Greater Detroit's Original Cultural Events Weekly • Thursday, March 16, 2017

DOWNTOWN MONNTOWN

Midtown Mardi Gras: Marche' du Nain Rouge



In 1701, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, the legendary French explorer, came upon a fortune-teller. Cadillac told the mystic that he'd been having strange dreams about a small red devil. The fortune-teller told Cadillac that the devil he'd dreamt of was none other than the *Nain Rouge*, a little red imp that represented the Frenchman's negative emotions – his ambition, his anger, his pride and his envy – everything that would hold him back.

Worst of all, the fortune-teller told him that the *Nain* was a harbinger of doom. If Cadillac settled near the straits between Michigan and Ontario, the soothsayer's prediction was that success, while not impossible, would still be a long time coming. As history records, the headstrong Cadillac built his encampment in that exact place, his dreams about the red imp notwithstanding. As the tale goes, the Frenchman then encountered the physical manifestation of the *Nain*, who taunted him without mercy, only to have the volatile Frenchman chase him away with a stick.

All of which leads to the first Sunday after the Vernal Equinox, March 26, when, having survived another Michigan winter, thousands of modern day Greater Detroiters gather en masse to banish the embodiment of all the negativity that holds Detroiters back — the 8th Annual Marche' du Nain Rouge.

On this special Sunday, the *Nain Rouge* (pictured, above) will again confront the throng of marchers in **Cass Park**, where he'll espouse his evil plans for the City's demise, and where the gathered Greater Detroiters will (hopefully) overwhelm the *Nain* with their cumulative positive thoughts for a better rest of the year.

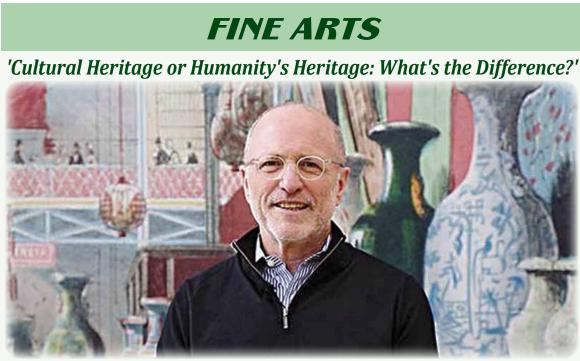
Marchers are encouraged to wear masks and costumes and even bring DIY



chariots. Neighborhood groups can vie for cash prizes for the best floats. There's no cost to join in and afterwards, marchers are encouraged to stick around for the TBA after-parties.

Leading up to the *Marche'* many businesses are hosting events during the *Preparer le Nain Semaine* (**Prepare for the Nain Week**), from Monday, March 20 to Sunday, March 26. Some of the participants of this year's *Fete du Nain* are HopCat, Avalon International Breads, Cadieux Cafe, Slows BBQ, Pure Detroit, Union Street, and Traffic Jam, among many others.

The *Marche' du Nain Rouge* begins at 1 p.m. at the intersection of W. Canfield and 2nd Ave., in Midtown Detroit's Cultural District. For more information and an up-to-date schedule, see marchedunainrouge.com.



James Cuno, president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust, will be the speaker at the Detroit Institute of Arts' (DIA) 20th Annual Dr. Coleman Mopper Memorial Lecture. Cuno will give a talk entitled Cultural Heritage or Humanity's Heritage: What's the Difference? on Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the museum's Lecture Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The phrase cultural heritage is in the news a lot today. The destruction of temples in Palmyra, in present-day Syria; mausoleums in Mali, West Africa and the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan have been described as acts against the world's global *cultural heritage*. Cuno will raise questions about whether cultural property belongs to an individual nation's heritage or instead should be thought of as humanity's heritage.

Cuno has lectured and written widely on museums and cultural and public policy. Among the books he has written are Whose Muse? Art Museums and the Public Trust; Who Owns Antiquity? Museums and the Battle Over Our Ancient Heritage; Whose Culture? The Promise of Museums and the Debate Over Antiquities; and Museums Matter: In Praise of the Encyclopedic Museum.

Cuno is a Fellow and International Secretary of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

"It is an honor to welcome a museum professional of Jim Cuno's caliber and vision to the DIA," said Salvador Salort-Pons, DIA director. "The commitment of the J. Paul Getty Trust to the idea that art belongs to all members of our society was the driving force behind their support for the DIA in 2014...

For more information call (313) 833-7900 or see dia.org. The Detroit Institute of Arts is located at 5200 Woodward Ave., in Midtown Detroit's Cultural District



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SPORTING LIFE



March Madness for Michigan's Bigs

By George B. Eichorn

March Madness fun has only just begun! The University of Michigan and Michigan State University are in the Big Dance and ready for their trip to the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

Even though No. 2 seed Duke is pegged by Vegas odds makers as the choice to win the national championship at the University of Phoenix Stadium April 3, don't go telling that to fans of the other teams in the tournament as play opened with four First Four games in Dayton, Ohio earlier this week.

The U-M Wolverines (24-11), No. 7 seed in the Midwest Region, start play on Friday, March 17 at 12:15 p.m. at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, fac-



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ing No. 10 Oklahoma State Cowboys (20-12). MSU (19-14) is a No. 9 seed and opens on Friday at 9:30 p.m. at BOK Center in Tulsa against the 21-11 Miami (Fla.) Hurricanes, a No. 8 seed. Neither game is a "lock" for our two state schools.

Michigan stunned the Big Ten regular season champion Wisconsin Badgers last Sunday, 71-56, in Washington, D.C., to win their first Big Ten post-season tourney in 19 seasons (and just their second all-time). U-M bested the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4 seeds in the Big Ten to win it all. This despite a scary start to their trip out east when their charted plane skidded off the runway at Willow Run Airport last week, forcing evacuation using the safety chutes.

Derrick Walton is the team leader for Coach John Beilein as he scored 22 points in the win over the Badgers, Zak Irvin (pictured) contributed 15. Walton averages 15.2 points per game. He's helped key a 10-2 Wolverines record down the stretch. U-M is on fire right now and needs to continue that momentum. Who says the Wolverines can't win



away from Crisler? They sure silenced those critics at the Big Ten tourney. U-M faces a probable showdown Sunday against No. 2 Louisville, should both teams advance.

Local sports blogger Jon Williams, posted on his Facebook page: "Amazing run by Michigan. Big 10 tournament champions for the first time since 1998. 4 games in 4 days... Go Blue!" Coach Tom Izzo (pictured) leads the Spartans to their 20th consecutive NCAA Tournament bid. What an up-and-down season it has been in East Lansing as they've battled injuries, freshmen errors and a very tough non-conference (and Big Ten) schedule. If MSU defeats Miami, they'll play the No. 1 seed in the Midwest Region, the Kansas Jayhawks on Sunday. They're led by freshman

sensation Miles Bridges (6-7 and 230 pounds) of Flint. The forward/guard averages 16.7 points and 8.3 rebounds per game. MSU has a stellar all-time tourney record of 63-29 in 30 years. The overall No. 1 seed is defending champion Villanova (also No. 1 seed in the East Region) from the Big East Conference. They open Thursday in Buffalo. The Big Ten also seeded Wisconsin No. 8 in the East, Purdue No. 4 in the Midwest, Minnesota No. 5 in the South, Maryland No. 6 in the West and Northwestern No. 8 in the West.

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кеасп George Eichorn at geichorn@yahoo.com.

SYMPHONIC NEWS



Ruth's Music Notes... **Ruth Crystal-Zaromp**

The William Davidson **Neighborhood Concert Se**ries has become very popular over the past years with its different localities. The DSO this week is providing another Neighborhood Concert. Currently, there are tickets available for only two of these performances - in *Southfield* this Thursday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. and in Clinton Township on Friday, March 17, at 8 p.m. The program includes The Four Seasons by Piazzolla (Yoonshin Song violin soloist), and Dvorak's 9th Symphony. Manuel Lopez-Gomez (pictured) will be conducting. Piazzolla is primarily recognized for his Tango music, on which he seems to hold a monopoly. With this event, he might break Vivaldi's monopoly on the Seasons.

Also on Thursday, March 16, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre at 6600 W. Maple is presenting their opening night of *Disgraced* (2012) by Ayad Akhtar. There are two shows scheduled for that date, at 5-6:30 p.m. and 8:30-10 p.m.

Akhtar is a Pakistani-American playwright, novelist and actor. This play pits together an ex-Muslim, an African-American, a Jew and a WASP and their conversation touches upon 'Islamic and Iudaic tradition. the Quran and the Talmud, racial profiling, 9/11, the Taliban, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and Benjamin Netanvahu.' Couldn't be better. Call (248) 788-2900 for more details and ticket information.

On this past weekend, Michigan Opera Theatre has presented us with the opera *Little Women* based on the novel of Louisa May Alcott. Mark Adamo wrote both the lyrics and the music here, his first opera. I was amazed at how all his efforts came together in the production this past weekend, providing us no (World Premier) - David



with an acceptable and realistic story, mingled with philosophy and wit as well as an exceptional performance. The orchestra was conducted by Suzanne Mallare Acton and stage director was Lawrence Edelson. The cast centered around the *MOT Studio* Artists under the direction of Richard Leech. They were supplemented by Diane Schoff as Aunt Cecilia, and Lisa Agazzi as Alma March.

This coming weekend March 18 (7:30 p.m.) and 19 (2:30 p.m.) the Royal Winnipeg Ballet will be appearing at the Detroit Opera House in A Cinderella Story. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet is one of the most noted in the world today. The music here will be based on the Rodgers and Hammerstein Disney movie. Surely, this is not to be missed.

more For information, check MichiganOpera.org or call (313) 237-7464.

Kerrytown Concert House in Ann Arbor is presenting two exceptional concerts. On Sunday, March 19, at 4 p.m., featured performers are Pauline Martin, piano and Eliot Heaton, violin. The program features Sonatina, Opus 100 - Antonin Dvořák, Fantasy for Violin and PiaDiChiera, Sonata for Violin and Piano - Maurice Ravel, Tzigane - Maurice Ravel, Sonata No. 3, and Op. 45 in C Minor - Edvard Grieg. On Monday March 20 at 8 p.m. Movses Pogossian, violin, will perform Bach's Sonata No. 1 in G Minor, BWV 1001, Partita No. 2 in D Minor. BWV 1004, Sonata No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1005, and Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006.

Following the recent, rare presentation of Beethoven's masterpiece Missa Solemnis on March 11, the UMS will be presenting a more intimate event.

Mitsuko Uchida, piano, will be giving a solo recital on Friday, March 24, 8 p.m. at Hill Auditorium. On the program: Mozart - Sonata in C Major, K. 545, Schumann -Kreisleriana, Op. 16, Widmann - Sonatina facile (U.S. Pre*miere*), Schumann - *Fantasy* in C Major, Op. 17.

Mitsuko Uchida was born in Tokyo in 1948. She is renowned for her interpretation of Mozart's music. She often seeks to draw parallels between standard repertoire and modern masters. She serves as co-artistic director of the Marlboro Music Festival.

For further information, check www.UMS.org.

Greater Detroit's Original Cultural Events Weekly

DOWNTOWN MONITOR

The Downtown Monitor, in its 54th year of continuous publication, is circulated free to all points of Greater Detroit and the City Proper.

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Slime Dog and *snot otter* may sound like something kids call each other on the playground, but they are actually alternative names for the *mudpuppy*—a large, permanently aquatic salamander native to the Detroit River.

The Belle Isle Nature Center will host its annual free event to celebrate mudpuppies on Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Mudpuppypalooza* fea-

tures fun and educational activities such as mask making, games, mudpuppy cookie decorating and a scavenger hunt. The event also includes the opportunity to hear from zookeepers who care for the *mudpuppies* at the Belle Isle Nature Center while learning about the species and conservation efforts on its behalf. The mudpuppy (Necturus masculosus) is the second-largest salamander in the western hemisphere, ranging from 8 to 15 inches long. It is typically brownishgray with dark spots, a yellowish belly and bushy purple gills behind its head, which it uses to breathe under water.

Located at the east end of Belle Isle near the *Blue Heron Lagoon*, the *Belle Isle Nature Center* is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October and Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March. Admission to the Nature Center is free; a State of Michigan Recreation Passport is required for all personal vehicles to enter Belle Isle State Park. For more information, visit belleislenaturecenter.org.

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CITY SCENE

Grand Opening of Hartford Village

The long awaited Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting *Ceremony* for the pristine new Hartford Village Senior Community will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, at Hartford Village, in Detroit. Among those dignitaries attending will be the recently confirmed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson. The retired neurosurgeon and former presidential hopeful, is a proud former Detroiter, and as a young boy attended Hartford Church on Sundays with his mom. Also expected at the ceremony is Mayor Mike Duggan, Governor Rick Snyder and Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, among a number of other notables.

The new Hartford Village Senior Community is located in Northwest Detroit and is now ready for new occupants. The community includes 39 independent living cottages with 2 bedrooms and two baths, garage and 24 hour on-site security, as well as 45 independent living apartments that offer 1&2 bedroom floor plans, with all of the same amenities you would find in the suburbs.

"Detroit just did not have an upscale housing community for senior citizens that want to live in the city, and are not low income. Hartford Church has filled the void with the first premier senior living gated community right here in the city of Detroit," said Rev. Dr. Charles G. Adams, pastor of Hartford. "And, most of the units have already been reserved. This is a perfect time to unveil this unique housing project during Hartford's 100th Anniversary," Adams comments.

Delores Brown, Hartford Church member has just moved into her brand new 1 bedroom Apartment in the high rise apartment units at Hartford Village. "God promised Pastor Adams this vision 40 years ago and he delivered," she said.

She was full of information and excitement as she walked from room to room pointing out some of the features she loved about her new Hartford Village apartment. "I prayed for 2 years for this to come to fruition, and it finally did."

Ms. Jeffrey King, the first person to move into Hartford Village, decided to move back to Detroit from Southfield. "I love my new home. This is the

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best decision I ever made," she commented. The walls of her comfortably decorated cottage are lined with awards and certificates from her 40 year long successful career as a school teacher at Detroit's Hally Magnet Middle School.

Since she loves to cook, she says the large kitchen, complete with all new stainless steel appliances, and granite counter tops, is her favorite room.

The beautiful, well-planned,

gated community is a collaboration between Hartford Memorial Baptist Church (HMBC) and Presbyterian Village of Michigan (PVM). When people work together for a good outcome great things happen. There are only a few independent living apartments left. For more information call (313) 270-9700.

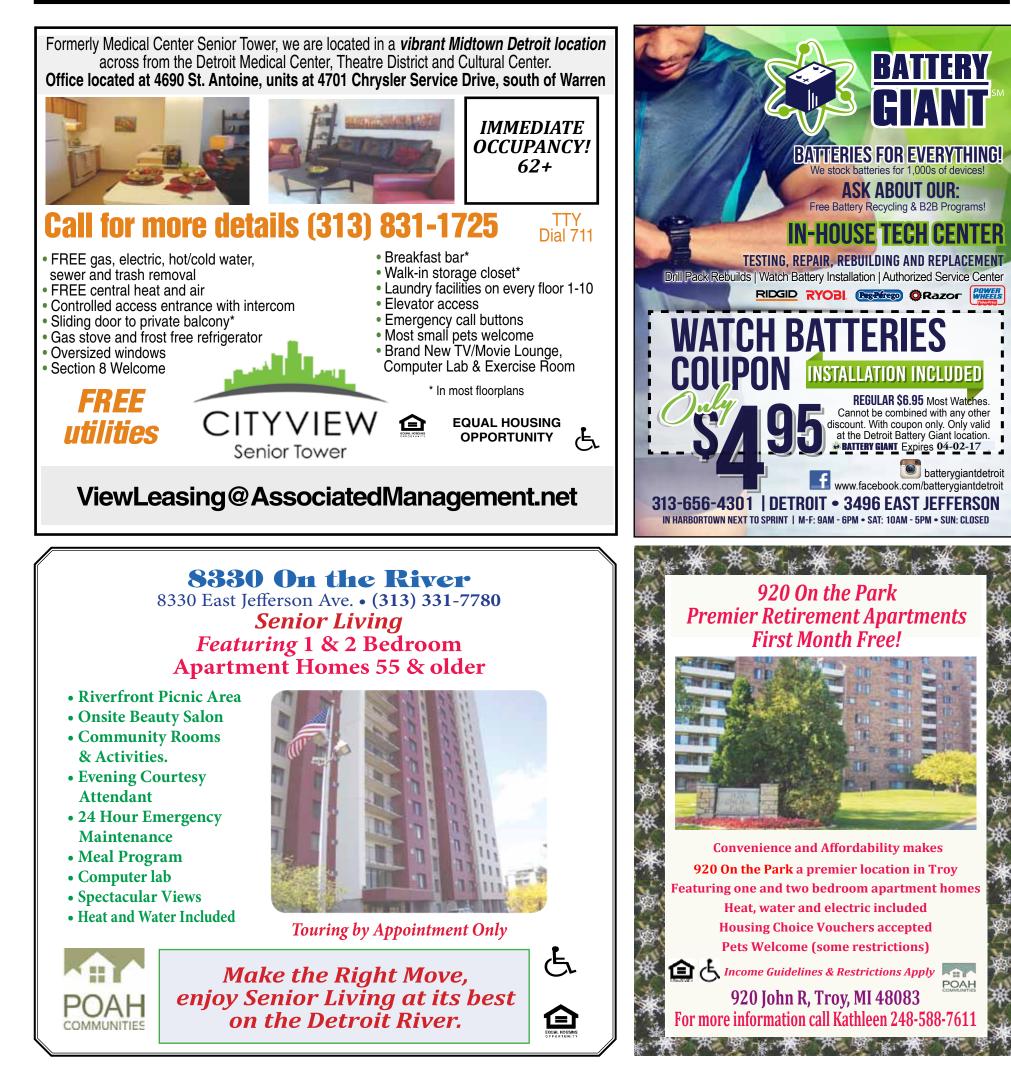
The Hartford Village Senior Community at Hartford Village, is located at 17500 Meyers Rd., in Northwest Detroit.



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CINEMA CULTURE

LIVE THEAT



Too Long Kong is All Wrong By Don Campbell



Kong: Skull Island is yet another remake of the story of a gigantic ape on a strange island, with this particular iteration taking place in 1973. It begins as a government official named Bill Randa (John Goodman), approaches a US senator with a plan to chart a newly discovered island in the Pacific. Eventually, Randa gets the go-ahead and as an extra measure of safety, he'll have a military escort led by Colonel Preston Packard (Samuel L. Jackson) and his men. Randa, and his assembled group of scientists will need the extra protection, because, of course, the uncharted island is populated with prehis-

toric dinosaur-like creatures, lorded over by a spectacularly large gorilla.

Upon landing on the island, the group's first order of business is to stir things up. They drop seismic charges to lure Kong out of his cave, and the resultant encounter with the helicopter-borne team goes badly for the humans. This leads Col. Packard to declare a vendetta against the big monkey. Kong doesn't have time to mess with the humans though because he is busy defending his turf from skull-crawlers (uglified dino monsters) that pop up out of the ground.

James Conrad (Tom Hiddleston) is British secret service, there to help them survive the jungle. Mason Weaver (Brie Larson) is the attractive antiwar photographer taking pictures. San (Tian Jing) is there for I don't know what. Her character and talent were completely wasted.

After an encounter with some friendly but quiet natives, we meet Hank Marlow (John C. Reilly). He's a World War II pilot shot down and marooned on the island. He has some funny lines, but his sage advice isn't heeded by Packard. The survivors of the airborne encounter with Kong split up. But not before a battle with a small skull-crawler at the suddenly foggy site of Kong's dead parents.

Packard's group heads for a downed helicopter that has some explosives onboard. Meanwhile, Conrad tries to lead his group back to the pick-up point on the shore using a tugboat built out of crashed WWII fighters.

Packard springs a fiery ambush on our furry friend and knocks him down, but he's stopped before he can blow him up. Which is good, because Kong is needed to fight off a large skull-crawler. In the ensuing battle Kong is knocked down again and suddenly gets wrapped up in anchor chains. Kong gets free at the last moment to continue the fight.

I understand that Hollywood feels it necessary for Samuel L. Jackson to be in every action movie made, but his character didn't do him or the movie any good. Conrad came off as capable but couldn't get any chemistry with Weaver. And Weaver didn't build any rapport with Kong. There were some cool creatures that appeared and a creepy monster spider, but overall there's not much to root for in this version of *Kong: Skull Island*.

Directed by Jordan Vogt-Roberts, written by Dan Gilroy and Max Borenstein, my advice would be to wait for it to come out on rental, then rent something else.

Circus 1903 at the Fisher

By Marian Sakalauskas

The Circus has come to town. *Circus 1903*, that is. To the Fisher Theatre for a six-day run. Although most big shows originate on Broadway, in London, or in Toronto, this eye-popping spectacle comes to us from Australia.

The exciting turn-of-the-century circus spectacular is divided into two acts. The first takes place in front of the big top with the performers and roustabouts preparing for the show. Ringmaster Willy Whipsnade (David Williamson) opens the show and narrates the entire thing. It begins with a vigorous teeterboard routine by the Flying Finns (Artur Ivankovich, Petter Vatermark, and AJ Saltalamacchia), followed by an incredible balancing act and a bicycle ballet by Florian Blummel. For me, the highlights of the first act were the comic Ukranian slapstick duo of Yevgeniy Dashkivsky and Yeftrem Bitkine, and the lovely aerial routine by Lucky Moon (Elena Gatilova).

Ringmaster Whipsnade began the second act by bringing four children from the audience on stage and doing a shtick involving a spring-loaded raccoon and a card trick. The audience was eating out of his hand after that; it didn't hurt that seven-year-old Sophia was an absolute charmer.

The second act takes place under the big top with the fully costumed performers at their best. There's a formidable foot juggling act and a trapeze act without the trapeze. The Incredibles (Anny LaPlante and Andrei Kalesnikau) do a flying act that demonstrates wonderful trust and skill. There's also a terrific juggling act and a high-wire act by the Lopez Family.

Of course, there are no live animals in the show, but Queenie the elephant and her calf appear to the absolute delight of the audience. The *elephants* are created by the British company *Significant Object*, the same group that has designed magnificent animals for shows in New York. It takes three puppeteers inside the big elephant and one



in front manning the trunk, and although you can certainly see the puppeteers, the magic is there and it is easy to believe that the big pachyderm is actually lumbering around the stage. The baby elephant is manned by one man, and he is delightful. In my opinion, the elephants are worth the price of admission. They are fabulous. I can't think of a better way to combat this dismal winter snap. Run, don't walk, to

I can't think of a better way to combat this dismal winter snap. Run, don't walk, to *Circus 1903 - The Golden Age of Circus. Circus 1903* runs through March 19 at the Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., in Detroit. Thursday through Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. The Saturday matinée is at 2 p.m., and the Sunday matinée is at 1 p.m. and Sunday's show is at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are at Ticketmaster at (800) 982-2787, online at broadwayindetroit.com or ticketmaster.com and at the Fisher Theatre Box Office.



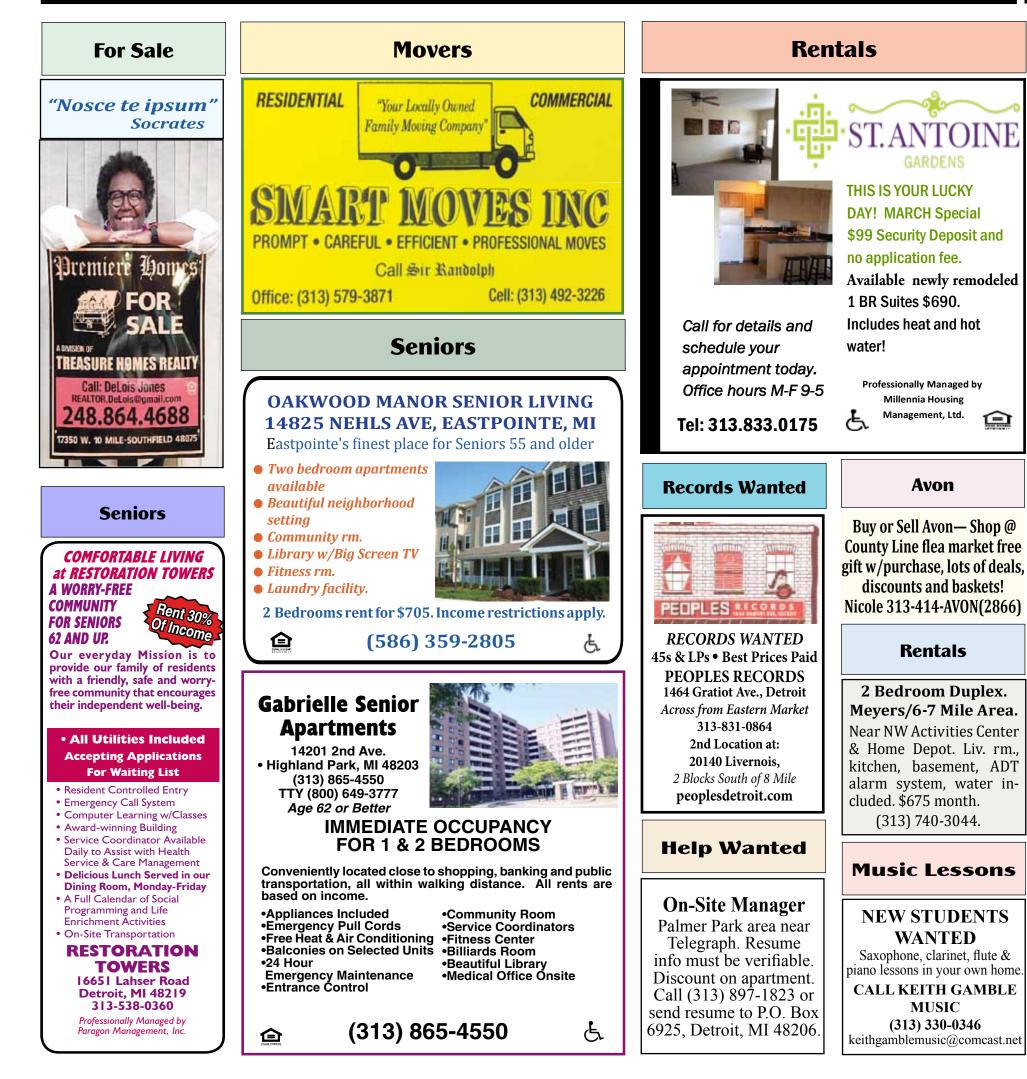
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Latin Jazz All Stars at Music Hall's Jazz Café

Jazz Café welcomes back, M.F. Production's *Latin Jazz All Stars* for two nights –one show per night, Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2 at 8 p.m. M.F. Production's Latin Jazz All Stars are a phenomenal ensemble that features the current masters of Afro Cuban, Salsa, Brazilian, and Latin Jazz.

This year's version includes Jazz Cafe veterans, Jorge Castro-Tenor sax (pictured) and on timbales and percussion, Chembo Corniel are joined by pianist, Elio Villafranca, Nestor Torres on Flute, Bassist Ricardo Rodriguez and Diego Lopez on drums.



Combined, these talented musicians have played with an enormous range of greats including Dizzy Gillespie, Celia Cruz, Tito Puente, Candido, Art Blakey, Grover Washington, Max Roach, Paquito D'Rivera, Paul Simon and Dionne Warwick just to name a few.

Grammy Award nominated, conga-playing Chembo

Corniel divides his performance time between his two musical loves: Latin jazz and "old-fashioned salsa that swings."

Tickets are \$30 in advance and available at The Music Hall Box Office or Ticketmaster. For more information, call (313) 887-8501 or see musichall.org or jazzcafedetroit.com.

Jazz Café is located within the historic Music Hall, located at 350 Madison Ave. in Downtown Detroit.

Tigers' Kids Opening Day Tickets to Benefit Goodfellows

A Detroit Tigers Goodfellows game package for *Kids Opening Day at Comerica Park* is on sale. Fans have an opportunity to help The Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit ensure there is "No kiddie without a Christmas" as the Detroit Tigers take on the Boston Red Sox on Sunday, April 9 at 1:10 p.m.

"What a fitting day for our organization to participate in at Comerica Park. Kids Opening Day, like our organization, is all about the kids and we are ready to have some fun at the ballpark to benefit Detroit youth," said Mike Jennings, president of the Detroit Goodfellows. "We really appreciate the Detroit Tigers choosing us to be part of this program".

The special ticket package includes choice of an upper box infield, mezzanine, upper reserved infield, upper grandstand or lower baseline box ticket and an exclusive Detroit Tigers/ Detroit Goodfellows hoodie. The Detroit Goodfellows will receive \$5 from every special ticket sold. Packages are available for purchase at tigers.com/Goodfellows. For groups of 15 or more email corey.thomas@



tigers.com. These packages can't be purchased by phone or at Tigers Box Office windows. Tickets may be limited and all items are subject to availability. The 103-year-old Detroit Goodfellows charity annually distributes 33,000 holiday gift packages through Detroit police precincts to needy children in Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Harper Woods and River Rouge.

For more information and updates, "Like" Detroit Goodfellows on Facebook at facebook.com/Detroit Goodfellows and follow on Twitter at @Goodfellows2.



\$10 AANM MEMBERS \$15 GENERAL PUBLIC MORE INFO + TICKETS: www.bit.ly/GFwinter17











Arab American National Museum 3624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126

MAR. 24

8 P.M.

FRIDAY

8 p.m. friday APR. 21

B P.M. FRIDAY MAY 26