

Arts & Entertainment

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Hot tickets

Fishy exhibit
Check out the new exhibit, *Native Fishes of the Great Lakes Region* at the Museum of Natural History in Ann Arbor. The exhibit includes specimens, casts of record-sized fish and illustrations. The museum is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. It's located at 1109 Geddes. (734) 764-0478. Admission is free.



Rockin' concert
Vanessa Carlton - named one of the "Top 10 artists to watch in 2002" by *Rolling Stone*, guest stars with Third Eye Blind at The Goo Goo Dolls' concert at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21 at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Clarkston. Tickets are \$38 pavilion and \$21 lawn. (248) 645-6666.

Outdoor show
Northville's final *Tunes on Tuesday* family concert is scheduled for 8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, in Northville's downtown bandshell. Chris Linn will perform magic and comedy. The concert is free and in the event of rain will be held at Genetti's Little Theatre. The program is sponsored by the Northville Parks and Recreation Department. In cooperation with the Northville Central Business Association and Northville Downtown Development Authority. Bring your own blanket or lawn chair.

See Branded
Branded, a Detroit-based punk rock group will play at 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, at Lili's 21, located at 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. (313) 875-6555. The group has

two CDs, *Where Does It End* and *Jump Start*.

Fiber show
Don't miss the 12th Biennial Handweavers Fiber Show in The Alfred Berkowitz Gallery of the Wadsworth Library at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn, through Friday, Aug. 23. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call (313) 593-5087 for more information. The show features works by handweavers from across the state, including the Farmington area.

Colors of Cuba

Artist inspired by childhood memories



Regina Dunne exhibits her drawings and paintings in a one-person show at the Livonia Civic Center Library Fine Arts Gallery.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Regina Dunne apologizes for the red stains on the floor of her Livonia studio. This is where she spends many evenings creating the colorful pastel portraits which win awards in exhibitions from Birmingham to Farmington and Canton.

Copies of masters like Degas and Mary Cassatt hang next to a finger painting by her grandchild, one of three, on the wall. Dunne is as proud of these works of art as her sensitive drawings of people and sunset seascapes.

Upstairs stacked against the walls of the living and dining rooms are framed pastels of the models she's captured in independent studies at the Birmingham Bloomfield Arts Center on Friday mornings. Dunne waits till she returns home to fill the backgrounds with subject matter that adds mystery. *The Coach*, a gruff looking man, features a series of wrestling and boxing scenarios encaised in reds of varying degrees.

Red frequently plays into the scene along with a palette of intense blues and greens in the 47-pastels, watercolors and oils on display in Dunne's one-person show at the Livonia Civic Center Library Fine Arts Gallery. The painting exhibit, sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission, continues through Tuesday, Aug. 27.

"I love red. I'm Cuban," said Dunne as if no other explanation were necessary. Growing up in Old Havana definitely shaped Dunne and her passion for drawing. As a child she would regularly visit the printer in search of scraps of paper that would only be thrown away. In her teens, teachers at Colegio Nacional De Artes taught Dunne the basics including perspective. It was there she'd sit for hours



This red house on the beach demonstrates Regina Dunne's love of the color.

sketching hands and feet from plaster casts as she developed a love for figure drawing.

"We lived in an apartment on the third floor," said Dunne. "I would run up and down the stairs with a pencil and sketch cars. Every time I went down the cars looked different. I didn't know there were different models."

"I always put an illustration on my homework. If it was geography I would draw a map or people of the country. When I was little I'd put a picture on every-thing. Everything was illustration."

By the time Dunne arrived in America she was almost 18 and anxious to expand on her drawing skills. During the day she went to high school to learn English but at night she studied illustration at Society of Arts & Crafts (now College for Creative Studies).

She couldn't understand what they were saying in a perspective class but passed with flying colors because of her Cuban studies.

Dunne opens a portfolio that demonstrates her drawing skills. The black and white and color newspaper advertisements for purses, shoes, lamps, and lingerie were created during the 14-years she worked downtown on the 19th floor of J.L. Hudson's. Dunne's done it all over the years. For more than two decades she freelanced as an artist for Jacobson's, J.L. Hudson's, Ross Roy Advertising and even created the poster for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's 1985 Upper Peninsula Tour.

Now at age 75, Dunne's taking time to please herself. Not even a painful case of arthritis is stopping her from creating vibrant works of art. The little girl who once drew churches from an Old Havana rooftop is painting outdoors at a variety of locations with a group of fellow artists every Wednesday. On Friday, she and several others hire models for life drawing sessions at the Birmingham Bloomfield Arts Center where everyone is welcome to join them.

Winters she and husband Bill head for a warmer climate. Several of the works were done in Apalachicola, Fla. where Dunne loves to go once a week to watch the oystermen work while painting watercolor seascapes. Rampaging waves splash across the paper in bright blues and greens.

"Winter time brings storms," said Dunne. "Sometimes the waves are 14 to 15 ft. tall."

"I grew up in Cuba and the seascapes have always intrigued me. They remind me of the ocean views that I can recall from my childhood."

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Livonia Symphony sends out an S.O.S.

It's not often I'm able to watch the inner workings of an arts organization - the creative process and compromise that goes into the group effort. How do the president, music director and assistant conductor of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra go about selecting a new season and scheduling concerts? Unfortunately in these difficult

Artistic Expressions

Linda Ann Chomin

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS

What: Livonia Symphony Orchestra perform light classical and pops
When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22
Where: Livonia Civic Center Park, Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. In case of rain, the concert will be held in the Livonia Senior Center at Five Mile and Farmington. For more information, call (734) 425-4855

economic times there's more than the music of the masters to take into account.

"We're reducing the season to five concerts because of a shortage of money," said Bob Bennett, LSO president. "A big part of funding is from corporate support

and that's been reduced by all but one company. Fundraisers like the annual golf outing have produced less money. The economy is down but costs go up for postage, rental of the music and auditorium, and insurance."

That's why it's important for

the community to come out and support the orchestra whether by showing up at concerts or buying a ticket to a fundraiser. The Livonia Symphony's light classical and pops concert Thursday, Aug. 22, is a good way to get acquainted with the music if you've never seen them perform. Bennett is especially proud of the orchestra and the concert series known as *Music Under the Stars* which he founded as a Livonia City Councilman in 1972 - even though both got off to a rocky start. The orchestra, then known as the Oakway Symphony, was rained out the first two years and



Rebekah Walker sings popular and Broadway music with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra. The Aug. 22 concert is sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission and Livonia Parks & Recreation.

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