

Creative Living

Corinne Abalt editor/644-1100

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Just before the warehouse on Second closed for the last time, Marguerite Hague was out in front talking to customers, setting prices and stirring up enthusiasm for the Campus Treasure Shop.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Treasure sources dry up

By Corinne Abalt
staff writer

That whole unorganized community of scroungers who thrive in dust-filled air, dark lofts and dank cellars, are suffering withdrawal symptoms.

Marguerite Hague of Birmingham had run two Wayne State University projects, the Campus Treasure Shop, on Cass and the Shop's warehouse on Second where the architectural pieces she salvaged were kept, spent her final official day at the warehouse Saturday.

To scroungers, the warehouse was the mine where they occasionally uncovered buried treasures among the hundreds of doors lined up along the walls, in the bins of broken molding, in corners filled with parts of fireplaces, bannisters and newel posts and in the boxes of hardware, casters, knobs, tiles and hunks of marble.

The scroungers experienced the thrill of discovering a choice piece of hand-carved molding, an oak door with beveled glass panes or a black walnut railing in a heap of rubble. Hague, who has devoted more than three decades to making

the area around the University beautiful, said, "It was my decision to close the warehouse."

WHEN ARCHITECTURAL artifact picking flourished, she and a crew of helpers could get permission to go into buildings about to be wrecked and salvage marketable pieces to sell at the warehouse.

But pickings have grown thinner, permission to salvage is harder to get and even the brave don't want to go into abandoned houses. The other problem is financial. When she moved from her former warehouse to the tune of \$50,000 in 1980 to the one she just closed on Second, she made an agreement with the building owner, Roxie Yaloo of Southfield.

He would give her the space rent-free and she would fix it up and make the outside look attractive. "He has really been a gentleman, but he has other plans for the building now, I agreed to help with repainting the building, but I can't continue," she said. So far, she's put \$7,700 of her own money into the project.

From the beginning, proceeds from the Campus Treasure Shop and the warehouse were earmarked for Wayne State beautification projects.

That has amounted to \$60,000. Plus, the presence of these two projects has been significant. "We've tried to be involved in every community thing — whenever anything special is going on we're there. We donate to people and organizations, we've carried clothing to many, many places. We're really a community agency. It isn't the money, it's the concept of a presence and a concept of a people-to-people thing."

HAGUE ISN'T SHEDDING tears over the demise of the warehouse. She's already turned her attention to improving the Campus Treasure Shop, 5704 Cass, Detroit. She'll probably open it a second day a week. Currently it's open 2:30 p.m. to midnight on Wednesdays.

But old habits are hard to break. She flashed a quick smile and said, "I still keep files on things people are looking for. I still have contacts. Already, I have a whole house we're getting. Where I'm gonna put it, I have no idea."

She is a careful record keeper. Her children gave her a word processor, which she also uses to record her memories. "I'm writing three books at one time," she said. She wants to share her experiences and write about the many people who were and are so important to her there.

Local novelist takes success in his stride

By Corinne Abalt
staff writer

Tom Sullivan, 48, of Lathrup Village is currently enjoying what all writers dream of — success.

He has two hot novels in the bookstores: "The Phases of Harry Moon," which came out last year, and this year's "Born Burning," both published by E.P. Dutton.

He will be the leading figure in "An Evening with Novelist Tom Sullivan" at 8 p.m. Monday at Cranbrook House, 380 Lane Pine, Bloomfield Hills, sponsored by the Cranbrook Writers Guild. Fee for non-members is \$5.

Sullivan came on the national scene like a thunderbolt. But he had previously published what he calls a "paperback potboiler" and sold a lot of short stories.

WHILE "Harry Moon" was nominated for a Pulitzer, and phone calls from movie people are not that unusual anymore, Sullivan is modest and boyishly friendly. Right now he plans to continue teaching school, he said.

"I'm there by choice," he said of his teaching position, ninth grade English at Fordson High in Dearborn.

Sullivan has been a gambler, "Rube Goldberg," innovator, coach, city commissioner and born-again athlete. He and his wife, Pris, have two children, Colleen, 16, and Sean, 13.

THE WRITING gets squeezed in in the darnedest places. He's working on "Drummers on Glass," which has already been sold.

"I'm habituated to parked cars, bathrooms and restaurants. I love to write in restaurants."

Yes, he gets interrupted. No, he won't say on whose table he's currently writing.

"I change regularly," he said with a touch of wry humor in his voice. "I



Tom Sullivan

always write the first draft in long-hand — I want to see what I've crossed out."

He likes to have the history of the development of the work in front of him, "filled with all kinds of deletions and brackets," he said. But, "I can't edit it until it's in print."

"I WRITE about families," Sullivan said.

He classifies his stories as "mainstream," even though some unsettling elements can raise the hairs on the back of the neck.

In "Born Burning," it's the small son's fear of the historic teak chair, symbolizing the passing of the leadership from one family member to the next, and the strange fates that have befallen those who took on that role before him.

The novels of John Cheever had a major impact on Sullivan's writing career, he said. He didn't realize his own natural style was marketable until he encountered Cheever's.

Cranbrook Writers' Guild was organized in 1969 by Iva Bell Harlan, Henry Booth and a small group of people interested in aiding and encouraging aspiring writers.

Community responded to pianist's dream

Editor's note: This article was written by Lenore Upton shortly before she died last month. It was probably the last major article of her life. She was public relations consultant for the American Artists Series and longtime respected member of the metropolitan media community. Her long career started when she wrote and sold short fiction.

Virginia Moseley of Birmingham remembers the day in 1969 when concert pianist Joann Freeman came to Dick Johnson, then director of the Bloomfield Township Public Library, with an idea that had been incubating for years — Sunday afternoon chamber music in Oakland County.

Musicians would be from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Freeman would be the pianist and artistic director. At least two concerts would feature other Michigan performing artists. Would the Library be interested in sponsoring such a program?

The Friends of Bloomfield Township Library would and did. The opening concert was Jan. 10, 1970 — the beginning of the American Artists Series, which opens its 20th season Sunday, Dec. 3, in Kingswood Auditorium, Bloomfield Hills.

Moseley recalled hearing music that was exquisitely lovely and unusual as she busied herself setting up the "afterglow" when the audience mingled with the artists.

"It was all very informal," she said. "People brought their children and sat on cushions on the floor. It was the first chamber music group in Oakland County. We were all hungry for good music without going all the way into Detroit — and so many people wanted the recipe for a punch we served."

THIS WARM, FOLKSY atmosphere, with post-concert potluck suppers, was a hallmark of the group, until a more diversified audience made it feasible to replace the home potlucks with one gala after-the-concert supper at an adjacent restaurant.

Six of the local women who made up the original committee are still members — Jo Kessler and Marilyn



Edith Freeman, right, and daughter, Joann, posed together in 1979. They were widely known for their presentations of melodeclamation, in which Mrs. Freeman recited poetry in her native Russian while her daughter accompanied her on the piano with music by Russian composers.

Karabellnick of Huntington Woods and Judy Cantor, Joann Wheaton, Annette Womberger and Moseley all of Birmingham. Moseley became so involved she stayed on with the committee after the township fire warden reluctantly declared the oversized crowds fire hazards.

The first move was to the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum. A few years later the group settled in their present home — Kingswood Auditorium on the Cranbrook campus.

The woman who crystallized her dream in the American Artists Series concerts began her career with the Detroit Symphony when she was eight years old. She has performed as a concert pianist in much of the world — Europe, India, the far East — Today her time is fully occupied

as the group's artistic director and performing pianist.

Daughter of the famed Edith Freeman, impresario of the Detroit Institute of Arts Music Series, young Joann grew up surrounded by Renaissance art and old world culture. The Freemans frequently entertained world renowned musicians in their Palmer Park home.

Joann's musical indoctrination began at two and a half years of age. By the time she enrolled at Vassar at age 16 she had studied with Mischa Kotler and was a budding concert pianist.

With a pre-med degree from Vassar, she enrolled at Juillard for a master's in music, studying with Carl Friedberg and Beaveridge Webster.

WHILE AT VASSAR she renewed an old friendship with Warren Swayder. A common interest in music drew them together and eventually to marriage.

With her usual aplomb Joann Freeman Swayder juggled the rearing of four sons and a concert career that took her to Europe, Asia, and throughout this country.

"I had it all," she said. "Two sets of grandparents eager to baby sit, a husband who was the greatest of critics and his unfailing support."

It was Swayder who urged her to take the plunge with the chamber group. When the Bloomfield Township Library agreed to sponsor the venture it was he who initiated a stage, getting out publicity, raising funds to pay the musicians.

The family that had always been close gathered around to help launch the embryonic chamber group. Twenty years later they are still in there pitching. Son Mark is the perennial designer of flyers and programs. Son Tor and his wife Alnee handle ticket sales. Walter tapes the concerts for the archives.

Until her death in 1984 Edith Freeman appeared on stage with her daughter, introducing the Russian art of melodeclamation, or poetry recited to music.

A network of friends, mostly Oakland County people, have helped

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— Virginia Moseley

build and maintain the American Artists Series.

They were there for Joann when she lost Warren in a tragic drowning accident and again when she found happiness in marriage to an old high school chum, Dr. Charles Clayman. Last year Warren Swayder's mother, Reva Swayder Gotsch of Young At Heart, prize winning TV documentary, fame, opened her home for a benefactors supper.

CLOSE FRIENDS Dee and Ned Hienzerling, Lois and Richard Koslow, Frances and John Watson, Ruth Shanberg and Beryl Winkelman among others, tend the ticket table, usher, trot around to schools and libraries with posters, stuff, seal and mail promotional materials, and meet regularly to brainstorm audience-building ideas and fund raising events.

Longtime Detroit Symphony Orchestra cellist John Thurman has been with the Chambers Players since the beginning. Hart Hollman, violist, is also a regular, as are Linda Snedden-Smith, and Ronald Fischer, violinists. Frequent players include Donald Baker, oboe, and Ervin Monroe, flute. Others who have joined the ensemble in recent times include Eugene Wade, French horn, and Jacob Rosenzweig, harp.

Diversity in programming has always been an objective. AAS has presented duo-guitarists, flamenco dancers and vocalists as well as rare and romantic music performed by the Chambers Players.

Executive director, Joann Wheaton of Birmingham, sees challenges as the audiences become larger and more diverse.

One of the first things she did on

assuming office was to name men to the committee.

"They've been doing the work along with their wives," she said. "Mort Mallitz, Dwight Gammon, Jim Anderson, Richard Kozlow and many others have been active for years."

They'll all be there when the 20th Anniversary season begins on Dec. 5 with the Chamber players and special

American Artists Series starts Dec. 3

Two nationally-known musical groups will help the American Artists Series Chamber Players mark its 20th anniversary season opening in December.

The five-concert series begins Sunday Dec. 3 with Linda Snedden Smith, violinist, as soloist. She is member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and a regular with the Artist Series.

The work will be the Chausson concerto for violin, piano and string quartet. The program also includes trios by Franz Schubert and Johannes Brahms.

On Jan. 21, the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet will present an entire program of contemporary and 18th century music.

Chanticleer, called America's premiere a cappella vocal ensemble, will vary their program from madrigals to Rodgers and Hart on Feb. 25. Except for the programs by the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet and Chanticleer, the concerts will feature the Chamber Players. They include pianist Joann Freeman and four members of the Detroit Symphony: Oboe, violinist Ronald Fischer and Snedden Smith; cellist John Thurman and Hart Hollman, viola. Detroit Symphony flutist Ervin Monroe will join them for spring concerts, along with Donald Baker, more diverse.

All concerts are on Sundays at 3

p.m., except for the final performance at 7 p.m. April 22. They are presented at Kingswood Auditorium on the Cranbrook campus, Bloomfield Hills. Three concerts are preceded at 2 p.m. with 45-minute preview lectures.

Concerts are followed by informal receptions with the artists. Information about subscriptions, at \$50, or individual performances, at \$10 to \$15, can be obtained at 647-2230 or 651-5044.

Tickets are available at Bookpeople, West Bloomfield; Everything Music, Southfield; Harmony House Records and Tapes, Royal Oak and Farmington Hills; and the Metro News Center, Bloomfield Plaza Mall.



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