

## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

### French jazz group needs host families

**B**ill Cameron is running out of time. As chairman of Friendship Exchange for the Livonia Rotary Club, Cameron must find enough families and singles to host 19 musicians and 10 family members of Ecole de Musique d'Improvisation Jazz from Elbeuf, France - Friday-Sunday, Aug. 10-12.

The French jazz group, which is part of the Blue Lake International Exchange Program, will perform at 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, at the Rotary Community Barbecue at Rotary Park on Six Mile Road in Livonia. The event will also feature performances by Ron Coden and a bluegrass group, and games for kids, 5 p.m. dog show, and antique car display.

"I like people, I like music," said Cameron, who has volunteered to coordinate the hosting of more than a half dozen international music groups over the last several years. "I like the organization of it," he said. "The hardest part is finding hosts for the musicians. This year we have 29, but we've hosted as many as 54 so I'm running out of friends."

Cameron, a resident of Livonia, is hosting a mother, father and son, but families and singles can open their home to as few as one of the musicians

who range in age from 16 to 63. All that's necessary is a welcoming attitude.

**Happy returns**  
Cameron feels he gets back as much as he gives. In 2000, he hosted the Sonus Brass Ensemble



**Big band sound:** The 19-piece Ecole de Musique d'Improvisation Jazz performs tunes ranging from Duke Ellington to Count Basie.

from Austria and the Big Band and Choir from Flensburg, Germany in 1999. They were in town for the Livonia Arts Commission-sponsored *Musée Under the Stars* program. He learned about differences and similarities in cultures, and expects to do the same with the French jazz group. They play a variety of big band tunes from Duke Ellington to Glenn Miller and Count Basie. The musicians, from the School of Improvisation Jazz in Elbeuf, recently released their first CD. Before playing in Livonia, they'll stop in Bay City for a performance.

### Reunion

Trisha Taylor originally heard them play last year when she toured Germany, Denmark and France as a saxophonist with the Blue Lake Fine Arts Jazz Ensemble's International Exchange Program. Taylor thought she would never see any of the musicians again, and is excited about them coming to the U.S. for a two-week tour. Taylor plans to host two of the musicians in her Livonia home. She thinks they'll especially like going out to dinner because that's what she wanted to do the most when she was in Europe. A graduate of Stevenson High School, where she played with the jazz band, Taylor spent three summers at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in northern Michigan, and one summer in the international touring program.

"They play old style jazz - big band and swing," said Taylor, who will begin studies in music education and French



**Self discovery:** This untitled work is one of the more abstract in Gordon Newton's head series. The 1990 mixed media drawing combines crayon, paint, varnish, and collage.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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**G**ordon Newton never limits himself to an idea or medium as a 30-year retrospective of his drawings shows. Some themes remain the same as Newton returns again and again to work through them with a fresh perspective. Manipulating materials such as crayon, tape and varnish, Newton, whose work is now on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts, carries on

the tradition of the Cass Corridor movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Newton was one of the leading figures in the movement, working in a studio in a former new car convention space shared by several artists on Cass Avenue. According to an essay by Marsha Miro in a catalog accompanying the Detroit Institute of Arts exhibition, Newton, born in Detroit in 1948, and his family, traveled from Plymouth to Ohio, to Kansas, and finally back to Michigan before settling in Port Huron.

After taking art classes with Vincent McPharlin at the Port Huron Community College boathouse on Lake Huron, Newton was inspired to move to Detroit and enroll at the Society of Arts and Crafts (formerly Center for Creative Studies, now College for Creative Studies). He didn't stay long, and eventually became a student at Wayne State University where he "rarely attend-

**Gordon Newton: Selections from the James F. Duffy, Jr. Gift**  
What's a 30-year retrospective of one of the leading artists in the Cass Corridor movement?  
When: Through Sunday, Nov. 4  
Viewing hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, until 5 p.m.  
Where: Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave.  
Admission: \$4, \$1 children, call (313) 833-7900

ed class."

### Restless spirit

That restless spirit and energy shows in his early black and white drawings in the first gallery. Along with the sensitive, almost animated shapes and forms, Newton creates highly-controlled graphite works in which he uses tape to achieve a hard edge.

Newton continuously experimented with materials and tools. For a 1972 landscape, he told curators Nancy Sojka and MaryAnn Wilkinson, he used his hands and feet.

Newton met on several occasions with the DIA curators to sort through 600 drawings and 40 sketchbooks donated to the museum by James F. Duffy, Jr. in 1999. A massive undertaking, Sojka and Wilkinson began selecting drawings for the 150-piece exhibition from the large body of work last fall. *Gordon Newton: Selections from the James F. Duffy, Jr. Gift* continues

## Gordon Newton Exhibit explores three decades of drawing



**Early work:** Gordon Newton unleashes his energy in this untitled crayon and wash drawing from 1971.

ues to Sunday, Nov. 4 at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"What you see is a tremendous imagination at work, terrific composition, creativity," said Sojka, associate curator of graphic arts. "For over 30 years he has never stopped thinking. It's ideas after ideas. There's a certain harshness and brutality and yet a beauty."

"Gordon is really an artist's artist. He works all the time. The exhibit is

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**Perpetual motion:** Gordon Newton covers the entire surface of the paper with paint, graphite, crayon, ballpoint pen, varnish, and collage in the 1977 "Roller Coaster III."

## PRESERVING TRADITION

### Locals keep spirit of ancient dance alive

BY LANA MINI  
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The Shawata tribe has a goal: To preserve and uphold the integrity of the world's oldest dance.

In America, it's known as belly dancing. In Arabic it's called raka sharki, meaning "Oriental dance." Others know it as Middle Eastern dance. Whichever the term, it's a dance that celebrates femininity.

Shawata, meaning "enchantment" or "bewitchment," is a performing belly dance tribe comprised of women from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties and Windsor.

With precision and controlled movement, Shawata will artfully perform ancient belly dance moves at local corporate and community events, charity fund-raisers, libraries, bookstores, hospitals, weddings, festivals and birthday, retirement and engagement parties.

If you want to learn Cedena Bourkara teaches Middle Eastern/belly dance for beginner adult women, and little girls, in separate classes.

Adult beginner classes are offered Wednesday nights at the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland. To enroll, call (734) 722-7620.

For more information about upcoming classes for children and adults this fall, call Cedena Bourkara, (734) 422-1240 or e-mail cedena@voyager.net.

Classes, workshops and shows are posted regularly on the Navel Academy Web site at [www.navelacademy.net](http://www.navelacademy.net).

land.

Outposts of The Navel Academy are located throughout Wayne and Oakland Counties with classes taught and dances choreographed by Bourkara.

Every form of dance is a discipline,

The tribe's leader, Cedena Bourkara of Westland, also teaches the uplifting dance to children at birthday parties, summer camps, Boy and Girl Scout events and libraries. Registration is open for fall classes for young girls.

Bourkara encourages women of all ages, skill levels, ethnic origin and size, into the tribe.

"The notion that a belly dancer should have an hour-glass figure is a myth," said Bourkara, a trained belly dancer who is founder, choreographer and instructor of Shawata and owner and instructor of the Navel Academy dance studio for belly dance in West-



**Cultural diversity:** Cedena Bourkara's students are women of all ages - from little girls who gain confidence through the creative dance, to more mature women who perform at local events. Bourkara teaches belly dance in Wayne County.

Bourkara explains. In Middle Eastern dance, emphasis is on artistry.

"With ballet, and other Western dance forms, emphasis is on the

room is on discipline," she said. "With Middle Eastern dance, emphasis is on

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