

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Gala evening to brighten spirits, fund orchestra

Like the rest of us Rose Kachnowski still feels down after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America even though she's coordinating a gala evening to benefit the Livonia Symphony Orchestra Friday, Feb. 8, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Kachnowski thinks that will change once she and the audience sit down to listen to the program of light classical and popular tunes.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

No, the disturbing images won't suddenly vanish from memory but once lost in the music they'll forget about the tragic events for awhile. Besides, guests will leave feeling good because they've helped the nonprofit orchestra continue to present its six-concert season.

Kachnowski believes "music should be a part of life." All six of her children learned to play an instrument. Son John still plays trombone with the LSO, daughter Leslie, violin.

"After Sept. 11 people are looking for music," said Kachnowski. "What better way to listen to lighthearted music than at a Mardi Gras celebration. We'll have two quartets — brass playing Mardi Gras and Dixieland music beforehand and a string quartet during dinner. As dinner winds down the orchestra will begin playing. The orchestra performance is open to everyone for a lower ticket price.

"We're taking a two-tier approach for tickets with a sit down dinner, concert and auction or they can just attend the concert and auction. We're trying to appeal to wider range of people, make it affordable for everyone."

A silent auction is sure to attract everyone from golfers to music lovers. Looking for a Valentine's Day gift for your special someone. How about a piece of jewelry, music box, golf clubs, a bottle of wine, or a string, woodwind or brass quartet to serenade your sweetheart?

Kachnowski's gone all out in planning the event. Survivor contestant Michael Skupin will sign autographs and talk during dinner. Vocalist Rebecca Walker joins the orchestra on stage afterwards. Walker performed with the LSO at its annual Music Under the Stars concert last summer.

"We're going to have decorations, bands on the tables and masks, balloons everywhere, lots of Dixieland music," said Kachnowski. "It will be fun, colorful and exciting from the time they walk in the door until the time they go home."

Please see CHOMIN, B2

Young vocalist: Rebekah Walker sings at a Livonia Symphony Orchestra benefit.



CONCERT

Paul Keller & his Swingin' Fellars

What: Perform a concert as part of the Windsor/Detroit Jazz Club series

When: 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10
Where: Monaghan Knights of Columbus Ball, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia
Tickets: \$12. Call (248) 476-2674

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
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Bill Knowles can't think of a better way to celebrate Mardi Gras than with Dixieland music. Since Knowles won't be able to attend this year's festivities in New Orleans, he's booked Paul Keller and his Swingin' Fellars to play 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall in Livonia.

One of five concerts in the Windsor/Detroit Jazz Club series, the program includes swing music and Dixieland for dancing. Knowles encourages revelers to wear costumes as their tickets will be discounted at the door.

"In New Orleans they'll be parading through the streets for Mardi Gras on Feb. 12," said Knowles, a Farmington resident. "We're asking them to dress as cakewalkers and bring their parasols. Cakewalking began in New Orleans. For the funerals in old New Orleans they played dirge like music. On the way back they played happy music and those ladies parading in the procession would be called cakewalkers. The family usually hired a band to play strutting music because they believed once you die you really start to live."

Paul Keller intends to do a lot of living before he dies. Keller brings 8-members of his Bird of Paradise Orchestra to the Mardi Gras Party/Concert Feb. 10 in Livonia. In the front line are Paul Finkbeiner on trumpet; Paul Klinger, coronet and soprano saxophone; Chuck Moss, trombone, and Cary Kocher, vibraphone. Chuck Shermaterra, piano and

Please see MOSS, B3



Hot time: Paul Keller brings his Swingin' Fellars to the Monaghan Hall for a Mardi Gras party.

BEHIND THE MASK



Artists put faces on homeless



BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Carolynne Miller's art reflects the belief that "we live in a throwaway society." That goes for people as well as material objects. So it's no wonder when the West Bloomfield resident heard about a mask auction to benefit COTS, a temporary shelter in Detroit, she volunteered her talent.

Miller photographs the homeless wherever she travels. She hopes to put a face on the men, women and children living on the street by creating three masks with found objects. All of her photo-based collage and assemblage deals with social issues. Her masks, along with 200 others designed by celebrities and Wayne and Oakland County artists, will go on the auction block at the MASKorAIDE gala Saturday, March 9, at the Detroit Yacht Club. Before then a portion of the works will travel to three locations for previews: The first stop is Feb. 1-9 at Somerset Collection South in Troy. A reception will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, Pointe Blane, a Lansing area group, is once again donating its time to perform. For reservations, call (248) 643-6360. For tickets to the March 9 gala, call (313) 576-0219.

"I'm trying to raise awareness," said Miller who holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Morgan State University in Baltimore and a master's in visual arts from Vermont College. "I'm drawn to social issues and making an impact in some way. We throw people away as readily as objects. I spend time talking to them, sit on the park benches with them. I want to give back to help people that have become part of my work."

"My art normally deals with found objects. For the three masks I'm using fabric scraps and



Helping hands: Gwen Dietrich (top left), William James, Ray Kaczmarek, Ron Sauger and Amy Darby created masks for an auction to benefit COTS.

MASKorAIDE for COTS

What: Gala benefit featuring mask auction, dinner and dancing. Proceeds help feed and house the homeless at COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter)

When: 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 9

Where: Detroit Yacht Club, 1 River Bank Road, Belle Isle

Tickets: \$125. Call (313) 576-0219

bright colors. When you look at it you come away with an understanding. It's not just something to decorate your walls."

Steve Hough and 17 of the employees at Exhibit Works used everything from wood to metal and paint in making masks for the auction. Creativity is key to their jobs at the Livonia company which designed and built displays for Ford, Lincoln, Mazda, Mitsubishi, and Porsche at the recent North American International Auto Show. This is the second year staff from the sales, engineering and design departments have participated.

"It's for a good cause," said Hough, director of design.

"People enjoyed the creative aspect of doing them. After last year everyone was excited."

Enthusiasm for the project seems to be contagious. Ed Golden encouraged all Ford Motor Co. designers to participate. Ford is presenting sponsor for the auction which also features masks by designers at General Motors and Daimler-Chrysler.

"MASKorAIDE is great for the community, COTS and designers," said Golden, executive director for North American design and a Farmington Hills resident. "It lets them get out of day to day work with automobiles and express their creativity."

Although Golden didn't design one of the more than 50 masks created by Ford employees, he does plan on attending the auction and purchasing at least one. Over the last few years, he bought 8 masks.

"It's a great cause," said Gold-



Please see MASK, B3

Mardi Gras party puts revelers in the mood

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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