

ArtShare triumph for center

Renowned photojournalist Linda Solomon and 80 Michigan artists contributed their work to the 8th annual ArtShare Invitational and raised \$79,800 to benefit the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center's programs for severely abused children and families in crisis.

This reception presented by Ford Motor Co. took place Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Southfield Town Center and attracted more than 600 guests.

Solomon donated a 20-inch by 30-inch signed photograph titled "The World of Andrew Wyeth." This piece and the works of 11 other artists were auctioned live by celebrity masters of ceremonies Huel Perkins of WJBK-FOX2 and Alexander Zonjic of Smooth Jazz radio and professional auctioneer Richard Brodie of Norman Levy and Associates.

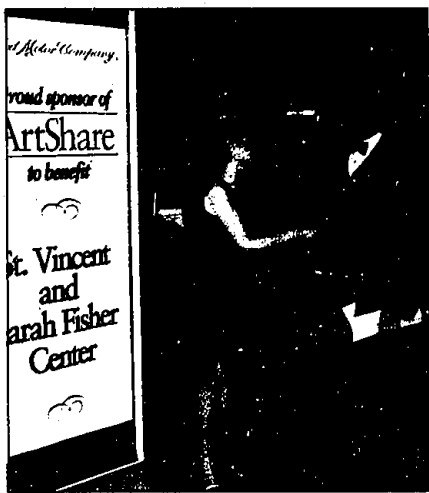
Doug MacVoy, president of United Lighting Standards of Warren, paid \$1,250 to take home Solomon's photograph. The evening's highest bidder was attorney Charles Langton of Royal Oak who purchased "Garden of Transformation," a painting by internationally known tie designer and painter Dominic Pangborn of Detroit. Pangborn served as ArtShare 99's featured artist.

In addition to the live auction, guests placed their silent auction bids on jewelry, paintings, photography, tiles, pottery, and sculpture by more than 70 artists, including tie maker Robert Dempster, painter Tom Hale and potter John Glick. They enjoyed the live music of Charles and Gwen Scales, strolling hors d'oeuvres and desserts, courtesy of the Westin Southfield/Detroit, and wine, compliments of Outback Steakhouse of West Bloomfield.

Former governor James Blanchard and his wife, Janet; Miss Farmington/Oakland County Leslie Reinbold; Mary Kramer of Crain's Detroit Business; and Redford artist Sergio DeGuisti were spotted in the crowd.

The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center has provided a safe, nurturing home to children in crisis for more than 145 years. Today the center's programs include residential treatment, foster care and adoption services for severely abused children and children with special needs, and Marillac Outreach Services.

Together, these programs provide comprehensive services to over 1,000 infants, youths and families annually in southeastern Michigan. Sponsors of ArtShare were Ford, ACN, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, DMS Moving Systems, Hour Detroit magazine, Liberty Property Trust, Smooth Jazz, United Lighting, FOX2 and Zada Enterprises.



Celebrity greeter: Leslie Reinbold, the reigning Miss Farmington, greets guests to ArtShare 99.



Bidding: Above, Bradley Southwood of Bosch Corp. places a bid in the silent auction. At left, Huel Perkins, Jean Vickers, executive director of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, and Alexander Zonjic begin the live auction.



Another sunny day out west. What a great way to start the day in Arizona. It has finally cooled off in the mornings and evenings. It's still warm in the middle of the day but cooler than when we moved here in August. What is funny, though, is people love to have some overcast days just for a change.

The land here in Chandler, Ariz., is very flat, but mountains surround us. At night, the stars seem so close that you feel like you could almost touch them.

Everyone here is so friendly and very helpful from the store workers to the neighbors. In the stores and the bank, your name is remembered, which is so nice.

We are all settled in our home and had been using our swimming pool until two weeks ago. I was hoping that the pool would be warm enough to use through December. But the nights have cooled the pool water to below 68 degrees. I wish I were a polar bear and could swim in cold water.

Many dog friends

Marbles has many dog friends to play with every day

Adjusting to a new city easier with pals

at our park around the corner from our home. Plus Marbles and I go for long walks with Morgan and her owner, Janet. Janet and Morgan moved in on our block from Ohio three weeks after we did. So it has been very nice to walk with a fellow Midwesterner.

I have to admit moving away from all my friends that I had for 22 years in Farmington was the hardest thing I have ever gone through. I was very emotional for about the first six weeks. When I would receive e-mail from Camille Mayotte especially, I would start crying. My poor husband, Tom, was not sure what to do with me at that point.

Family ties

Tom was having a hard time also at first. Tom left his family in Michigan and Ohio, plus we left our grown son Kirk behind, that was hard. It's better now that we have met some wonderful people who are becoming friends. But, we could never, ever forget our friends in Michigan.

Tom really enjoys work and the fact that people work in not such a rush, which is refreshing. Tom's co-workers are very nice and he is getting to really know them.

I am happier because I have started volunteering at our

local hospital as a receptionist in the emergency room. It is so much fun, and I have met many other volunteers and staff members of the hospital. Plus, the volunteer director and myself are working to have Pet Therapy brought into the hospital. I have decided to take a Spanish class at Chandler Community College. I have taken two classes so far and what fun. This is a non-credit course, no tests and no pressure.

There are 18 students in my class - three from Michigan, several from Chicago, two from Canada, two from Seattle and the rest from Wisconsin. Our instructor is great, and she has a nice way of teaching.

On early Saturday and Sunday mornings you can see as many as five or six hot air balloons in the sky. I enjoy all the colors. My dream is to someday ride in a hot air balloon. It looks like so much fun!

I have received lots of e-mail asking about the Arizona wildlife. I am learning what lives around here. As I learn I will pass the information along to my Michigan readers.

Bev Cornell is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and former veterinary aide. You can send questions on domestic and wildlife to her e-mail address: bristol_dog@man.com

Art benefit from page B1

The collection includes 20th century paintings, watercolors, original signed graphic works and old and modern graphics spanning for centuries.

Winning bids on most of the works are expected to be from \$100 to \$5,000, however, some, likely, will garner much more. In the past the institute has held one annual fund-raiser, the Dove Dinner, honoring two or three people in the community.

Expanding programs

The art auction is expected to become an annual event to help the institute expand programs like Holocaust studies, trying to understand how that happened and what the church was doing; dealing with anti-semitism; addressing Middle East and Israeli issues; and attacking stereotypes, misunderstandings and the barriers that exist between Jews and Christians.

"A lot of times there is a real awareness on the part of Jews on what they've gone through as a people and dealing with anti-semitism," Bluett said. "Christians tend to have no concept of that."

The institute also looks at the similarities between the faiths. For instance, Bluett is teaching

two classes at area churches on Jewish/Christian links in the past and prophecies for the future.

The institute also helps interfaith couples and sponsors regular trips to Israel, the origin of both faiths. Another main focus is working with the West Bloomfield school system introducing Jewish and Christian issues to middle school students in a program called "Unity in the Community."

The point is, Bluett said, that Christians and Jews celebrate that they're free to be who they are.

Celebrating diversity

"That gets really exciting," he said. "The idea that Christians accept Jesus as the son of God - we celebrate that rather than not talk about it. If we're really dialogue partners we understand that. And we understand why Jews don't except Jesus as a symbol of being true to what God has told them. We let Jews define who they are and various Christians define who they are."

Lyons' charismatic and devotion to fostering good will between Jews and Christians motivated Gerson Cooper, CEO of Botsford General Hospital in

Farmington Hills, to become a member of the institute's board about six years ago.

He also agreed to use the Botsford Coach House this year for the auction, which will also mark the first time the building will be open to the public since the hospital acquired it last summer.

Forum for dialogue

"The real progress (the institute) has made, I feel, has been through the programs that are aimed at (students)," said Cooper, who is active at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield.

Most importantly, he said, the institute provides a forum for dialogue.

"We respect the differences and celebrate the similarities," Cooper added.

"There are many more similarities than there are differences. It's such a small organization. It's a marvel that it has had the impact that it has had."

"We wish that it would magnify tenfold. Jim (Lyons) was an extraordinary individual and we were very fortunate in finding David Bluett and we have Jim to thank for that, too, because he made us all aware of David Bluett."

For more information about the institute or the auction call the Ecumenical Institute at (248) 557-4522.

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