## STORYTELLERS

Raynor, who has a Jewish back-ground, to headliner Dan Keding of Illinois, an interna-tionally known storyteller and balladeer who performs at music festivals throughout the world.

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Chark and Raymor share a love of children's stories. Three times are for the Raymor leads storytimes for the Raymor leads the Annaham and the Raymor leads the Annaham and the Raymor leads the Raymor leads to the Raymor leads the Raymor leads to the Raymor leads the Raymor leads to the Raymor leads the Ray

and tell stories. Its become a holby. Some people bike, I do chocolate and storytelling." Clark favors telling participa-tion stories, African American stories and folk tales.

Sometimes she'll choose a child from the audience to come up and help tell a story. I get stories from everywhere, said Clark, who's told stories at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Greenfield Village, The Ark, and Crambnook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills. There's a world of children's literature to choose from. I like to tell people who worry they ean't tell their child a story that there's no one (who) has a more special place in a child's heart than a moun and dad. I tell them to get a story they like. If special place in a child's heart shan a mom and dad. I tell them to get a story they like. If they don't like it, the listener will be able to tell. I've read a story 30 times before I'm ready to tell it. I don't ferr I'm ready fer

Schneider died.

He was editor of our Canton
Observer and it was sad for all
of us. A couple of my co-workers began telling funny stories
about "a group move," during
which Tedd tried to jump start

one of the moving trucks with a cable plugged into the cigarette lighter in his small car. That was Tedd – always trying to help.

"Storytelling does a lot of things," said Clark. "It helps with enunciation of words, listening skills. You can share a piece of history through a story. It's something that will help someone get through the day. You don't know how you will help someone through a story. A story can help someone solve a problem on the playground. I encurrage people to read a story then tell it. From Martin Lather King, Is: to the Holosomet we have a Luther King Jr. to the Holocaust to the Civil War-children's literature is so won-derful. Twenty years ago we didn't have what we have avail-

didn't have what we have available today."

As a youth librarian for the Ann Arbor District Library, Laura Pershin Raynor couldn't agree more about the wealth of children's literature, but she chooses instead to draw on her family for stories. Many of them are recorded on her CD, A Well Kept Secret, released a lew weeks ago. A second CD, All Dressed Up, recorded at Big Sky Studio in Ann Arbor, is set to debut in February. Both will be available in Canton for \$15 each.

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"I'm going to tell stories of my wacky family, very colorful tales of my father, who's a trick-ster, stories of my grandmother who came from the old country." to America for an arranged marriage at 17. She was a natu-ral-born storyteller. Every time



Laura Pershin Raynor draws on her family's stories. Raynor grew up across the street from the Detroit Zoo and has plenty of "tails" to tell.

I hurt myself or got into trouble, she would put me on her lap and tell me a story.

"My stories have a cultural Jewish feeling to them but I'm also interspeesing them with childhood. I grew up in the '60s across from the Detroit Zeo. You could hear the lions roar at night. I try to capture that nostalgia.

Like Clark, Raynor believes in the power of storytelling, it helped her land that first job after graduating from the University of Michigan.

"How I got started as a storyteller is I lied in an interview for an outreach library,' said Raynor, who grew up in Oak Park. I was asked, 'Do you tell stories?' and I said, 'Oh yes, my grandmother told stories all the

## STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

What: Canton Project Arts presents storytelling for children and adults

When: I p.m. for families (recommended for children ages 4 and up) and 7:30 p.m. for adults Saturday, Jan. 25

Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

Tickets: \$3 for the 1 p.m. performance, \$5 for 7:30 p.m. show with tickets available at the Summit.

Call: (734) 394-5193

time. I got the job and I've been telling stories ever since. In the early 1980s, a storytelling renissance kicked off. I quit my job as a librarian and hit the road with a partner. I've been at the Ann Arbor District Library since 1990 and have continued to tell all along.

"I felt my family needed to have these stories documented and recorded. I believe children can figure who they are when they hear family stories why they are the way they are,

who they are. That's why they love to hear the story of their birth and stories like the earlies about my grandmother coming to this country. It was a trying period in Jewish history, the condition of the grandmother lower to the ghetto in Russia was through an arranged marriage. Once here, they worked to bring other family members over, that's true of any immigrant family to any story of any immigrant family members over, that's true of any immigrant family worked to bring other family members over that's true of any immigrant family grandmother lived to 105 and was able to see her stories come full-circle. At age 100 we had a family party for her and she sat with her hearing ald turned up, listening to (her family members tell her) the stories she told them. As a little girl I lived her stories.

Bath King thinks childen of all ages will enjoy Canton Project Arts Storytelling Festival. The township's official arts council has been hosting the event for five years.

"Come out and have a good family time," and King, who's overseeing the festival. Th's a good family event. You can all enjoy and bring grandparents, aunts and uncles. You can all enjoy it. There's an evening storytelling show for adults. Sometimes I think people think this is just for children but we all enjoy a

snow for adults. Sometimes I think people think this is just for children but we all enjoy a good story.\*

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail

## Joe Millionaire TV fib OK, Fox network says

LOS ANGELES (AP) \_ Fox executives are making no apologics for Joe Millionaire, the rafility series built on a lie. The female contestants typing for the affections of Evan Marriott were told he's worth \$50 million. He's really a \$19,000-a-year construction worker, according to Fox.

construction worker, according to Fox.

"I think that when people get involved in these unscripted shows these days, they know they're in for a ride," Gail Berman, Fox's entertainment president, told the Television Critics Association.

The women of Jac
Millionaire are eager to take
part in post-production publicity, an indication they were satisfied with the series, Berman

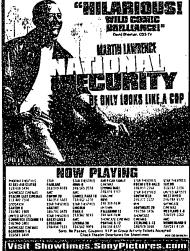
said Saturday. Marriott, 28, already bas turned out to be more than a construction worker: He posed for underwear ads, There's been speculation that a real

plot twist could be in store—that Marriott actually may be wealthy.
Asked about that possibility, Berman was guarded.
What we presented to the American public in our promos is accurate, she said. Whe are not lying to them.
Berman was asked if the public would feel it had been deceived when the show's finale airs Feb. IT.

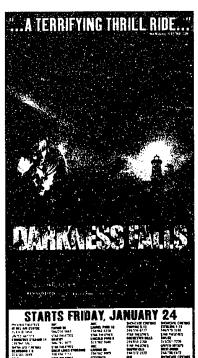
airs Feb. 17.
If think the American public

It think the American public is going to be extremely satisfied by the ending of this show, extremely satisfied, she replied. In a later session with reporters, Marriott described a life that made him sound far from wealthy. His trade was hard hit by the post-Sept. 11

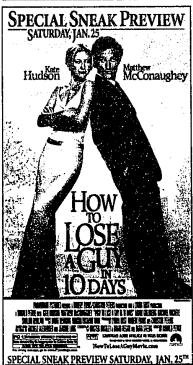
"A lot of the reason I did the show is I had such a bad year financially, I couldn't afford a bed," he said.







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