets 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesdays, April 17 and 24.

In the fabric marbling workshop 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 19, explore the process of Turkish marbling on silk scarves.

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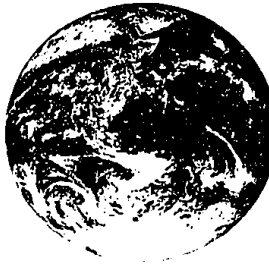
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Spring is just a few weeks away, no matter what it looks like outside your window and it won't be long before you're planting flats of flowers and sprucing up your corner of the world. Don't miss our two special supplements to your hometown newspapers—Spring Home Improvement on Thursday, April 4, and Home, Garden and Landscape on Thursday, April 18. They'll both be full of fresh new ideas you won't want to miss!

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NEWSPAPERS

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