

Dancer from page 1D

Like IDC, DDC has seven dancers, and is known for embracing relevant social issues as well as injecting humor into its dramatic productions.

"I value the fact that much of the work we've done has centered on social themes, like 'The Garden,' which was a dance program about AIDS."

Because IDC isn't fully funded, it isn't under someone else's thumb, Theodoroff said. It also means members need to augment their salaries. Theodoroff teaches aerobics and works in a restaurant.

Young talent

And although Theodoroff didn't focus on dance until her senior year in high school, her mother said Tracey had been singled out by teachers of after-school programs as early as kindergarten.

"For a long time, I wanted Tracey to be an engineer," said Lilly Theodoroff of Rochester Hills. "She did so well academically and I felt it would bring her security. But now, as I see how much she loves dance, I hope she continues."

After studying with Cornelia Sampson at the Rochester School of Ballet, Tracey chose Butler University in Indiana because it had a renowned dance program. She went on to graduate with honors.

Richard and Lilly Theodoroff and son Michael have witnessed some very memorable performances in Tracey's dance career.

"Michael was so impressed with Tracey's talent that he signed up for some theater courses, and has done much acting since. He had the lead in an Oakland University production of 'A Thousand Clowns.'"

"DC interpreted the story 'Oklahoma' uniquely by presenting the show as a 'ballet in the round,' Mrs. Theodoroff said. "Tracey danced the Dream Scene."

In another program, the plum part of Lizzie Borden went to her daughter.

"Tracey had to sign a waiver to allow a noose to be put around her neck. She also had a harness around her stomach to play the part of the notorious woman who allegedly murdered her parents and went on to live out her days in isolation."

Her other roles have not been so somber. She was featured in IDC's "The Nutcracker," danced in "Les Sylphides" and appeared in "Orfeo ed Euridice" with the Indianapolis Opera. One summer, she danced with troupes at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va.

During one college break, Theodoroff wanted to keep her skills sharpened so she studied with Barbara Selinger of DDC.

While Theodoroff's current home is an Indianapolis apartment she shares with cats Ariel, Faxon, Keegan and Ella, the Detroit area is the one with her roots.

"Performing back home means a lot to me," she said.

Here are answers about houseplants



MARTY FIGLEY

Some questions and answers:

Q. I water some of my houseplants from above and some below. Which is correct?

A. Wipe or gently spray warm water on smooth leaves to remove dust. This lets the plants breathe more easily. If the foliage is fuzzy, use a soft camel's hair brush to remove dust, when necessary.

Q. My houseplants that are close to a window have developed black blotches on the leaves. Help!

A. Probably the leaves have rested against the cold window and have gotten frozen. Remove the injured part of the leaves down about one-half inch from the black area. This will keep any rot from the rest of the leaves.

Q. What is causing my fern to turn brown and dry around the edges?

A. Heating our homes causes

the air to dry out; therefore your fern probably needs more humidity. Group several plants together or place the pot on a tray of wet gravel. Don't let the water touch the bottom of the pot. Or, move the fern into a room where there is usually more humidity — the bath or kitchen.

Q. My succulent plants seem limp and the branches are gradually drying up and falling off.

A. You have probably been too kind with the water. These plants store water in their foliage so will tolerate dryer soils.

Remove the plant from the pot. If the roots are dark and few, they are rotting. If white and numerous, they are healthy. Place the plant in a warmer room and allow the soil to dry out before watering.

Q. This past Christmas I received a miniature rose. Can I keep it as an indoor plant?

A. Nothing ventured, nothing gained! Abundant light is the key to getting miniature roses to bloom indoors. A south or west window with unobstructed light is best, and grow lights especially in January and February, a few hours each evening, help.

Choose varieties that have needs to match the conditions in your home. They like temperatures and humidity the same as people; some fluctuation is OK.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing 963-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859.

Go wild over flower tour at Cranbrook

The Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, is offering wildflower enthusiasts and everyone else a guided tour of some of Michigan's best wildflower sanctuaries during its Wildflower Pilgrimage Friday and Saturday, May 7-8.

The weekend will begin 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 7, in the Cranbrook Institute of Science auditorium with an illustrated lecture highlighting some of the wildflowers featured on the Saturday, May 8, walks, other families, plants and some endangered species. Guest speaker will be Laura Mattel, preserve design ecologist from The Nature Conservancy-Michigan Chapter.

Mattel holds a bachelor of sci-

ence degree from Cornell University in natural resources management and a master's degree in natural resource planning with a specialization in landscape ecology from the University of Vermont.

Two three-hour walks will be guided by professional botanists and naturalists Saturday, May 8, the first at 9 a.m. and the second at 1 p.m. Participants can choose from four wildflower preserves:

■ Bald Mountain Recreation Area provides meadows, a fen, an oak forest and a white cedar bog to explore. A state park annual or daily permit is required for each vehicle. The two-mile walk is moderately easy.

■ Cranbrook Gardens and Schjol-

in Wildflower Garden are actually two walks in one. The Cranbrook Gardens feature rare plants among flowering dogwoods and redbuds. The Schjolin Wildflower Garden is one of the premier wildflower gardens in southeast Michigan. Schjolin also houses the state's largest collection of endangered wildflowers.

Cranbrook Gardens is an easy two-mile walk and accessible to the disabled. Schjolin is an easy walk along 2 1/2 acres of narrow trails.

■ Highland Recreation Area has a variety of plant habitats among 5,400 rolling acres. Prime specimens are along the trail and can be easily photographed. Bird watchers will also enjoy the two-mile trek.

■ Indian Springs Metropark, situated at the headwaters of the Huron River, is a mecca for many spring wildflower enthusiasts. Participants will discover trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit and other beautiful spring wildflowers. The park is also a favorite among bird watchers. This three-mile hike will only be offered in the morning.

Admission price is \$4 for the lecture, as well as each walk. Individuals may choose a morning walk, an afternoon walk or one of each. The limit is 25 people per tour. Guided tours will begin at 9:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Participants should plan to arrive at their chosen sites 15 minutes earlier. For reservations and a map, call 646-3230.

English ceramic tour set

The Mid-States Ceramic Study Group, based at the Dearborn Historical Museum, will begin its fifth biennial English China Tour Aug. 20. It will leave from Detroit via British Air and end in the English Cotswolds Sept. 4, returning to the United States that day.

Ceramic collectors, students and lovers of England are invited. The two-week inclusive tour will cost about \$3,000. For more information, call Dean Rockwell at 341-6360.

The itinerary for the 14-day tour will focus mainly on places of ceramic interest but offer much more. The group will stay in first-class hotels in the four centers

from which it will make daily excursions to nearby points of interest: the North Stafford Hotel in Stoke-on-Trent, the Dean Court in York, the White Hart in Lincoln and the Noel Arms in Chipping Campden.

In between, the tour will visit such potteries as Wedgwood, Spode and Derby, see some of England's great museums, castles and cathedrals, visit private collections and stroll some of England's finest gardens.

The modern coach that will be the group's exclusively for the whole tour will meet the group at the Heathrow Airport in London early in the morning Aug. 21, then whisk members to The Potteries,

Baskets from page 1D

various colors into forms that resemble sea creatures.

Some baskets have forms that are more fluid than rigid. Karyl Sleson's works look like cloth pouches. They are made of miniature wooden clothespins and wire. Janice Segal Bradford works with rattan and dye to make vessels that vibrate with energy. Hi-deho Tanaka makes what looks like large snails out of stainless

steel.

Linda Kelly's tall black columns of dyed reed feature spaces that the weavings that flash tiny patterns as the viewer circles it. Sharon Robinson makes little stages out of stiffened tissue paper. Kevin Haskewyn makes hats or vessels out of paper fiber strips.

Kiyomi Iwata's works feature such materials as silk organza,

brass woven cloth and gold leaf. Tina Fung Holder's shimmering art uses plastic tubing, TV antenna wire and glass beads.

John Garrett combines paper with the Constitution or music on it, sequins, wire, beads, enamel, paint and aluminum. Judy Mulford blends the old and the new, using a gourd, waxed linen thread, raffia, photo transfers and little figures tucked around the work.

Her pieces bear such titles as "Wedding Basket," "The Extended Family" and "Sisters."

Some pieces suggest other cultures. Carol Eckert fashions wire figures out of cotton, metallic filament and wire. They look like icons from ancient lands. Katherine Westphal puts colorful images on gourds covered in rice paper. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Call 544-3388.

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