

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Conductor calls all to the cabaret

Circle Friday, April 6 on your calendar. It's an evening you won't want to miss, said Nan Washburn. For one night only, the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra will turn Laurel Manor into a 1920s Parisian cafe for a benefit pops concert/dinner with silent and live auctions.

European-style cabaret music by Offenbach and Weill will mingle with jazz by Ellington and Porter as well as popular American songs by Gershwin and Sousa — all performed by guest vocalist Deanna Relyea. According to Washburn, Relyea, a mezzo soprano and executive director of the Kerrytown Concert House in Ann Arbor, "has done a lot of cabaret singing and knows this repertoire well."

Excited about performing

"I'm really excited about her performance," said Washburn now in her second season as conductor of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. Washburn was in Los Angeles to perform with the West Hollywood Orchestra but can't wait to return for the pops concert. She's excited about performing Darius Milhaud's "The Creation of the World."

"Like Gershwin, Cole Porter and other American composers, Milhaud, a French composer, was combining classical orchestral music with jazz during the 1920s. 'The Creation,' which I believe predates 'Rhapsody in Blue,' is for jazz orchestra with saxophone and trap drums. It also has lots of great solos for our principal players to test out their jazz chops."

In addition to Milhaud's music, Washburn has one hot program planned with Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing," Gershwin's "Our Love is Here to Stay" and the theme from "Cabaret."

The orchestra chose this music to appeal to a wider audience. PSO executive director Darlene Dreyer said benefit proceeds help keep the 55-year-old orchestra alive.

"The orchestra has a budget of \$238,000 this year that's going up to \$245,000 next year," said Dreyer. "The rent went up \$400 when we moved our office in September. We wanted to stay uptown and be visible in the community. There's also been a 5 percent increase in printing costs, and next year we'll feature several out of town guest artists on the program Nan has planned."

What: Plymouth Symphony Orchestra presents a Cabaret Cafe, a Pops concert with silent and live benefit auctions and dinner. When: 6-10 p.m., Friday, April 6. Where: Laurel Manor, Livonia. Tickets: \$50, \$25 children, call (734) 451-2112.



Deanna Relyea, singer

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New season

And what a line-up the 2001-2002 season features — a Nov. 10 concert devoted to Latin American music, chamber music with Relyea singing intimate songs Jan. 19-20, and Plymouth Oratorio Society. Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, and Eastern Michigan University chorus members joining the orchestra for Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony" on March 16. Also in the works is an Aug. 3 family concert in Kellogg Park.

"We really need community support," said Relyea. "To pay the orchestra is \$10,000 a concert. We hope people step up and support the orchestra, otherwise we won't be able to have a full orchestra."

Jo Swere is doing everything she can to make sure they do. As president of the Plymouth Symphony League, Swere has been working hard to solicit donations for the silent and live auctions. She's hoping to top the \$8,500 brought in by items last year. The Plymouth Symphony League, the

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Physio-dance: Melissa Tyll, Warren (left), Michele Wade, Livonia, Heather Olah, Livonia, Julie Hilgert, Birmingham, Kristin Quint, Westland (center row front), Candace Ollie, Detroit, Carrie Gorman, Portage, Jill Merritt, Garden City, and Lauri Bernacki, Troy demonstrate how individual muscle cells contract in a bicep when lifting a weight at the gym.

Creative science

Professor uses performing arts to teach

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Julie Hilgert giggles when she thinks back to playing a macrophage chasing cellular debris in Vickie Kimler's physiology class at the University of Detroit Mercy.

The re-enactment was one of many Kimler uses to teach freshmen and sophomores in the nursing and sports medicine curriculum about the workings of the human body.

Hilgert, a single mother of two from Birmingham, believes she retains so much of the material because of the way Kimler incorporates dance, creative movement and mime into the lessons. At age 33, Hilgert is one of Kimler's older students. It's only in the last couple of years she had the opportunity to return to school for a nursing degree.

"Dr. Kimler is a very energetic, positive person," said Hilgert who had no previous dance experience prior to taking Kimler's physiology class. "She brings it to life. It's amusing at times. She's quite funny. It catches you off guard so you listen more. Keeping it non-scientific makes it fun. She's not one of those people who comes to class monotone. Sometimes you start laughing about the analogy she makes."

An assistant professor of physiology/pathophysiology in the basic clinical science department, Kimler came up with the idea to tell the story of mitosis (cell division) through dance back in 1986 while teaching at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Penn. Three years later, she introduced the unusual method of depicting human physiology to students in classes at University of Detroit Mercy.

"I wanted to incorporate movement, mime and acting into the hard core lecture because it's hard to see the mechanisms of this happening — how a nerve cell or impulse fires, how antibodies fight disease, how cancer cells divide every two hours when normal cells re-ha-

themselves every 9 to 24 hours," said Kimler, a Farmington Hills resident. "It's hard to imagine when you can't see them, when they're microscopic and big microscopic in the sense of disease and removal systems."

The dilemma is how to depict it artistically so I have students pretend they're antibodies swimming to catch bacteria and dancers lining up in different phases to show cellular division and how cells procreate."



Dance props: Professor Vickie Kimler prepares to pass out cards which represent the cellular phosphates needed to make ATP, the most important energy molecule in cells.

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Entertaining background

Kimler plays off her dance and music background to create the lessons for her physiology class. She studied ballet as a child then took modern dance during undergraduate studies at Eastern Michigan University and while doing doctoral work in cell biology at Wayne State University. A member of the Detroit Concert Choir and the Finnish American Singers, Hilgert was a guest vocalist with the Farmington Community Band in late March.

"I like interpretive dance, modern dance much better than ballet, and also the idea of getting a little exercise," said Kimler. "The idea is to have a good time and demonstrate things vividly. I can use my art, dancing, music and acting experience for biology. It's been fun and beneficial. It brings me closer to my students. We have a lot of interaction."

While Jill Ann Merritt enjoys using her tap and jazz talents in Kimler's pathophysiology class, the Garden City sophomore is there for one purpose — to become a nurse and that's not always easy, especially when it comes to learning about the role the aorta plays in the circulatory system.

"It helps you to understand it better than from the book," said Merritt. Renee Langer couldn't agree more. She thinks Kimler's enthusiasm goes a long way with helping to understand how muscles contract and relax.

"Dr. Kimler's excitement when it comes to the workings of the human

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Local artist's love of cars drives talent

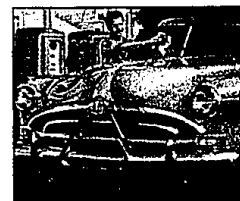
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Ken Bardel's love of cars is no secret. Anyone could tell by looking at the 1968 and 1967 Pontiacs sitting in his Livonia garage, he keeps a special place in his heart for the automobile.

But love is not always one smooth ride. He'll be the first to admit the affair has its ups and downs. Bardel spends a lot of time in junk yards looking for parts to revitalize the vintage LeMans and Catalina, but also researching his paintings.

You could say cars and art are in his blood. Previous to joining the staff of Jervis B. Webb in Farmington as an art director, Bardel worked at the GM Tech Center for many years drawing cars.

But see for yourself. On Saturday, Sunday, April 7-8 he'll be one of 21 artists exhibiting in the Livonia Artists Club's 40th annual Spring Exhibit and Sale in the atrium of the Livonia Civic Center Library. Judge Linda Mendel-



Classic car: This is a detail from a gouache painting of a 1951 Hudson Hornet that will be exhibited by artist Ken Bardel at the Livonia Artists Club show.

son, an instructor at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, will award ribbons for the top works.

In addition to automotive art, Bardel will exhibit wildlife paintings. Along with a love of cars, Bardel enjoys the outdoors and camping with his wife and children in the Grosseville area where he frequently photographs waterfowl for reference.

"I know cars and I know what I should be looking for. With vehicles it's a lot of research, exactly how a car looked at the time," said Bardel, who studied commercial art at Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. "The painting of the 1951 Hudson Hornet I wanted it to be in the time period with the old gas pumps. I love the older cars because of their lines and character. These were works of art. I like to bring them back."

Bardel begins the long trek down the road to resurrecting a classic car by taking photographs then combining the images with other reference. Next, he brings out the brushes and melds the strokes with the flat surfaces air

What: Livonia Artists Club 40th annual Spring Exhibit and Sale. When: 1-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8. Where: Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, east of Farmington Road. For information, call Vette Goldberg, (248) 476-2313.

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FINE ARTS SHOW

Photographer helps others to help themselves

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Patricia Nouhan had one thought in mind when she went looking for artists last year. Quality. She's hoping a variety of highly-crafted art will attract enough visitors to raise more money for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen than she did in August at the first SnapOne Fine Arts Show in Novi.

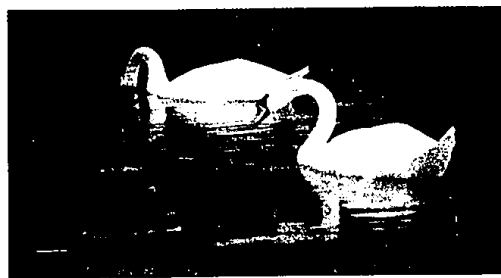
The arts extravaganza is back bigger and better than ever in a new location — the Coastick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. On Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8 more than 50 exhibitors will show pottery, sculpture, painting, photography, jewelry, glass, and metal works which include Larry Bock's flower-shaped water fountains (see

www.fountains.bybock.com). Nouhan, the show's founder, will exhibit wildlife and nature photography.

All of the money from the \$5 admis-

sion will go to help the Capuchin Soup Kitchen feed the hungry in metro Detroit.

"I wanted the quality of art in the



Searching for Spring: Patricia Nouhan took this photograph of swans at Kensington Metropark in the spring. It is one of the works in the SnapOne Fine Arts Show.

show to be high so I went searching for artists in Ann Arbor, Novi, Royal Oak and Birmingham. But I also wanted to help those less fortunate than I am," said Nouhan who works at the Greenmead Post Office in Livonia. "The admission will go to the Capuchins and they'll be able to do a lot of good work. They're a wonderful organization."

Sharing with others

The \$900 Nouhan raised at the show last year went to buying food for the soup kitchen. While the Capuchins happily accept donations of food stuffs, money helps them buy in bulk from organizations such as Gleaners Food Bank. It takes approximately \$1.15 to feed one person and the Capuchins serve 2,500 hot meals a day at two locations. The heart-breaking part for Brother Vincent Reyes is one-quarter to one-third of all meals are served to children.

"We're seeing more people coming in, but don't know why," said Brother Reyes, pastoral director of the soup

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