

Hills resident pursues a career in the world of artistry

Continued from Page 1

her works contain a message. "I have a feeling that some of the message is portrayed in the title of the work. 'The Happy Dancer,' 'Tranquility,' 'The Moment,' she said. "From then on, I think the work has to speak for itself. The work it conveys a lot just by (one) looking."

Her sculptures, which seem to have a life of their own, shine despite the fact that Reiner seldom uses patinas on her works.

"I don't like anymore the highly polished stones," she said. "I think that nature intended the stone to

shine on its own, and it does. There is nothing that can replace nature."

Reiner says she does not know where she gets her ideas from. But in handling the stone she is going to work with, the idea will emerge, she said.

"The stone has the form in it already," she said. "When I pick up a stone, I first play with it. Then all of a sudden, I see the form and I go for the form. I chisel towards creating that form out of the rock. You take away the extra."

POINTING OUT a work of a girl holding herself as she braces against

the wind, yet with determination in the arch of her neck and planning of her legs, she explains, "I visualized it, and I started to work on it and it became strong."

"It's a lot of fun, and a lot of challenge," she said, of sculpting.

It pleases Reiner when someone touches one of her art pieces. One is supposed to touch a sculpture, she said, in order to appreciate the work better. Besides, she adds, one's hands leave behind a special patina that enhance the work.

Reiner uses family members, and friends as models. "Sometimes I just call some of my neighbors. I say,

"Come on over, I need a body."

REINER'S ART sometimes reflects her feelings for her native Hungary, which she left in 1946, shortly after marrying her husband, Robert, who is manager of Riker Laboratory in Farmington.

The couple escaped in 1946, when she was 16, in 19, in order that he not be drafted into the army of the newly Communist country.

In their first escape attempt, "somebody squealed on us," she said, and they were put in jail. The following day, Russian soldiers took them and about 40 others over the border to Austria for a half kilo of gold.

However, the soldiers drove the

truck into a ditch, unloaded the passengers, and took off with the truck, she said, leaving them still in the Russian zone. A farmer who took pity on them hid them in petroleum barrels, and took them to a refugee camp in the American zone in Vienna.

"We were accepted by the wonderful Americans, God bless them," says Reiner.

The two subsequently studied at the University of Munich in Germany, where she earned a degree in fashion design and sculpture, her husband, in business.

IN 1949, they emigrated to the United States, coming to the Detroit area.

"We came here with the hopes that we are going to be free, and live in peace. And it's true, we found it. I found more than I expected," said Reiner, who wipes a tear from her eye when talking about her love for her adopted country.

She has returned to Hungary several times since, in so doing, helping her parents and other relatives and friends to escape.

"When I see it, my heart bleeds for the people who stayed there," she said. "The people are so poor. The average salary is \$90 a month. To buy a pair of shoes, you give up eating. — I'm talking about skilled workers and professionals."

Her art would probably have been different if she stayed, she said, because more than likely, she would not have been able to make a living at it, unless she worked for the government.

"Art is very big in Budapest, very

accepted. But you cannot sell directly to a private person. Number one, no one has the money to buy it. Number two, the government has to give it — they take 50 percent, and give you the rest, if you are lucky."

In the United States, Reiner first was a hand-knit fashion designer for a manufacturer, designing, and knitting garments, and printing instructions.

She then started her own firm which made and sold hand-knit garments, C.R. Originals in Detroit, which she ran for 19 years, until 1969, while raising a family.

Daniel, 34, is now president of his own company in Camarillo, Calif. Peggy Ann, 31, who resides in West Bloomfield, has twin daughters, Natalie, and Rachel, 9.

"When our kids were a little bit older, I started sculpting again, and now I do it full time," she said.

She went to Italy for summers for three years in a row to study with a renowned European sculptor. She also has taught blind children in Taylor to sculpt and has tutored sculpting and painting in Farmington.

Reiner occasionally regrets that as a professional, she must part with her sculptures.

"I always feel that every single piece I make is part of me — it's like a child," she said. "I'm not thrilled to sell them — but unless people are willing to buy your work, you are not professional. So I have to let go."

But as she looks lovingly at a chunk of untouched white stone on the table in her studio, she is already planning to bring a new work to life.

Hills' sign ordinance draws challenge

Continued from Page 1

denies equal protection, because it allows commercial speech in the form of real estate signs.

"If it wouldn't be enforced that way, there wouldn't be a problem," he added.

Political signs can be placed in house windows and on walls, but not on lawns as the ordinance states, according to Mayor Joe Alkateb.

The issue brought Hills resident and Southfield attorney David

Haron, before the city council July 28, protesting because he was not allowed to place a pre-primary political sign for a judicial candidate on his front lawn. A city official requested he take the sign down.

Haron then contacted the ACLU about the matter, according to Lockman.

City council members told Haron they would review the current sign ordinance sometime in August. The matter is on the council agenda for its Aug. 25 meeting, according to Alkateb and City Manager William Costick.

ALTHOUGH LOCKMAN said he

has had no official contact with the city, he has placed calls to City Attorney Paul Bibbeau, who had not yet received the ordinance.

"I don't like to react with threats," Bibbeau told the Observer. "The ordinance has been on the books for many, many, many years. All I can tell you is that (the council) decided to review it (the ordinance). I assume it will be very soon."

He said the city has not requested him to draft a revised ordinance yet. Hills council watcher and Farmington Democratic Club activist Aldo Vagnozzi has spoken before both the council and planning commission on the political sign issue, according to city records. Vagnozzi "favors the kind of limited ordinance the city of Farmington has."

Farmington's ordinance allows political signs on lawns "within any zone district" but must be removed within 14 days of election day. Farmington's ordinance also restricts sign types, sizes and lighting guidelines.

Penalties in the ordinance include a service charge of \$10 to the owner of property from which a political

sign is removed by the city, and the overall \$100 or 30 days in jail for violation of any ordinance section.

Vagnozzi voiced concern that the Hills ordinance "will be thrown out and the city . . . left with no control over signs."

THIS IS not the first time the political sign ordinance issue has been debated in Farmington Hills. Discussions have ensued "several times" during the past 14 years, following the 1972 amendment of the city's sign ordinance, according to city officials.

According to minutes from several planning commission and city council meetings, and a report from the city, attorneys have said the "existing ordinance is defensible and could be upheld in court."

The issue was discussed by city council members, officials and planning commissioners in 1978 and 1979, resulting in the draft of a proposed ordinance amendment, which was not recommended by the planning commission.

It was ultimately defeated by the city council on a 4-3 split vote, with current council members Alkateb, Janette Dolan and JoAnn Soronen voting in opposition to the measure. The proposed amendment would

have limited political signs to nine square feet and would have allowed only one sign per lot. Time limitations would also be placed in the proposed amendment.

Signs could have been posted 21 days prior to an election but could only remain standing until the second day following an election. Signs would not have been allowed on public rights-of-way, public property or on any utility poles. The fine for ordinance violation was proposed to be \$100 per day.

Alkateb said he would support some type of ordinance change today. "I personally feel we should do something," he said, calling for an ordinance with restrictions and "stiff penalties."

"The time has come to allow political signs, because people have become more apathetic," he added. "People need to become more involved."

He called the current voter apathy "very distressing. Anything we can do to enhance the involvement would be a necessity."

Besides the city of Farmington, the cities of Novi and Livonia also permit conditional placement of political signs, according to a city report. West Bloomfield Township does not allow political signs.

License is in limbo

Continued from Page 1

Farmington city officials were told a Liquor Control Commission decision is expected sometime in the next eight days, but that could not be confirmed.

Deadman believes decisions made during a two-year court action speak for themselves.

"The courts have already ruled on this," Deadman said. "I expect them to confirm the ruling and finalize the action."

IN MARCH 1984, the Farmington City Council objected to renewal of

the bar's license at the end of the licensing year April 30, under Section 17 of the Liquor Control Act. Their action followed lengthy public hearings.

Bottleleggers owner Joe Aselone opened his facility in 1981 and received liquor license renewals annually, without city objection, until 1984.

Homeowner complaints, public safety statistics showing 100 police-related incidents in one year, and an increase in drunk driving incidents in 1983 spurred the city to take action, officials said.

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Interns zero in on news

Continued from Page 3

projects was including local volunteers, drawn from the ranks of those who have completed production courses (see related story) co-sponsored by SWOCC and MetroVision.

THE INTERNSHIP began in May and ends Aug. 14. "Outlook," however, will continue to air. Community volunteers who worked hand-in-hand with the interns during their three-month assignment will continue the work.

Vicchy said she and the other interns "learned more than we had anticipated." The grand finale, she said, was a final hourlong program shown the first week of this month.

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