



Winning entry: Marge Chellstorp displays her triptych "In a Different Light" at the Costick Center on jury night for the Farmington Artists Club. The work took fourth place.

## Artist-in-Residence from page B1

swimming below a surface rich with fat lily pads. Some of Chellstorp's works are abstract.

"I like to change back and forth," she said. "I look for continuity, color, a peaceful look." The walls of her home are testament to her changing artistic moods, offering a variety from a realistic painting of her husband's boyhood Chicago home to an abstract piece that looks like waterfalls and swirling rapids with a bit of land - inspired after a flood.

Chellstorp's nominees for the Artist-in-Residence award included Audrey Hawkins, Yvette Goldberg, Marge Masak and Jerrine Habsburg, all fellow members of the Farmington Artists Club.

Audrey Hawkins, who has known Chellstorp for 20 years, since taking classes from her at

the Longacre House, noted, "She is a very good artist and a wonderful teacher. She has infinite patience with beginning watercolorists."

**Well rounded**

Added collage artist Yvette Goldberg: "She's very fair, very professional and a wonderful human being. I took a workshop with her and found her very informative. And she's a great artist."

Joining Chellstorp for the ceremony that will honor her will be her husband, Frank, daughters Nancy Chellstorp and Kristine Pate with grandson, Christopher E. Daughter Susi McKenzie, who lives in Missouri, will not be able to attend.

Chellstorp gives lectures, juries art shows and conducts workshops throughout the state.

In 1998, she presented a workshop at the University of Michigan for the Ann Arbor Women Painters. Also that year she juried the Canton Township Fine Arts Festival.

Last year, she gave a lecture and demonstration at the Art Center of Battle Creek for the Southwest Michigan Watercolor Society.

"Drawing and painting have been a part of my life for over 40 years," Chellstorp said in her artist's statement. "Because I'm also involved in teaching art history and painting, I think my art work reflects a special competence, versatility and sense of exploration."

"I consider my talent and creativity a wonderful blessing and I am deeply grateful for the continued ability in this often difficult but rewarding vocation."

## Chat room from page B1

one would begrudge Austin a feeling of rage, a thirst for revenge. Given what her father did to her, she might well have grown up hating men. Given her mother's over-zealous religious beliefs, she could have completely rejected God. No one would blame her.

But Austin has other plans. Wherever she goes, she carries a message of hope, tolerance and the love of God to survivors of childhood abuse. And, amazingly, to their parents.

"I think it would help if people would realize what other people are going through," she said. "We're so judgmental. If only we could just be more understanding of what people do... We're so critical of parents who abuse, but we don't offer them help."

Parenting and stress management classes, crisis child care, Parents Anonymous support groups - all those resources work. Getting parents to them, however, isn't easy.

See, we don't ever think we're capable of hurting our own children. So when it happens, in that instant where the world spins out of control, we may feel ashamed. Too ashamed to admit we need help or to ask for it.

Some parents are bound by chains of addiction or, like Austin's mother, a fierce devotion to the most punitive pre-

cepts in the Bible. But far more are just regular people with good hearts who simply lose control.

They must be held accountable, but so should all of us who wander blithely through our cluttered, purposeful lives in comfort and safety. Perhaps we haven't learned the signs a child is being abused. Perhaps we choose to ignore them.

Or we stand frozen in fear until it's too late to do much of anything, as I did that day in Kmart.

"It's not my place to step in. What could I do anyway?" you think to yourself.

Maybe nothing.

Maybe everything.

Joni Hubred is a reporter for the Farmington Observer and the mother of two grown children.

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