## Concert offers a mosaic of song

Hear the rich and incredibly varied music of the Sephardian sung in Hebrew, Latino, English, Arabic, Greek, French, and Italian when the Gerard Edery Ensemble performs 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Birmingham Temple, 28611 West 12 Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$18 adults, \$15 seniors, \$12 students, and available by calling (248) 788-9338 or (248) 288-3953.

(248) 289-393.

A product of many ethnic hackgrounds, Edery was born in Casabhanca of Sephardic Morocan and Argentine parents, He grew up in Paris and New York City, His grandfather, for example, "spoke only Arabic and Hebrew to me," said Edery, who earned a master of arts degree from the Manhattan School of Music. Edery has performed an opera singer, classical guitarist and actor. He began playing the guitar at age nice and has developed a unique style, drawing on classical, Hamenco, jazz and folk traditions.
Nell Snaidas, a soprano of

Nell Sinaidas, a soprano of Uruguayan descent, has sung in operas around the world with leading roles in "Las Aleandras" and "Phantom of the Opera." Of all this beautiful mosic, the Sephardic tradition is the closest



Featured performers: The New York based Gerard Edery Ensemble performs the music of the Sephardim in Latin, Hebrew, English, Arabic, Greek, French and

to her heart.

to her heart.

World drummer and percussionist Rex Benineasa lived and performed in New York City for 20 years before joining the Ensemble in 1995. He has worked with a variety of orchestras and groups, such as the Pittsburgh Symphony. The Merce Cunningham Dance Company and the new wave flamence pany and the new wave flamenco group, Amanecer,

In 1992 when the world Jew-ish community commemorated the 500th anniversary of the

Expulsion of the Jews from Spain and Portugal, Edery decid-ed to go back to his roots. Since then he has dedicated his life to the study, singing and recording of Judeo-Sephardic songs.

"I enjoy giving people a feeling of where they came from through music," said Edery. "It helps them reaffirm their Jewish iden-

The Ensemble has two CD's, "Linda Amiga" and "Chansons d'Amour," which will be on sale during intermission.

## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

Send items for consideration in Art Beat to Frank Provenzano, arts reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be reached at (248) 901-2557, or at

fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net Or write to: The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009.

PHOTOGRAPHER SOLOMON AT CRANBROOK'S BROOKSIDE

CRANSROOK'S BROOKSIE

Nationally renowned photographer Linds Solomon brings her project, 'Things That Make Me Happy,' to Cranbrook's Brookside Lower School at 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20.

The project's intent is to put disposable cameras into the hands of Brookside first through fifth graders.

After listening to Solomon's brief lecture on photography, the students will be given the assignment of taking photos over Thanksgiving break.

Judges will select one photograph per student, Collectively, the student photos be part of composite paster.

composite poster. For information, (248) 645-

DETROIT CHAMBER WINDS
RELEASES CD
'Holiday Brass,' a collection of traditional holiday carols, has been recently released by the Detroit Chamber Winds.
The CD features metro Detroit's brass players in performances conducted by H. Robert Reynolds. The recordings were made over several days at Detroit & Orchestra Holl.
'Holiday Brass' is available throughout metro Detroit at Arbor Drug, Dearborn Music Langlish Gardens, Farmer Jack, harmony House and Target.
'Romarce information, (248) 362-3329.

FALL SEASON AT SYBARIS

GALLERY
Three shows are featured at
Sybaris Gallery through Decem-

ber.
The sculpture of Myra Mimlisch Gray is featured in the main gallery space.
Gray received her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1986. She is currently professor of metals at the State University of New York at New Paltaz.
Her hand-wrought metalwork

has been characterized as "exag-gerated constructions...and a return to a more traditional for-mat."

mat."
Meanwhile, the innovative teapot of Philip Cornelius, and the evocative jewelry of Susan Kingsley are exhibited in the second gallery at Sybaris. For more information, call (248) 544-3388. Or visit Sybaris: Gallery, 202 E. Third Street, Royal Oak.

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## Conversations from page C1

history.

It's a first-hand look at the American Dream – good, bad and indifferent.

History seldom reads like seamless script.

## Shared culture

Shared culture
For starters, enlisting in the Arny was an educational opportunity for many black soldiers. Powell's grandfather, for instance, learned to read any write while traveling from outpast to outpost.
And according to Powell, the army didn't mirror the segregated American society. That is, not until the troops were segregated during World War II.
To their credit, the Museum of African American History doesn't rely on historical revisionism. Rather it draws on a documented necount of Buffalo Soldiers

from Powell's grandfather's perspective, including hundreds of rare photos.

Powell, who teaches history at San Jose State University, is curator of the largest privately beld collection of artifacts from African American soldiers.

He began to assemble the elements of the exhibit by asking a simple question: "What was it like to be a black man in the Army?"

He asked his grandfather, and his grandfather's friends. He heard stories of racism and prejudice. But he also was told indelible tales about a sense of camaraderie and brotherhood.

In many ways, the story of the s

camaraderic and brotherhood.

In many ways, the story of America runs through Powell's ancestry. His grandfather, who lived to be 105, was the orphan son of slaves. And Powell's Jewish grandmother was an immi-

grant from Germany.

"America is unique because we all came from someplace else," said Powell, on hand at the museum to give tours to local high school students. Except, perhaps, those Native American Indians who, from 1865-1886, went from roaming the untamed West, to living on reservations.

"What I try to get across is that this is our shared culture. When people see the schibit, I want them to say, 'Why wasn't I taught that about American history?"

The good, bad and indifferent.

Frank Provenzano can be reached at (248) 901-2557, or at fprovenzano@oe.homccomm.net Or write to: The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009.





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