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Farmington Founder's Festival:
Limited craft exhibitor booth space is available for the Farmington Area Founder's Festival, Thursday-Saturday, July 18-20, in downton Farmington, All types of crafts including painting, sculpture, potentially, cather, jewelry, taxilles, needlework, photography, glass and stained glass, leather, graphics and woodcarning will be represented. A limited number of exhibitors will be accepted in each category. Applications may be downloaded online at

www.foundersfestival.com (crafters) or call (248) 932-FEST

Haunting story grabs you like nightmares do

The Life Before Her Eyes, by Laura Kasischke (Harcourt Inc.,

DIVERSIONS

BY VICTORIA DIAZ SPECIAL WRITER

The Life Before Her Eyes is the kind of book that rivets you to its pages as you read, then haunts you niter you have closed its covers.

BOOK Chelsen author
BEAT Kasischke's
powerful prose
are perhaps the
main attraction.
(This is evident

main attraction. This is evident not just on each page, but in almost every paragraph or sentence.)

In addition, her ability to tell a briskly paced story, her talent for painting arresting characters, and her sensitive perceptions of the human condition all combine beautifully to make Kasischke's book a literary jewel. The story begins in a rather unlikely spot – the ladies' room of a Midwestern high school. Two best friends, Maureen and Dlana, are doing the things that best friends often do together; signling, gabbing, sharing a mirror.

Suddenly, they hear strange

ror.
Suddenly, they hear strange sounds outside in the hallway.
Horrified as they realize that a massacre is taking place in their own high school, the girls are in

each other's arms when a boy named Michael Patrick pushes open the door of the room and swaggers in, brandishing a gun.
Kasischke makes us experience that gun. We can see it, up close and personal. And before this seene is concluded, we know its sulfur-and-oil seent, too.
"Which one of you girls should kill?" the boy asks, pointing the gun at each by turns. "... I'm going to kill one of you... which one should it be?
Their responses not only tell us a good deal about who these best friends are, but also serve to set the main part of the story in motion.

best friends are, but also serve to set the main part of the story in motion.

Soon, we find ourselves in a small town not unlike Ann Arbor.

Diana is living in a storybook-pretty house on a street called Maiden Lane. Living with her are her loving husband, a college professor, and their small and lively daughter, Emma.

Diana is a fit, fine, 40-year-old "soccer mom." She is also an artist of sorts who teaches at a local community college. On the surface, her life seems to be just about as good as it gets.

But it isn't long before we are reminded that surfaces can be highly misleading. Underneath, something is very wrong and strange here. The perfection itself seems odd and wrong somehow. We can feel that in our bones. Diana seems to feel it in her bones, too. Only she's not altogether sure why. And neither are we — not in the begin-

ning, anyway.

Kasischko's format twists, moving us from the present day and then back again. And ye 20 years earlier to the present day and then back again. And because of her exquisitely careful attention to detail, each turn feels vaquely dreamlike and reflective, though utterly convincing. In fact, each seems to grab at us in the way that nightmores or visions reach out and grab.

Here are Blue Moon ice cream, school cafeterias smelling of pizza and steamed carrots, classrooms seented by "the humid, private alcoves of the human body," the water in the school drinking fountain "nauseatingh warm, like human fluids," houses trimmed in "gingerbread" and adorned with pretty wicker furniture, the skeleton in a biology classroom wearing a green bikini.

classroom wearing a green bikini.

Here is a nun, wearing a traditional black habit: 'Only her small pale hands and her powder white face could be glimpsed underneath it.. The illusion was of... bodileseness.'

Though this is a serious story about the nature of evil and death. The Life Before Her Eyes is ultimately, and in a very real sense, a celebration of life. It's a fine book to read during any season, but most especially the present one. present one.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia resi-dent and reviews books for the Observer & Eccentric Newspa-

Nagler exhibits his photos at Laurel Park Place

Laurel Park Place in Livonia will host an exhibit of Observer & Eccentric photo columnist Monte Nagler's art from May 28 to June 11.

An artist reception will be 6-9 p.m. Friday, May 31.

Monte Nagler began photographing seriously after studying with Ansel Adams.

"It was during that period of intensive work that I realized that making photographs is a way to experience heauty instead of just looking at it." Nagler says. He believes that photographers should communicate feelings that are inside them. Through their photographs, a photographer should be saying: This is what I saw and felt and I'd like to share that!

Nagler's photographs, which have won numerous awards, are found in many private and

public collections including the Detroit Institute of Art; the Center for Creative Photography in Tueson; The Brooklyn Museum; Nikon Int.; The Ford Motor Co.; General Electric Corp.; Baimler Chrysler Corp.; General Motors Corp.; BASF Corp.; General Motors Corp.; BASF Corp.; General Motors Corp.; BASF Corp.; Compuware and IBM. Galleries and agents throughout the country also represent his photography.
Nagler is a noted writer, lecturer and teacher of photography.
Nagler is a noted writer, lecturer and teacher of photography. Has conducted many classes and seminars throughout the states. Not only does he write a nationally syndicated photography column, but he is also the author of two highly successful photography books: How To Improve Your Photographic Vision and Statements Of Light. Frequently, he is called upon to judge contests and to speak on photography

topics on local radio and televi-

topics on local radio and television shows.

Nagler is the National Fine Arts Photography spokesperson for the Chevrolet Tahoe and is a recipient of the prestigious Artist In Residence Award from the Farmington Area Arts Commission. He is also a member of the esteemed Cameracraftsmen of America, one of 40 members worldwide.

In addition to the many awards and ancknowledgements he has received, the Stato of Michigan Senate and House have honored him with proclamations for his contributions to fine art photography.

Laurel Park Place is at Newburgh at 6 Mile (East of 1-278) in Livonia. Hours are 10 am. to 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nagler will be in attendance from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. doily.

CRAFT CALENDAR (3378). All questions can be e-mailed to Festival Craft Chair, Deb

Watson at: Info@foundersfestival.com. The

Send items for consideration in the Arts & Crafts Calendar to Susan Aris & Crafts Calendar to Susa Steinmueller, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birminghom MI 48009, 70 fax (734) 851-7279 or (248) 644-1314. E-mail sstein-mueller@ex. homecomm.nci. Please copy and paste info into an e-mail or send as a text file.

CRAFTERS/ARTISTS SOUGHT Fine Art at Meadow Brook; Fine Art at Meadow Brook is currently accepting applications for their June 22-23 Art Festival, For appli-June 22-23 Art Festival, For appli-cations, contact: Fine Art at Meadow Brook, Ponna Beaublen, Festival Director, P.O. Box 70656 Rochester Hills, 48307. (Phone) (248)689-8734; (Fax) (248)689-8720. fineanfestival@aol.com 8720. fineartestival@aol.com (email) There is a \$15 processing fee; a \$225 booth fee. 150 artists. The art festival is sponsored by The Palaca Sports & Entertainment and Creative Arts Council

Crafters wanted for annual Christmas Bazaar at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Redford, Oct. 26, table rental \$25. call Nancy call (313) 937-1741 and (313) 533-555

coll (313) 937-1/41 pnd (313) 533-525. Fall show: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Dearborn hes tables available for its 21st annu-al craft show on Saturday, Oct. 26. Eight foot tables are 255. Coll (313) 562-9246 for Information. (313) 562-9246 for Information. Holiday Magic Craft Show Applications are being accepted for the show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2 at Leonard. Elementary School, 4401 Tallman, Troy. Admission is \$2. For Infor-mation and applications, write to

deadline for applications is Tuesday, April 30. More than 150 exhibitors will be on display for the Festival which attracted over 100,000 visitors .
Lapeer Days: Crafters are urged to apply to participate in the Lapeer Days Arts & Crafts juried show, Friday-Sunday, Aug. 16-18. The event draws over 150,000 people annually, Crafter space is limited, For Information, call Sandy at the Chamber of Commerce office, (810) 684-6841.

Delta Noppa Gamma Show: Crafters need for 16th annual juried show at West Middle School in Plymouth 9 a.m., to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. Call Terri (734) 416-6165.

St. Robert Bellammine Church: 100,000 visitors .

craftshow@prodigy.net or call Marian, (248) 680-1533. Schoolcraft College: Crafters of every lik are encouraged to apply for a spot in the 2002 Fall Craft Show at Schoolcraft College Saturday Sunday, Nov. 9-10. With 150 crafters, this show is one of the premier venues in the area and attracts. 150 crafters, this show is one of the premier venues in the area and attracts crowds of more than 2,000 people. The show its Juried, and a limited number of exhibitors are accepted in each categor to maintain a balanced representation in each craft. Crafters are asked to submit a photograph of their work with their application if they have not been accepted for a previous show. The show features all types of handmade crafts including pallning, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, textiles, needlework, photography, glass, leather and woodcarving. For an application, call Marjorio Lymch at (734) 462-4400. Ext. 5008. Schoolcraft College is at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile roads west of 1.275. Holiday showcase: Crafters sought for show at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Rochester. Call Harriet (248) 652-0676 to reserve a table for the Nov. 15-16 show and sale. Christmas Craft Show St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Road in Canton is accepting applications for its annual Christmas show 9

a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Call Donna Whittaker. (734) 981-0723 If you're interested in partic