

ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send arts news to Art Beat, Attn: Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, fax them to (734) 591-7279, or e-mail (as a text file) to lchomin@oc.homecom.net.

CALL FOR ACTORS
Orchard Ridge Theater Company of Oakland Community College is holding auditions for its spring production of Agatha Christie's *The Mouse Trap* 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, in the Smith Theatre on campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.
Performances will take place 8 p.m. April 11-13. For more information, call theater professor Carol Thomas King at (248) 522-3595. Also needed are volunteers to build scenery, props and costumes.

ART MEETING
Three Cities Art Club hosts a workshop by the Plymouth Pottery Guild 7-9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, in the Plymouth Township Clerk's Office, Lilley and Ann Arbor Road. Call Marilyn Meredith at (248) 282-0711 for information.

Those in attendance will be given a four-inch-square clay tile to apply their own design. Donna Williams and Margaret Nowak will demonstrate how to apply clay slips as a colorant. Tiles will be fired and returned to participants at the April 1 meeting.

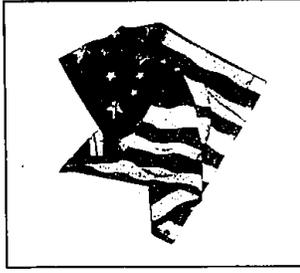
HUMANITIES CELEBRATION
Madonna University holds a Midwinter Celebration in the Arts & Humanities 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, in Kresge Hall on campus, Levan and Schoolcraft, Livonia. Music department chairwoman Linette Popoff-Furks and Helene Rotenberg, adjunct associate guitar professor, open the program. Selections will then be read from Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* by students and Richard Sax, professor and dean of the College of Art and Humanities. The event closes with an art lecture and tour of the gallery which features encaustic paintings by Chris McCauley.
Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call Sax at (734) 432-5542.
"We developed this program to share with the public the fascination, beauty, creativity, and love embodied in the arts and humanities," said Sax.

MASKORAIDE AUCTION
Help the homeless and have fun all at the same time at a gala benefit 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 9, at the Detroit Yacht Club, 1 River Bank Road, Belle Isle. Tickets are \$125. Call (313) 676-0219.

The MASKORAIDE event features a mask auction, dinner and dancing. Proceeds help feed and house the homeless at COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter).
Celebrities and artists from Wayne and Oakland counties designed the more than 150 masks which will be on the auction block. Themes range from patriotic to futuristic and everything in between.
ART LECTURE
A member of the Detroit Institute of Arts Spensker Bureau will discuss the work and life of African-American artist Jacob Lawrence 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Southfield Public Library, 26000 Evergreen. Call (248) 948-0470 for information.
The Art and Life of Jacob Lawrence will be exhibited Feb. 24 to May 19 at the DIA. For more than 60 years, Lawrence depicted African-American life in the 20th century with stark images and bold colors.

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All American: Lisa Garner, an employee of Exhibit Works in Livonia, created this mask for an auction to benefit COTS, a homeless shelter in Detroit.

Rainmaker from page B1

"You never know what Jim's going to do," said Wachowski who works at Performance Acting in Plymouth and has acted with the Plymouth Theatre Guild in addition to Farmington Players. "It's a fantastic play, extremely well written. Once you start reading you can't put it down."
It's no surprise that Erin Osgood likes acting in *The Rainmaker* as much as Wachowski. The Bloomfield Township resident plays Lizzie, the independent, strong-willed woman surrounded by a house full of men.
"She speaks her mind," said Osgood. "It's kind of a turn off

for guys. She's a really tough character to play, all the emotions she goes through in one day - silly, upset, embarrassed, crying.
"My favorite scene she's alone with Starbuck and realizes she's a woman and there's nothing so bad about her. She learns you don't have to change. People will love you for who you are."
Starbuck is not only the catalyst for changing Lizzie's life but Jim's and does it all with swagger. That's what Hank Bennett loves about his character.
"He's outspoken, a braggart, very full of himself," said Bennett, a Farmington Hills resi-

dent. "It's a lot of fun just to be brosh. The tales he weaves are enjoyable to speak. The author's given him a nice voice."
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