Conversations from page C1

infusion of new bone marrow, Francke is recovering at home. Thankfully, the prognosis for a full recovery is excellent. And now, many of us await Francke's comeback to the stage.

Main message

Last May, no one had come to hear Sonia Nothman speak in the spacious hall where "And I Still See Their Faces" had been installed. The photography exhibit at the

installed.

The photography exhibit at the Jewish Community Center decumented the lives of Jews prior to the Holocaust.

Yet as a concentration camp survivor, Nothman didn't hesitate to assume her position at the podium.

"I will tell you my story," she said to the arts writer on hand to review the exhibit.

In intricate detail, Nothman of West Bloomfield recalled the communal life in pre-industrialized Poland where she was raised.

raised.
And then, in a stark, chilling tone she described the "Hell on

earth" of the Nazi concentration camps where she was impris-oned during World War II. "My parents taught us not to hate, that's my main message," said Nothman.

said Nothman.

In these days of indifference and historical myopia, Nothman's personal stories resound as an eeric reminder about the consequences who befall those who forget the lessons of history. overtooked trigedy of the 2-on-century.
"It's my mother's influence," laughed Serkaian. "She told me, 'If you don't serve your people, I'll curse you."
Obviously, along with the curse came a blessing.

many times, invariably his eyes fill with tears and his husky voice shakes.

He has committed his life to educating people on an often-overlooked tragedy of the 20th

Sense of history Sense of history Listeners of Nick Serkainn's on-air show, "The Armenian Radio Hour," know his voice quite well. The Northville resident hasn't missed a broadeast in 31 years. And like Nothman, Serkaian is committed to telling the bistory about his ancestors. A daily trial

Linda Brown of Clarkston began her legal career represent-ing management. Today, she works part time helping people with disabilities with their legal

problems.

On mornings when parents rush their kids off to school, Brown needs extra time - and patience - to propare her two nutsits coson, ages 8 and 10.

While some may consider autism an obstacle, Brown sees it os a challenge.

In the last 10 years, she has worked for more sensitive test-

ing for autism., and has fought against stereotypes of autistic children. In September, ahe was instrumental in organizing an art exhibit presented by the Autism Society of America, Oakland County Chapter.
"Wo're going to make the lives of our children and our lives as happy as we can make them."
For Brown, the trial to just that begins anew each day.

A philosophy runs deep Too often, there's a perception that anyone approaching 60 is slowing down. But for Helen Febbo and Joseph Bernard, that's a time when the essentials of life and art become more apparent.

of life and art become more apparent.
Febbo and Bernard – both of Birmingham – shared space at Posner Gallery in May. And while they demonstrated a compelling technique in their abstract-figurative paintings and lush collages, their wisdom left the most lasting impression.
"Everyone searches to get to

the real meaning in life," said Febbe, "Everything you do in art has to do with your life." Meanwhile, Bernard, who teaches at the Center for Cre-ative Studies, compared his col-lages to arranging and rearrang-ing myneries.

ing memories.
The thrill is in the discovery,"

A healthy world
Phyllis Meer and Dr. Mark
Freed realized that true healing
doesn't take place in a clinical
setting.

setting.
In October, Meer of West Bloomfield, a nurse practitioner, spearheaded a benefit concert to raise money for medical assistance to children suffering from the fallout of the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

the fallout of the Chernoby nuclear plant. With radiation levels still extremely high, there's no end to the spread of cancer. But 12 years after the world's worst nuclear disaster, Meer and others won't let the issue fade

Recasting the world isn't just a dream for Freed of Birmingham. Recently, he established a foundation to bring physicians and nurses into schools to teach young students about health.

And Freed's latest book, "The Magic of Children," published in November, sets out to cure the inevitable condition of adulthood whereby cynicism replaces optimism, and resignation casts a shade over innocence.

shade over innocence.

Through tender photos and quotes from children, Freed presents a world where wonder, love and kindness are the cherished rewards in life.

rewards in the.

A reminder, perhaps, that the holiday season rekindles both the hopes of childhood, and the often forgotten promise of adultheed.

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Best from page C1

Best first year for arts cen-ters: The Southfield Centre for the Arts completed its inaugural year, and cetablished itself as a home for regional arts groups, and as a performing venue; and, the Southeast Michigan Arts Conservatory in Canton, which opened in September. Best word to describe what art groups talk about when not discussing art: Marketing.

Team art award

Sunday Mornin'

in New Orleans

Sunday Brunch & Jazz

10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Southfield

515HBONES

E Kaichen Care

Best father & son artists: Robert and Joseph Maniscalco of Orchard Lake. The elder Maniscalco is one of

about his ancestors.

He proudly notes that it goes back about 1700 years.

But Serkainn's expression of ethnic pride turns indignant when he describes the 1915 Armenian genocide at the hands

Although he's retold the story

Orchard Lake.

The elder Maniscalco is one of the most accomplished portrait painters in the country. His son, Robert, who recenly returned to the area, also has a deft touch with the portrait brush.

Best conceptual vibe: Innovative conceptual artist Jef

Fishbone's

invites you to

enjoy our special bland of nuthentle

New Orleans food, French Quarter

atmosphere

and live Jazz... Now a Sunday

tradition in

Metro Detroit.

Bourgenu of Rochester, and other local artists who've trans-formed the old buildings near downtown Pontiac into studios. Pontine may not be Soho, but so whnt? The fledgling scene is the best attement that artists not only find creative solutions

not only find creative solutions but are good for the economy.

Best sidekicks: Andi Wolfe and Sylvia Gotlib, both of West Bloomfield, co-chairs of the annual Jewish Book Fair.

Wolfe and Gotlib personified the art of having a "good time" while working. Together they orchestrated a book fair featuring thousands of new titles.

Art for a cause

Best exhibits for a cause: "Survivors In Search of a Voice: The Art of Courage, a multimedia monument to women with breast cancer at Somerset Col-

lection.
"Peace Through Humor:
Visions of Peace from the Hands
of Children" at the Janice
Charach Epstein Museum



Annie Lee Open Sunday

1

"Empty Bowls," a fund-raiser for Glenners Food Bunk, held at Pewabic Pottery.

"She Be Me" presented by

Canton Project Arts at Summit on the Park

on the Park.

Best ongoing commitment:
Very Special Arts of Michigan,
which continues to showcase
artists with disabilities.

Leadership

Lendership

Best vision for culture:
Cranbrook President Robert
Gavin, and acting director of
Cranbrook's Institute of Science
Elaine Gurian.

In a short period, both have
broadened the perception of the
Cranbrook Educational Community as a "destination point" to
appreciate culture, rather than
an exclusive enclave.

Bost developer: Chuck
Forbes of Troy, who moved and
renovated The Gem Theatre in
downtown Detroit, rather than
have the historic building
destroyed.

destroyed. Best vision for theater: Eve-

lyn Orbach, artistic director of the Jewish Ensemble Theatre.

The multi-talented Orbach continues to promote theater as a venue to entertain, educate and challenge audiences about contemporary issues.

Most enthusiastic new arts leader: Louis Spisto, DSO executive director, who took charge in January, has shown a relentless enthusiasm.

Ponderables

Bost disappearing act: The Gateway sculpture project in downtown Birmingham. The proposed public sculpture by renown artist Alice Aycock

the proposation of the proposation of the proposation of the funded and creeted.

When will supporters and opponents find common ground, and realize that, collectively, public sculptures should be as

and realize that, collectively, public sculptures should be as varied as the populace?

Best abdication of common sense: The Birmingham City Commission's attempt to hold up a permit for Common Ground's

annual art fair in Shain Park

annual art fair in Shain Fair.
The commission figured the
nonprofit social service agency
should share its revenue with
other local monprofits or else.
Thankfully—and wisely—the
commission relented, and this

past September's event was a well-attended success.

well-attended success.

Best bill yet to become law:
The proposed tri-county arts
funding initiative that would
earmark a property tax of .5 mill
to go to fund operating budgets
for cultural institutions and arts

Best gossip: A metro area developer is planning to reno-vate several buildings in down-town Detroit in hopes of opening

a contemporary arts museum.

Best hope: Arts education Best hope: Arts education programs will become central to teaching curriculums. And cele-brating the arts will be consid-ered as a positive way to pro-mote self-expression and social



