

FRIDAY



Up With People explores a potpourri of cultural differences while showcasing the musical and dance talents of an international cast of 150 students ages 17 to 25, in "Festival!" at Seaholm High School, Wagoner Auditorium, 2436 W. Lincoln, (810) 203-3055.

SATURDAY



Works by over 70 artists, including Elaine Faba-McLeod of Birmingham, will be featured at "Celebration of the Arts," a fine arts and crafts show to benefit new Morning School, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main, Northville, (313) 420-3321.

SUNDAY



Lindsay Shog stars in First Theatre Guild's presentation of "Once Upon a Mattress," 2 p.m., Knox Auditorium, First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, (810) 745-5654 or (810) 932-1149.



HOT TIX: Professional figure skating championships featuring Oksana Baiul, and others in two days of men's, women's and pair's competition, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10-Monday, Nov. 11, at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Each participant will compete once each day. (810) 377-0100.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1996 • PAGE 1 SECTION E

Kidd Gallery marks 20th anniversary

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Robert L. Kidd and Ray Frost Fleming opened their Birmingham gallery in 1976 to showcase their art as well as that of a few friends. Kidd, a fiber artist, and Fleming, a painter, will celebrate their 20th anniversary in the gallery business with an invitational exhibition featuring 100 of the important artists shown during that span.

Works by Helen Frankenthaler, John Chamberlain, Larry Rivers, and classic car artist Tom Hale of Farmington Hills illustrate a tradition of representing painters, sculptors, ceramists, and glass blowers based on knowledge gained during years of art studies and teaching.

For 20 years, Kidd chaired the weaving department at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills. He currently pursues his textile business.

Fleming, who earned his master of fine arts degree at Cranbrook, taught at Mercy College, Wayne State University, and Kingswood School Cranbrook, where he chaired the art department. Until 1988, Fleming showed his work extensively, earning first prize in Watercolor USA and Michigan Watercolor Exhibition.

"Both of us are artists. A lot of gallery owners are not necessarily trained in the arts. We can talk about composition, design and color. When a client comes in, I can explain about the importance of eye movement to an artwork," said Fleming during an interview in the gallery.

Four years earlier in 1972, Kidd had opened a yarn shop and weaving studio in the space that was to become the two-level gallery on Townsend. Today, the Robert Kidd Gallery represents about 60 artists at any one time.

"Our legacy is going to be how many artists we've helped. An artist is like a very powerful seed that is going to grow and continue growing."



STAFF PHOTO BY LAWRENCE IL BICKER

ing," said Fleming.

Unlike the majority of art galleries, which show artists individually, the Kidd Gallery — as it's become known over the years — shows two artists at a time on the upper level, usually a painter and sculptor.

The lower level is devoted to an array of media, many by artists who have shown previously. With an eye always on art, their philosophy is "If you don't see it, you don't buy it." Hence, the 4,000 square foot art show.

"The gallery is very eclectic. We like to mix merging artists with famous artists. If the quality is there, it doesn't matter if they're young artists on their way up. Being an artist, I tend to like everything that's good. We tend through the studios in New York. You tend to always be looking," said Fleming.

Birmingham architect Irv Tobocman collaborated with Kidd to design the gallery's interiors including the soft fabric walls. Each space draws the visitor into the next.

At the front of the gallery, five classic Eames chairs surround a Kidd-Tobocman-designed six-foot round marble table creating a perfect place for discussion and contemplation of an art purchase.

"We try to make the gallery accessible, inviting and comfortable," said Kidd.

"Usually you walk into a gallery and there's nowhere to sit," added Fleming.

In 1980, Kidd moved the weaving studio/yarn shop to a location at Maple and Telegraph.

"Years ago you had to live in New York if you

wanted to be an artist. Due to the advancement of communications technology, it's become more and more international, less localized," Fleming said.

Over the years, the art world changed. Kidd and Fleming withstood cycles of feast and famine.

"After the raging '80s, people became conservative. People became sheepish. The art world itself learned a lesson by hyping art that lacked quality. A bad artist can fool the public, but he can't fool other artists. We've had a consistent following," said Fleming.

"After a recession in 1990, the market is up, and people are purchasing art once again," said Fleming.

"What do they owe they're success to? 'The point is we love what we do,' said Kidd. 'It's energizing.'

Robert Kidd Gallery 20th Anniversary Exhibition

What: An invitational exhibit showcasing 100 artists who were featured in the gallery during the last two decades. A gala champagne opening reception takes place 6-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8. The public is invited. Admission is free. For more information call (810) 642-3909.

When: Exhibit continues to Dec. 31. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. **Where:** 107 Townsend in Birmingham.

BOOKS

Find the 'inbetweens' in your life

BY KEELY WYDONIK
STAFF WRITER

By telling her story, Bonnie Kelley Kaback shows readers how to recognize "inbetweens," magical moments that will help them make peace with their past and find joy in everyday things in "Tinkerbell Jerusalem," "Three Monkeys Publishing, Sept. 1996, \$18.95 hard cover, \$12.95 soft cover.)

Kaback, who grew up in Birmingham and graduated from Seaholm High School, will be honored 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at a Book & Author's Brunch to kick off her book tour at the Birmingham Athletic Club, 4033 W. Maple Road. Tickets are \$15 per person, call (810) 375-0688.

"I don't believe there's a word that pays enough homage to those moments in time when we are transformed," said Kaback who lives in Hale'iwa, Hawaii, a remote town on the north shore of Oahu. "It's more than a memory; there's a shift in our perspective. Inbetweens are little snapshots of revelations — you feel the idea."

"Tinkerbell Jerusalem" is a collection

of memories, inbetweens, from various parts of Kaback's life, written to illustrate a life lesson. Jerusalem, a city she's journeyed to many times, represents a universal idea of light and love.

"I wanted to be descriptive enough so people would understand what an inbetween is, but it's not my story, it's everybody's story," she said. "If I can use them to erase negative memories, anger and pain, so can others. I want people to use this book to redisclose their history."

Kaback calls her book a "transferring

view of adult reality with the clarity of childlike vision." This is a childlike view of adult reality," she said. "As children we have a clear view of ourselves. We have joy. When we grow up we become logical and pragmatic in ways that blind us to certain brightness. When we reclaim our childhood memories we gather meaningful information that can empower us."

Some of Kaback's childhood and adult memories are painful, and her adult pragmatic view of the past obscured the joy. "You can change your perspective on the pain if you learn how to work."

around it, and concentrate on the beauty beyond," she writes. "It means rearranging thought patterns to accommodate a higher perspective, a better understanding of life's lessons."

One inbetween — "The Magic Machine" — is a story about Kaback's frustration over learning how to use a new laptop computer. She couldn't set the old computer aside because it was hooked up to her printer. "I had to transfer the printer because someone set it up for me," she wrote. "To unplug it was out of the question."

After losing four pages of material, she realized it was time for a change and called the computer help hotline. The exercise reminded her of when she was learning how to drive a stick-shift and how difficult that was. "Change demands concentration," she writes. "I remind myself that if babies didn't love to learn, we'd all be crawling."

There's even a story an "inbetween" about how Kaback met her publishers — Three Monkeys Publishing in Rochester Hills, Marilyn Schuster and Sally Cunningham Downey are the

partners/owners of Three Monkeys. Sally and Bonnie were friends in high school, but hadn't seen each other for many years. Bonnie had just finished her book, and sent it to six other publishers. She and Sally reconnected at their 25th class reunion, and started sending each other Christmas cards.

When Bonnie heard from another classmate that Sally was in the book publishing business, she tracked her down — the rest is history.

"Tinkerbell Jerusalem" is an inspirational book you will treasure. The book is easy to read, there are photos to evoke memories, and a yellow satin book mark so you'll remember where you left off. This is not a "just-for-chicks

"book."

"Sally gave a copy of the book to a male friend," said Schuster. "He read the book, and said he was disappointed when he came to the end because there wasn't more. He read it again, and said everyone should read this book."

The Book & Author's Brunch is co-sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Tinkerbell Jerusalem

True story: Through a constellation of life experiences, Bonnie Kelley Kaback charts her transformational discovery of personal "inbetweens" in "Tinkerbell Jerusalem."