

## Polish from page C1

co-sponsored concerts by pianist Leszek Bartkiewicz, and the Warsaw Winds with the Detroit Institute of Arts. They also presented a bust of Frederic Chopin, created by Orchard Lake artist Marian Owczarski, to the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington, D. C. Owczarski will speak about Polish arts, before and after Solidarity, at the next Friends of Polish Art meeting 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 19, at the American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple in Troy. For more information, call (810) 778-8035.

A professor and artist-in-residence at St. Mary's College, Owczarski is a 1991 graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. He creates stainless steel sculpture, most recently featured in the exhibit "The Pride of Poland" at the Grand Rapids VanAndel Public Museum.

"The arts are very important because this was part of the information about the culture," said Owczarski, who judges the Friends of Polish Art competitions. "From 1980 to after Solidarity, I will show what's different about art after the Communist influence and before when artists had to hide to do certain work because it was not legal. The art shows the life that was then. The art became more free and the look is different, lighter."

**■ 'To maintain your heritage, it's important to know where you've been to know where you're going.'**

**Henry Pawlowski**  
of Farmington Hills

### Preserving culture

To fund the arts competitions, concerts and scholarships, the Friends hold Sienkiewicza, a celebration of Easter and Spring with traditional foods and customs, and Wigilia, an evening featuring the breaking of the bread (opiatek), a meatless supper, and sing-a-long of Polish and English carols just before Christmas.

"To maintain your heritage, it's important to know where you've been to know where you're going," said Henry Pawlowski, a Farmington Hills resident born in Poland.

### Expanding knowledge

Livonia's head librarian Michael Deller is grateful for the Friends' gift of Sienkiewicz's novels because it allows readers to learn about the nation occupied by Russia, Germany and Austria between 1795 and 1918. Although fiction, Sienkiewicz (1846-1916) based his events on historical fact. Originally written in Polish, the modern translation

is by W.S. Kunicki with foreword by James Michener.

"Our budget never allows us to buy everything we'd like especially when you're dealing with authors from other countries," said Deller.

### Trip to Poland

For those who'd like to learn more about Poland, the Wojtana will give a slide show, "Our Vision of Poland," 10 a.m. Monday, April 12, at the Noble Library in Livonia.

The Wojtana have returned to Poland every year since 1993 taking tour groups with them. Aug. 16-20 they will savor the beautiful garden surrounding Chopin's home, hear a piano recital of his music at Ostrogski Palace in Warsaw, and visit the 600-year-old Monastery of Jasna Gora to see the Black Madonna icon and priceless jewels. For more information about the trip, call (734) 425-2727.

"We try to spread the idea that Poland is a cultural country," said Wojtana.

## ART BEAT

Send items for consideration in Art Beat to Frank Provenzano at the Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. To fax items, call (248) 644-1314, or him at e-mail [fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net)

### FOLK ENSEMBLE

The Tamburitzans of Duquesne University will present a music, songs and dances from Eastern Europe and neighboring cultures, 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28 at the R.H. Schaublin Auditorium, Lakeview High School, 21100 Eleven Mile Road, (east of I-94), St. Clair Shores. Tickets \$18 and \$15 available at Ticketmaster outlets (248) 646-6666, or call (810) 978-5154. Based in Pittsburgh, the folk ensemble of dancers, musicians and vocalists is celebrating 62 years of entertaining audiences throughout the United States, Canada, South America and Europe.

The 38 full-time students perform 80 concerts per year on weekends and during semester breaks. They portray the many cultures of Eastern Europe with true authenticity and soul of the dance.

**DANCE**  
The Michigan Classic Ballet Company of Bloomfield Hills is preparing to be adjudicated for Regional Dance America/Mid States being held in Flint, Michigan from April 29th through May 1.

The Michigan Classic Ballet



**Folk ensemble:** Showing their strength and tenacity are the Duquesne University Tamburitzans as they perform a suite of Macedonian dances.

Company are no strangers to the ins & outs of Regional Dance America. They have been members for 7 years and were the hosts to last year's Mid-States Festival in Ann Arbor with such illustrious faculty which included Kimberly Glasco, Anthony Randazzo, Michael Uthoff and Jonas Kaga.

### JAZZ

Geri Allen, who recently performed at the Birmingham Jazzfest, performs with Dee Dee Bridgewater, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26 at the Orchestra Hall. Call (313) 833-3700 for ticket information.

### CLASSICS

The DSO classical series continues 10:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28 at Orchestra Hall with Ravel's Bolero featuring violinist Emmanuelle Boissert and guest conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier.

The Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra led by conductor Yuhui Wang, performs works of Bernstein, Copland and Dvorak, 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets at the box office. (313) 833-3700 or <http://www.detroitcitysymphony.com>

## Y2K from page C1

expression.

"People just stand there and say, 'That's cool.'"

But there's more beyond Lewis' optical trickery, said Uzelac.

"This isn't a gimmick or about bringing the 60s back," he said. "The fact that Paul (Lewis) is a fine artist, and has the ability to literally replicate just about any painting style makes quite a difference."

In the near future, Uzelac expects Lewis to complete a Monet-like landscape painting. By slowly dimming the light to black, the painting will become transformed through the four seasons.

"Can you imagine this show in New York," said Uzelac, who is currently setting up exhibits for Lewis in Florida, and trying to push the work into the cutting-edge circles in New York.

Ironically, Uzelac didn't have to look far to discover Lewis, whose studio was about 100 feet from Uzelac's back door. But Uzelac is cautious about referring to Lewis as a "local artist."

"The connotation of 'local' is that if an artist is from here, then he can't be a significant artist."

That could change through word of mouth.

**Expressionism of Allen**

### Berke

In the front space at Uzelac Gallery, the expressionistic paintings of Allen Berke offer a stark contrast from Lewis' neon-like vibrations, hung in the darkened back space.

Whereas Lewis' work elicits an immediate response, Berke's subtle brushstrokes and compositions require in-depth study.

The 16-piece exhibit reveals a painter who searches to stretch his emotionally-infused canvases in a range of subject-matter, but who's most proficient when painting human forms assembled in a fluid puzzle.

Nearly 20 years ago, Lisa

Konikow, director at the Uzelac Gallery, began to represent Berke, who teaches at Wayne State and the Center for Creative Studies. At the time, Konikow was co-director of the now-closed Kocipilli Gallery.

"He's been working in the same tradition, but he's continued to get stronger," said Konikow, who also directs the fine art competition in the annual "Arts, Bouts & Ents" festival in downtown Pontiac.

Considered together, "VIA - Y2K" and Berke's paintings represent the type of cutting-edge and traditional mix unseen at most other galleries, said Konikow.

"In Pontiac, we have this grittiness," said Uzelac. "There's a feeling that we can take more chances."

## Conversations from page C1

sion is breaking new ground in its quest for permanent funding as part of a millage.

If they succeed in Royal Oak, Randau predicts that other communities will soon follow.

The bottom-line isn't just money. It's a sense of history. A belief that the past is worth preserving as much as the future is worth cherishing.

At least, it seems that way for those who still believe in paradise.

Frank Provenzano can be reached at (248) 901-2557, or at [fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net)

Or write to: The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009.



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Tues, Feb 23 8:00  
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