

Detroit Auto Scene

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Deadline: Thursday 5:00 p.m.
for the next edition of Monday

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www.DetroitAutoScene.com

Walsh's Bergeron And Other Women Honored by MBPA At Jan. 16 Program

Women leaders will be honored by the Michigan Business and Professional Association at its 17th Annual "Women and Leadership in the Workplace" Symposium and Awards program on Wednesday, Jan. 16, at The Henry in Dearborn.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. followed by a lunch. The conference runs until 1 p.m.

The event is held to promote high professional standards, encourage leadership, provide education and assure equal advantages for women, say MBPA leaders.

This year's theme is "Power Forward With Your Strength." More than 500 women are expected to attend the event.

This year's honorees represent extraordinary professional women who have excelled in distinct categories. They include:

- Business: Nancy Hickey, Steelcase
- Professional: Anne Doyle, Anne Doyle Strategies
- Civic & Community Affairs: Kathleen Stiso Mullins, Edsel & Eleanor Ford House and the Henry Ford Estate
- Philanthropic: Linda Forte, Comerica Foundation
- Media: Rochelle Riley, Detroit Free Press
- Education: Stephanie Bergeron, Walsh College
- Small Business Achievement: Amanda Christides, Plymouth Technology
- Shooting Stars (women under age 40): Kenyetta Campbell, Cody Rough Community Action Alliance; Maxine Gray, Herman-Miller; Elissa Hillary, Local First; and Dawn Stokes, RBS Citizens.

"These women are making a significant impact in our state and we are pleased to give them the recognition they so richly deserve," said Jennifer Kluge, MBPA president.

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DIA Shows How Automobiles Inspire Photographers, Artists

by Irena Granaas

A new exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts celebrates the diverse population, culture and automotive roots of Detroit.

"Motor City Muse: Detroit Photography, Then and Now," views these elements through the eyes of photographers from as early as 1947 to as recently as last year, showcasing the city's diverse residents through the years, its pride and a window on Detroit's auto industry and culture, whimsical and creative cars, and everyday life through the years.

The DIA exhibit opened Dec. 14 and runs through Jan. 16.

With themes ranging from post-World War II everyday city life, workers putting in a hard day's work at Ford Motor Company's River Rouge Plant to playful images by a modern photographic artist featuring classic cars, these photos create a special portrait of Detroit's unique history and strengths.

"Automobiles have been a

huge inspiration for photographers over the years, both those who shoot in the fine art tradition, and those who shoot editorially and those who shoot in the commercial field, so this exhibition combines a little bit of all of those different worlds of photography," said Nancy Barr, DIA associate curator, Department of Prints, Drawing and Photography.

Featured photographers include Henri Cartier-Bresson, Bill Rauhauser, Robert Frank, Dave Jordano, Russ Marshall, Karin Jobst and Nicola Kuperera.

The display will also include works from the Detroit School of Automotive Photography, a legendary school of automotive photography that sprang from Detroit's association with cars. Visitors will see works by early innovators including Walter Farynk, Jimmy Northmore, Mickey McGuire and Vern Hammarlund and Warren O. Winstanley.

Several of these artists offer their own unique vision of Detroit's car culture, such as Robert

Frank, a Swiss-born photographer who came to the U.S. in 1955 and obtained access to the assembly lines at the Ford Rouge plant, depicting the harsh conditions and physical exertion, while also using his work to define Detroit culture's place in the American experience through its diners, parks and drive-ins.

Detroiter Russ Marshall chronicled workers' daily lot at the Ford River Rouge Plant and other Midwestern factories for the United Auto Workers' *Solidarity* magazine from 1969 to 1993. Marshall, the son of an autoworker, lived through the era of the industry's downsizing and understood the importance of creating lasting images of these plants and their workers.

Another Detroiter, Nicola Kuperera, who has past experience assisting on commercial car shoots, has created striking and playful images blending elements of fashion, advertising photography and the female model.

For example, the exhibit includes her 2006 photo entitled

"Flat," which shows the body of a woman passed out next to a 1950s Chrysler 300 with a tire iron in her hand.

"Automobiles are something that inspires artists and photographers to work with them, and work them into their visual repertoire," said Barr, "but I think that it's interesting to look at this from the perspective of being a Detroiter . . .

"It's a natural for the photographers and it's a natural for the people who live here, so our love affair with cars has been documented for many, many years by photographers, and it's funny how, when you really start to look at what cars mean, they're symbols of the American dream, they're symbols of status, they're symbols of freedom . . . in Detroit in particular we're so reliant on cars they've become a huge symbol of who we are and how we live."

The Detroit Institute of Arts is located at 5200 Woodward Avenue and is open daily, except on Mondays.

GM to Donate Vans to Transport Disabled Veterans

Veterans receiving care at U.S. Veterans Administration hospitals and facilities across the country may soon have a new way of getting around.

UAW-GM, General Motors and Chevrolet will donate full-size Chevrolet Express vans to five hospitals for transporting veterans to medical appointments and other activities.

The first of the vans was delivered Tuesday to the Detroit VA Healthcare System.

The vans, built at GM's Wentzville (Mo.) Assembly Plant and UAW Local 2250 near St. Louis, are specially adapted to accommodate veterans using wheelchairs or who have other mobility issues.

The other facilities receiving vans are: Battle Creek VA Medical Center, Battle Creek, Mich.; G.V. Sonny Montgomery VA Medical Center, Jackson, Miss.; VA St. Louis Health Care System, St. Louis, and the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc., Philadelphia. Each van is customized with special equipment to meet the specific needs of each facility.

"Those who serve our country deserve the best, and these brand-new, full-size vans built by our team in Wentzville will help

the VA medical centers safely and comfortably transport vets to wherever they need to go," said Cathy Clegg, GM vice president of North American Labor Relations.

"On behalf of our patriotic workforce with nearly 5,000 military veteran employees, and 45,000 retirees who are veterans, we're glad to make a difference in veterans' lives."

Age, medical issues such as strokes and diabetes, and injuries all present challenges in transporting veterans to much-needed medical visits, field trips or other appointments.

"In Detroit, this van will fill quite a gap in terms of transportation needs for our veterans who are residents of our Community Living Center," said Dr. Pamela Reeves, Detroit VA Medical Center director.

"When it comes to the unique needs of our vets, buses and vans can sometimes be 'one size fits all' when they are made, so many times we end up taking a few different vehicles on our outings and field trips.

"The fact that this van will actually be fitted with the specific equipment that meets the needs of our veterans, and to the specifications of our recreational ther-

Meadow Brook Holds Winter Walk

Faculty and alumni are invited to celebrate the holidays in style at Meadow Brook Hall's 41st annual Holiday Walk. The "Puttin' on the Glitz" themed walk will run through Saturday, Dec. 22, with a special Oakland University Night set for Tuesday, Dec. 18.

OU Night is a longstanding tradition for many Oakland University students, staff, faculty and alumni, and their family and friends.

The event is sponsored by MSU Federal Credit Union - Oakland Branch.

The OU community, along with MSUFCU members and their families, can attend the Holiday Walk at a discounted rate of \$12 per person.

Attendees can visit with Santa Claus and enjoy light refreshments in a private reception area from 5 to 9 p.m. Valid OU or Credit Union ID is required.



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apists, is truly unique," she said.

Joe Ashton, UAW vice president and director, General Motors Department, said, "We owe veterans a debt for their courageous service to this nation. The men and women of the UAW, many of whom are veterans

themselves, are grateful to those who have worn this nation's uniform and are proud to know that these high-quality vans built by the members of UAW Local 2250 will be used by veterans who have special transportation needs."

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