



Designs from page 1D

tery, wood and many other media will be featured.

"It's a very quality event," said Jan Freeman, publicist. Freeman spoke of the neighborly attitude the show conveys. At the time of the first event 27 years ago, no fast food places were around, and residents made lunch for the participating artists. The tradition continues today, with people from the community minding the booths while the artists take a break.

Lifton and Lehten's backgrounds include academic degrees in advertising, law, counseling psychology and social work. Their artistic skills are self-taught. They participate in about 15 to 20 juried art shows a year.

The works are in earth tones, rich and soft, with each feature fascinating in its own way. Among the stones are gently glowing citron, sleek obsidian and Picasso stone with lines resembling those made by the artist in his paintings; some shimmer like tiny rippling pools; some have natural openings through which Lifton may pull yarn; some show glints of quartz. Some of the pieces have quotes in calligraphy done by Lehten. The works are nestled in mats cut in a variety of shapes by

'Every place is different, which is what we like about this . . . We can't duplicate things. Everybody's getting something unique.'

Suzanne Lifton

Lehten, such as triangles, "snowmen" (two attached circles) and two or three panels.

All have a natural feeling, highlighting what Lifton called "the wonderful pattern of nature." Nature seems to come through in their surroundings — they can see nearby woods through a large window in their working space.

The works may be framed, unframed or placed in shadow boxes. Lifton and Lehten do custom orders.

The materials inspire and challenge the artists.

"There's a certain harmony in working with it," Lehten said. "Playing with the ingredients, that's what I like to do," Lifton said.

Levy from page 1D

fection. Here wooden poles and rings are great. If the drapery or curtain treatment is short the hem must end at the apron, not at the top of the sill where unevenness is so obvious, and a crack of light is a disturbance. When the choice of fabric is a print the draperies should be lined or the pattern will be lost against the outside light of day. One can even widen the look of the window by carrying the drapery beyond the casing, while gaining more natural light.

Window dressing
Other ways to cope with windows is to use multi-advertised

traverses vertical louvers. These are available in plastic, string and woven patterns, compatible with contemporary or traditional. Use them as a split pair, or a one-way draw. The latter is ideal for sliding glass doors.

There is an infinite variety of horizontal blinds. The most popular is the metal mini-blind in a host of colors as well as black, brown, bronze and chrome. Additionally there are folded and double-folded fabrics, some of which are solar. These will be an aid in keeping out heat or cold. There are bamboo slats that blend beautifully with natural bamboo or rattan furniture.

Dahlias from page 1D

After frost has killed the foliage, the dahlia tubers are cut and stored for the winter to await another season. Some authorities recommend relocating the dahlia bed every couple of years to prevent any buildup of soil pathogens to avoid disease problems.

Dahlias originated in Mexico and Central America. Their Aztec names, cocochit and acocotli, give a hint to the plants' hollow stems that were used by the Aztecs as water pipes. The 18th century Swedish botanist Andreas Dahl was honored when the plant name was changed to dahlia. In the late 18th century dahlias were hybridized in Spain, England, France and the Netherlands after they arrived in these countries from Mexico, and hybridizers haven't slowed down yet!

Memorial Day is the traditional time in this area to plant dahlias. Dig the holes one foot deep and

wide, add ¼-cup of 0-20-20 fertilizer (they like potash and potassium) and mix it in the soil, fill the hole half full with soil and place the root division horizontally with the eye or sprout facing upward. Add additional soil, but not completely to the top of the planting hole. Water well. If you are planting tall dahlias now is the time to put the stake into the ground. As the plant grows gently fill the hole with additional soil.

Dahlias are very nice cut flowers; they like to be cut and will reward you with more blooms. To ensure a long vase life, either dip the stem ends in boiling water or scar them with a candle flame — or cut them early in the morning and immediately immerse two inches of the stem in hot water, set in a cool spot for several hours, then arrange them. Enjoy their beauty indoors as well as in the garden.

Colorwash quilts to be topic

A presentation on "colorwash quilts" will highlight the meeting of the Needlework and Textile Guild of Michigan 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 9, at the Bloomfield Township Library at Lone Pine Road and Telegraph.

Guest speaker is Gretchen Tate, owner of Quilt 'N Friends in Sterling Heights. The program is open to the public for a nominal

fee of \$5. For more information, call 646-1303, or (810) 644-4718, any time.

Colorwash is actually a concept of subtle shading from one color value to another. Quilters use a large number of multicolor prints, blending fabrics in the manner of a watercolor painting. The idea can be adapted to other media as well.

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I am working with Allison (age 10) and her family, who need to find a home in the Birmingham School District and particularly like Beverly Hills. If you are thinking of making a move or know of anyone who might be interested in selling their home this summer, would you please give me a call?
Thank you!

Real Estate Facts
by Sandra Ladd
Max Bronck, Inc.

Avoid Contingencies!

Have you ever advertised a car in the paper and had calls from buyers who asked you to hold the car until Friday. Prospective buyers often act before they're ready. They're prepared to buy, but not to pay. Prospective homebuyers often do the same thing. They offer to buy a home, but make the purchase contingent upon some other activity, such as selling their existing home. On the surface, it seems to make sense. After all, how could they possibly commit to buying a new home, when they haven't even sold their present one. They couldn't get a mortgage approved for another home while still owing on the first. Buying a home with a contingency in the contract is often a red flag for property owners however. A contingency contract is more an option to buy than an actual contract. It's an option because the buyers are not required to complete the contract if their present home does not sell. From the sellers' point-of-view, they are obligated to hold the property off the market for

buyers who may never complete the purchase. As long as they are under contract to buyers, they may not sell to anyone else. Sellers reason that if they must wait for a home to sell, it might as well be their own, rather than a home belonging to prospective buyers. As a result, sellers often will not consider accepting an offer to purchase containing a contingency. Prospective buyers who already own a home are wise to sell their home first, before making an offer on another. Once the home is sold, they will know how much money is available to purchase their next home, and when it will be available. As ready buyers, they can then make a firm offer on their next home. They benefit from being qualified buyers, and their offers will be taken seriously by sellers. Contingencies tend to muddy the water around a home purchase, and should be avoided, whenever possible. **AVOID CONTINGENCIES** Whether or not you plan to move, call Sandra Ladd anytime at 810-646-1400, in Bloomfield Hills.

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