

Arts & Leisure

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Development director up for the task at hand

Ask Stella Greene one question about the Plymouth Community Arts Council and she's off and running like that unstoppable Energizer Bunny.

As the arts council's newly appointed development director, Greene is enthusiastic about finding new ways to inspire individuals, businesses and corporations to become involved with the organization dedicated to fostering and encouraging accessibility to quality arts experiences.

A series of writing workshops with authors is in the works, but already-established art classes, children's theater, scholarships, brown bag lectures, Music in the Park concert, art in the schools programming, exhibits, and the Cultural Diversity Series have plenty of draw on their own.

The cultural series continues Sunday, Jan. 30 with a celebration of Polish art, dance, food, and an exhibit of works by Marjane Oweczarski that continues through Wednesday, March 1.

What we do well "We're focusing on what we do well," said Greene, who assumed the newly created position Sept. 1 although she's unofficially been doing the job for some time.

Polish celebration The arts council is helping to draw a variety of new visitors with its Polish celebration. An opening reception, featuring the Wavel Folk Dancers of Hamtramck on Sunday, Jan. 30 will give visitors a taste of Poland.

St. Mary's College president Thaddeus Radzilowski will deliver "Modern Polish Art and Culture" at an upcoming lecture. There will also be sculptures on display by Marjane Oweczarski, artist-in-residence at Orchard Lake Schools and a native of Poland.

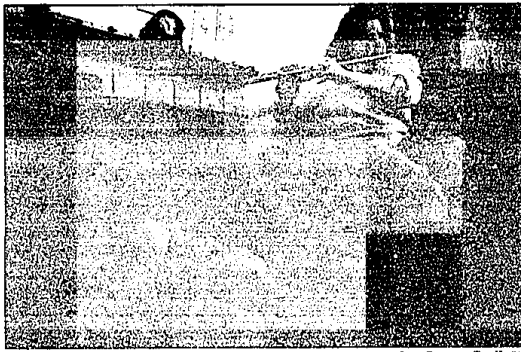
WHAT: The Cultural Diversity Series continues with Polish art, dance and food. WHEN: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30; sampling of Polish food and pastries at 3 p.m., performance by the Wavel Dancers at 2 p.m. Meet artist Marjane Oweczarski whose works will be on display until Wednesday, March 3. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, until 9 p.m. Wednesday, until noon, Thursday-Friday.

Poland: A Celebration of Art and Culture

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Music critics: (At right) Natasha Harhold practices in front of her toughest critics—Rhine (left) and Hope. (Photo below) Rhine is looking for a new home. His racing days are over after breaking a bone.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM ILAVET



Musicians on track for Greyhound rescue

STORIES BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER lchomin@oc.homecomm.net

Duke's no pushover. Neither Dare Rhine and Hope, the greyhounds living with Natasha Harhold. When the Westland fiddler hits a wrong note, they let her know.

WHAT: A concert to benefit TLC Greyhound Adoption. WHEN: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12. WHERE: Kresge Hall at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft at Lovin, Livonia. TICKETS: \$5 adults, \$3 students. Call (734) 765-2248 or e-mail greyhounddog@earthlink.net

father, Irving (clarinet). The Feldmans teach at Evola Music in Canton.

Greyhounds seek new homes

A greyhound's 12- to 14-year life span makes them an ideal pet. They're one of the few purebreds without genetic problems because they're bred for speed and agility, not looks.

"We contact them to find out why they want to adopt. Then we

Please see HOMES, C2

Full house Snuggled on the couch and floor, the three fawn-colored hounds seem pleased with the sounds coming from Harhold's flute. Duke has a special place in the Harhold household.

Hope was adopted as a puppy. Greyhound puppies are rare. Hope broke her rear leg so the owner/breeder decided to find her a home.

Rhine, the Harhold's third foster dog, started racing at about 18 months, the typical age that greyhounds are sent to the track. He raced a year before breaking his back stopper bone. After healing, TLC Greyhound Adoption

Please see MUSICIANS, C2

Acting's no 'hard knock life' for star of 'Annie'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER lchomin@oc.homecomm.net

Not too much fazes Elizabeth Bezzerko, especially when it comes to acting. The 9-year-old Farmington Hills girl is playing the lead role in "Annie Jr.," a shortened version of the musical about an orphan in search of a family.

Produced by Redford drama teacher Nancy Florukowski, "Annie Jr." continues through Sunday, Jan. 30, at the Masonic Temple in Detroit.

Although this is Elizabeth's first time playing a leading role, she has plenty of experience. She has performed in productions at the Marquette Theatre in Northville and was cast in "Oliver!" at Farmington High School.

Elizabeth has dreamed about playing Annie since she was 5 and saw the movie at a friend's house. A trip with her parents to see the live production convinced her that she wanted the role of the red-haired orphan.

Streetwise: Elizabeth Bezzerko in a scene from "Annie."

Elizabeth. "I have lots of lines and sing lots of songs. Sometimes it's difficult because for songs like 'I'm Gonna Like It Here,' I have to really belt it out. But I really didn't have to learn the songs because I already knew them."

A father's pride takes over, as Rich Bezzerko quickly adds.

WHAT: Plymouth Symphony Chamber concert features Poulenc, Haydn, Revueltas, Farenco, and Ellington.

WHERE: Plymouth Canton Little Theatre inside Plymouth Canton High School, 8415 N. Canton Center Road at Joy, Canton.

TICKETS: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/college students, free for students through grade 12. Call (734) 451-2112.

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CONCERT

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra swings from France to Mexico

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER lchomin@oc.homecomm.net

Before rehearsing Revueltas' "Ocho for Radio," conductor Nan Washburn asked how many members of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra have played mariachi music.

"I have very eclectic tastes and like to share them," said Washburn. "There's so much classical music and they don't all sound alike. There's a historical work by a woman composer on the chamber program and the piece by Revueltas, one of Mexico's most important 20th-century composers.

WHAT: Plymouth Symphony Chamber concert features Poulenc, Haydn, Revueltas, Farenco, and Ellington. WHEN: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29. Pre-concert chat with director Nan Washburn begins at 7 p.m. WHERE: Plymouth Canton Little Theatre inside Plymouth Canton High School, 8415 N. Canton Center Road at Joy, Canton. TICKETS: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/college students, free for students through grade 12. Call (734) 451-2112.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HICKERMAN

No, No Nonet: Conductor Nan Washburn leads the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra in a rehearsal for a chamber concert.

"This year, I'm forming them into a mini orchestra of from 8 to 11 players to perform all of the pieces," said Washburn. "It's good for our principal players to solo so everybody gets to shine. It's my hope that this size ensemble will go out and perform and represent

the orchestra at various locations in the community."

A pre-concert chat with Washburn will include a discussion about the history of the works on the program, and the composers who wrote them, including Louise Farenco.

Farenco was born in the early 1800s into an artistic family of sculptors and painters. By age 16, she was already an accomplished pianist. According to Washburn, Farenco's "No, No Nonet" remained in manuscript in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris for nearly 150 years and was only recently published.

"The most striking thing about Farenco's music upon first hearing is that it does not sound French, especially when one considers the frivolous salon music dominating the Parisian musical tastes of the time. Her music is serious, full-scaled, well-crafted with a lyric beauty all it's own."

Young artists

Winners of the orchestra's Youth Artist Competition will receive their awards during the program. The students competed on Dec. 19 at Evola Music in Canton.

Washburn and orchestra members Victor Hickman and William Hulsker

"No, No Nonet"

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chase Eric Liao, a 15-year-old pianist at Novi High School, to receive first place in the senior division.

First place junior division went to Tiffany Lin, a seventh grade pianist from Novi Middle School. Tied for second place in the senior division were Faith Schiffheld, oboe, Plymouth Canton High School, and Robin Lin, piano, Novi High School.

Tiffany Lin and Liao will be featured at the children's concert in March. The Plymouth Rotary Foundation presented a grant to the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra to help fund the student awards.