

# Writers from page C1

trated, came up with the concept of combining history and the writings. Archives of the Burton Collection at the Detroit Public Library were combed for material. Current members were asked to submit selections as well. Then the work began for coeditors Vosburg Hall, Corinne Abatt, Elizabeth Kane Buzzelli, Tuttle Marzolf and Doris Scharfenberg.

"It's what people are writing," said Vosburg Hall, Cranbrook Writers Guild president and a Bloomfield Hills resident. "It's what people are thinking. It's what women thought. They take a different slant on the world. They give us a glimpse of what life was like back then."

Women today enjoy the freedom to write about subjects never dreamed about 100 years ago. As the Detroit Women Writers celebrate their 100th anniversary with the release of "Century of Voices," there's plenty to be thankful for.

## History

The Detroit Women Writers was started by 13 women, most of whom were members of the Women's International Press Union, on June 6, 1900. Bartlett, whose pseudonym was Arch Arnold, was typical of its membership. A columnist for the *Detroit Journal* as well as a novelist, poet and librettist for at least one comic opera, Bartlett's first novel, "Until Day Breaks," was published in 1877.

"With 'Authors on Stage' we went for quality and dramatic impact with the idea of bringing good literature to people," said Vosburg Hall.

Abatt and members of the Cranbrook Writers Guild chose the selections to be staged at the Birmingham Village Players Theater. Abatt, a former arts editor for the *Eccentric! Newspaper*, will read her winning fiction at the Detroit Women Writers Spring Readings 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 2, at the main branch of the Detroit Public Library.

## Salute

"It's a nice evening to salute the Detroit Women Writers because not only does it represent an aspect of Detroit history and the Detroit Women's Press Club but whets your appetite for the book and shows the broad spectrum of what women in this area have done in the past century," said Abatt. "All the writers who started this were professional people. It was exciting to really seeing the book go together — poetry and romance and murder and essays, and how are we going to put all this together?"

Talk about the book first came up while the Detroit Women Writers were celebrating their 75th anniversary. A history had been assembled then, and Kathleen Ripley Leo was looking 25 years down the road to the next milestone.

"The Detroit Women writers started out before women got the vote," said Ripley Leo, who just completed a two-year term as Detroit Women Writers president. "We asked do we want these voices to go into oblivion so we started looking at an anthology. We used money from an earlier book, 'Voices on Writing Fiction,' to seed it. MSU and Wayne State presses were interested, but their timetable didn't mesh with the 100th anniversary."

Since the beginning, the Detroit Women Writers has had only 500 members. Their annual writers conference, held in October at Oakland University in Rochester, brings together aspiring and professional writers with New York editors and agents not to mention established authors and literary experts.

"It's important because DWW has been a lifeline to women writers who are looking for professional companion writers," said Ripley Leo. "We've been pursuing the written word from a time when women didn't have the vote to a time when we have male members. And it's cross genre, everything from poetry to romance and suspense novels."

# Professionals, students play Jazz Fest '99

By KEELY WYOGNIK  
STAFF WRITER  
kwyognik@ecce.com

When Dave Coleman was 9 years old he saw Louis Armstrong on TV.

"He was on stage having so much fun. I decided that's what I wanted to do," said Coleman. "I learned how to play trumpet."

Now assistant music director at Ferndale High School, Coleman, who also teaches at Coolidge Middle School, is passing the tradition of jazz onto the next generation.

On Saturday, June 5, his bands will be among the 13 professional, high school and middle school jazz bands playing at Jazz Fest '99, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the Ferndale High School Courtyard, 881 Placereast, south of Coolidge and Livernois, between 9 Mile Road. All day admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students, children under 6 free. Bring lawn chairs and blankets

to sit on. Call (248) 547-1700 Ext. 5115 for information.

The event evolved from a concert to a longer concert to an all day come and go as you please jazz festival. Food and beverages will be offered for sale in the courtyard throughout the day. In case of rain, the festival will be held indoors.

"Last year was incredible," said Coleman about the festival which drew professional and student jazz groups. "My only regret is that there were only 150 people there. We're hoping to get as many people as possible this year."

The festival offers an opportunity to hear local youngsters and professionals such as drummer Miguel Gutierrez and his group, Truht.

For the students, it's a chance to shine. "The kids love to perform at the end of the year when they're at their best," said Coleman.

Rosemary Spatafora is among the parents helping with the festival. Her son Jeff is a sophomore at Ferndale High School and plays alto sax.

"It's fun for the public to hear the music, and jazz is becoming so popular," she said. "Mr. Coleman wanted the kids to hear other jazz bands play to expand their exposure. It's exciting and gratifying to see kids get recognition."

For Coleman it's all about jazz, and exposing as many people as he can to this American art form. "We can't take credit for classical music or polkas," he said. "But when it comes to jazz that's ours that's American. It's wonderful for kids, it's more fun to have a jam session than to be in the street and get in trouble. Music stimulates their brain big time."

Next year Coleman would like to expand the festival to two days.

The Ferndale Jazz Combo,

which consists of five members of the jazz band, has been invited to perform at the 1999 Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival.

Here's the JazzFest Schedule:  
11-11:30 a.m. — Best Middle School Jazz  
11:40 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. — Southfield Lathrup Jazz Quintet  
12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. — Best Vocal Jazz Ensemble  
1:10-1:50 p.m. — Keith Gamble  
2-2:40 p.m. — Tim Flarity Trio  
2:50-3:30 p.m. — Berkley High School Jazz Band  
3:40-4:20 p.m. — "Truth" featuring Miguel Gutierrez  
4:30-5:10 p.m. — Detroit High School of Performing Arts  
5:20-6 p.m. — The Jamie Hughes Quintet  
6:10-6:50 p.m. — Pine Quest  
7-7:40 p.m. — Ferndale High School Jazz Ensemble  
7:50-8:30 p.m. — Ferndale High Vocal Ensemble  
8:40-9:20 p.m. — Staff/Alumni

## ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Oakland County arts news leads to Art Beat, *Eccentric! Newspapers*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, fax (248) 544-1314.

**ARTS & HUMANITIES PROMOTION**  
The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Humanities Council have launched a new statewide arts and humanities campaign.

The campaign's theme is "Arts and Humanities... adding bal-

ance to our lives!" According to promotional material, the campaign was developed to emphasize the essential role of the arts in developing a sense of family and community.

For the past five years, according to the governor's office, Michigan has ranked in the top 10 states in financial support for the arts. Funding from state arts and cultural grants reaches all of Michigan's 83 counties.

For more information, call (517) 372-7770.

## BRAC POTTERY SALE

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center will hold its annual spring Pottery Sale 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, June 12.

The sale will feature a wide range of art and functional pieces produced by students of the ceramic department at the BBAC.

The BBAC is located at 1618 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham.

For information, call (248) 644-0866.

## DAIMLERCHRYSLER SPONSORS

DaimlerChrysler has announced that it will support the Celebrate Michigan Artists exhibit and the Art & Apples Festival. The annual festival is organized by the Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester.

For the first time, the exhibit featuring Michigan artists will be on display at DaimlerChrysler headquarters in Auburn Hills, from Aug. 20-Nov. 6.

# Masterpiece from page C1

star-crossed lovers at the moment after they are married, but before Romeo has to flee.

"Romeo and Juliet are at the top, kind of hovering over the world obvious," he said.

"Emanating from them is an aura that is symbolized by squares, and in those squares are hearts, the symbol of love, roses, and also an eye, the sym-

bol of perception and knowledge."

For Lidgus, art, music and literature have always been intertwined, and his artwork reflects this fabric of knowledge. As a painter uses a brush, Lidgus creates his vignettes with paper and scissors.

"I like the control of paper," he said. "With paper and scissors,

you have to make linear and spatial decisions, and I like that. It forces you to think differently."

The several dozen mixed media collages in this show are from Lidgus's most recent works. From here, the exhibit travels to Florida, and then Marbella, Spain.

For Georgia Nadhir, who, along with co-owner Kimberly

Salman, opened Masterpiece Gallery two years ago this August, the decision to bring this exhibit was an easy one.

"I looked at it and loved it," said Nadhir. "His work has the dimension and depth you get with textile, but it's done with papers."

It has a very soothing, calming effect. It gives you Chl."

# Opera from page C1

exceptionally talented but uncommonly down-to-earth.

Shortly after immigrating from Moldavia, Mishura found a home at the Jewish Community Center where she practiced her singing. People would gather and listen. Soon, she had a list of students to whom she taught voice. Then, Mishura began to sing in choruses and at synagogues.

A stint as a waitress at DePalma's Restaurant in Livonia brought her in contact with a many of her future colleagues in the local opera community.

DePalma's, at the time, was sponsoring opera concerts on Wednesdays.

Mishura recalls those days fondly. That's also when she met her current husband, whose sense of promotion transformed her career — and her life.

"I think that I've had two lives," she said. "One in Russia and the other since coming to America."

"I've learned that you must be faithful to your art."

And that's commitment in any language.

# Conversations from page C1

exclusively for children as much as a majestic crescent moon and the grandeur of a starlight sky are only to be appreciated by people under 12.

As Stone teaches: Art, like age, is a state of mind.

## A descriptive word

By the time the on-the-record interview rolls around, Stone has obviously given some thought to the last 10 years. Her answer is prepared. She paraphrases renowned

illustrator Wendell Minor's response when asked how he can sustain his level of work.

"I've added a word to Minor's answer of 'passion and perseverance,'" said Stone.

Then, she hands over a white sheet of paper with a single word written on it. "I'm not sure how to pronounce it, but I like what it means."

The word she has written is "perspicacity," which means insightful or having acute perception.

In many ways, when it comes to her contribution to the growing international appreciation of the art of children's book illustrations, Stone personifies the word.

Adventures in art

When she started out 10 years ago, Stone was encouraged by the artists who supported her. "Initially, the public perception was that this type of art wasn't worth much," she said.

"I soon realized that I had to educate people. I looked at it less as an obstacle and more like an adventure."

It's hardly a coincidence that as collectors have become more educated, the value of children's book illustrations has steadily increased.

A watercolor valued at \$3,000 15 years ago is now worth

\$50,000.

In essence, Stone's adventure has meant greater public awareness of Michigan artists, and contemporary illustrators, such as Minor, Gennady Spirin, Chris van Allsburg, Maurice Sendak, and Arthur Rackham.

Ten years ago, obviously Stone knew about perspicacity.

It just took a decade or so before she was comfortable enough to pronounce it.

Frank Provenzano can be reached at (248) 901-2567, or at [fprovenzano@ecce.com](mailto:fprovenzano@ecce.com). Or write to: The Eccentric! Newspaper, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009.

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