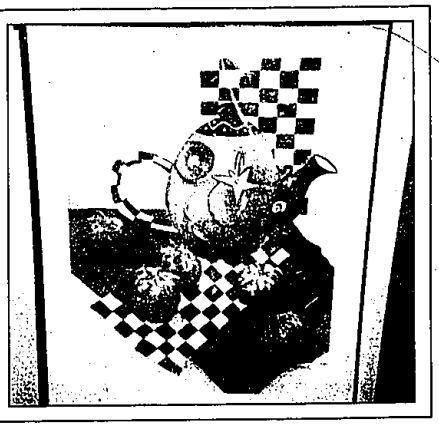
Award winning art

VAAL show: *The Visual Arts Association of Livonia presents its annual spring show through May 31, at Livonia City Hall, Five Mile and Farmington roads. Judge Christopher Melikian awarded several ribbons for the oil, watercolor and mixed media works, including an honorable mention for Rosemary Fendelet's watercolor painting of tomatoes (pictured). Viewing hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.*



Art center welcomes visitors with lectures, exhibits

Seems like there's always something going on at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. The month of May is no exception. Executive director Janet Torno is inviting anyone with an interest in art to join them for a lecture by ArtServe Michigan president Barbara Kratchman 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the art center, 1516 South Cranbrook Road, Birmingham. Kratchman's presentation follows the BBAC's annual meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Want to know more about the benefits of teaching children to draw? Kratchman will speak about developing human potential and the value of educating youth in the arts. According to a recent survey completed by ArtServe Michigan entitled *Making the Case: The Arts and Youth Development*, working in the arts develops unique and important mental skills. It stresses the necessity of providing access to the arts for young people allowing them to expand their creative and critical capacities, enhance their problem solving skills, increase cross-cultural understanding, build self esteem, and gain skills useful in today's workplace.

Hope Palmer takes over the podium the following day, Wednesday, May 15, at 7 p.m. The local art historian will present a lecture and slide presentation in conjunction with an exhibition by married couples. *My Better Half: Artist Partnerships & Creative Unions* features Marian Mudie and Jim Pujdowski, Redford; Jim Nawara and Lucille Proctor Nawara, Beverly Hills; Linda and Donald Mendelson, Southfield; Hope Palmer and Dirk Bakker, Huntington Woods; Janet Hamrick and Steve Magsig, Ferndale, and Diane and Edward Levine, Pat Soderberg and Bob Sestok, Sue Carman Vian and Rick Vian, Royal Oak. Curated by Stanley Rosenthal, the show focuses on the couple's similarities, differences, and the impact their work has on the art community. It opens Friday, May 10, and continues to June 7.

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But before you leave the art center take a look at Elaine Redmond's vibrant display of photography, *The Art of Flowers*. The positive and negative images capture the beauty of Redmond's garden over the span of a year. Some resulted from the Beverly Hills photographer enlarging negatives and printing them on brown paper, others with a new process on silk. The show continues to Friday, May 31.

Couples exhibit: *Jim Nawara's painting is part of a show by married couples at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. Nawara recently had a one man show in the Community Arts Gallery at Wayne State University where he teaches.*

Chomin *from page B1*

dent who's led the effort to raise more than $400,000 for fanclub grants over the years. "With all the cutbacks in the schools, kids have been denied an education in the arts. Art gives them other ways besides crime to express themselves. We provide grants for students with parents of low to high income. It's important especially in the inner city that everyone has this chance to be able to go to a museum or symphony.

"We want to help ignite the next Georgia O'Keeffe, to inspire some kid to draw pictures and know we were responsible for lighting the fuse. You never know when you cast bread on water and it comes back cake."

Dario Bergamo couldn't agree more about the importance of providing arts education for children. The Rochester resident is co-chairing the Treasures from the Cellar event which he hopes will raise $75,000.

"Growing up on the east side of Detroit, I was always a ball player," said Bergamo who was captain of the baseball team at Finney High School in the early 1970s. "Back then there was lots of emphasis on sport but I love going to theater and musicals. That came from growing up in an Italian house where there was always music.

"Now that I have kids I always take them to see *The Nutcracker*. My daughters dance and play piano. It makes you more outgoing to get up and play in front of someone. It sets you up for later in life whether it's business or whatever endeavor you undertake."

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

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69

DEUCES WILD (R)
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