

## Nature Corner



They're back! The hawks have returned for another year of laying eggs, feeding chicks, teaching them to fly and hunt. Dr. DeMuth lives up there and back there where he can see what is going on in the big pine trees, and he saw the Mrs. Red Tail carrying a stick to the nest to bolster it in this especially cold spring. Good news!

What do we look for after this long hard winter that foretells spring? First look for the catkins (the flowers) of the big toothed aspen that grows on the north end of our property, north of North Woodbridge -- real tall! Then look for the beginnings of the spring bulbs, crocus first. Then comes the forsythia in town -- we don't have it because it is too tasty to the deer. Our first shrubs to bloom are the amelanchiers that grow on the sidewalks on each side of the front door of Houghton Hall -- little white flowers that become pits that the robins love to eat



*Betty Graham*

## The Ongoing Spring Music Festival

As in the past, University Commons is a prime venue for UM student concerts in March and April. From the time you receive this Common Times until April 30, our recital hall will be filled with the sounds of maturing singers and instrumentalists on seventeen occasions! Friends and family of the talented performers will mingle with us in the audience. At each concert, the host will greet and introduce the performer, and assist in setting up and tidying the refreshments table. We hope you will offer your time on one of these occasions. There is a complete list of concert dates and open host

slots in the mail room. Alisande Cutler and Clair Turcotte will also serve as hosts for some of the recitals, and will assist the volunteers as needed.

## Honor for Diane Kirkpatrick

We just learned from Tom Powell that Joanne Leonard, a newly appointed UM Distinguished University Professor, chose to name her professorship The Diane M. Kirkpatrick and Griselda Pollock Distinguished University Professor of Art and Women's Studies. I quote from Tom Powell's report: "Leonard is internationally celebrated for her groundbreaking work using photo-collage. [She] says she chose to name her professorship after two colleagues whose work bridges the fields in which she works and teaches, one of whom is UC resident Diane Kirkpatrick, emeritus history of art professor, who was a mentor and support to [Leonard] throughout her entire career at the University of Michigan. 'Carrying these women's names is a great honor for me,'" [said Leonard].

## Congratulations, Lou Graff

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005, will be a proud day for one of our residents. On this day, the University of Michigan will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the announcement that the Salk polio vaccine had passed all the clinical trials and was ready for use. The person responsible for declaring to the assembled journalists that "The vaccine works. It is safe effective, and potent," was University Commons' own Lou Graff. In 1955, Lou was the information officer at the University of Michigan Medical Center and as such medical reporter for the Poliomyelitis Vaccine Evaluation Center, where Salk vaccine trials had been conducted in utmost secrecy. He took the 63-page-long, technical report written by Dr.

Thomas Francis Jr. (Jonah Salk's former teacher) and fashioned it into an exciting story that lay men and women could understand. When he retired, Lou said that the part he played on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1955, was the high point of his career. We congratulate him on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that great day.

### **Asa Gray Lecture**

Mark your calendars for the annual Asa Gray Lecture, to be held this year on Monday, April 18, at 8:00 p.m. Emeritus Prof. Edward Voss of the botany department will speak on "The Legacy of Asa Gray." Among other things, he will bring one of the tools that Asa Gray used in his work. Don't miss it!

*Tony Morris*

### **Future Film Programs**

We are truly grateful to the residents who plan our monthly film evenings. Speaking for the entire group, Don Smith has informed us that they welcome recommendations from residents for future programs. What favorite flick would you like to revisit in the company of your UC neighbors and friends?

### **More Happy Happenings**

Fred and Anita Lim attended the ceremonies at the opening of the Bill Clinton Library. Their son-in-law Kevin McClarkan was project manager and one of the lead architects of the project.

On January 21st, Glenina Nolte had a letter published on the Op-Ed page of the New York Times.

Tom Powell went to China to greet his 13-month-old granddaughter, Julia Yingpei Powell, the newly adopted child of his daughter, Suzanne.

And we like offspring to display their achievements before their beaming parents: Bob and Jean Greenfield's son, Peter, a Northwest Airlines pilot, told us in a talk everything we wanted to know about airline travel; Nora Howell's son, Dr. Joel Howell, director of the Program in

Society and Medicine at UM, spoke on "The History of Eugenics and the Future of Genetic Medicine"; and sometime in the fall we can look forward to a talk by Ed and Cathy Marcus's daughter, Dr. Sheila Marcus, director of the women's mood disorders program in the U. of M. Depression Center.

*Frieda Morgenstern*

### **New Art Coming in April**

The corridors leading from Houghton Hall to the two Woodbridge buildings are UC's unofficial photography galleries. The art committee is pleased to have found new works to take the place of Andy Ross's generous long-term loan to us. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, we will begin exhibiting the work of photographer Jennifer Baker, a member of the Washtenaw Community College fine arts faculty. The art committee was unanimous in finding Ms. Baker's photographs imaginative and lovely. She will lend us 16-18 nature photographs created with some of the most sophisticated processes available to digital photography, such as color alteration and image overlays. The artist will explain these techniques and introduce her work in a Five O'clock talk on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Residents will be able to order photos for purchase (all images are in limited editions of 25).



*Photograph by Jennifer Baker*