

**Art Beat** features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to **Art Beat**, Observer Newspapers, 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, or fax them to (734) 591-7279.

#### CONCERT TODAY

The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra will present a Cabaret Concert 3 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at Hilbert Junior High School, Redford.

Admission is free. For more information, call (313) 538-1652.

Selections include "2001: A Space Odyssey," Bach's "Double Violin Concerto," and music by Richard Strauss and Richard Rodgers.

"It's going to be a nice varied program," said conductor John Gajec.

The season continues with a concert 3 p.m. Sunday, May 20 at Thurston High School, and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 19 in Redford.

#### SINGLANSING

Hudson's Project Imagine and the Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra will present a family

pops concert 3 p.m. Sunday, March 18 at the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts. Plymouth resident Karen Nixon Laine, the orchestra's associate conductor, will lead the "Hot Buttered Pops" which is a festive salute to the most memorable movie scores of the last 80 years.

The program also includes the vocal competition, SingLansing Seven finalists will compete for a \$1,000 grand prize.

Tickets are \$13-\$17 and available by calling (517) 487-5001 or (617) 432-2000.

#### ARTREACH LUNCHON

Plymouth artist/architect Dennis Jones will be the guest lecturer at the Plymouth Community Arts Council's ArtReach Luncheon 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 21 at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth.

Tickets are \$20, \$15 members. For reservations, call (734) 416-4278.

#### FIBER EXHIBIT

Livonia artist Sue Argiroff is one of the Michigan Surface

Design members showing textiles at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor through Thursday, April 19. Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Michigan Surface Design members recently exhibited at the Livonia Civic Center Library. Many of the same artists, who create color, pattern, line and texture on the surface of materials, will be exhibiting in Ann Arbor.

#### CALL FOR ARTISTS

The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills are now accepting applications for the Farmington Founders Festival, a juried outdoor arts and crafts fair to be held July 19-21.

For an application and information, call (248) 477-5837.

#### STUDENT EXHIBIT

Wendy's restaurants are exhibiting the traditional art of decorating Ukrainian Easter eggs at a workshop 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 31 at the Carl Sandburg Branch of the Livonia Public Library.

The cost for the session, taught by Sandy Ewasek, is

\$3.50 and includes materials. To register, call (248) 893-4010.

#### SCULPTORS WANTED

The Livonia Arts Commission is seeking sculptors interested in producing a commissioned sculpture for the city of Livonia. The work will be the third piece for a developing sculpture garden located behind city hall on the civic center grounds.

Sculptors should send a letter to the arts commission by March 31 stating interest in the project. Include photos or slides of previous work. Write the Livonia Arts Commission at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia MI 48154. For information, call the city's community resources department at (734) 468-2536.

#### ART CLASS

Staci Miron, a member of the Farmington Artists Club, will teach art classes in Novi. Beginning/advanced watercolor classes are scheduled for 1-3 p.m. Thursday, March 22 to May 15, no class April 19. The cost is \$80 (does not include supplies). Call (248) 668-1718.

## ART BEAT



**Fiber exhibit:** This wall hanging by Sue Argiroff is one of the works on display at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

# JET play challenges students to spurn hatred

BY ALICE RHEIN

Star writer  
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It's probably one of the most penetrating coming-of-age books ever written, but for a young and frightened Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis during World War II, it was simply her thoughts written in a black diary she called "Kitty."

Countless students have read "Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl" since it was first published in 1947. And for most, the story of her and her family hiding in a secret annex of a house in Amsterdam to escape Nazi detection remains one of the most profound books ever read.

Many adults can recall the time, the age, and the grade they were in when first introduced to Anne. To this day, I can still remember the tears that flowed when I read it for the first time in fifth grade.

Without knowing her, I mourned for Anne. And the

senselessness of the Holocaust was captured more aptly than any history book could convey.

This month, more than 9,000 students in the metro Detroit area will have the opportunity to see the stage version of "The Diary of Anne Frank" when it is performed by the JET (Jewish Ensemble Theater) at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Detroit.

One public performance is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, March 18, although tickets remain for morning performances March 19-23.

Evelyn Orbach, artistic director of JET, said this is the sixth season the company has performed the play for students.

"We started this on our main stage, and there were so many schools that called and wanted to see that we scheduled 12 extra performances. There's a real desire and need for this to be seen," she said.

In years past, the JET utilized the Millennium Center in Southfield and the auditorium at Greenfield Village & Henry Ford Museum. But this year, the 1,600-seat Gothic venue is where students will get to see the stage version.

#### Impact

"We have children from all over coming—from Ypsilanti to Port Huron," said Orbach. And 2,000 are coming from schools in Detroit, which pleases Orbach to no end. "Our whole desire is to get diversity in the audience."

For Barbara Keen, an 8th grade English teacher at Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills, her reason for taking her

What: JET presents the *Diary of Anne Frank*  
When: 3 p.m. Sunday, March 18 (performances are also at 10 a.m. March 19, 21 and 23, and at 10:30 a.m. March 20).  
Where: Scottish Rite Cathedral, Masonic Temple, Detroit  
Tickets: \$5 students, \$10 adults  
For information about tickets or to book a class call Mary Davis at the JET at (248) 788-2900.

group of 120 students is quite simple. The diary is part of the required reading for her class, and her students have always been extremely touched by the story.

"It really has an impact. They understand the meaning of good and evil," said Keen, who has been teaching for 31 years. And their normal teenage problems suddenly become pretty trivial.

At Scripps Middle School in Lake Orion, language arts teacher Cathy Zajkowski will be traveling with the entire 7th grade class to see the play, which features Maribeth Monroe as Anne.

At the school, where she's also taught for 31 years, World War II is a cross-curricular subject. While the history department is teaching the facts and figures of war, and the English class is giving a loss of life figures, her class is reading Frank's diary.

Zajkowski said she finds that the play helps her students relate to other types of prejudice, and particularly enjoys the talk-back sessions. "After the play, the actors lead the students in a discussion," she said.

"It really has an impact. They understand the meaning of good and evil," said Keen, who has been teaching for 31 years. And their normal teenage problems suddenly become pretty trivial.

"We try to send students back to school with awareness and courage to say no to something that isn't right," she said. "We don't just do this because it's a Jewish story, it's the most glaring example of hatred and prejudice."

Orbach said that during the productions, there's a bonding of

the audience—a brief moment in time when, whatever background the students are from, they are sharing the same experience.

At today's public performance, Holocaust survivor Ezra Gorman will be speaking at the talk-back. She was hidden as a young girl with her family in a hay barn in Ukraine in an area no bigger than a blanket.

For two years her family hid from the Nazis, and when it was safe to come out, she and her family struggled to walk, having been immobile for so long.

It was only after she saw a neo-Nazi speaking on television about how he wanted to finish what was started that she found she could no longer keep quiet about her own struggle.

"She is an eloquent speaker," said Orbach. And coupled with the stage production, this afternoon is likely to be a compelling time for quiet reflection.

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