

Partnership from page C1

tion is for the township to own and operate the theater. The city owns and operates the theater in Lakewood and is staffed by six city employees, but events are scheduled by a facility user group.

Partnership for the Arts would be responsible for raising money to build and operate the center. To date, \$4 1/2 million has come from the township, a state grant and local developers.

"We're not reaching into the resident's pocket," said Amman. "This thing has to pay for itself. The nonprofit entity for fund-raising lets artists be artists, not

spend their time fund-raising. "My other recommendation is to include humanities (history and literature) and education because it broadens the base of users. In the Colorado centers, local artisans have gift shops, and there are arts classes for all ages."

"We have this great vision," said Dave Norick, president of the Canton Township Foundation and a member of the arts center development committee. "I'm just thrilled. It's an exciting project. The Canton Community Foundation has provided funds for a feasibility study and will

have a role in the fund-raising phase."

Working together

Canton Township treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter just wants to make sure there's plenty of space for hanging art. Kirchgatter helped found the Canton Project Arts and its fine arts competition. She remembers the early days when the annual art exhibit was hung in the Administration Building.

"We talked about different sites along the way and ended up here for some good reasons including incorporating residen-

tial and commercial with the theater. Restaurants will be a nice asset. Along the way, we've had a lot of dedicated people working on the committee."

Amman is impressed with the commitment by members of the development, design and operation committees as well as the art groups.

"The arts center is important for Canton, the cultural enhancement of the community," said Amman. "We just scratched the surface of possibilities, like senior art programs. There's no reason Canton should be second-best to anyone in this country."

Jazz from page C1

negotiating to play with the Rochester Symphony next season after playing Europe this summer and Korea in fall.

"We tour year round," said Knific. "Depending on where we're playing we adapt the program to a certain extent to fit what's going on but always maintain the highest commitment to performing quality music and to communicating both musically and verbally on stage. The audience can sense the joy of music making we have. The state department hires us to play concerts because we're great ambassadors."

Claire Levine, who co-chairs the Vivace Series, thinks the quartet's popular because of the overall sound.

"We thought they were really exciting and innovative when we heard their CD," said Levine of

Knific loves teaching.

Bloomfield Hills. "We always look for a group that's interesting. They have exceptional backgrounds in jazz - both in academic, the teaching of jazz, and performing with great jazz groups like Dave Brubeck."

Knific toured with Brubeck several years ago after admiring his music from an early age. Knific began guitar studies at age 8 in Cleveland where he grew up.

"When I was 13, I saved up my money and bought two jazz records, one of them was by Dave Brubeck the other by guitarist Tal Farlow," said Knific who went on to teach and direct the jazz program at Interlochen

Arts Academy for five years before joining the faculty at Western Michigan University 13 years ago.

Knific is a professor of bass, classical and jazz, and director of jazz studies at Western. In addition to the jazz quartet, he performs at chamber music festivals throughout the state.

"Playing classical and jazz is just different," said Knific. "If it's a good group that's it for me. For a bass player there's more freedom in jazz. It allows me to have an independent solo voice but I love it all."

And there's no doubt Knific loves teaching. He's proud of the reputation the university's jazz program has built over the years.

"The WMU jazz program is nationally rated as one of the tops in the country," said Knific.

We've had more students win the Down Beat magazine competition for students since 1994. There were three winners alone this year."

Knific's commitment to teaching goes hand in hand with trying to do everything possible to keep the music alive.

"Young people are the future of music," said Knific. "It's important to have the alternatives presented to them. It's our culture we're celebrating and it's important we keep celebrating here. Jazz is tremendously popular in Europe. The demographics of an audience there looks more like what you'd see at a pop music concert here."

"I'm looking forward to coming to the Detroit area to play because Detroit has such a great jazz history."

Expressions from page C1

My favorite is Alley's shot of a barn owl, looking and waiting, in the window of an old weather-beaten barn. It's priced at a reasonable \$120.

If vintage scenes are more to your liking, don't miss Jeffrey St. John's photographs of a general store and an old beat-up truck plastered with bumper stickers. JoEllen Kalyon offers a different take with her vibrant abstracts. Dr. William Ross shows travel scenes as does Livonia photographer Lawrence Diggs, whose penguins play near Capetown, South Africa. Diggs' architectural, nature and historical landscapes feature places ranging from Germany to Michigan's Upper Tahquamenon Falls. If you love horses, don't miss the farm on U.S. 23 near Marshallville or a line-up of equines awaiting riders in Tennessee. Another sure-to-be favorite is the red-white-and-blue theme of the American Coney Island in Detroit.

Along with local photographers, Quicksilver owner Jack Kenny is showing Cuban photographs by Roberto Salas. Kenny curated an exhibit of Cuban art continuing through June at May at Fourth Avenue Gallery in Ann Arbor. Kenny travels to Havana four times a year to photograph the people for a book he's working on. He also brings back large-scale black-and-white images by Cuban photographers he represents. If you miss the show at Fourth Avenue Gallery and Quicksilver, you can still find Kenny's Cuban images at www.Cuba-photo.com

Springtime blooms abound in the Visual Arts Association of

Livonia exhibit at Livonia City Hall.

Obviously judge Alice Nichols, a Farmington artist, loves flowers as much as the artists. She chose Isabelle Renaud's sunflowers as Best of Show. Second place went to Billie Thompson for her watercolor of "Evening Iris." The Livonia Arts Commission Award went to Helena Lewicki for "A Rose is a Rose."

While many of the works in the show resulted from classes taken at VAAL, Dunne's was the exception in more ways than one. "Western Dreamer," Dunne's first-place winner, was created during independent studies at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center and features a female figure. Every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon artists chip in \$8 apiece to hire a model for a life-drawing session.

"It's becoming embarrassing. Every year I win," said Dunne. "There are a lot of nice pieces in the show."

Dunne shouldn't be so modest. She makes a habit of stealing the spotlight with her penative portraits. She took second in Our Town at The Community House in Birmingham last fall and won the popular vote at the recent Farmington Artists Club exhibit. One of her works also won first place in a statewide exhibition by artists of Latin descent. The exhibition is now on display in Saginaw. But see for yourself. The Visual Arts Association of Livonia exhibit continues to May 30.

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer Newspapers, 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, or fax them to (734) 591-7279.

CONCERT TODAY

The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra will present a Cabaret Concert, 3 p.m. Sunday, May 20 at Thurston High School, Red-

ford. There is no admission charge. For more information, call (313) 638-1652.

The program includes selections from South Pacific, a tango, Strauss waltzes, and marches. Featured soloists are Howard Merzamen (French horn) for the Andante movement from Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, and Harry Shahinian (viola) for Berlioz's Serenade

from Harold in Italy.

The season concludes 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 19 in Capitol Park, Redford.

OPENING RECEPTION TODAY

Meet Farmington Hills artist Marilyn Wolf at a reception to open an exhibit of her watercolor paintings at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 20 at the Framing Corner, 27825 West Seven Mile, west of Inkster, Livonia.

Wolf's exhibit will continue through June 30. For information, call (248) 777-1442.

Wolf began studying watercol-

or 15 years ago with teachers Edna Joppich, Donna Vogelheim, and Janis Madies. A former member of the Visual Arts Association of Livonia and the Farmington Artists Club, Wolf uses rich, vibrant colors, washes and transparencies in her landscapes.

Framing Corner hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, until 7 p.m. Thursday, and till 4 p.m. Saturday.

BOOK PRESENTATION

Author Laurie Thomas will

give an oral presentation of her book "Proud Voices: An Oral History of the Disability Rights Movement in Michigan (1960-1980)" 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, May 22 at the Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal on the University of Michigan campus, Ann Arbor.

Admission is free. For information, call (734) 971-0277. Sign language presenters will be provided upon request - TTY (734) 971-0310.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Booth space is still available for Canton Township's 10th annual Fine Art and Fine Craft Show at Liberty Fest in Heritage Park. The show runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 23 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 24.

Artists may exhibit their work under the big tent or bring their own. Approved categories of media include painting, prints, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, drawing, pastel, and selected fine crafts.

For information, call Sharon Dillenbeck at (734) 453-3710.

THREE CITIES SHOW

Members of Three Cities Art

Club will hold its spring show Friday-Sunday, May 25-27 at the Canton Public Library, 1209 South Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill Road. Call (734) 397-0999.

Jackie Daniel, Annalee Davis, Maybeline Greenberg, Erica Rich, Marilyn Meredith, Janith Rolston, Nancy Walls Smith, Marjorie Tibbetts, Catherine Vettese and Carrie Wheeler will exhibit oil and acrylic paintings and mixed media.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. The judge for the show is Marjorie Chellertop.

JAZZ BRUNCH

The Michigan Jazz Festival Committee showcases the talents of the Keller/Kocher Quartet at its annual brunch noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 17.

The Father's Day Brunch is a which takes place Sunday, July 15 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Tickets are \$25 (includes the gourmet brunch) and will not be sold at the door. For reservations, call (248) 474-2720 or (734) 459-2454.

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