

Chomin from page B1

"Israel exists on tourism. Anytime we've been back it's almost like a ghost town. A lot of the artists are barely keeping their heads above water. Many artists who used to have their own studios are now working together in one studio and traveling to the states to sell their work. We would like to support them."

"Many have sons and daughters in the army. In Israel it's mandatory at age 19 for boys and girls to do a stint in the army before going to college. Listening to the news about all the Israeli soldiers killed brings it home."

Temple Israel Art Fair

Carol Cooper is an enthusiastic about helping Jewish artists as Lipnik. In addition to 20 artists from Israel and many more from Ethiopia, nearly 40 exhibitors will show a variety of media at the Temple Israel Art Fair, a mainstay in the community for more than 30 years. Birmingham artist Andrew Madvin displays large-scale glass flower lawn sculptures; Marcy and Michael Feldman of Southfield, jewelry; Barbara Abel (West Bloomfield), photography; and Ron Pausner (Birmingham), relief sculpture. More than 35 boutiques will also feature merchandise selling everything from antique purses to children's clothing and jewelry.

"We're all very excited," said Cooper, co-chair of the art fair. "At the last minute we added the



Inspired: Israeli artist Bracha Lavee-Brym created this brightly-colored work in felt. Her art is inspired by the city of Jerusalem and biblical stories.

artists from Israel, two of who will be at the show. People who make jewelry are starving. They've formed a guild (on-line at www.jewelsforisrael.co.il) to try to sell it here to help themselves. It's Israeli artists. That's what is so exciting this year that touches everybody."

Not to be missed are Dr. Norman Weiss's 16-in. by 20-in. photographs of Ethiopian Jews embroidering biblical stories on pillows. The West Bloomfield dentist will

lead a tour of the images capturing the desperation of the people as they await transport to Israel. The North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry developed the embroidery program as a way for people, who previously received welfare payments, to earn money to feed their families. About 40,000 stitches go into creating a vibrantly colored pillow. The sale of each supports an Ethiopian Jewish family for a month.

"The pillows are so incredibly beautiful and the story behind it is a tear jerker," said Cooper. "They're a part of Jewish people still continuing to struggle."

Weiss, who just returned from a trip to Israel, tells a sad story about those left behind in Ethiopia.

"This is a sect of Jews who've lived in Ethiopia since biblical times," said Weiss. "There were no Jews in the mid 1980s and 1990 by the Israeli government but about 20,000 didn't get out. A family of 10 will live in one room of a dirt-floored hut. I'm exhibiting my photos at synagogues around the country to get people interested in contributing to NACOEJ (North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry). It takes one person working 25 to 30 days to complete one of these pillows and they only receive \$25. It's difficult to feed a family on so little."

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@oc.homecomm.net

Otello from page B1

engagements with Michigan Opera Theatre.

"I'm very pleased," said Corradi. "The biggest challenge is the first act. The chorus is on stage for at least 1 1/2 hours and there are three separate sections in the first 1/2 of the first act. There's a storm preceding Otello's victory over his enemies. It's very emotional. It looks like Otello's boat is about to be overcome and lose the battle. He wins and the chorus rejoices. They light a fire and dance. They all start drinking and it turns into a terrible brawl."

"This house in Detroit has a really fantastic chorus. They do things I could not ask European choruses. They dance and sing. They're not just a physical presence on stage that produces a volume of sound. They're dramatic."

Dean Unick admires Corradi as much as the director does the chorus. The Farmington Hills bass plays a half-blind seaman, one of the characters joyous about triumphing over the enemy. Unick began singing with the Michigan Opera Theatre chorus in 1984.

"Mario wants more out of us than most directors," said Unick. "He's very good at presenting his intention and arranging us for placement, then he demands we finish fleshing out the parts of the chorus."

"Opera is like entertainment, staged. It's best when each creates his own character. I'm still establishing my character, using my nervousness and excitement during the first act. He's a terrible flirt in a barroom drinking and tries to tickle the girls." Eugene Zweig shares Unick's

enthusiasm about playing different characters in the opera that ends with the destruction of Desdemona and Otello. This is the West Bloomfield resident's 26th production with MCT since retiring as a Detroit Public Schools history teacher and counselor in 1991. Zweig first sang with an opera company in 1951 at age 18. For the last 10 years he's directed the choir at Shaarey Zedek in Southfield.

"It's going to be an exciting production," said Zweig. "The of running and falling down as the storm rages over the area unlike European choruses who simply stand there and sing. In Act III I'm one of eight baritone ambassadors. I'm looking forward to seeing audience reaction and hearing thunderous applause."

Opera's enchanting quality is what inspired Corradi to become a director. Born in a small town without an opera house, Corradi never realized the effect it could have on audiences until seeing Maria Callas perform at La Scala. She made quite an impression on the 17-year-old. Corradi went on to become a sought-after director with commitments to stage operas through 2004.

"All I remember is being in the second balcony standing room because it's all I could afford," said Corradi. "I did not know about opera and saw this woman with a white dress running on stage like a mad woman, this mesmerizing presence."

"After 21 years, I still think this is the greatest job in the world."

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Hospice of Michigan is proud to announce that the net amount raised for patient care services at the April 13 Crystal Rose Ball was \$210,000. Thanks to everyone who supported this event at the New Detroit Science Center with their attendance, sponsorships, advertising, and donations.

Mark your calendars. The 18th Annual Crystal Rose Ball will be held on April 12, 2003 at the beautiful St. John's Golf and Conference Center, Plymouth. This event will feature a Fine Wine and Art Auction. For ticket and sponsorship information, call Sue MacDonell at (313) 578-5040.

Crystal Rose Ball

DEMF brings back beats for Memorial weekend

It's official, the world's premier electronic party plugs in again next month.

The third annual Detroit Electronic Music Festival will hit Hart Plaza from noon to midnight Sunday-Tuesday, May 26-28. The free festival originated with Planet E guru Carl Craig and Detroit-based Pop Culture Media. It now lies in the hands of a board of directors chosen by festival producer — and a Plymouth resident — Carol Marvitz, who owns Pop Culture Media.

The DEMF's 2000 premier drew more than a million people to the city's waterfront for a legendary three days of pulsating beats and visitors from across the globe. This time the stage is set for legends like George Clinton, those who helped the festival get off the ground like DJ Bone and of course Godfathers of techno like Juan Atkins and Kevin Saunderson.

Still going strong, the artist line up for DEMF 2002 is as follows:

Sundiata, Chad Novak, Electric Indigo, Heather Heart, Gene Farris, DJ Zap, Mike Grant, Steve Rachmad, Dave Angel, Kevin Saunderson, Juan Atkins, Shorty, Juan Collins, Reggie Curry, B. Linder, Jon Tejada, Boo Williams, Cas Roc, Frankie Knuckles, DJ Shadow, Sarena Tyler, X-Ecutions, Adam X, Black Eyed Peas, Bryan Zentz, Blake Baxter, Roni Size, Eddie Woodkeas, Mike Dearborn, George Clinton, Art Payne/ Keith Martin, Gary Martin, Rick Wade, Paul Johnson, Drexciya, Ethnik Kline, Derrick Thompson, Kenny Dope, Bone, Dave Clark, Roy Davis, Jr., Dennis Cox, Frankie Bones, K. Hand, DJ Funk, Rob Hood, Colin Dale, Dwayne Jensen, Steve Tang, Greg Collier, Matt Clark, Melvin Hill, Mike Huckaby, DJ Dangerously, Ron Carroll, T-1000 and Traxx.

Performers with live sets include: Ernie, Mind Professor, Bill Bauer, Deep Chord, Advanced Chaos, Green Velvet, A Number of Names, Stewart Walker, Black Bottom Collective, and Scott Grooves with DJ and live sets.

For updates, a complete schedule and information on volunteer opportunities, see www.electronicmusicfest.com.
By S. A. Casola