upcoming

things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming en-teriainment calendar is three weeks ahead of publication. Send items to be considered for publi-cation to: Keely Wygonik, Eater-tainment Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, 36231 Schooleraft Road, Livonia 48130. CHILDREN'S SHOW

 Childhen S Show
Storyteller Jackle Torrence is appearing for a special children's show. H is an. Saturday, Feb. 29 at Meadow Brook Theatre on the cam-pus of Oakland University. Call 377-3300 for ticket information. • TROY PLAYERS Troy Players present the musical "Fiddler on the Root" 8 p.m. Friday,

PAINT CREEK FOLKLORE

SOCIETY The Palat Creek Folklore Society presens 'A Sharry Night for a Ram-ble' dance 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 a the Southleid Civic Center in the Parks and Recreation Building. 26000 Evergreen Raad and Civic Center Drive. Admission 35. Call 644-5496 or 682-1109 for Informa-tion.

Feb. 28, and Saturday, Feb. 29, 2 pm. Sunday, March 1, and March 8, 8 pm. Friday, March 6, 3 saturday, March 7, Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 7, Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 at the Troy Com-munity Center, 520 W. Big Beaver Hoad, east 01/75 in the Civic Center Complex. The 60 and or 40 decise and Cal. For ticket Information, or reser-vations, call 879-1285.

. EMERALD TEA The Metro Chapter of the Irish American Cultural Institute will present a traditional Emerald Tea, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, March 8 at the Cas-tle, 530 Parkview, Detroit in the His-toric Berry Subdivision. Musical en-tertainment featuring Cecilla Webster. Refreshments served. Donation \$15, advanced registration only by March 3. Mail to IACI, 16940 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Rills, MI 48025. For information, call 533-4993. Proceeds to benefit parade fund.

• CONCERTS IN THE GARDEN Southfield's Concerts in the Gar-

den Series will feature the McKinney Heunion, one of Detröit's great Jazz groups, 10.30 a.m. Snday, March 1 ai the Sheraton Hotel, Southfield, 16400 J.L. Hudson Drive. Tickets 75.50 for continental breakfast served at 10 a.m., \$4 for concert and coffee. The Alma Smith Quintet per-forms March 8. Call 354-9717.

MUSICA VIVAI Musicia Viva Concerts presents the Leon Sisters Trio, 8 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the Smith Theater for the Performing Arts, Qakland Com-munity College, in Farmington IIII13. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. For reservations, information, call 413-2228.

LYRIC CHAMBER

 LYRIC CHAMBER
ENSEMBLE Southfield based Lyric Chamber Ensemble performs 7.30 pm. Sun-day, March 8 al Detroits Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward. The Lyric Chamber Ensemble conlines. Its "From Spain with Love" season with Koleidoscope", a program of in-strumenial music and dance. Tickets 222, 316, 312 and 88 (32 discount for students and seniors). Call 337-1111 for ticket information. 9 and to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. CHAMBERWORKS "A Bach Family Concert" 8 p.m. Friday, March 13 at Christ Church Cranbrook-Guild Hall, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills, corner of Cranbrook and Lone Pine Roads. Tickets 39 general admission, 35 sen-iors and students. Call 643-7788, res-ervations required.

Birmingham Al and Willie haven't seen each other in 11 years. Or spoken in 12. And for good reason.

"... a funny comedy with depth and tender meaning." Mary Jane Doerr, Observer/Eccentric Newspa top-notch revival...a loving tribute to the (vaudeville) jokesters." Edward Hayman, Detroit News NEIL SIMON'S

outrageous comedy

RIDGEDALE PLAYERS

AMERICAN ARTISTS Chamber music for flute highlight-ed as the American Artists Series Chamber Players are joined by Er-vin Monroe of Bioomfield Township, principal fluids with the Detroit Sympheny Orchestra 3 p.m. Sunday, March 8 at the Kingswood Auditori-um on the Crabtrook campus, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bioomfield Hills. Call 851-5044 for ticket information.

• RIOGEDALE PLAYERS Ridgedale Players present the fun-filled circus musical "Barnum" by Cy Coleman, Michael Stewart and Mark Branhules. Show opens 8 p.m. Saturday, March 14, weekends through 3 pn. Sunday, March 29 at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake Road, (west of Livernois) in Troy-Tickets 38 with \$1 discount for sec-tor citizens on Sunday evenings. Call 644-8328 for ticket information.

rentration of the Meadow Brook Theatre production of "Cobb" continue through March 8 on the Oakland University cam-pus in Rochester Hills. For ticket information, call the box office at 367-3300.

Critics call Ty Cobb one of the all-time best players in the game and the most hated man in baseball. De-spite his literine 307 batting aver-age and his unquestioned talent, Cobb, the man, was mean-spirited, biguide and egocentric. Ite olioit much like people and they returned the favor. Cobb quips "Baseball's a team game. That's its only flaw," in Meadow Brook These tarte's time production about Cobb's public triumphs and private failures.

Playwright Lee Hiessing combines a history of Cobb's role in the game, a psychological study of his private life and an expose of the listlights, racist comments, and cleating incli-dents that playued his years in the major leagues.

THE FUSION of history, psychol-ogy, and expose creates an intrigu-ing and intelligent dramatic presen-tation, but not a play destined for the

Cathie Breidenbach

Dramatic Hall of Fame. Biessing's challenge in writing about the longtime Detroit Tiger was to create controversy and con-flict when the sports world almost unanimously condemned Cobb long ago for serious character flaws. So Biessing ingeniously gives us three Cobbs who synable: among them-selves — The Peach when he was a 20-ycor-oid player. Ty at 40 and one of baseball's first millionaires, and Mr. Cobb dyng of cancer in his 70s. The three Tys shout at each other chad argue about what facts to in-clude in the myth about it fails of frame. They argue whether Ty's mother shot his much-older father accidentally or out of darker mo-tives. They spar about the fights that speckeld Cobb's carerer and about Cobb's calonsy of Babe Ruth, a man Ty calls 'a suppl meatlace'.

ERIC HISSOM as The Peach, Mi-chael James Laird as Ty, and Ste-phen Daley as Nr. Coba ably depict a man who changed little through the years. People aler arbitrary of difference of the second second second comments with the succide theore you characteristic of the man. Director John Ulmer keeps the pacing lively on the set of a hule and white ball diamond stripped to its geometric bones by scene designer Peter Ilicks. The action revolves around re-creations of game highlights, demon-strations of Cobb's famous sliding prip, and scenes when Cobb taunts pichers and steals bases. Recreating key moments in Cobb's career makes for lively entertainment, but noise and action can't camouflage the lack of ideological conflict. So Blessing beefs up the drama by

adding Oscar Charleston, the player known as the black Cobb. Charleston claims he played better than Ty, but he two never played each other, and statistics on black players in the ear-ty days of baschall were sketchly, so there's no way to settle the question of which was bestter ballpayer. Daryl Edwards, wonderfully iron-makes him doubt himself. Cobb ear makes him doubt himself. Cobb ear with a scharter back in 1912 when "You knew where people stood." Presumably baschall, because it's Americas I avorite game, serves as a nicrocosm of the nation. and environ of the Cobb. he also goads and the confront the values we held in the early years of the century when baschall grew from a chil-drent game line a big busines. Fras gameling Ty Cobb Jame and fortune, but they withheld their love. Cobb may have been a site, hut Meadow Brook. Theotre's Cobb con-tirms that he was no hero.

Cathie Breidenbach of West Bloomfield teaches college writ-ing classes and works as a freelance writer.





