

ARTISTIC IMPRESSIONS



LINDA CHOMIN

Expand your creativity by taking out-of-the-ordinary art classes

Lella Greenisen expects her fingers to freeze during an ice carving workshop Jan. 4 at the Plymouth Community Arts Council but it's all for the sake of art.

Greenisen wants to find out first hand what carvers go through while creating works for the 20th annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, Wednesday-Monday, Jan. 16-21 in Kellogg Park.

As art education coordinator, Greenisen is usually the one setting up the classes and workshops at the arts council, not the one taking them. She's usually too busy planning next term's offerings but she's making an exception to learn from one of the masters - Richard Teeple, an award-winning ice carver and instructor at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. Teeple and carvers from Canada, Japan and the U.S. vie for \$10,000 in prize money at the competitions for professionals, amateurs and students in Plymouth.

"I go to the festival every year and think how much fun it would be to go to it and have a lot of knowledge about what they're doing," said Greenisen. "People can come to the workshop and get their fingers cold and learn how the carvers create those wonderful works of art."

The carving workshop is just one of the out-of-the-ordinary ways to learn about art in area classrooms. In addition to classes in basics such as drawing, the arts council offers a chance for children to learn about musical theater by becoming one of the Whistle Stop Players. A Brown Bag Lecture Series features members of DIA Speakers Bureau speaking on topics such as Modern and Contemporary art, Jewish and Christian Art as well as its exhibition of Jacob Lawrence's paintings in February. Mud Fling workshops, Feb. 19-21, are designed with all ages in mind. For more information or to register for classes call (734) 416-4278.

"The Mud Fling is for kids and parents or just kids or adults, for anybody to come in and get dirty and play in the mud with the Village Potters Guild teachers," said Greenisen. "There are two projects to choose from each day. For one you create animals by forming clay into a cone and then slaming it on the table to see what you can make from it. It's an exercise in creativity. They've made everything from elephants to dragons."

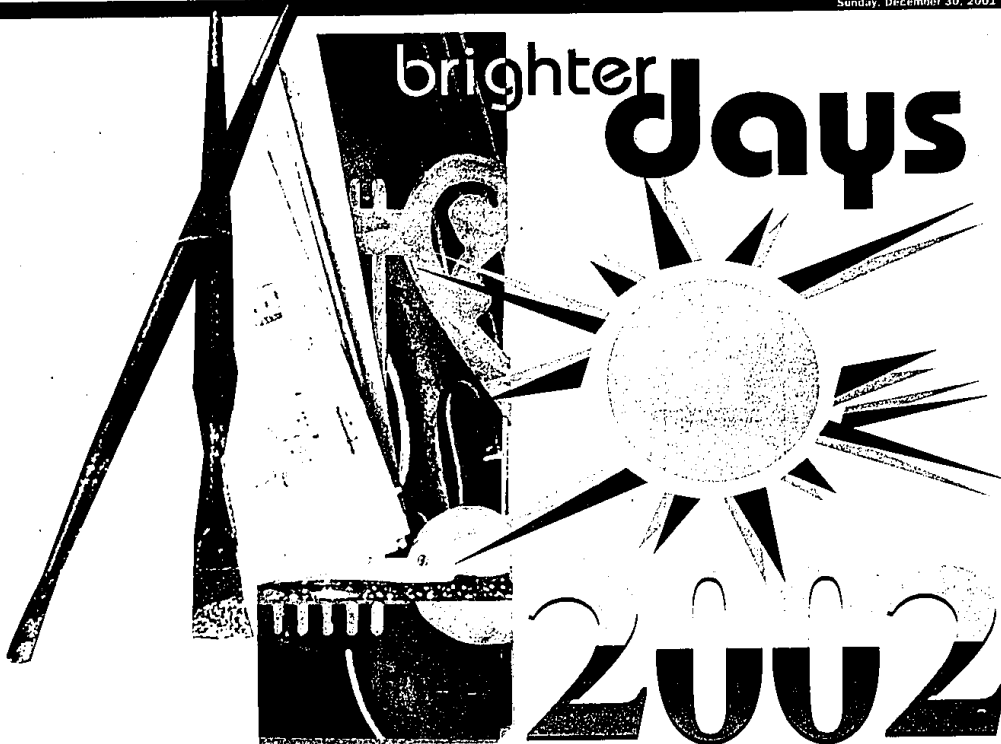
Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center

Janet Torno tailors Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center classes to fit individuals - their interests, lifestyles and level of ability. Art tours of studios, galleries, museums and collectors' homes allow students to work from the creation process to its final destination in public and private venues. Art history lectures by instructors Michael Farrell and Deborah Kawaky leave listeners with a new appreciation for American painters, Impressionists, and the Renaissance era.

"It's important to offer art history," said Torno, BBAC executive director. "Learning art history gives you a perspective on modern art, where the world is today, introducing painters helps us relate, helps us see, teaches a real appreciation. We begin to see the universality - how cave drawing in France relates to the Anasazi drawings in America."

Like the Plymouth Community Arts Council, the BBAC offers an array of classes and workshops in basic drawing and painting in addition to sculpting, jewelry (including stone setting and beadwork), weaving, basketry, photography, and printmaking for all ages.

"The art center is here for everybody," said Torno. "We're expanding children's classes and use resources at the DIA. A class for parents helps them look through the galleries and see what children relate to and how to develop a project from that. In a for



Arts community dreams of a year filled with peace, prosperity

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

There's no doubt the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks on America left all of us reeling and feeling the pain of the victims and their families. Once we came to terms with the horror of thousands of people dying we began to reassess our personal goals and values. The arts community was no exception. Like the rest of us, they're looking forward to a brighter new year even though giving is expected to be down due to the recession and the darkest day in modern times - Sept. 11.

"We're hoping that past donors and supporters will continue to support us because we believe music can act as a calming agent in a crazed world. We are seeing less corporate and business donations. We need more angels donating not as much money. We'll reevaluate the economy in January and fit the dollars that we have. Right now we're preparing for our Feb. 3 concert featuring pianist David Syme and continuing our policy to admit kids for free."

- Corla Lamphere, executive director
Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra

"Like other arts organizations we're considering the financial situation. Our financial base has not been as robust as in the past but we continue to offer the community things to help them work through. Art is a vehicle for expression, an avenue for people to open up and explore their thoughts and emotions to what's been going on."

- Janet Torno, executive director
Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center

"Surely there are things we can do better and we can do more, but I can't think of what we can do differently. This has been an incredible year with our being able to bring in ArtCenter. Many gifts have been given to and from the arts

council and our community. We would like to do more in the next year to infuse the community with a variety of arts experiences, inspire participation in the arts council and other arts organizations, and have lots of good clean fun doing it."

- Jennifer Tobin, executive director
Plymouth Community Arts Council

"We are resolved with what we began (the DIA's \$91 million building project scheduled for completion in December 2005) and carrying it into the new year, and to become more accessible to our public in terms of hours and programming and physical accessibility. Our hopes for the new year as a community is to remain engaged in continued development of Detroit. It's time to realize a lot of the potential we recognize already."

- Maurice Parrish, executive vice president
Detroit Institute of Arts

"I just returned from an international theater conference in Israel. I've always seen JET (Jewish Ensemble Theatre) as a theater of social consciousness by presenting plays such as The Laramie Project dealing with the brutal murder of Matt Shephard. I do believe that's central to what I'd like us to be. That's me speaking for JET - to work much harder for that premise - and to continue our Campaign Stop Hate working with multicultural peace and social service organizations, anyone with a common agenda to stop hate because there's an ocean of hate we have to slurr up, but I think there's a world of those who would like to stop hate. We went to the Jerusalem Zoo while I was there for the conference. There were Arab and Jewish families everywhere mingling. If they can do it there are a powerful tool in addressing areas of deep concern to people in a non-threatening manner so they can be open to hearing."

- Evelyn Orbach, artistic director
Jewish Ensemble Theatre

"We are hoping to maintain the momentum that we have now with the donation of the Shuey collection to the museum to use it to attract new audiences and patrons to the art museum. In June we're going to try to match the current excitement with upcoming exhibitions that include *Aluminum by Design: From Jewelry to Jets* from the Carnegie Art Museum in Pittsburgh on decorative arts and design. The new studio building for the academy is scheduled to be dedicated in September and we're organizing an exhibit to look at the three disciplines - ceramics, fibers and metal smithing."

- Gregory Wittkopp, director
Cranbrook Art Museum

"Our commission hopes to better serve our community through the arts by making grants and scholarships available to organizations of merit so art can be furthered and enjoyed by all. My personal wish is for hope, peace and joy in the new year. As an arts commissioner I hope people realize there's a lot of art in life and a lot of life in art."

- Fred Aceri, chairman
Livonia Arts Commission

"Our resolution is to have a bright and sunny weekend Sept. 7-8 for the Art & Apples Festival, secondly to fulfill the arts needs of the community, and third to welcome new volunteers to our organization and utilize them to the fullest."

- Kathryn LeBlanc, administrative director
Paint Creek Center for the Arts

"My focus is building the new building. The membership is focusing on continuing to do shows in our temporary space (Barnes & Noble

CONCERT

Internationally-known conductor returns to Orchestra Hall

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

Gunther Herbig has no intention of slowing down just because he celebrated his 70th birthday at the end of November. On Jan. 4-5, he returns to conduct the Detroit Symphony Orchestra with guest pianist Andreas Haefliger at Orchestra Hall.

A long-time Bloomfield Hills resident, Herbig led the DSO from 1984 to 1990. The six-year conducting stint included a critically acclaimed European tour in 1989.

"It's nice to come back to the orchestra and see familiar faces and some new ones," said Herbig. "I'm looking forward to it and to be in front of my former audi-

What: Gunther Herbig returns to conduct the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on the occasion of his 70th birthday.
When: 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5
Where: Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit
Tickets: \$20-\$54. Call (313) 576-5111

ence.
"It's a perfect program with American composer John Adams (*Short Ride in a Fast Machine*) which we performed on the European tour, Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 21* with Swiss pianist Andreas Haefliger. He's a great pianist, and Schubert's 'Great Symphony'."

Two days after conducting the DSO program, Herbig leaves for a 10-week Euro-

pean tour. He'll guest conduct orchestras in Brussels, Berlin and Paris before leading the Radio Symphony Orchestra Saarbrücken in Germany where he was recently appointed chief conductor. After that he's on to Lisbon and England. Until then he'll work out two to three times a week at a health club to stay in shape.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Herbig began playing piano, flute and cello at age 8. By 14, he knew he wanted to become a conductor.

"Music was in our house. It was understood that you learned an instrument," said Herbig. "My interest at that time was so focused on music. I was always interested in all instruments. I could not play all the instruments on my own so it made



Gunther Herbig