

Chomin from page B1

and police headquarters building in Livonia — won't be forgotten. They've become part of our lives. But even more important was Redstone's enthusiasm for the arts that led him to encourage clients to allot a portion of their budget for sculpture. Author of five books including *Art in Architecture*, Redstone championed the integration of art into building design, thereby supporting artists such as Louise Nevelson, Marshall Fredericks and Samuel Cashwan while providing enjoyment for the public. If you've been to Westland Mall then you've seen Cashwan's *Goose That Laid the Golden Egg*.

But none of this would have been possible if Redstone had never left Grodno. It was there Redstone had lived through German, Lithuanian and Polish occupations before fleeing to Palestine in 1920. As a Pioneer, he put in thousands of hours of exhausting labor to help build a Jewish homeland there before coming to the U.S. in 1923. Here he worked as a brick layer until obtaining architecture degrees. Well into his 90s he would go into his office at Redstone Architects a couple of days a week.

My first contact with Redstone came in 1993 while covering the opening of his watercolor exhibition at T'marr's Gallery in Ann Arbor. I'll never forget his kindness and humbleness — or note of thanks after the story was published. Lou made sure I knew he was preparing for an April show four months later to celebrate his 90th birthday. Sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission, the reception drew then Mayor Robert Bennett, state representatives and senators, and artists such as Carol Wald of Toronto. They'd all come to honor the man who'd received numerous plaques and letters for his efforts on behalf of the arts from the Arts Foundation of Michigan, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and Detroit Institute of Arts where he exhibited. Later in the year, Gov. John Engler bestowed the Civic Leader Award on Redstone as part of the Governors' Arts Awards at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

A giving man

Redstone wasn't finished supporting the arts even after the age of 90. He continued to curate the Michigan Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition in Southfield, enabling emerging and established artists to receive the exposure they needed. Redstone spent hundreds of hours organizing the competition over the years. But his desire to help promote other artists overrode any fatigue he might have helped.

Redstone gave more than his time though. All of the sales from his one-man show at the Slusser Gallery at the University of Michigan in 1997 went to scholarships that were divided equally between the Schools of Art and Architecture. Whenever asked, Redstone donated his paintings to auctions for nonprofits such as VSA Arts of Michigan, which provides programs in music, drama and the visual arts for persons with disabilities. Redstone's oldest son Daniel hopes people will remember his father's passion for art and architecture — and helping people. He, like his younger brother Eliel, followed in his father's footsteps. Daniel is president of Redstone Architects. Eliel is an architect in Calif.

"His passion was contagious. It's not what he did. It's the excitement about art he gave people, and their love of life was contagious," said Daniel. "As strong as he was on his focus on the arts and architecture, it was her love for people that made them a team."

It seems you can't talk about Louis Redstone without mentioning Ruth. It's a cliché to say the two were inseparable, but they were. You never saw one without the other except when Lou was in his architectural office. The two would have been married 63 years in June. But don't feel sad, said Daniel, his father's life is one to be celebrated. I'm still going to miss the love for the arts that we used to share.

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call *Observer & Eccentric* arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.hoemcomm.net



Meeting of the minds: William Anderson (second from left) intently listens as Janet Torno (left) talks about programming at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. The director of Michigan's new Department of History, Arts and Libraries was in town to learn more about cultural organizations in the area.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMASTER

Director from page B1

show. We want to promote cultural and arts programs of Michigan."

"We want to be a portal to the arts, to go down to the DIA and show an exhibit and talk to a curator," added Antonietti of Farmington Hills, president and general manager of Detroit Public TV.

Alpert regretted budget cuts that eliminated *Backstage Pass*, a program that transported visitors to arts and cultural events taking place in the area. The Troy resident told Anderson that every time the program focused on a DIA exhibit there would be "a huge spike in traffic."

Anderson said "one of the big challenges is making people aware" of what Detroit Public TV is trying to do. He suggested a pilot project to go after funding and demonstrate value. Anderson offered similar advice to other groups.

When he chaired a concert for the Knox-Galesburg Symphony, Anderson staged the program on a landing dock, hoping to "break down the stereotype that only stuffy people go to symphony concerts."

Kudos to arts groups

Anderson admired the Plymouth Symphony and conductor Nan Washburn for programming the music of contemporary composers, and sending orchestra members into 15 elementary schools in the Plymouth-Canton area.

"As far as grants, keep making your case and keep doing the wonderful things you do, giving young people a nurturing experience. Even if they don't go on to pursue music as a career later on

in life they'll attend concerts," he said.

Torno is just beginning to seek grants for the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, which was founded 45 years ago in a former-water and sewage treatment plant. Half of a four-phase renovation project is complete.

Torno said she was disappointed Proposal A, which would have levied a tax to fund regional and local arts and cultural organizations as well as sports, was defeated in November 2000.

"The economic climate being what it is we need to start looking to supplement our operating budget," said Torno. "I feel the cultural millage is the answers to everybody's prayers for general operating support."

Godchaux, who serves on the House Appropriations Committee with Stewart, hopes the state will be able to increase funding for the arts. She grew up with the arts and took art classes at the BBAC, as did her children.

"If we don't teach kids about art they won't appreciate it as

adults," said Godchaux. "The BBAC is a mainstay in the art community."

As the day wrapped up, Godchaux and Stewart sat down with Anderson for an informal exchange of ideas. Godchaux talked about Missouri's creative approach of collecting an entertainment income tax. Anderson encouraged organizations to start building endowment funds. Stewart suggested voting out legislators who weren't supportive of the arts. Godchaux echoed his thoughts.

Local efforts combined with coordinating resources through the Department of History, Arts and Libraries will lead to higher visibility for the arts, ultimately benefiting the state as a whole, according to Anderson.

"The State of Michigan is number four in U.S. for support of arts and culture," said Anderson. "It's all about building relationships. That's why I wanted to get out and get a feel for what's happening in the community for arts and culture."

PROM DIRECTORY

For information regarding this special promotion please contact: Dylan Sawulski at (734) 953-2073



With Prom night right around the corner for many Junior and Senior High School students, this is the place to look for companies that know how to make that special dance the best memory possible!

Prom 2002
Get your **President Pluxedo**
TUX BUCKS Discounts up to **50% off**
Your Tuxedo Rental! Michigan's Largest Formalwear Company
Rentals Starting at \$54.99! (With minimum purchase)
35 Stores in Michigan & Ohio
www.presidentpluxedo.com
1-800-837-TUXS



You'll be leaping and grinning too...
...when you sell, buy, hire or find whatever you need in our huge classified marketplace.
Call us, fax us, or check us out online at www.observandeccentric.com
Observer & Eccentric CLASSIFIED ADS
It's all about RESULTS!
Part of HomeTown Communications Network™
1-800-579-SELL

DESIGNED BY ANNE & RACHEL BARSTED

Discover Unusual Hand-Crafted Works

April 19, 20, 21, 2002
Novi Expo Center
Novi, MI

••••• 350 fine artists and craft designers

- Craft demonstrations
- Entertainment
- Specialty foods
- All indoors
- Free parking
- Free shopping bags

Get discount admission coupons at your local Farmer Jack, on the web at www.SugarloafCrafts.com, or call 800-210-9900

SUGARLOAF CRAFTS

Sugarloaf Art Fair.

Located in the NW suburbs of Detroit, MI
Directions: Located on I-96 northwest of Detroit at Exit 162. Go south on Novi Road. Turn right onto Expo Center Drive.

Fri. - Sun. 10-6
Daily Admission \$6
Under 12 & Parking Free
Buy crafts online at www.CraftsOnline.com

HomeTown Observer & Eccentric
POJ 11001001