

FINE ART

Buddhist group uses art to educate kids

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO
STAFF WRITER

As an adult, most people understand they have certain basic human rights. But many children don't realize they have any rights at all.

Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities allows children to experience the harrowing realities children around the world face — from poverty, hunger and homelessness to child labor and war.

It also teaches children they do have rights and that many adults care about protecting those rights.

The exhibit is sponsored by Soka Gakkai International-USA (SGI-USA), an American Buddhist movement that promotes peace, cultural and educational exchanges.

The exhibit was designed and created by SGI's Youth Peace Conference, a volunteer effort by youths nationwide. Inspired by the 1990 United Nations document, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which spells out the rights to which every child is entitled regardless of where or to

whom they were born, sex, religion or social order.

"The exhibit basically spells out these rights for children," said Linda Brooks, exhibit chair.

Brooks is one of several SGI members and mothers who organized the exhibit's arrival in Detroit, the 23rd city to host the educational exhibit which has been to South Africa and Guam.

"It's celebrating and commemorating and promoting this UN document," Brooks said.

Learn as you play

Divided into upper and lower panels, the lower half of the exhibit is interactive allowing children to learn their rights as they play. The upper half features photographs, pertinent quotations, children's art and poetry, statistics, illustrations, maps and technical data.

"The text is very moving," Brooks said. "It has quotes from children around the world."

The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit is providing space for the free exhibit which focuses on the infinite hope and potential of children's lives.

"We've reserved that space for

Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities

What: A free exhibit open to the public.
When: June 16-24: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.
Where: The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, 111 E. Kirby Street in Detroit.
For more information: Call (248) 354-0770 or online at www.kidsrights.org.
Large groups attending the exhibit and anyone wishing to attend any of the workshops or discussions are asked to call The International Institute at (313) 871-8600.

this exhibit because we believe in it," said Richard Thibodeau, International Institute director. "It broadens the view of our young people in metro Detroit. It helps everybody to understand what's happening to the world."

Increasing understanding is a goal of the institute, which provides diversity programs, social services, serves as a community and educational center, museum, provides legal help for immigrants and much more. The Institute recently helped raise over \$22,000 to benefit the earthquake victims in India

through a penny drive at 50 Michigan schools.

"There's only two lasting legacies we can leave to our children — one is roots — the other is wings," Thibodeau said.

Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities will also feature discussions, workshops, and arts and crafts highlighting topics including: conflict resolution, challenges facing today's children, gang resistance education, effective listening and communication, violence and diversity.

"We really want kids to leave there with a sense of empowerment," Brooks said. "What I think is going to be very interesting is Victory Over Violence."

Brooks witnessed the program at the University of Michigan. It focuses on the reality that teasing and bullying, if left unaddressed, can turn into life-altering acts of violence. This is evident when the Pioneers of Peace take the stage. This group of young adults from Detroit became physically challenged due to acts of violence.

"It was just so moving," Brooks said of the U of M presentation. "We chose to end the exhibit with this presentation because we really thought it was an important thing."

Gretchen Schryer couldn't agree more.

A conflict resolution worker for People's Community Services of Metro Detroit, Schryer works to prevent violence in Hamtramck elementary schools and Detroit middle schools. The organization also provides senior and summer youth programs, a drug abuse program at the local jail and much more.

Schryer will be speaking on conflict resolution June 18 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for first and second graders and 10:30-11:30 a.m. for third and fourth graders. She teaches children to understand cultural differences and similarities, anger management and listening and communications skills by using stories with young children and interactive role playing with older kids.

Making an impact

"It's an attempt for this agency to make an impact in terms of the kids being able to resolve their differences," Schryer said.

In a community like Hamtramck with many different cultures and families who don't speak English at home, conflict resolution is crucial to harmony, she said.

"Anytime you have those kinds of differences you tend to have accentuated conflicts," Schryer said. "The kids are so receptive to this information and I think that speaks to the importance of the topic. It might be the only opportunity in their life where someone talks to them about understanding anger..."

Sol LeWitt artwork to enhance wall at BBAC

BY LANA MINI
LAWN@OLHOMECOMM.NET

A permanent wall installation by influential contemporary artist Sol LeWitt was expected to be completed in the Commons Gallery at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center this weekend.

The enhancement of what was just a white wall at the BBAC on Cranbrook, south of Maple, was made possible by a contribution from Bob & Maggie Alsece — who've also recently contributed to a Marshall Fredericks sculpture there.

"We are so honored to have this work by such a premiere American artist," Janet Torno, executive director of BBAC said. "It's an important piece for the BBAC and for the community."

The wall drawing of a large red rectangle on a purple backdrop is the first time LeWitt has

explored the idea of using that particular geometric shape with those specific colors in acrylic paint. Last week, his longtime assistant John Hogan was at the BBAC executing the idea. LeWitt is currently in Europe and was not at the center during the process.

And LeWitt's absence during the installation is part of his philosophy.

Conceptual artist

As a conceptual artist, LeWitt, challenges traditional Western beliefs that the artist's touch is what's honorable. Instead, LeWitt's style shows that the concept is of equal importance, if not more. *Wall Drawing #975 Isometric Outline* was LeWitt's idea, and Hogan followed specific directions in its execution.

"Composers are honored for their ideas, they are not expected to actually perform the sonata they create.... LeWitt uses the

same ideas in his art. "For LeWitt it's about the intellectual exploration of an idea — that the idea, if pure, stands on its own," Hogan explained. "He isn't interested in the end of result of controlling the emotions of the viewer, but rather the learning process of a concept, rather than the artist's touch."

same ideas in his art.

As Hogan explained, one cannot be a contemporary artist or admirer today without seeing how LeWitt's works and ideas fit

in. Since #975 is a new concept, Hogan said he expects LeWitt to eventually come to Birmingham to view it.

Hogan was firm to say that although LeWitt wasn't at the BBAC, the artist still had full control of the work. Hogan does not include any personal expres-

sions or ideas into LeWitt's work — he leaves that for his own creative pursuits on his own time.

LeWitt's art is also not about permanence.

"Some pieces will remain forever, but if some are not, it's okay," Hogan said. "Because the goal was to introduce and explore an idea."

Tyree Guyton

Hogan's words about permanence came at an ironic time. As he discussed that concept, Detroit's own Tyree Guyton also executed an idea in Birmingham last week that isn't permanent.

Guyton, the creator of the Heidelberg Project, brought his colorful polka dots to a house at 155

Knox, off Maple Road east of Woodward, that is soon to be demolished. The newly dotted house is Guyton's way of introducing the need for diversity in suburban areas.

LeWitt was born in Connecticut in 1928 and received his BFA from Syracuse University. His first wall drawing was conceived in 1968 in New York's Paula Cooper Gallery. While he conceives a plan, and a set of instructions, he only has a handful of assistants who execute those ideas. Hogan is one of them who has worked on hundreds of LeWitt's ideas. The BBAC piece was expected to take six days to complete.

The BBAC is at 1516 S. Cranbrook Road in Birmingham.

PLYMOUTH 22nd Annual YMCA Run Fathers' Day Sunday, June 17, 2001

Call 734-2904 for further information or drop in at 248 South Union and pick up a Run Registration Form.

EVENT/TIMES:

- 7:30 a.m., Kid Jog (ages 5-6)
- 7:45 a.m., Kid Trot (ages 3-4)
- 8:00 a.m., 1 Mile Run/Walk
- 8:15 a.m., 5 K Run/Walk
- 8:45 a.m., 10K Run
- 10:00 a.m., Diaper Dash (ages 1-2 FREE)

8th Annual TRIPLE:

- Run all three races (1 mile, 5K and 10K)

ENTRY FEES:

- \$10 Kid Jog/Kid Trot—(\$12 after June 9)
- \$18 1 Mile, 5K, 10K Run or Walk—(\$20 after June 9)
- \$25 Triple—(\$30 after June 9)

FAMILY FEES:

- \$15 Parent
- \$8 per child up to age 16

Family rate applies to four or more runners in the same immediate family. All entries must be sent in together.

RACE PACKETS: Pre-registered may pick up packets at the YMCA office on Saturday, June 16, noon to 3:00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PLYMOUTH YMCA RUN ENTRY FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE BIRTHDATE: _____ AGE: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

RACE: ☐ DIAPER DASH ☐ KID TROT ☐ KID JOG
☐ 1 MILE WALK ☐ 1 MILE RUN ☐ 5K WALK
☐ 5K RUN ☐ 10K RUN ☐ TRIPLE

ADULT T-SHIRT: ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL YOUTH T-SHIRT: ☐ 10-12 ☐ 14-16

I hereby state that I am in proper condition for the race I have entered and that I waive any right I may have against the Plymouth Community Family YMCA and any of their sponsors and the City of Plymouth for any injury or damages resulting from my participation in the Plymouth Community Family YMCA 21st Annual Run.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if participant is under 18 years of age)

Age	Divisions
7 and under	19 to 23
8 to 11	24 to 30
12 to 14	31 to 36
15 to 18	37 to 42
	43 to 49
	50 to 55
	56 to 60
	61 to 65
	66 to 70
	71 and up

☐ Yes, I will donate to the "Y" Invest in Youth. I have enclosed \$_____.

☐ Yes, I will donate to the YMCA Building Fund. I have enclosed \$_____.

LOOK IN TODAY'S JOBS AND CAREERS CLASSIFIED SECTION FOR THESE COMPANIES...

Absopure Water Co.

PROVIDENCE
HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

Westland
Shopping Center

CRANBROOK

Washtenaw
Mortgage

**Standard
Federal**

INSURANCE
OVERLORD
SYSTEMS

**REPUBLIC
BANK**

**HEARTLAND HEALTH
CARE CENTER**

**SYSCO FOOD
SERVICES**

**TIME WARNER
CABLE**

**Valook
COUPONS**

They Are Hiring Now!

**BEAUTIFUL
NEW YOU**

**CALL NOW!
248-865-2800**

**Hair Removal!
Tan? No Problem!**

**BOTOX/COLLAGEN
40% OFF***

BNY has the Newest Technology.
Our new long pulse laser will remove hair where you want and when you want, even if you have started your summer tan. With our terrific summer specials, you must call now and get started looking the way you want.

ARMS, LEGS, BACK NOW 40% OFF*
BIKINI, UNDERARMS, FACE 30% OFF*

Our exclusive **FotoFacial** uses
Lasers, Light and More for
amazing skin rejuvenation.
FotoFacial Packages NOW 35% off!

1500
RICHMOND HALL
PO BOX 10000
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

BNY offers a unique opportunity to have these powerful anti-wrinkle treatments administered by Dr. Lopatin, Board Certified Facial Plastic Surgeon, during each Thursday in June. These treatments reduce facial wrinkles to an astonishing degree. This sale has never before been offered.

Microdermabrasion Facial
with the famous **Perfection Peel**
Multi-visit facial packages 15% off.

***This Sale Ends June 16!! FREE PERSONAL CONSULTATION**