

## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

## Tango tantalizes audiences with its fiery passion

Tango may have originated in the brothels of Buenos Aires, but for Amy Calio, knowing the dance's history doesn't dampen her love for it. Just try to stop her from telling you about the sensuality and passion expressed in the dance of her homeland — Argentina.

Calio spent the last nine years promoting the dance by founding the Latin and Argentine Tango Club of Michigan with her husband, Ray Hogan. Now she's bringing tango and the folk dances of Argentina to the metro Detroit area with a series of concerts featuring Ballet Los Pampas with special guests Hugo Daniel Gonzalez and Silvia Cespedes, and Pampa Cortez and Ana Valeria Friday-Sunday, April 28-30. Ballet Los Pampas combines traditional and contemporary dance forms which draw on Latin American cultures from the Andes Mountains, Argentine plains and city life of Buenos Aires.

"Argentinean tango was born in Buenos Aires," said Calio. "It was so sensual it was done by men. Women weren't allowed to dance it until later. The French took it and thought it was too sexy so they did a far-away tango where the partners held each other at a distance. Then it came to the U.S. Now there are three types of tango — Argentine, American and International. The Argentinean is freer, less structured than the American and International. In Argentina in the evening, people go to a milonga where they dance to six o'clock in the morning. It doesn't matter who you dance with — your grandfather or a friend. You're not in love with the person but in love with the dance."

Calio, as a young girl, began dancing the tango on top of the feet of her father. She planned to become a professional dancer, but a tragic car accident left her paralyzed. Although the doctors said she would never walk again, Calio was determined to prove them wrong. She did seven years later. Nothing could stop Calio from getting back on her feet to dance her beloved tango.

"It's something I carry in my heart since a little girl," said Calio. "Because I was paralyzed for so long I couldn't be a professional dancer so I started the club and people were interested. I brought people from Argentina to teach and give demonstrations."

Jose Vazquez-Garcia of Canton is just learning the dance through the club and is looking forward to seeing Gonzalez, Cespedes and Ballet Los Pampas.

"The Argentinean tango is the best way to dance," said Vazquez-Garcia. "You can get as close as you can to a woman. The embraces are different between International and Argentinean tango. Argentinean they dance very close together."

Gonzalez and Cespedes remained silent as Calio told of her love for the dance during a recent interview.

Please see **EXHIBITIONS, C2**

Tango and Folklore Argentineo

What: Dance concerts featuring Ballet Los Pampas with special guests Hugo Daniel Gonzalez and Silvia Cespedes, and Pampa Cortez and Ana Valeria. For tickets, call (313) 561-3236 or (313) 565-3329

8 p.m. Friday, April 28, in Pense Auditorium, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti (\$40, \$25 student)

6 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at Royal Oak Music Theater \$40, \$50 VIP tickets)

3 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at the Capitol Theatre and Arts Centre, Windsor (\$40 U.S., \$50 Canadian, \$70 VIP ticket includes afterglow)

## Festival of the Arts

What: Farmington community arts organizations present exhibits, concerts, theater, dance, poetry readings, and hands-on activities. Events are free except for gala, Farmington Community Chorus concert and Farmington Players production of *Kiss Me Kate*. When: Sunday-Sunday, April 30 to May 7; hours 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday-Friday, April 30-May 5, until 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, May 6-7. Gate Preview Dinner Party 6-9 p.m. Saturday, April 29, tickets \$20, \$35 couple, call (248) 473-1818. Where: William M. Costick Activities Center, 29600 Eleven Mile (gate fees), Farmington Hills



FIRST PLACE

Top Award: Elizabeth Sylvester of Beverly Hills won first prize for her oil *Life Supports* at left. Below, Alice Nichols' watercolor, titled *Rest Time*, came in second place. (Lower left) Nancy Hurd, a Livonia artist, took third place for this portrait of a Girl with Shawl.

# MEDLEY OF MEDIA

FARMINGTON FESTIVAL UNITES ARTS IN FREE-FOR-ALL

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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The Farmington area is a hotbed for the arts and proud of it. Lily Dudgeon thinks that a good thing for the Farmington Artists Club, whose spring exhibit is one of the cornerstones of the Farmington Festival of the Arts Sunday-Sunday, April 30 to May 7.

The festival is sponsored by the Farmington Community Arts Council with support from the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. The fifth annual festival features activities ranging from exhibits to concerts, theater, dance, and poetry readings. Since most events are free, Dudgeon expects the exhibit to draw a large audience. The only exceptions are the Saturday, April 29,

Starry Night gala, Farmington Community Chorus concert and Farmington Players production of *Kiss Me Kate*.

Mary Brecht Stephenson, an artist and former curator at the Detroit Institute of Arts, selected 84 pieces for the exhibit from 154 entries. Mediums ranging from oil paintings to pastel, wood blocks and monotypes will be on display as well as the winner by Elizabeth Sylvester of Beverly Hills. Unframed art offers festival visitors the opportunity to buy at reduced prices.

"It's nice because people come and pass through our area and they might buy a piece," said Dudgeon, president of the 145-member club. "It's important to our members to show their work but also to promote the public's interest in art. The Farmington Community Arts Council provides us with funding for prizes, and a place for our own show."

Nancy Coumoudouros, coordinator of the Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division, helps produce the extravaganza of the arts. Several of the more than 20 organizations belonging to the arts council are participating.

"The idea is to showcase all the groups from the Embroiders Guild to the Community Band. Members of the Ridgewriters will read their poetry," said Coumoudouros. "The

Farmington area is very rich in the arts. The festival combines the best of an art fair and a music festival and also includes literature, dance and all the other arts."

The preview party Saturday, April 29, kicks off the festival, which officially opens with the Farmington Area Arts Commission's annual awards ceremony 2 p.m.

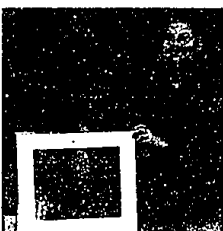
Sunday, April 30. Marjorie Hogan Chellatop will be this year's artist-in-residence. The Farmington Community Chorus will receive the Distinguished Service to the Arts-Group award.

Silent and live auctions will feature works by former artist-in-residence Edee Joppich, John Glick, Kegham Taxian, Alice Nichols and Howard Weingarten. "The gala is the first chance for anyone to walk through the exhibit and purchase art," said Coumoudouros. "It's black-tie optional with a full gourmet dinner and music by the Matt Michaels Trio. It's just a fun evening, and the proceeds go to support the festival."

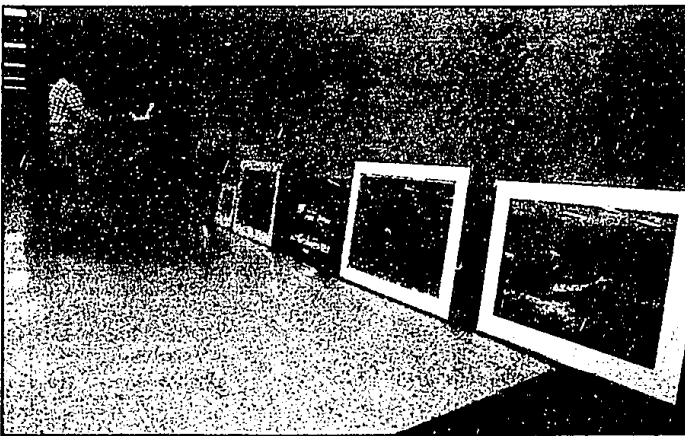
## Festival history

Paul Barber came up with the idea for the festival six or seven years ago as a way to unify arts organizations

Please see **FESTIVAL, C3**



SECOND PLACE



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BODOLSKI

Arts festival: Members of the Farmington Artists Club prepare for their spring show.



Spring concert: Livonia Civic Chorus director Jim Whitten and his wife, Terese, rehearse a duet.

## Livonia chorus marks 35 years of joyful singing

BY BETTIE CANNON  
SPECIAL WRITER

What Livonia organization has its ranks a chiropractor, a couple of dentists, comedian/writer, housewives, mothers, businessmen and women, doctors, retirees, a few twenty-somethings, and even a Gen-Xer or two?

The Livonia Civic Chorus, and its members do have something in common — they love to sing. The chorus, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, will mark the event 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 28-29, with a Spring Show in the auditorium at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$3, \$4 seniors/students. Call (734) 466-2410.

The chorus was formed in 1965 when a few neighbors from Livonia's Kimberly Oaks subdivision, who were also members of a local church choir, gathered in somebody's basement or garage to sing at block parties, picnics and barbecues in the summer.

Kim Alderman of Westland remembers when her father was a member, and what a close-knit group it was.

"The men began by going Christmas caroling in the area, stopping at each other's homes for a drink, socializing and singing late into the evening," she said. "Not to be outdone, the women planned golf outings and picnics. They really had fun together."

Then someone got the idea to ask for financial support. The city of Livonia, which continues to support the organization, agreed to provide a small grant

Please see **CHORUS, C2**

## BOOKS

### Book signings

■ The Kingsley House, at Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh Road, south of Eight Mile Road, Livonia will be open for tours 2-7 p.m. Sunday, April 30, and Arliss Ryan will be present to sign books and answer questions. Her book will be available for purchase. At 4 p.m. Ryan will give a presentation about the process of researching a historical novel in the Meeting House. Her presentation will include slides of historic documents and photographs. Ryan's mother, Laura, will also be present. Call (248) 477-7375 for more information.

■ Borders Books in the Arborland Mall, 3527 Westline, Ann Arbor — 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 2.

■ Borders Books, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills — 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 3.

## 'Kingsley House' author builds on family history

BY KEELEY WYDONIK  
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Getting your first novel published is difficult, and Arliss Ryan has the rejection slips to prove it.

But like her Livonia ancestors — Nathan and Mary Kingsley who persevered in hard times — she kept writing, believing that one day she would succeed.

Ryan will discuss *The Kingsley House* (St. Martin's Press, April 2006, \$25.95), a historical novel inspired by her relatives, on Sunday, April 30, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

The real Kingsley House, built in 1843 by Ryan's great-great-grandfather Nathan Kingsley, has been preserved at Greenmead since 1977. It was originally an 80-acre farm. The house was on Farmington Road north of Five Mile Road.

"My mother started documenting our family history," said Ryan. "She assembled an album of documents and pho-

Please see **AUTHOR, C3**