

Arts & Entertainment

GALLERIES ■ THEATER ■ DANCE ■ DINING

The Roost
restaurant offers
fasty fare that's
sure to please. B6

Hot tickets

Oil paintings

Bev Walker's recent oil paintings, depicting her view of thick forests and lonely windbeaten pines at the ocean's edge of Maine, are on exhibit through Jan. 29 at



Washington Street Gallery, 215 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. Opening reception and meet-the-artist will be from 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, at the gallery. (734) 761-2287.

Count those birds

The nature center at Kensington Millpark, near Milford, holds its 27th Annual New Year's Bird Count at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4. Dress warmly, wear boots, bring binoculars and spend the morning helping to census the bird population at Kensington. Pre-registration is required. Call (800) 477-3178.

Epiphany concert

The Troy Community Chorus and the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Adult Choir, under the direction of Mimi Goss and E. Talbot Lord Jr., will sing together in celebration of Epiphany at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 280 E. Square Lake Road, just east of Livernois. Troy Admission is free, although a free will donation will be accepted, and light refreshments will be served in the parish hall after the concert. (248) 879-1310.

Season of light

The planetarium show at the University of Michigan's Exhibit Museum of Natural History looks at ancient and more recent winter solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah, at 2:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 2-3; 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5. Admission to the museum, at 1009 Geddes, Ann Arbor, is free. (734) 764-0478.

Play time

Kids bored? Let them expend energy at the recently opened Fun Festival play area in Summit Place mall, 315 N. Telegraph, Pontiac. The Fun Festival features a three-story play area with more than 47 interactive games and activities. The play area is located in the Marshall Field's wing. (248) 620-0123.

In concert

Guitarist Jimmy Thackery plays at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward, north of Nine Mile, Ferndale. Tickets are \$20 and available at The Magic Bag box office or through Ticketmaster. On his new CD, *My Got It*, Thackery recalls the rhythm and blues style of Muscle Shoals veteran Eddie Hinton. (248) 544-3030.

Very Special Art

Exhibit spotlights abilities of all levels

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

O h, my. That's lovely," said Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates as she took a moment to view an exhibit of art by children and adults with disabilities in city hall. The sensitivity found in Kimberly Lashway's pastel drawing of a fawn stopped many of the city employees and visitors there on business in their tracks.

Nancy Coumoundouros had the same reaction when saw the exhibit in the past at the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs in Lansing. The cultural arts coordinator for Farmington Hills and Farmington is a strong believer in the ability of the arts to enrich the lives of all people so she wanted to share the exhibit presented by VSA arts of Michigan (formerly Very Special Arts) and the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services with the community.

Founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith as an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., VSA coordinates arts programs for children and adults with physical and mental disabilities throughout the world. In Michigan, the nonprofit provides therapeutic classes in everything from clay and painting to singing, dancing, drama, and chime playing. Annual festivals like one held annually at the Livonia Mall the first weekend in May showcase the talents of participants. Ongoing artsJAM workshops with professional artists help teens and adults express their creativity at the state offices in Detroit's University Cultural Center.

Throughout the year, the works in ArtSplash toured schools, libraries, arts and community centers, malls, and arts, education and disability conferences and festivals. And the talent came from all over the state - Southfield, Troy, Birmingham, Owosso, Traverse City, Rochester Hills, Pontiac and Farmington Hills. Lashway is from Midland.



Ginny Lundquist (foreground) installs one of the works in ArtSplash 2002 as Leigh Sneed admires another she's just hung down the corridor in Farmington Hills City Hall. The exhibit spotlights the talents of children and adults with disabilities.



Dana Claramitro painted this acrylic titled *The Dancer*. She is a student at the Kennedy Center in Pontiac.



Doug Meyer, an adult from Traverse City, used watercolor to create the tranquil scene in *Sailing Reflections*.

"It's such a wonderful opportunity to show what the arts can do for people with special needs," said Coumoundouros. "Sometimes people can't express themselves so well with words. Visual arts give them a whole new venue of expression."

SELECTING THE ART

Wading through all that creativity wasn't so easy for Coumoundouros and her staff. There was only room for about 45 of the 69 pieces in the exhibit. Myosha Ivory's colorful abstract *Juggling* was one of the first chosen by Coumoundouros, cultural arts program assistant Leigh Sneed, and staff member Ginny Lundquist. A student at the Kennedy Center in Pontiac, Ivory used oil pastels in red, orange, yellow and blue to create a swirl of geometric shapes.

"I think the show's great," said Sneed. "There's a variety of different media, different ages and it's nice that they're being represented together."

Lundquist's favorite captured the tranquility of sailing on a summer day.

A member of the Farmington Community Chorus, and PRIME, a vocal jazz group, Lundquist already has an appreciation for the vocal arts.

"The exhibit's really fantastic," said Lundquist of Orchard Lake. "There are really beautiful pieces of artwork. I'm impressed. The sailboats look like they're dancing on the water."

Katie Serewicz was pleased to hear that another of Lundquist's favorites was by Michael Howard, a student of hers at the Kennedy Center in Pontiac. As artist-in-residence at the center, Serewicz has entered her students in the competition for the touring exhibit the last five years.

In addition to working with children and adults (ages 14-26) at the Kennedy Center, Serewicz co-founded The Art Experience in Pontiac as a meeting ground for all people to just explore their talents whether they have disabilities.

PLEASE SEE ARTSPASHI, B3

ARTSPASHI 2002

What: An exhibit of drawings, paintings, clay, bronze, mixed media, and photography by children and adults with disabilities

When: Through Friday, Jan. 31

Where: Farmington Hills City Hall on 11 Mile at Orchard Lake Road, and Farmington City Hall on Liberty at Grand River.

For more information, call Farmington Hills' Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1856

Zoo staff celebrates new arrival



Artistic Expressions

Linda Chomin

Step by step, the little polar bear slowly inches across the tundra of her new home at the Detroit Zoo. Exploring the 4.2 acres of the Arctic Ring of Life is going to take some time, but little Barle has the rest of her life, now that she's been rescued from the scorching heat and cruel conditions at the Suarez Brothers Circus in Puerto Rico.

This is a day zoo director Ron Kagan and Scott Carter, acting director of conservation and animal welfare, thought would never come. They'd experienced more than 18 months of setbacks and court decisions that had gone against the six bears struggling to survive in cramped, steel-barred cages.

The Detroit Zoo was the first to offer sanctuary to the bears when PETA (People for the

DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL PARK

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Wild Winter activities continue week-ends through end of February

Where: 8450 W. 10 Mile Road at Woodward and I-696, Royal Oak

Tickets: \$8, \$6 seniors age 62 and up and children ages 2-12, under age 2 free, \$4 for parking. Call (248) 398-0900 or visit the Web site at www.detroitzoo.org

PLEASE SEE ZOO, B2



COURTESY OF THE DETROIT ZOO

Barle checks out her new home in the Arctic Ring of Life at the Detroit Zoo. Until Nov. 5, the little bear lived most of her 16 years under cruel conditions as one of six performing polar bears in a traveling circus. Many of the rescued bears had developed sores from lying on the concrete and steel bottoms of cramped cages.

Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?



Makes no difference as long as you take time to put your feet up, get comfortable and spend some time with us.