

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) 691-7279.

CALL FOR ACTORS

ConLen Productions is holding auditions for a December production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* for boys ages 10-12, with unchanged voices, for the lead role of Amahl, and baritone for the role of King Melchior, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, June 23.

An accompanist is provided. Prepare a song that best demonstrates your vocal range. For information or to schedule an audition, call (248) 888-8628 or send e-mail to conlenprod@mediacore.net.

WRITING SEMINAR

Are you tired of writer's block? Need inspiration to pick up a pen and start writing, or some tips that will help you craft a story?

Cheryl Vatcher can help you during writing seminars 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 24 at Little Book Shoppe on the Park, 380 South Main, Plymouth (\$25), and 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 30 at the Noble Library, 39001 Plymouth Road, Livonia (\$38).

Coming up with ideas is easier than you think. If you've already formulated a story and want to work on it, Vatcher will help you do that. Vatcher, a Plymouth writer who earned a master's degree from University of Michigan's School of Education, has penned articles for several metro Detroit newspapers.

For more information or to register, call (734) 414-8680.

BUS TOUR OF HISTORIC DETROIT

In celebration of Detroit's 300th birthday, the Michigan Council for History Education is sponsoring a day-long bus tour of historic Detroit Saturday, June 24.

The bus departs from the Dearborn Schools Administration Building, 18700 Audette (use www.majquest.com for directions). Highlights include the site of Fort Pontchartrain, Ford Piquette Plant, St. Anne's Church, and the home of Albert Kahn along with many of his other famous structures. Tour narrator is Jim McConnell, a Livonia resident and volunteer for the Detroit Historical Society and co-editor with wife Annette of *The Days of Detroit* historical calendar.

Register by sending a check, made payable to Michigan Council for History Education, to Jane Moriarty, 2946 Quail Run, Troy, 46068.

The cost is \$35, \$20 for members. Lunch on your own.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

The Plymouth Community Arts Council kicks off its Music in the Park series with Marc Thomas & Max the Moose noon Wednesday, June 20 in Kellogg Park, Main Street, between Ann Arbor Trail, and Penniman, Plymouth.

The music continues June 27 with Chautauque Express, July 11 Matt Watroba and Robert Jones, July 19 Josh White, Jr., July 26 Liberty Brass Quintet (members of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra), Aug. 1 The Music Lady Beverly Meyer, Aug. 8 Laz of Genial, Aug. 15, Chautauque Express, and Aug. 15 Marc Thomas & Max the Moose.

For more information, call the arts council at (734) 416-4278.

MICHIGAN YOUTH THEATER

For youth interested in honing theater skills or finding out more about the stage, the Michigan Youth Theater workshop 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday-Friday, June 28-29 provides just the ticket. Students age 7-18 will be able to learn more about makeup, costumes, directing, improvisation, and more at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

The cost is \$25 per day or \$40 for both days. For registration information, call Farmington Hills Special Services Department at (248) 473-1800.

A highlight of the July 28 workshop is a stage-fighting session conducted by Ring of Steel which boasts 17 film credits including the movie "Hook." Students will not only watch realistic fighting techniques but learn them.

The Michigan Youth Theater is a touring company of actors, ages 7-17. Originally formed to present the works of Shakespeare, the group recently branched out to other repertoire. They can be seen yearly at the Michigan Renaissance festival.

ART CLASSES

Ivan Kende begins teaching figure drawing classes the week of June 18 at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 North Sheldon at Junction, Korte concentrates on all of the fundamental concepts of drawing from a live model. Students have a

choice of two different times 7-10 p.m. Monday or 2:30-5:30 p.m. Friday.

The cost for the eight week course is \$110, \$100 arts council members. Call (734) 416-4278.

The arts council is also offering a mandala class with Cathy Dyer 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 23. The cost is \$70, \$66 members and includes materials.

WATERCOLOR EXHIBITION

Nancy Walls Smith's one-woman show continues to Friday, July 5 at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction.

"Celebration of Color" features 35 watercolors. Walls Smith began painting five years ago after the death of her son Jason Alan Smith.

"I started painting just a few months after the death of my son," said Walls Smith, "and it has helped me in coping with this horrific loss in such a way that I find words inadequate to express my appreciation for this artistic gift I was, no doubt, born with."

For more information, call the arts council at (734) 416-4278.

ACTORS' WORKSHOP

Gordon Michaels, personal acting coach for Dylan McDermott on "The Practice," will give an actor's workshop 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Sunday, June 22-24 at Genetti's in Northville.

The cost is \$250. For information or to register, call (734) 261-5354 or (310) 727-2383.

Michaels works as many as 16 hours a day, Monday-Friday, on the set of "The Practice," seen 10 p.m. Sundays on WXYZ-TV Channel 7. A graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland, Michaels studied theater at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City.

He'll pass on tips on how to successfully audition for stage or screen no matter what your age. In addition to covering the foundations of acting, Michaels will offer advice on cold reading scripts and presenting the "right" head shot at an audition. Bottom line - if you want to become a successful actor, you have to pass the audition.

Michaels should know what it takes to land jobs in the entertainment industry. He spent seven years on the stages of New York before moving to LA where he acted in films such as "The Lost World," "Air Force One," and "Texas Rangers."



Watercolor exhibition: Nancy Walls Smith painted this watercolor in honor of her late son Jason. It is one of 35 works in her one-woman show at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

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Mindy McCready
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26 David Sanborn
28 Franklin The Turtle
30 Richard Jeni

JULY
1 Mary Chapin Carpenter
9 Carrot Top
10 Aaron Carter
11 Widespread Panic
19 Scholastic's The Magic School Bus - Live
23 Dan Fogelberg
24 Trisha Yearwood
25 Buena Vista Social Club

AUGUST
1 The Russian American Kids Circus
2 O-Town
15 Landis & Company's World of Magic
17 Trinity Irish
18 Dance Company
24 "Get Back!"
31 The Amazing Johnathan

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Discover the awesome power of the atom!

Let movie monsters such as Dracula and Frankenstein guide you through hands-on activities. Touch a glowing plasma sphere, pedal a bike to learn about energy conversion, see electrifying demonstrations of a Tesla coil.

Don't miss this hair-raising exhibit at Cranbrook Institute of Science through Sept. 31

THE ATOMS

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