THE METROPOLITAN détroit



Gurrier ZvEves

- Colored Engravings for the People -

By Anthony Brancaleone

N THE EARLY nineteenth century pictures were reproduced by relatively slow and unwieldy means-woodcuts, copperplates-when European and American engravers began working with a new process known as lithography.

Invented in 1795 by a Bavarian named Alois Senefelder, lithography was introduced to the French in 1816 and used in London in 1822 - although, American painter, Bass Otis, was already experimenting with the craft as early as 1919. But, it was a Frenchman named Dubois, who after being brought to the States by the Pendleton Company, proceeded to earn the title of being the "first true lithographic pressman" in America.

By 1828, Pendleton found itself in need of an

apprentice and the position was granted to a 15-yearold boy named Nathaniel Currier. Thus, Nathaniel's education was underway and he quickly recognized the potential of the trade. As luck would have it, Pendleton eventually sold his share of the business to Currier and after a brief stint in 1834, with an unsuccessful partnership, Nathaniel Currier moved to New York and established the "factory"

FOR YEARS Nathaniel Currier worked with his brother Charles. The two were business associates and though Charles utilized space at the "factory" he also ran a business of his own, which eventually led to manufacturing new lithographic crayons that proved to be superior to the French.

The firm of *N. Currier* was charmingly advertised as

being able to provide inexpensive "Colored Engravings for the People", but on January 13, 1840, when the steamboat Lexington caught fire on Long Island Sound, artist W.K. Hewitt, working for N. Currier, Lith & Pub, created what was probably the first illustrated extra in history; "Awful Conflagration of the Steam Boat 'Lexington' in Long Island Sound on Monday Eveg. Jany. 13th 1840, by which melancholy occurrence over 100 persons perished"

The print immediately captivated people. Presses ran day and night to supply newspapers all over the country with this new and ingenious form of information. *N. Currier* became an institution for accurately documenting human events. For the young firm the

Continued on Page 5

Delta Non-Stop to North Pole

Once again, Delta Airlines is excited to take time from their busy holiday schedule to fly approximately 80 children, accompanied by their parents or guardians, to visit with Santa at the North Pole. This year, the trip takes place on Thursday, December 17, and is a highly anticipated event by local hospitals because it is designed to accommodate the Christmas wishes of children who have been afflicted with disease.

Delta employees, anxiously awaiting their arrival, will greet the children and the Ticket Counters are

already busy decorating their Gate with festive, holiday trim. Clowns will be on hand as part of the welcoming committee, hosted by the *Silverliners*, and the children will be escorted by Santa's Elves through Gate A-36 for departure.

According to Santa, who just came off the *North American Thanksgiving Day Parade Tour*, which included Chicago, Detroit and New York, "This event would not be possible if not for the *Silverliners*", a group *Continued on Page 5*



To The City Of Detroit

In the pristine wild you felled a tree for your first home. You fished and drank from a clear river. You fought starvation and disease. Kept fires in log homes to keep from freezing in bitter winters. Grew food to live by, flowers for beauty and made music to get you I have watched you from a distance for sometime... through. Had every imaginable hardship and you prevailed. Through sheer determination, you built something difficult and

Henry Ford created the assembly line, giving many work. You came from all over, alone, with families, and you built the automobile. You made roads, built factories, manufactured with great skilled hands, and you played music to see you through. memorable; a city - and, it grew . . .

World War II came and you were called upon to build even more. You worked in your plants night and day. The late shift was endless, lonely. Though, you were fatigued and often hungry you seldom complained, while you helped keep a country's freedom. Steadily, you grew successful. With hard work you defined excellence in a middleclass. America shared the bounty and the world

Since then, you've been rich and poor, looked on and looked over, torn up and torn down, split and torn apart, dug up and run over, was watching you.

Companies have closed, jobs are few, times are lean, and you watched in frustration - with, perhaps, a little anger - while your great polluted and corrupted, remembered and long forgotten - abandoned . . . history was buried. Yet, you are still here. You want to work. You are born of spirit and struggle handed down from Grandmothers

Remember, it is you who invent, you who create and build. You have soul and heart, dignity, and you believe in a place called home. Christmas is near and, though there is no pill to fix what ails you, be steadfast, you will learn to fix it and Grandfathers.

yourselves - from your own battered frame, just as you did in the beginning.

You will turn over the good earth, with strong hands, and you will grow a new garden

of cheer - one flower at a time - placing each of them under the tree.

And, you will continue to make music because, still, the angels sing -

Merry Christmas, Love Santa





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Frankenmuth, Michigan's Little Bavaria

Emails to the Editor

The descendent of the former Action Detroit is an eye-pleasing improvement. Your use of dramatic photos, well-composed copy and professional layout, including the skillful use of white space makes for a more dignified publication.

Sincerely,
Michael Conway
Director Public Affairs

If you are the gentleman who gave me a copy of The Metropolitan in the airport, thank you. The photographs are beautiful and it made for a pleasant read while I awaited my flight.

Blackberry text London, England

Bro, your paper is great!! Really enjoying it. Thank you. *Todd Coshell Detroit*

Anthony, I was able to look through the latest issue and was impressed with the layout and the writing.

Peace and love

Eric Campbell

Congrats on your new publication. Fine job!!

Marc K. Shaye, Esq.

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This December Morning

By Thomas Brank

This December morning was clear and crisp. That by itself was invigorating, and it gave the feeling of the day being more alive, a sense of expectation of some sort of adventure in the air. We were going "downtown" - a very different meaning then, almost a statement.

After parking in the Hudson's garage, we crossed the walkway to the brass and glass doors of the main building, and then walked through to Woodward Avenue's street side entrance. The avenue was alive and vibrant with shoppers on both sides.

A ringing bell made us turn to see a uniformed man, along side a stand, holding up a red metal kettle, with a slot in the top. His face was chiseled and weathered and his eyes sparkled a happy kindness. A mother picked up her boy with rosy cheeks so he could slip a dollar in the slot. The Salvation Army said, "Thank you and Merry Christmas".

Then, for a moment, while looking at

that so familiar scene, there was a distinct image and remembrance of my mom doing the same, many years before, and I was moved magically back in time, same corner, same J.L. Hudson Co., same picture. The man rang his bell again and I was brought back to the present. Ring. Ring. Each sound a small, polite reminder to give, in the season of giving.

We walked and stood in front of Hudson's Christmas window display, made the kids hold hands so the crowd wouldn't separate them. Each window was a storybook of enchantment, drawing all of us into the scene, captured in idyllic serenity. It expressed itself in the faces of everyone looking in, wanting to be a part of it. Look, look, it is right there, just on the other side of the glass. Take us away. Let us in . . .

After a sufficient chill, we went inside to take the escalator to the mezzanine. A pleasantly plump waitress brought our hot chocolate. It seemed everyone here had

rosy red cheeks, and the conversations spilled over the tables. The kids took to staring over the railing to the floor below with all its activity, their eyes wide, in earnest, taking everything in.

A short while later, I saw a pair of leather gloves in the showcase and bought them for my mother. When I paid for them, the money was placed in the plastic cylinder, sent up the pneumatic tube that efficiently came back with my change. The saleslady asked if we'd like the gloves delivered. The next day they were. What a feeling of civility.

When the elevator door opened the gloved operator asked what floor. "Toyland". She closed the accordion metal guard inside, rotated the handle and up we flew to higher places. We stepped into a full wonderland of every plaything imaginable... *Hudson's legendary Toyland*. We walked through slowly, eyes wider at every isle. Roy Rogers gun with leather holster, cowboy hats, Indian

headdresses, bow and arrows, wooden champion sleds with metal runners, giant stuffed teddy-bears, games and dolls. Every corner filled with an offering to entice and enhance. Skip the kids - I wanted a new sled.

Then people, fresh from the outside, kids sporting their wintry colorful clothes, eyes full of excitement and expectation, wishing and dreaming. Toyland. Adventure. Sugarplum thoughts.



By now it was near dusk and time to eat. Two special things left to do; Dinner in the *Riverview Room* and *Santa*. Don't know why, but always thought that Santa should be seen at night.

The Riverview Room, with its great wooden beams, was warm and cozy, and just dressy enough, in keeping with its quality. Eating there, for most, seemed like an event; Maurice salads, popovers, Yankee pot roast, and conversation from families drifting from table to table, all served with great coffee and company.

People and holidays - small talk, big talk, no talk. How fortunate just to "be" with pleasantness. There is a time that opens a great door of warmth. Christmas.

Santa's house, and the path to get there, was tunneled with snow, stars, evergreens, magical small lights and reindeer. Were we half way to heaven? Oh yeah, and there was a line. But, all the families seemed patient. It was a happy line filled with all shapes and sizes ...

The kids entered the inner-sanction of Santa's house to make their wishes. Maybe they were big enough to cover everyone.

On our way out, we stepped through the Woodward entrance and met the avenue ablaze with Christmas lights of color and cheer, on both sides, up and down every building and streetlight. Crowds of people were hurrying and waiting to shop. Over the speaker system, Gene Autrey was singing Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. A bell rang from the corner. We placed our little offering in the red kettle, just as we always have, and heard the fading bell, as we went back through the warmth of J.L. Hudson's to go home.



Currier and Ives

Continued from Front Page

'best-seller' image opened up an industry dedicated to providing newsworthy pictures of life and circumstance-reproduced and published quickly - and it skyrocketed the firm on a half-century of success as "Printmakers to the American people.

N Currier Lith & Pub made prints of all kinds, from portraits to comics, reproductions of fine art, disasters and wrecks, clipper ships, whalers, farm scenes and country life, railroads, cityscapes, sporting events, political prints, life among the Indians and they virtually immortalized the American trotter.

Then, in 1852, Charles Currier informed Nathaniel that his wife's sister had married a young lithographer and enthusiastic art lover, and that it might do them well to hire James Merritt Ives as their bookkeeper. Within five years, James was made partner and the firm became Currier & Ives.

The junior partner not only had a discerning eye, and good taste, but he possessed a strong sense of what would

"There's a happy feeling nothing in the world can buy, when they pass around the coffee and the pumpkin pie, it'll nearly be like a picture print by Currier & Ives, these wonderful things are the things we remember all through our lives . . ."

– Sleigh Ride Anderson & Parrish

be salable, soon having as much to say about what prints would be accepted as did the brothers Currier.

CURRIER & IVES portrayed their times with fastidious detail, giving the public pictures that were typically American, easy to appreciate and affordable to the average man. Their stable of talent produced honest prints with a simple grace that has continued to reach Americans for over a century and a half.

Presented as a gift by his employees, "The Road, - Winter", 1853, depicts

Nathaniel Currier and his wife, driving their sleigh on a fair winter's afternoon, which, along with other works, like "Central Park In Winter" and "A Brush for the Lead", influenced the writing of Leroy Anderson and Mitchell Parrish, as they penned the words and music to their holiday classic, "Sleigh Ride", almost 100 years later.

Vocalists from Bing Crosby to Johnny Mathis have sung the famous line - "It'll nearly be like a picture print by *Currier & Ives* . . ." evoking imagery of a more perfect time, while acts as varied as the *Ronnettes* to the *Brian Setzer Orchestra* have all covered "*Sleigh Ride*", which has consistently remained in the top ten most performed songs during the Christmas season since 1950.

The works of *Currier & Ives* are sincere representations of an era lost to history. They are now a part of Americana and embody a record of our nations culture, with such artistry and authenticity, that they will forever be remembered as America's first printmakers.

Delta Non-Stop to North Pole

Continued from Front Page

of volunteers who have worked diligently throughout the year with area hospitals and various organizations. "My thanks go to them, and *ALL* organizations, who give of themselves so that others may enjoy the holiday season"

The flight departs at 11:00 am and will arrive at the North Pole in a little over an hour. During that time, Delta's distinguished guests will enjoy lunch and entertainment from the clowns and Elves.

Upon deplaning, the children will be escorted by the Elves, through workshop corridors, until Jolly Old Saint Nick himself finally greets them. "This is one of my favorite days of the year", says Santa. "There is nothing better than spending quality time with the children, laughing, opening presents and enjoying a good cookie or two"

All the kids receive bags of goodies and gifts during the Christmas celebration, which will include many of the fantasies and holiday thrills the children previously asked for. "It is with great pleasure that we here at Delta partner with the Silverliners", says Delta's manager of customer service, Ellen Logan, "to make this annual event most memorable as a fantastic celebration of giving and sharing"

The Salvation

The Origin of the Christmas Kettle

The Salvation Army Captain in San Francisco had resolved, in December of 1891, to provide a free Christmas dinner to the area's poor persons. But how would he pay for food?

As he went about his daily tasks, the question stayed in his mind. Suddenly, his thoughts went back to his days as a sailor in Liverpool, England. On the Stage Landing he saw a large pot, called "Simpson's pot" into which charitable donations were thrown by passers-by.

On the next morning, he secured permission from the authorities to place a similar pot at the Oakland ferry landing, at the foot of Market Street. No time was lost in securing the pot and placing it in a conspicuous position, so that it could be seen by all those going to and from the ferry boats. In addition, a brass urn was placed on a stand in the waiting room for the same purpose.

Thus, Captain Joseph McFee launched a tradition that has spread not only throughout the United States, but the world.

By Christmas, 1895, the kettle was used in 30 Salvation Army locations in various sections of the West Coast area. *The Sacramento Bee* of that year carried a description of the Army's Christmas activities and mentioned the contributions to street corner kettles. Shortly afterward, two young Salvation Army officers who had been instrumental in the original use of the kettle, William A. McIntyre and N.J. Lewis, were transferred to the East. They took with them the idea

of the Christmas kettle.

In 1897, McIntyre prepared his Christmas plans for Boston around the kettle, but his fellow officers refused to cooperate for fear of "making spectacles of themselves." So McIntyre, his wife and sister set up three kettles at the Washington Street thoroughfare in the heart of the city. That year the kettle effort in Boston and other locations nationwide

resulted in 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy.

The New York
World hailed The
Salvation Army
kettles as "the
newest and
most novel
device for
collecting
money." The
newspaper
also observed,
"There is a man
in charge to see
that contributions
are not stolen."

In 1901, kettle contributions in New York
City provided funds for the first mammoth sit-down dinner in Madison Square
Garden, a custom that continued for many years.

Today, donations to Salvation Army kettles at Christmas time support holiday meals for homeless and needy families, but also help The Salvation Army serve over 30 million people a year through a myriad of other services all year long.

THE SALVATION ARMY Everywhere, public contributions to the kettles enable The Salvation Army to bring the spirit of Christmas to those who would otherwise be forgotten all year long – to the aged and lonely, the

ill, the poor and unfortunate.





FEMILIA COUTURE:

The design duo of Fotoula Lambros and Emily Thornhill comprise the Detroit based fashion firm of *Femilia Couture*. Their new collection takes a look at post recession fashion, and is reminiscent of the late 30's, early 40's glamour girls, who graced the silver screen in glorious black and white.

Garbo and Hepburn are women who have inspired many throughout the decades, and it is clear that they continue to do so where Ms. Lambros is concerned. "When I watched the film *Bringing Up Baby* I was amazed with how that beautiful chiffon dress, soaking wet in a pond, played as much a part of the character as did the actor."

Fotoula obsessed over designs in classic film, but "never knew the colors of the dresses", and it is with that in mind that Emily and Fotoula formulated the idea of *Vintage In Technicolor* for their new collection.

Vintage silhouettes, high contrast black and whites, saturated jewel tones, in a twenty-piece collection of burn out silks, silk crinkle and chiffons, all with an eye on what's happening now. Past is present.

The women who wear *Femilia* appreciate "theatrical, avant-garde" clothing, and seem to respond to the lines high level of sewing, mixed

with a playfulness that, according to Lambros, contrasts sharply with its surroundings in Detroit.

"Fashion is an artistic expression", Lambros shyly muses "And, Detroit is beginning to express itself through clothes, music and film." Currently, the girls are providing curtains for the movie *Highland Park*, staring Danny Glover and Parker Posey. "New York can get really creative but I think it's happening here too."

Emily and Fotoula worked together from the ground up, designing during long, odd hours, giving clothes away, until they sold 'Ready to Wear' to area shops 323 and *Flair Boutique*. "We do shows all the time" Lambros points out, "but right now it's brand awareness over availability"

With a new storefront opening - Dec 1, 2009, Ferndale - the girls plan to begin supplying the ever-growing demand *Femilia Couture* has garnered through word-of-mouth. With articles coming every week, shows every month, and the 2010 Fashion Group International (F.G.I.) just around the corner, Emily Thornhill and Fotoula Lambros have their work cut out for them. Keep sewing. *-AB*

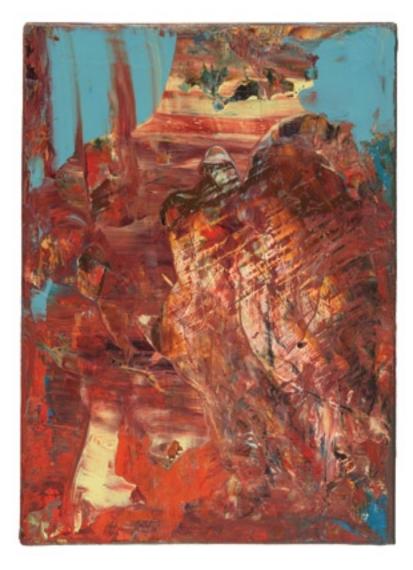












Painting is half looking and half painting, but mostly it's seeing.

Richard Schemm, Artist

"

MICHIGAN ARTIST:

RICHARD SCHEMM



On a cold day in November, an artist from Michigan displayed his work on the steps of the *Metropolitan Museum* in New York City. Within 45 minutes he sold three pieces, one to actor Kate Blanchett, another to actor Josh Lucas and a third to Society gal, and patron of the arts, Ginny Williams.

Today, Richard Schemm is in Manhattan, staying at the *Jane Hotel*, where he is engaged in an invitation, by appointment only exhibition from within his suite. Occasionally, he slips out of his room and heads to the Bohemian style lounge - that he describes as an upscale *Grande Ballroom* - for a slow martini.

While he sips cocktails, Schemm's work is being catalogued in the library of the *Museum of Modern Art*. The curator of painting and sculpture, Ann Temkin, received a portfolio of Schemm and within one week determined she would begin to catalogue, presenting prices to the Museum for acquisition.

It wasn't always like this. "I'm just happy that I survived my bouts with mental illness and that my relationship with Pat (Schemm's love interest, confidant and most ardent supporter) has lasted". Years of working to gain recognition has taken its toll and "the *business* of being an artist takes a good deal of time"

Schemm lives just outside of Traverse City, where he enjoys keeping a low profile, lounging in his yurt and working from his studio. His day begins with coffee and raw canvas, doing what he refers to as 'calisthenics'. He produces layers, many layers, letting the paint dry before going over it again, smearing it off until it's almost all gone - *Palimpsest* - the effort of the marks of where the old shows through. In this way, he believes his work cannot be reproduced. "Just too many layers."

"I am not fascinated with ritualistic rules" Schemm explains. "A few nights ago, I awoke at midnight and made nine paintings through till dawn. Not all of them were finished but three were great", reveals Schemm. "The rest will be."

Always painting to music, artists like *Diana Crawl, Kurt Ellington, Pat Matheny* and *Kate McGarry*, Schemm begins "out of a need that turns into an urgency", and then it falls into place, while he plays with automotive tools, brushes, gloves,

It's not that poverty is so bad, it's just that it takes up so much of your time.

de Kooning, Artist

"pretty much I'm like a caveman when I paint - sticks and stones..."

That symbiotic relationship between artists manifested itself at a recent performance at *Joe's Pub*, NYC, when Grammy nominated jazz singer, Kate McGarry, brought Richard on stage and introduced him to the crowd, stating that what she "thinks about while singing is what he (Schemm) thinks about while painting."

Not bad for a Michigan boy, who still prefers to drive his "little *Toyota Yaris*" all the way to the Big Apple, to conduct meetings with dealers from America, Amsterdam or regions unknown. And, much like the image in *The Wanderer* (George Grosz, 1938), whom Schemm regards as a "brother in paint", Richard Schemm will continue heading into the deep expanse of a colorful unknown.



Holiday Travel Tips

CONFIRM FLIGHT SCHEDULES FIRST: Passengers should check with their airline reservation centers on the web or through their airline toll free phone lines to confirm flight schedules.

ARRIVE EARLY: You may want to plan on arriving at DTW at **least two to three hours before scheduled departure times** - allow ample time for parking, check-in and passenger screening.

PARKING TIPS: Travelers can call the airport's 24-hour parking hotline (800-642-1978) to determine parking status. The hotline is staffed around-the-clock and provides up-to-the minute parking information at the airport.

CURBSIDE CHECK-IN: Curbside check-in is operating for most airline carriers. Terminal curb fronts are open, but reserved for active loading and unloading of passengers only.

LUGGAGE: Luggage ID tags should be filled out, both on the inside and outside of bags, before arrival to the airport. Passengers are allowed one carry-on bag. Remember to pack valuables such as jewelry, cameras, medication, passports, and money in carry-on luggage.

MEETERS & GREETERS: Since only ticketed passengers are permitted beyond passenger screening checkpoints, meeters and greeters are encouraged to identify a meeting place beforehand with their party.

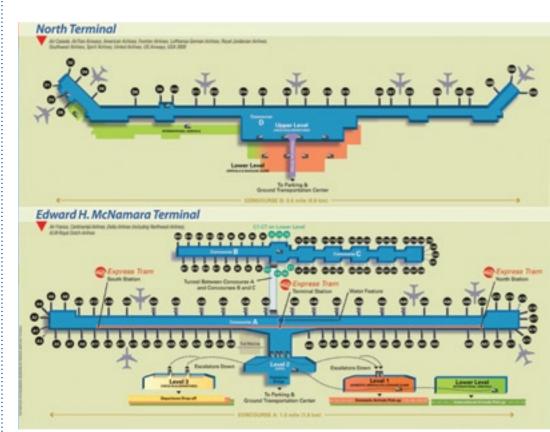
PICKING UP PASSENGERS: Federal rules now require that curb fronts be used for active loading and unloading only. Unattended vehicles parked at the curb front are automatically considered suspicious. Airport police may have no choice but to tow vehicles that are left unattended. If you are picking up someone at the curb front, the best thing to do is to use short-term parking until your party is ready to exit the building with their luggage; then bring your vehicle around to pick them up at the curb.



Photo - NE

AIRPORT

The Detroit Metro A





Holiday Travel Accessories



Sony Reader Digital Books are great for travelers who love to read on the road but don't want to lug books around. The Daily Edition™ offers free 3G wireless access to download books and periodicals. The Pocket Edition™ lets you access up to 350 of your favorite books from anywhere.

sonystyle.com, \$199.00 - \$399.00



The **Pet Roll Around** is a wheeled transport that lets you take your pet almost anywhere you go. It's also a car seat, back pack and pet bed - all in one! Small and Medium sizes meet most airline standards for in-cabin use.

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Dissolving Paper Soap! Simply wet hands and rub together a sheet and watch as the "paper" transforms into sudsy lather! No more messy surprises inside your luggage due to leaky containers.

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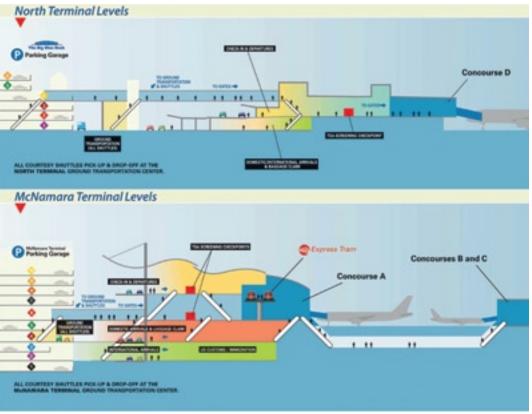


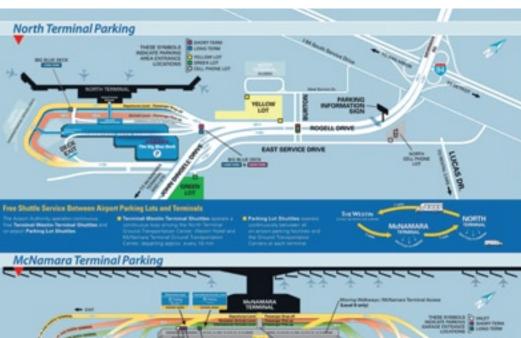
Super Comfort Neck Pillow by *Little Honey* makes relaxation time fun and funky. Filled with thousands of micro beads that form to the contours of your neck for supreme comfort and relaxation.

Flight101.com., 20.00

CULTURE

irport Guidemap









The editor believes in animal rights as much as the next guy, but this is ridiculous. Koala Care found in restrooms at the Detroit Metro Terminals



Nano-UV Scanner kills bacteria and viruses in 10 seconds. The portable Nano-UV Scanner uses ultraviolet light to kill 99.9% of germs on any surface like airplane tray tables, lavatory surfaces, hotel bedding, telephones, remote controls and much more.

magellans.com, \$79.00



Heys "Designer Disney" Wheeled Kids Luggage features latex-free ABS/polycarbonate composite materials, frameless construction and inline skate wheels that protrude out which makes it easier for children to roll and feature embedded LED lights.

heysusa.com, \$69.95



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girl2go Bright Eyed Girl revives tired eyes with cooling vitamin E enriched hydrogel eye patches. For an instant soothing effect that could turn your day around. A perfect pick-me-up after a long flight!

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MAIN ART THEATRE

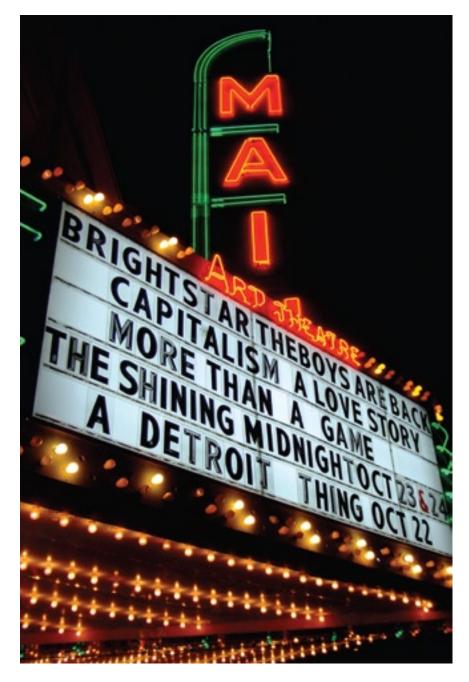
118 N. MAIN STREET, ROYAL OAK, MI.

For the best in independent cinema, few are better than Landmark's Main Art Theatre. Located in downtown Royal Oak, the Main Art offers some of the worlds most important and entertaining films. This is where directors Coppola, Lynch, Korrine and Gallo can be seen, in an atmosphere similar to those where Woody Allen always seems to be stealing away for a matinee in his movies.

Beautifully restored and well maintained, the Main Art screens midnight movies, cult classics and is a friend to the local filmmaker, hosting 'opening nights' and film festivals. Though the Main's high-end concession stand comes complete with hot, fresh popcorn, hand made chocolates and gourmet coffee, they haven't forgotten the cineastes love of snowcaps and raisonettes - and the friendly staff and good service go a long way in rounding out any film experience.

-AB





DINERS

ROY SPARK'S COUNTRY BOY

HAZEL PARK

Open 24 hours, the Country Boy has been a mainstay for early risers and late night diners for decades. Nothin' fancy here, just good old fashioned, down country cookin', masterfully executed for the last 12 years, by short order cook extraordinaire, my grill man Mark.

Perfectly poached eggs, salt cured country ham, with



served with a smile. Meatloaf, fried chicken and an occasional Yankee pot roast are available throughout the day but just a suggestion, save room for some Country Boy cobbler or a slice of homemade pie.

After hours things really get interesting, and if you happen to be a musician, artist, late night cocktailer, or a member of the graveyard shift, this is the place for you. The Country Boy happily accepts all kinds making it the ideal place to people watch. I've personally seen Kenny Olson (Kid Rock fame), actor Vincent Gallo, cross-dressers, black cowboys, white rappers, truckers, lovers, suits and little green men (just kidding) all enjoying comfort food while laying plans for world domination.

The *Country Boy* is a family restaurant that appreciates everyone in its extended family. Though, Roy Sparks is no longer with us, he's left this little jewel to daughter, Cynthia Hammond, who runs a clean, tight ship, and celebrates 47 years of operation.

Countertop dining and plenty of booths provide ample seating; while Christmas music, softly played throughout the holidays, add to the festive spirit - and don't worry, at the Country Boy, breakfast is served anytime!

BECKY'S NIP -N- TUCK DINER

BERKLEY



For years, Bob was a short order cook at the Hazel Park Race track, until he won enough money on a thoroughbred, named Nip -N- Tuck, to open his own countertop diner. Left to his daughter, Becky's Nip-N-Tuck Diner carries on the tradition of being a favorite for locals.

Chrome stools, red vinyl, and stainless steel fill out this

hot-n-fresh homemade biscuits, grits and Michigan's own Cadillac coffee, are all always cozy eatery, seating no more than 15 at a time. Becky's son, Ryan, armed with spatula and chef's knife, now mans the grill, and for my money is one of the top short order boys in the business.

> Dead eyes (Poached eggs), thick sausage (best in town), English muffin, and black coffee will make the better part of your day, while Ryan's homemade banana cinnamon pancakes may force you to re-consider your lo-carb diet.

> One of the areas best kept secrets is the Nip-N-Tuck burger - delicious, satisfying, and only a buck fifty. Golden fries, coke classic, malts and shakes blended to order, and served in the 'tin', all explain the overflow at lunchtime.

> Daily specials are written on a plate hang and from the menu above. Hot beef sandwich, turkey dinners, ground steak with mashed potatoes and gravy, all for five and a half dollars. Beat that.

> There are stories here, gossip, business deals, items for sale, shop talk, cop talk, high school kids packed in for lunch, veterans, little old ladies with blue hair and some men without-a piece of Americana. No waitresses, no pens or checkbooks, no bills handed to you. At the "Nip", the honesty policy is served all day long. Breakfast served anytime.

-NB

-AB

SOHO **Ferndale**

Located in downtown Ferndale, SOHO is one uber stylish room for cocktails. Dominated by high ceilings and metallic silver cement walls - a la Andy Warhol - running throughout the lounge, this red hot little joint caters predominantly



to gay and lesbian clientele. However, I arrived with my neighbors, both lesbians, and found SOHO to be very 'straight friendly'.

Behind the bar rests a rather large and beautiful lighting display, casting a red glow over all the festivities, while fashion forward music keeps things sanguine and sexy. SOHO is about having fun and meeting people, and I did both.

On Tuesday nights, enjoy 'Wines on Nine', hosted by Winebuys.com. Wines by the glass are only \$3.50 and come with complimentary cheese and crackers. The girls and I arrived on a Friday to discover \$5 martinis all night long. Uh Oh. Twenty dollars in and I was ready to become a lesbian myself.

Sundays and Wednesdays are karaoke, Monday nights boast 75 cent beer - is that possible? - and a Versace red pool table lingers invitingly near the front of the room, for all you hustlas out there.

Miller's Bar

Dearborn

A year ago, around the holidays, I sat with some friends in Ye Olde Saloon, Royal Oak, and witnessed a seemingly normal conversation about the areas best burgers get real ugly quick. One side believed Red Coat Tavern was tops, while

the other cited Miller's Bar. "Apples and oranges" someone said, "one is a gourmet burger the other's a bar burger!" "No, they aren't." "Yes, they are."

"What about sliders?" an onlooker asked. "Are you counting sliders?"

Ignoring the question, party 'A' continued, " I've been working in the food and beverage industry for years and . . ." Party 'B' shot back, "I'm one of the countries top 500 chefs and I work at ... "Voice levels increased. "Well, your restaurant sucks ... " "Your makeup sucks ... " you get the point.

As far as I am concerned, any shot-n-beer joint creating this kind of row deserves to be visited, asafp! Miller's is a no nonsense corner bar with one fine burger, and according to GQ magazine it's one of the top 20 best burgers across America. Now, does that mean it's better than Redcoat Tavern? Well, you'll just have to see for yourself.

-AB

205 W. 9 Mile (1 block w. of Woodward) Ferndale 248.542.7646

23700 Michigan Ave Dearborn 48124 (313). 565.2577



-AB



MAKING ITS DETROIT PREMIERE TONY, GRAMMY AND OLIVIER AWARD WINNING BEST MUSICAL

Jersey Boys

DETROIT –The Detroit premiere engagement of the Tony, Grammy and Olivier Award winning hit musical JERSEY BOYS, the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, will play the Fisher Theatre, December 17, 2009 – January 23, 2010. Tickets are now on sale at the Fisher Theatre box office, all Ticketmaster locations, by phone at 1-800-982-2787, and online at www.broadwayindetroit.com.

Directed by two-time Tony® Award-winner Des McAnuff, JERSEY BOYS won the 2006 Tony® Award for Best Musical, the 2006 Grammy Award® for Best Musical Show Album, and most recently, the 2009 Olivier Award for Best New Musical, and continues to break box office records on Broadway and across North America. JERSEY BOYS is written by Academy Award® -winner Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, with music by Bob Gaudio, lyrics by Bob Crewe and choreography by Sergio Trujillo.

JERSEY BOYS is produced by Dodger Theatricals, Joseph J. Grano, Tamara and Kevin Kinsella, Pelican Group, with Latitude Link and Rick Steiner.

*Cast Afterparty hosted by Mario's Detroit, December 19, 10 p.m.

Detroit's Fisher Theatre 3011w Grand Blvd #F100, Detroit, MI 48202 December 17, 2009 –January 23, 2010





DETROIT CITY CHESS CLUB: Fridays, 5-9 p.m. The club's mission is to teach area students the game and life lessons. Members have won state, regional, and national competitions. People wanting to learn how to play chess should show up between 5-7 p.m. There will be no teaching between 7 and 9 p.m., but visitors can play chess.

DIA MOMENT: FASHION SHOW: 8 p.m. Detroit-based designer Sarah Lapinski and partner Brittany Moore present menswear and women's clothing from the Wound Menswear line in conjunction with the *Avedon Fashion Photographs 1944-2000* exhibition. Wound arose to satisfy the desire for a creative, clever and fresh alternative to current available menswear. Despite the negative connotations of the word "wound," it is the philosophy of Wound Menswear that wounds and heartbreaks shape identity. Aligned with the Japanese aesthetic philosophy of wabi-sabi, beauty is found in the imperfect, impermanent and incomplete. Each garment incorporates a small detail known only to the wearer to distinguish it and its makers as humble within nature. Lapinski and Moore reveal the collection with models strutting down the runway in an electric fashion show

TARGET FAMILY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 BRUNCH WITH BACH: AARON BEROFSKY AND EDWARD PARMENTIER: 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. Violinist Aaron Berofsky has toured extensively throughout the US and abroad, gaining wide recognition as a soloist and chamber musician. As a soloist, he has performed with orchestras in the US, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Canada. Parmentier is internationally renowned for his brilliant performances of early keyboard music, and is a specialist in the harpsichord music of Bach and his English and French contemporaries. Berofsky and Parmentier will perform music of Bach, Girolamo Frescobaldi, François Couperin, G. F. Handel, and Arcangelo Corelli.

Based on the popular Forbidden Broadway production, A Forbidden Broadway Christmas includes spoofs of Broadway's greatest shows and performers. From The Phantom of the Opera to The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, no show is immune from the comedic parody of the Forbidden company! For the



holidays, **A Forbidden Broadway Christmas** adds spoofs of celebrities and holiday favorites such as Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Cher, Britney Spears, and more - all singing your favorite holiday numbers. And don't worry - you don't have to be a Broadway aficionado to get the jokes. The show is top-notch quality fun, even if you don't know the tunes!

Tickets (\$19.75-\$45) are on sale now through the Gem Theatre Box Office (313) 963-9800, Ticketmaster charge by phone (800) 982-2787, at all Ticketmaster Ticketcenters, and online at www.ticketmaster.com. A complete list of performance dates and times follows.

FRINGWALD

The Real Housewives Of The North Pole

DON'T BE TARDY TO THIS PARTY

FERNDALE, MI – Sweet Love Productions in association with Who Wants Cake? are excited to announce that Detroiters won't be tardy to the latest holiday party when The Real Housewives of the North Pole debuts at The Ringwald Theatre Friday, December 4 and continues Fridays & Saturdays at 10:30pm, and Sundays at 5:30pm through December 20.

Tickets are \$10 and are available online at www.whowantscaketheatre.com, by phone 248-545-5545 and in person at the Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave, Ferndale MI 48220.

The Real Housewives franchise welcomes a new gaggle of gals this holiday season with the premiere of The Real Housewives of the North Pole. It's amazing what a recession can do, even to the most wonderful place on Earth. The women behind the scenes of the world's most famous workshop don't disappoint in the catty, back stabbing, wig pulling, foul mouthed ways of their predecessors. You definitely don't want to be tardy to THIS party! Written by Cara Trautman and Mark Sobolewski (both of Ferndale), the show features Dyan Bailey (Ferndale), Lauren Bickers (Ferndale), Christa Coulter (Royal Oak), Cara Trautman, and Jaime Warrow (Royal Oak) with direction by Marke Sobolewski.



December 4, 2009 - December 20, 2009



Como's

Located on the corner of Woodward and nine, Como's is the perfect place for cocktails with friends or business associates. Always the most festive during the holidays - with a fabulous display of interior and exterior lighting, Christmas trees and decorations this very hip establishment has been doing it since 1961, and is a favourite among those plugged into the Woodward corridor. Two main dining rooms service families, couples and groups interested in full entrées - or some seriously good pizza - while the happy hour crowd, and after hour set, step in for lively conversation and top shelf cocktails, along Como's beautifully back lit marble bar. Service can't be beat and owner, Sicilia, is everyone's fav. Gay and lesbian friendly, private parties, Monday night football, it's almost impossible to have something for everyone, but Como's tastefully succeeds.

22812 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, Mi. 248.548.5005



Slows Bar-B-Q

Make no mistake about it; Slows Bar-B-Q is Detroit, inside and out. The owners spared no expense refurbishing the building - utilizing gorgeous woods, restored brick, coppers, tiles, with warm amber hues - and in doing so became the first in reclaiming a neighborhood lost to time. Offering BBQ from several regions, Slows is a meat lovers dream; Two kinds of ribs, brisket, chicken and pork, with all the classic sides, and an array of wet sauce to please even the most mercurial. The bar is wonderfully stocked with top shelf Bourbons and whiskey, exotic brews and ales, and is tended by area artists and musicians, who genuinely care about their city. For authentic Detroit character, hit *Slows*.

2138 Michigan Ave. Detroit Mi. 313. 962. 9828



Mario's

Since 1948, Mario's has provided traditional Italian fare in an elegant atmosphere, remaining one of the last true supper clubs in the area. Unpretentious and old school, in a birth of the cool, just like in the movies, kind of way, Mario's isn't so much 'retro' as it is 'real'. Tableside cooking, good service and an extensive wine list are what Mario's is known for. Try the Steak Diane, flamed in cognac, simmered in brown sauce w/ Dijon or Tournedos Royal, medallions of beef tenderloin, sautéed w/ capers, anchovy and sherry, then flamed in cognac. Close to the theatre district, Mario's is a great place to dine before or after a show. Ballroom dancing on weekends, valet parking and shuttles offered to select locations. Entrees from \$18-\$30.

4222 Second Avenue, Detroit Mi. 313.832. 1616



Ronin

This intimate candlelit Asian restaurant, located in Downtown Royal Oak, took a huge chance on a difficult corner, transforming its space into a posh locale for lovers of sushi, sashimi, and sake. Dark and mysterious, with sophisticated mien, Ronin offers yellow tail, salmon row, tuna tartar and an abundance of rolls. Kitchen menu includes #1 Ahi Tuna Sliders, Diver Scallop w/ Black Rice Risotto and playful sides; waffle fries and wasabi whipped potatoes. Martinis, Sakitinis, and flamboyant cocktails - Lychee Fizz, Stingray, Ronin Mojito - are served to properly attired patrons in the cozy main floor bar, while insiders steal away for second floor rendezvous' hidden behind velvet rope.

326 West Fourth Street, Royal Oak, Mi. 248.546.0888



FRANKENMUTH

-Michigan's Little Bavaria-

n our way up north, for the Thanksgiving weekend, we found a young couple on the side of the road with engine trouble. Nothing open, and no way to repair the vehicle, we decided to take them to Michigan's Little Bavaria - Frankenmuth - for some early Christmas cheer.





Warsteiner Dunkel, a classic dark, with a smooth finish, was imported from Germany and, at \$3.75 a pint, immediately put a smile on our faces. "It's a strong beer and it doesn't sit in your mouth all day", observed our little stowaway.



The young lady was still shaken, and a little cold, so we ordered her up a chocolate raspberry hot chocolate truffle, in hopes of making all the pain and fear go away. A stunning success!



"I'm just amazed at how meaty these wings are", she said, as Zender's world famous chicken wings were delivered with equal parts confidence and love. One dozen wings \$7.95.



"Our thing is chicken, theirs is beer . . . " exclaimed Gary, the birthday boy bartender. Who's 'theirs', I wondered?



After a coupla of pints, and our fill of crispy goodness, we strolled across the street to the Bavarian Inn - just to 'take a look'.



What's this, elves in lederhosen? And, that delicious aroma - more hearty fare and good ale!



Quick! Jager Schnitzel and cold beer, all round!



The young miss opted for Bavarian Inn root beer and warm oversized pretzels (\$2.50 ea), her apparent joy filling our hearts. "Let all the cars in the world break down this night, so long as there be pretzels and beer!" toasted her companion.



As we left, the young connoisseur of hops and barley bid adieu to the coy pirate elf, explaining how the Bavarian Inn Dark - exclusively brewed for the Inn - at \$4.00 a frosty mug, was " significantly stronger than the Dunkel, with a more hoppy taste and, though it lingers a bit more, is still a very clean beer . . ."



We entered full of holiday spirit and were immediately transfixed by the grandeur and magnificence that is Bronner's Christmas Wonderland.

display of lights and decoration, playing with colorful ornaments, glittering tinsels, and considering Santa's task of circumnavigating the globe in a single night. All would have been well and fine had we not lost them, somewhere in the Christmas tree display.



Oh well, we had a turkey to eat and it was getting late. My girl suggested that she drive the rest of the way to Grandma's house, and I, responsibly, agreed. As I looked out the back window, I couldn't help but wonder what would become of our new friends. More importantly, I hoped Santa was engaged in more pressing matters, and that he would still place a gift for me beneath the tree.

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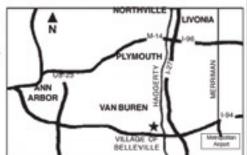
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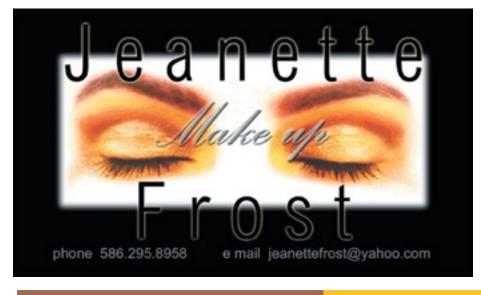
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