

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

# Take a musical Great Lakes tour

Lee Murdock brings his legendary musical tour of the Great Lakes to the MAMA's Coffeehouse Concert Series 8 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward Ave. Ticket are \$8, senior citizens and children under 17, \$6. Call (810) 646-5163.

With seven recordings and over 150 concerts a year, Murdock's music conjures images of hard work, hard living, hard weather, ships that go down and ships that come in.

To listen to Murdock's music is to visualize the Great Lakes, experience a storm while on a ship, envision a choir singing, and more. Noted as an instrumentalist on six and 12 string

guitars, Murdock combines ragtime, blues, and folk styles with his flair for storytelling in songs. His musical influences span 15 generations.

Murdock began his folk career in the Chicago area in the mid 1970s, expanding his repertoire of blues and popular music as his interest in folk music and the maritime tradition grew. Some of the songs are based in history and legend, others are modern or timeless stories that speak to the people who live, work and play around the Great Lakes today.

"It's exciting to me to be able to uncover this freshwater maritime music which comes from the middle of the continent," said



Sea songs: Lee Murdock brings his legendary musical tour of the Great Lakes to the MAMA's Coffeehouse concert series at Birmingham Unitarian Church.

Murdock. "People on the salt water coasts might scoff a little at first, but they, too can become fascinated with these stories. The Great Lakes are much more than the open seas, and this sur-

prises many people." Murdock's repertoire includes original stories and songs by contemporary writers such as Shel Silverstein and Pat Dunley, alongside the traditional songs from the Great Lakes heritage.

# EDE offers spring classes

The Eisenhower Dance Ensemble Center for Dance, located at 29 W. Lawrence in Pontiac announces open enrollment for its Spring session of classes. Call (810) 253-9859 for information.

The EDE Center is operated by the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, a non-profit professional dance company based in Rochester and Pontiac. Beginning through advanced classes for adults and children in modern ballet, jazz, tap, pilates/conditioning, creative movement and ballroom begin Monday, April 22. This session will run for eight weeks ending June 16.

Joanne Danto of Bloomfield Hills, master teacher of classical ballet, will be teaching all levels of classes at the EDE Center 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning April 23.



Dancer: Joanne Danto, master teacher of classical ballet, will be teaching at the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble Center for Dance.

# JET, Village Players present staged readings

Here are two upcoming theatrical events you won't want to miss.

Jewish Ensemble Theatre begins its Seymour J. and Ethel S. Frank 1996 Festival of New Plays in Staged Readings 7:30 p.m. April 17 & 18 with "One of the Few" by Pat Lin. The festival the JPM Branch - Jewish Community Center, 16110 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. All performances 7:30 p.m. No reservations, tickets at the door. Call (810) 798-2900 for information. "One of the Few" is about a young Jewish woman hidden in Poland during World War II by a friend to JET subscribers with a suggested donation of \$6 per performance, and \$15 for the series, which continues through May 9. Wednesday performance

are in the Aaron DeRoy Theatre, Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Thursday performances are at Christian woman and her family. Their relationship develops with unexpected turns.

The Cranbrook Writers' Guild and The Village Players are presenting their third annual Literary Performance - "Michigan Authors on Stage" 8 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at The Village Players playhouse 752 Chestnut, Birmingham. Seating is limited to the first 200. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call (810) 646-0568 for reservations/information.

Excerpts from works of such authors as novelist Dutch Leonard and Harriet Arnow, poet Tom Lynch, short story writers Stuart Dybeck and Ring Lardner, and essayist

Sojourner Truth will come alive as they are dramatized by the Village Players' actors.

Meet some of the authors after-wart at a wine and cheese reception.

Event proceeds will be used by the Cranbrook Writers' Guild for its annual conference to nurture Michigan writers, and the Village Players for renovations of their theater.

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