

ANTIQUES FESTIVAL

You can learn valuable lessons from the experts



Meet the host: The Antiques Festival will begin with a special appearance and lecture by HGTV celebrity Joe Ruggiero Wednesday, March 7. Below is a representative of the many types of sports memorabilia shown at the festival.

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Debra DiCicco of Detroit owned etchings from 1870 and 1898 that had been her grandmother's. The art pieces were in ornate, handcarved frames. DiCicco took them to be appraised at The Community House Antiques Festival last year, where she was told the frames were valuable but the art should be more extensively researched.

"I always liked them real well," DiCicco said. "I'm definitely going to keep the frames."
Fred O'Donnell of Birmingham brought in an item he found when he was a member of a special forces unit in World War II. "I had a cigarette case that belonged to Adolf Hitler," O'Donnell said. "I picked it up (at Hitler's retreat) in Berchtesgaden."

O'Donnell saw the case on Hitler's desk as the unit was securing the retreat. He was told the value of the piece was nearly impossible to determine. It was seen more as something for a museum than something an individual would buy.

You may have art works, empty frames, a souvenir or a whatchamacallit that you have wondered about. Whether a piece is the object of your affection, or affects your objection, you can have it appraised at The Community House Antiques Festival next week.

For the second consecutive year, an appraisal clinic will be part of the downtown Birmingham festival. Representatives of the Frank H. Boos Gallery of Bloomfield Hills and DuMouchelle Art Galleries of Detroit will again be appraising family heirlooms, garage sale finds, collectibles and other pieces.

The Community House Antiques Festival is now in its 11th year. It will begin with a special appearance and lecture by HGTV celebrity Joe Ruggiero Wednesday, March 7. The appraisal clinic will take place that day.



Handle with care: Porcelain from Shelley Barr Antiques of Bloomfield Hills will be among the hundreds of offerings at The Community House Antiques Festival, March 15 - 18 in Birmingham. More than 40 antiques dealers from across the country will be featured.

clinic only. Each visitor can bring up to two items, at a fee of \$15 for two pieces or \$10 for one piece, for appraisal by the Boos and DuMouchelle representatives.

Antiques show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 16-17, and noon to 5 p.m. March 18. Admission is \$10. Specialists in all areas of restoring will be available during the same hours as the show and preview party to repair prized items brought in to the event.

A grand raffle for a two-year lease on a Lincoln Navigator LS or Town Car will take place; raffle tickets are \$50, or three for \$100.

Proceeds benefit The Community House, a non-profit organization providing enrichment and social service programs open to everyone in the metropolitan area. For information, call (248) 644-5832.

Antiques festival offers lectures, preview party

The appraisal clinic, and Joe Ruggiero appearance, will take place Wednesday, March 7.

Other features of The Community House Antiques Festival are:

■ A gala preview party, 6-10 p.m. Thursday, March 15. The all-new theme for this year's preview is "Shakespeare's In The House," with entertainment by the Michigan Renaissance Festival. The party will also include a strolling supper, complimentary beer and wine and a silent auction.

Tickets are \$55 (friend) and \$100 (patron). Patrons may enter 6 p.m.; friends may enter 7 p.m.

■ A new program, "Take a Walk With a Designer," 8:30-10 a.m. Friday, March 16. Dan Clancy of the Perimeter Freiwald decorating studio will lead a walk through the show before public hours, explaining how to make different antique items work in the home.

Tickets are \$25 and are limited to 25 people.

■ A continental breakfast, and lecture on "Folk Art" by Nancy Druckman of Sotheby's, 10-11 a.m. Friday, March 16. The cost is \$15 and includes show admission.

(Antique buffs also can enjoy an Antique Show and Sale, scheduled for May 18-20, at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.)



Variety: Festival goers will have a full gamut of things including the Majolica animal pitchers, left, and Egyptian-inspired antiques, above, to choose from during the three-day event.



Overview: This shot of last year's festival shows some of the many booths and contents that those attending can expect to see this year. Besides the antiques, there will be an appraisal clinic, a gala preview and some lectures.



Remembering: These antique souvenir mugs and teapots that commemorate historical occasions around the world will be on view at The Community House Antiques Festival.

JOE GAGNON

What's new?

Manufacturers may be pursuing new innovations, but not all the news is good according to the Appliance Doctor.

See Home Work, Page 2

MARTY FIGLEY

Blooming flowers

Believe it or not, some of the earliest wildflowers will be blooming soon, just in time for the arrival of spring.

See Gardening, Page 3

HOMETOWN LIFE:

Korean War:

A woman reflects back on her childhood in a war-ravaged homeland. See HomeTown Life, page 5