

# Conversations from page D1

music and transforming the notion of a traditional concert experience.

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association for redefining itself as a regional resource, expanding its facility and class offerings.

Lois Beznos, president of the Chamber Music Society, for maintaining her organization's reputation as one of the finest international producers of chamber music. Beznos took over in 1987, and established a fundraising strategy that has attracted philanthropists.

The Sapphire String Quartet of Troy, a group of college-age musicians, who donated proceeds from their mid-August concert to MADD.

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester for elevating the annual "Art & Apples" into an international art fair exhibit.

Bradley Stroud of Birmingham, director of dance at MOT, who's productions of "Blue Suede Shoes" and "Dracula" brought an artful contemporary appeal to lovers of Elvis and the Transylvanian Count.

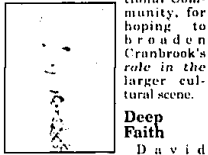
Sally Gerak for overseeing the most critically acclaimed Our

Town Art Exhibit at The Community House in Birmingham.

Stephen Rosman, curator of the controversial exhibit, "Jewish Detroit in the 1920s and 1930s," including images of the infamous Purple Gang, and Judith Levin Cantor, president of the Jewish Historical Society, for reminding us that generalizations can distort history.

Chris Guyotte, the new artistic director of the Millennium Centre in Southfield, for continuing to push for the performing arts programs.

Dr. Robert Gavin, new president of the Cranbrook Educational Community, for hoping to broaden Cranbrook's role in the larger cultural scene.



Dr. Robert Gavin  
Deep Faith  
David Chiera, general director for the Michigan Opera Theatre, whose vision, fortitude and deep faith in the cultural scene

continues to inspire others to participate in the arts.

The city of Southfield, for opening the Southfield Centre for the Arts on Southfield Road. Casting aside cynics, Robert Block, Lucius Theus, Susan Schmidt, Marlowe Belanger, Albert Scaglione and Patrick Beckley led the effort to establish the region's first cultural arts center in 15 years.

For John Cynar of Birmingham, whose gallery might have closed, but he continued to promote art by organizing "Sculpture Pontiac," an exhibit of 64 local artists. George N'Namdi, whose Birmingham Gallery, is the oldest African American gallery in the country.

Chuck Forbes of Troy, a well-known real estate developer who saw the promise of Detroit's theater district in the mid-1970s. At the time, the talk wasn't about new developments but who would be the last to turn on the lights when leaving the city.

Susanne Hilberry, Laurel Paterson of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Carol Halsted of Oakland University, Barbara Kratchman of ArtServe, Maury Okan of the Detroit Chamber Winds, Mike Vigilant of Meadow Brook Theatre and Maurice Parish of the DIA for participating in the O&E's round-table discussion on the state of art in our communities.

The artist Wyland, who opened a Gallery in downtown Birmingham, for standing up for the diverse marine species of the deep seas.

Albert Scaglione. Born in Italy, Del Signore studied with Panfilo Del Beato and J.P. Serrallouge in Ancey, France, at Ecole des Beaux-Arts where he earned a diploma with honors.

Mesmerized by its cosmopolitan charm, Del Signore moved to Montreal 15 years ago. Much of his work is documented in the book titled "Del Signore."

For the city scenes, Del Signore sketches on location; then uses his imagination. When the subject matter is architecture such as his paintings of Laurel Manor and Madonna University, Del Signore works from photographs to maintain accuracy. But even these paintings of buildings incorporate people going about their daily lives.

"Thirty years ago when I finished school in France, everything was abstract," said Del Signore. "I wanted to do something different. I wanted to do the figure."

An admirer of Sargent and Cassatt, Del Signore strives for brush work that's fast and spontaneous. The painting must be complete in his mind before he

Patricia Hooper of Bloomfield Township for quietly becoming one of the Michigan's literary treasures while continuing to polish her crystal poetry.

Meg LaRou of Bloomfield Hills, owner of Revolution in Ferndale, for spearheading the resurrection of the Detroit Art Dealers Association. One day, the gallery crawl, now held annual, will be more like a weekend occurrence.

Barbara Selinger and Paula



Keeping rhythm: Barbara Selinger of Farmington Hills is leading the revival in dance in our communities.

Kramer of Detroit Dance Collective, and Eric Johnston of Farmington for organizing the first annual Festival of Dance.

Provocateurs Robert Schefman of West Bloomfield for his wit and wisdom. Schefman's mural at Dearborn 19th District Court, proves that he's one of the most talented and visionary painters in the region.

Schefman's fall exhibit, "Rated



Robert Schefman

reason, not offensiveness. Jef Bourgeau of Rochester, artist-in-resident at the museum of Contemporary Art in Pontiac. Bourgeau, a talented conceptual artist pushes the boundaries of the absurd to make a point. Often times, the "point" is lost on reactionary types. But Bourgeau persists.

Niagara, the underground rock singer turned painter with a living-on-the-edge attitude and Lichtenstein-inspired canvases, doesn't mince words. Arguably, her defiant subjects break through all the over-analysis about the relationships between men and women.

From the heart

Nora Mendoza of West Bloomfield, an artist who serves voluntarily on the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Mendoza reminds us that there's no room for elitism in the arts.

Cap and Carolyn Hall of Bloomfield Hills, whose involvement with the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association goes back 40 years, but their real-life work of art goes back to the day they were married 45 years ago.

Allegria Lilly of Bloomfield Hills, an unflappable 12-year-old harpist with the smile of an angel and a heavenly sense of timing.

Playwright Bill Boyer, formerly of Birmingham, whose lead by his idealism, not the realities of

trying to "make it" as an author. Boyer's goal is to participate in a truly multicultural community. Loren D. Eastman of Whitmore Lake, author of more than 40 mysteries and westerns, whose characters reflect his own refreshing unpretentiousness, all hidden behind a rugged, cool facade.

Aaron Brenner, from Beverly Hills and Birmingham Groves High School Class of '91, who left the security of our area to teach at Rynn Elementary in Donna, Texas, where most of the residents are on food stamps and nearly one-fifth are unemployed.

Cyd Moore of Beverly Hills, who translated her fantasy childhood growing up on a farm in Georgia to a world of wide-eyed lovable characters in her illustrated children's books.

Robert Louis Stevenson III, formerly of Birmingham, who overcame the burden of his literary ancestry (Robert Louis Stevenson is his great-great-cousin) to write a compelling and critically acclaimed mystery, "Torchlight."

Helene Febbo of Birmingham, a talented painter and printmaker, who teaches art to school kids from Pontiac who have no other access to art.

And, Ann Hannawa of Southfield, who was compelled to write a book, "The Spoken Tear," to honor the memory of her son, Ivan, who died of leukemia.

For Hannawa, like the others on this list, exploring self-expression brought some cathartic relief and epiphanies.

To me, talking with these people made me realize that there are always more possibilities than what seems apparent. In everyone's life.

Frank Provenzano is an arts reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be reached at (248) 901-2557.

**NEXT WEEKEND!**

# Florida HOME SHOW

Explore the Latest Florida Lifestyle Trends!

- Get details about popular Sunshine State areas: Southeast Region... Gulf Coast... Central Florida.
- Single-Family Homes... Manufactured Homes... Villas.
- Many Lifestyle Choices: Country Club... Retirement... & Family Neighborhoods.
- Major Florida Banks.

**Detroit Area's Biggest Florida Lifestyle Event!**

**2 DAYS ONLY!**  
SAT. & SUN. • Jan. 3rd & 4th  
11 AM TO 5 PM Both Days  
**Novi Hilton**  
21111 Haggerty Rd. • Novi, Michigan  
**I-275 at 8 Mile Exit**

For more info or unable to attend, call: **800-237-8328**

**FREE ADMISSION**

## Painter from page D1

Classical influence This is Del Signore's first show at Park West Gallery, and his premier exhibition in America although he has worked in private, public and corporate collections in Europe and America such as the Pinacothèque and City Hall of Chieta, Italy, the City Hall of Lasalle, Quebec, in Canada, Gallery of the Museum of Montreal, Knapsack Gallery of Toronto, and the private collection of singer Celine Dion.

"I feel the work is excellent, powerful. It comes out of a background of Italian artists, the Renaissance and painters like

Tintoretto," said Scaglione. "It's hundreds of years of Italian painting coming to a contemporary culmination."

Scaglione met Del Signore a year ago after receiving a phone call from Frank Stella to come to Fonte d' Amore to see the work of the Italian artist.

Since that time, Scaglione began selling Del Signore's paintings in the gallery. Delightful with the quality and content of a group of paintings he received this fall, Scaglione asked Del Signore to do a show in January.

"He's been painting 40 years so you're looking at a level of high craft and beautiful Impressionist brush work," said Scaglione.

"If you look at the light it just glows. Littorio does (sells) very well in Montreal. It's the sign of a popular artist when you ask if he has any paintings, he'll say a few then you know he sells."

"This is one of the first opportunities as an Italian American to find someone that so well fits the classical painting of Italy today," said Scaglione, "and because his market has been

Montreal, his prices are such that I feel the show will be a sell out."

Scaglione estimates paintings will, on average, range from under \$1,000 to \$4,000.

### Together again

John and Littorio Del Signore took different roads after growing up in Italy. They met again at a relative's wedding in New York after being apart 40 years.

"We lost communication, but now we're together," said John, whose brother is a sculptor in Italy. "Littorio's original, and he's a very hard worker, what he does he puts in his heart and soul. We're cousins and it makes me feel proud."

Lina remembers Littorio at age 14 painting the skirt of one of her friends back in Italy. When asked what she likes about his painting, Lina replied, "there isn't anything I don't like. It's not just what he sees, but his creativity."

"He's very honest. Each painting, I saw has a reality. I see the reality of something he's done from his heart. I see love."

THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS

## Congratulate

Raini & Mark Gilmore of Livonia  
Grand Prize Winner of the New Year's Eve Package at The Second City  
Runners-Up Larry Bauer of Troy and Barry Jecowski of Livonia each won a pair of tickets to Second City Detroit on New Year's Eve

Thanks to all who entered!

**The Second City** COMEDY THEATRE  
313.965.2222

**The Second City RESTAURANT**  
313.965.9500

# MITCH HOUSEY'S

We've Got It Here On NEW YEAR'S EVE from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

**DANCING to the Showcasemen**

- PREMIUM BAR PKG.
- BREAKFAST

scrambled eggs & pork sausage served at 2 a.m.

**ONLY \$60 per person** (INCLUDES ALL TAX & GRATUITIES!) MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE  
*(See back of These Complete Dinners)*

- PRIME RIB
- FILET MIGNON
- N.Y. STRIP SIRLOIN (with Lemon Pepper)
- BROILED ORANGE ROUGHY (with Parsley Butter)
- SWORDFISH STEAK (with Parsley Butter)
- CHICKEN DEVIL

Reservations... 425-5520

Reservations Accepted for EARLY NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER from 5 p.m. - Out by 9 p.m.

28500 Schoolcraft (Opposite Livonia Drive) LIVONIA - 425-9540

**OPEN 6 DAYS** DAILY MON-SAT 11:00 A.M.

# NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

Lavish Gourmet Buffet at both locations featuring...  
**PRIME RIB** in Herb Blanket, Premium Bar (Pkg. 6)

**Butter MANOR**  
2777 Schoolcraft (1 Blk. West of I-75) Livonia  
Continuous Entertainment with **NIGHT'S CREED & PRELUDE**  
Black Tie Optional  
All Seating Reserved  
**\$130 Per Couple**

Experience the elegance of our new look.  
(313) 427-9110

**ROMA BANQUETS**  
of Garden City  
32550 Cherry Hill (1 Blk. East of Varsity)  
Live Band **"CHANNEL 6" & DJ Entertainment**  
Black Tie Optional  
All Seating Reserved  
**\$100 Per Couple**

(You must be 21 & Over to attend)  
(313) 422-4550