OBSERVER A ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE **MOVIES**

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North of the intersection of 14 Mile & Happerty 248-958-5801 Sargain Matiness Daily for all Shows starting before & pm Same Day Advince Tickets Available NY-No VIP Tickets Accepted

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CLOSED FOR REHOVATION







Aretha Franklin's book of lists is not a bad one

"Areths: From These Roots" by Aretha Franklin and David Rits (Villard, \$25).



As list books go, this is not a bad one. Only trouble is, when readers open its covers, they li expect an autolography or a memoir. Even before we're midway through "Aretha: From These Roots," however, it starts to sound something like an extended monologue, during which the speaker tells us, "And then I recorded... and then I were... and then I fell in love with ..."

wore ... and then I fell in love with ..."

Much is merely mentioned or touched upon in this book and never really developed. Consequently, many readers may be left highly frustrated to find that the Queen of Soul hasat reached down a little deeper, to bring us a richer, more moving portrait on these pages.

Threading it all together are lists within lists. Aretha Franklin and David Ritz seem to have written this book at least partially so that she could recognize in print nearly every musician or recording artist she's ever worked with Nothing ignoble about that, of course, but as done here it makes for rather soporific reading. soporific reading.

soporific reading.

That's the not-so-good news about "Aretha." The better news is that it occasionally offers an engaging look at life in the Detroit of the '40s and '50s, in a neighborhood that nurtured, in addition to Franklin, such future

gral part of each service filled the air.

Sometimes, her attention strayed, however, distracted by the aromas of "chicken frying... macaroni and cheese and ham hocks and ... sweet potatoes" from the busy church kitchen across-Hastings Street. "We began at 11 am., so by 3 p.m. I would be terrifically hungry," she rocalls.

Franklin fondly remembers such spots as Belle Isle, the old Gotham Hotel, the neighborhood grocery, Wigging's sweetshop at Oakland and Belmont, the Echo Theatre, the Arcadia roller skat-

superstars as Diana Ross and Smokey Robinson. It also provides us access to a high-energy household of that era that was filled almost constantly with the state of whom were superstars of the day.

The great majority of readers know, of course, that Aretha Franklin grew up in Detroit. Fewer fans perhaps realize that she was born in Memphis, where her father, C.L. Franklin, a former sharecropper, made a considerable name for himself as an eloquent Baptist minister. The family settled in Detroit in 1943, when Aretha was 2, and her family settled in Detroit in 1943, when Aretha was 2, and her family settled in Detroit in 1943, when Aretha was 2, and her family settled in Detroit in 1943, when Aretha was 2, and her family settled in Detroit in 1943, when Aretha was 2, and her family settled in Detroit in 1943, when Aretha was 2, and her father brass on birth, their was a pastor at New Bethel Baptist Church.

For several years, the family lived in a comfortable parsonage on Detroit's north end, though the Rev. Franklin's church was located in another neighborhood several miles away at the corner of Hastings and Willis. Every Sunday morning, the small child ant for several hours while her father prached and the spirited gospel music that was an integral part of each sortice filled the air.

Somptimes, her attention strayed, however, distracted by

struggieu to make a name l'herself as a performing artist.

For the mostly-untrained vocalist (who still does not sight-read music), the road to stardom began shortly after the birth of her son, whon she joined her father's traveling ministry as a gospel coloist. Her talent eventually took her to New York, where her first demo – a group of secular tunes – impressed Columbin Records executives enough to offor her a contract almost immediately.

Arotha Franklin, though recording and performing in clubs and on television throughout the country, didn't have a major hit until six years later when she left Columbia for Atlantic and made a record that would become a kind of anthem for its time.

With the release of "Respect."

With the release of "Respect," the future diva was definitely on her way.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features events at suburban bookstores, libraries and literary gatherings. Send news leads to Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 38251 Schooleraf, Livonia, M1 48150, or fax them to (734) 591-7279 or e-mail to kwygonik@oc. homecomm.net

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USEN BOOK SALE
The Friends of the Southfield
The Friends of the Southfield
Public Libray is holding their
semi-annual used book sale
through Sunday, Oct. 24, in the
Mercotte Room of the Libray,
26000 Evergreen. The admission
fee of \$5 entitles browsers to preview the books for sale and enjoy
complimentary refreshments.
Admission to the sale is free.
Hours are 1-4:30 p.m. Oct. 24.
Call (248) 948-0481 for information.

MEET THE AUTHOR

MEET THE AUTHOR

Farmington Observer reporter
and Livonia resident Tim Smith
will sign copies of his new book.

"Miracle Birth Stories of Very
Premature Bables – Little Thumbs
Upi? 7:30 pm. Thursdey, Oct. 28
at Borders, Auburn Hills and 1
pm. Seturdey, Oct. 30, 1 pm. at
Waldenbooks, Lakeside Mall,
Sterling Heights, Smith can be
contacted directly at (248) 4775450.

S450. See Marian Edwards of Livonia will sign copies of her book "Heaven's Reward" 6-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, at Waldenbooks Westland Mali,

AMC Livenia 28 Haggerty & 7 Mile 734-542-9909

Call theatre for Features and Times.

Farmer Comma 3000 Hymoch Rd. 313-351-3310 All Shore II Except shows after 6 pm. on Fistip & Safestoy & 751 all shows Teacher to collect opens at 450 pm Morroy Fistip only. Call Theolow for Festing was ID, required for "It" rated shows



and 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at Waldenbooks Summit Place Mail. FRIENDS OF THE TROY PUBLIC FRIENDS OF THE TROY PUBLIC LIBERARY
The Friends announce new hours at their used book shop on the lower level of the library. The shop is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The library door opens at 8 a.m. for browsers and students. Library services opens at 10 a.m. Most used book prices tail in the range of 50 cents to \$1, with new hardcover books

ranging from \$1.50 to \$5.50.
CELEBRATE BATS
Borders Rochester Hills will support the Organization for Bat
Conservation with special events on Halloween weekend. To help raise but swereness, the store, 1122 S. Rochester Road, will donate 15 percent of purchases to help the bats of Michigan on Seturday, Oct. 30, and Sunday, Oct. 31. Local musicleans will donate their time for a music festival beginning at 2:30 p.m. and running until 6 p.m. on Saturday, Bat friends will appear at the store both weekend days. For more information, call (248) 652-0558.

WRITERS EVERYWHERE

WRITERS EVERYWHERE
A flock of local flotion authors will
make an appearance at
Paperbacks & Things in Westland
between 1 and 4 p.m. Seturday,
Nov. 6. Novellats attending the
annual Book Lovers Day
Celebration include Shelly
Thacker, Ruth Langen, Jeanne
Savary, Gall Martin, Beverly
Jenkens, Nancy Gldeon, Sharon
Plascreta and many more. The Pleacrete and many more. The store is at 8044 Wayne Road in the Oak Plaze. For information or to order books, call (734) 522-

the Dax Plaza. For information or to order books, call (734) 522-8018.

POONY STUFF

Virginia Balley Parker, the author of "Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton," will share some of her anecdotes at 7:30 pm.

Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Plymouth District Library, 223.5. Main. Her stories of apparitions, phantom sounds, objects moving on their own and earle lights are set in some of Canton's Victorian farm-houses. Her research turned up tales of childhood pranks, historic tragedies and other paranormal happenings. Call (734) 453-0750 for Information.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The Michigan Humanities Council and the Friends of the Livraia public Library present Literary

Outsiders: Contemporary Voices. This series at the Carl Sandburg Library in Livenia offers a collection of stories of love, betraysi, mystery and madness, stories that lay bare the terrible liles of love and madness that bind use liles of love and madness that bind use IPrograms take place the following Tuesdays:

© Oct. 26: Beans of Egypt, Meine

Nov. 9: Family Dancing
All programs begin at 7 p.m. The
Carl Sandburg Library is at 30100
W. Seven Mile. Call (248) 4760700 for details.

SONDERS ROCHESTER HILLS

BORDERS ROCHESTER HILLS

W. Seven mile. Van Learne W. Seven mile. Van Las OrOol for details.

BORDERS ROCKESTER HILLS

BORDERS BOOKE & Music in Rochester Hills will present an eco-campfire, an Indoor program that addressee environmental topics, at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 28. Included will be sing-slongs, dance, interactive stories, handson props and crafts using recycled materials. This special activity celebrates the energy and spirit of the sun and moon. Cell activity celebrates the energy and spirit of the sun and moon. Cell (248) 652-0558 for information. Local author Kim Delmar Cory will appear at Borders Rochester Hills to discuss her latest work. Charlie Boy. "Charlie Boy takes place around the turn of the century in Detroit and includes opening day at 8 fannett Park April 28, 1896. Cory, who is trying to get her Michigan historical novels accepted by fourth grade classrooms around the state, will appear during the store's Harvest Festival the afternoon of Saturday, Cct. 30. JCc BOOK FAIR This Jewish Community Conter will hold its annual Jewish book fair Nov. 6.14. Included in the event is the authors min-fair 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7. The fair will take place at the

a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7. The fair will take place at the center's facilities in West Bloomfield and in Oak Park, More than 30 speakers will appear, and entertainment will be provided (both free). Call the center for details, (248) 661-7648.

Pro Air to expand City Airport service

In a move that will allow it to develop a regional operation to feed its jet flights, Pro Air Inc. tend do not have low-cost air will anuach. Pro Air Express service from its base at Detroit. The airline will acquire the new SAAB 2000 aircraft for the new service. These waircraft will enable Pro Air to introduce flights from