

# LIFEStyle

E-mail: [tctlife@madison.com](mailto:tctlife@madison.com)

Linda Brazill, features editor  
252-6424

Jacob Stockinger, culture desk editor  
252-6480

## Hot tip

Get out of town for Rock Eagle Pottery's spring sale (right) today and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ([www.woodfiredpots.com](http://www.woodfiredpots.com)). You'll find them, along with other craftspeople, antique shops and restaurants, listed in a new brochure that lets you take a self-guided "crawl" of a fascinating mix of small businesses. Sites range from Cambridge to Watertown. Although there's an official "crawl" this weekend, visit [www.jctourism.com](http://www.jctourism.com) or call 888-733-3678 or to get a brochure so you can go tripping anytime.



The Weekend of May 1-2, 2004

### Madison Trust for Historic Preservation

2004 Preservation Awards  
30th Anniversary Celebration  
Thursday, May 6, 6:30 p.m.  
Orpheum Theatre  
216 State St.  
Tickets: \$15 each,  
\$25 per couple  
Advance reservations  
closed. Some tickets  
will be sold at the door.  
For more information,  
call 241-8020

### Art & Architecture

Tour of six Capitol Point  
condominiums  
Sunday, May 23  
\$50  
Ticket deadline May 10  
Sponsored by the Art League  
of the Madison Museum  
of Contemporary Art  
For more information: 257-  
0158 or [www.mmoca.org](http://www.mmoca.org)



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE LESTER

## Preservation awards, contemporary condos on tap

Old houses, old shops, old factories can be more than just architectural fragments or visible reminders of our history. When they continue to have a useful function — whether or not it's the one for which they were originally intended — they become tangible links between the past and the present.

For 30 years, the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation has been helping to preserve that tangible heritage through both activism and awards. The group's first annual preservation awards ceremony was held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in 1989. On Thursday, May 6, the organization will jointly celebrate its 2004 Annual Preservation Awards and its 30th anniversary at 6:30 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre, 216 State St. Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz will be the guest of honor.

This year's award winners range from an official city of Madison landmark to an impressive Victorian home in Sun Prairie. According to Joe Lusson, president of the Madison Trust, the efforts range from a multi-year, hands-on restoration of one person's Spaight Street boyhood home, to the classic "restoration of a State Street storefront, where 33 years ago, fresh out of college, the owners opened their first of two clothing stores, both of which are going strong today."

To raise additional funds for the trust's advocacy and education programs, they will auction — at the cele-

bratory event — an original oil painting by trust board member Barb Essock. The painting focuses on the 200 block of State Street circa 1930, including the "New Orpheum Theatre." Essock has imbued the scene with a misty, dreamlike quality.

This is an event that recognizes the hard facts — the time, money and work — that preservation involves as well as the dreams that inspire us to protect and preserve our architectural and historic heritage.

### 2004 PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS

- **1339 E. Johnson St.**  
Tim and Michelle Flath, owners  
Paul Fisher, architect,  
Glueck Architects  
M.P. Fass Co., masonry  
Category: Compatible new construction
- **107-109 State St., Mifflin facade**  
John Caputo, owner  
John Freiburger, project manager  
Category: Commercial restoration
- **1213 Spaight St.**  
Steve and Holly Haas, owners  
Category: Residential restoration
- **Urdahl/Woodburn House**  
211 N. Prospect Ave.  
Jeff Horein and Lisa Kisling, owners  
Michael F. Simon, contractor  
Category: Residential restoration
- **307-309 State St.**  
Sassafras and Karen & Co.

See ARTFUL, Page 4D

## The OLD & the NEW



Karen and Dan Fix opened their first store in the Hackel building (top) on State Street in 1971. In 2003, they combined their clothing stores in this historic location. Tim and Michelle Flath added a new garage (above) in the architectural style of their 1915 Craftsman home.

## Estate sale savvy

Often moving, not death, prompts search for expertise

By Nadine Goff

Special to The Capital Times

Estate sales are increasingly about downsizing, not death.

Representatives of businesses and non-profit groups that organize and conduct estate sales in the Madison area say people who use their services are very often moving to smaller residences, rather than trying to sell the personal property and household goods of someone who has died.

"We advertise our services as 'estate and moving sales' because many of the sales we conduct are for people who are moving to smaller homes or out of state," says Veronica Statz, co-owner of Golden Key Estate & Moving Sales.

"There's been a major change in how people dispose of goods," says Richard Lust, owner of Lust Auction Services. "When I started in this business 29 years ago, people lived in their original home

until the end."

These days, more people downsize as they grow older and their children leave home, Lust says. Huge, all-day on-site auctions to sell the entire contents of a house are now a rare event. Instead, he says, an increasing number of people tend to seek his services because they're moving to a condominium or assisted living facility, not because they're settling an estate.

Every estate sale is different, says Jane Henning of the Grace Church Estate Sales, an organization that has been putting together estate sales in the Madison area for almost 60 years. Last year, however, three of Grace's four estate sales involved people who were moving, says Susan Kies, the organization's part-time professional estate sale coordinator.

Even though it's increasingly a misnomer, "estate sale" is a tenacious

See SAVVY, Page 8D



DAVID SANDELL/THE CAPITAL TIMES

Different folks with different merchandise require different kinds of sales, say Veronica Statz (above left) and Nancy Wolf of Golden Key Estate & Moving Sales and Susan Kies of Grace Church Estate Sales.

Jan Rigenbach

MIDWEST GARDENING



## These beauties mighty feisty

Most Midwest gardeners know better than to plant purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a beautiful but aggressive thug that has escaped into the wild to clog our native wetlands.

But don't let the name "loosestrife" scare you away from another group of wonderful plants that happen to be stuck with the misfortune of sharing that common name.

I'm especially fond of my little patch of gooseneck loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*), which has slowly expanded from a single specimen I planted 10 years ago. Blooming in July and August, the sturdy white flower spikes stand about 3 feet tall, gently curving above the dense green leaves to resemble a gaggle of geese.

Thriving in partial shade, the plants brighten an otherwise dark corner. I chose a low-lying spot to help provide the moist soil this hardy perennial requires. The result is a carefree balance: The plants are aggressive enough to crowd out weeds, while periodic dry spells help keep the creeping roots in check.



JAN RIGGENBACH

At first glance, a patch of gooseneck loosestrife resembles a gaggle of geese.

(If planting gooseneck loosestrife in the rich, moist soil of a pampered flower garden, I recommend installing some kind of barrier to keep the plants from outgrowing their welcome.)

Another of my carefree favorites is yellow loosestrife (*Lysimachia punctata*). In late spring and early summer, bright yellow flowers circle the stems, nestled above whorls of green leaves. For garden interest that lasts after the flowers fade, there's Alexander. This variegated variety has pretty cream and green foliage that blushes pink in cool weather.

Although tolerant of sun or shade, yellow loosestrife is at its best with morning sun and afternoon shade. Tough and dependable, these 30-inch-tall plants will tolerate dry soil better than most other loosestrifes.

Like most of the others, though, it can be aggressive. Plant it in an informal setting where its spreading nature is a plus, not a problem. An exception: Alexander is able to share space in a perennial border without threatening its neighbors.

Fringed loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata*) is yet another choice. The plants stand 2 to 3 feet tall and have nodding, light yellow flowers in midsummer and long, willow-like leaves. Purpurea, the variety most commonly offered at nurseries, has dark, chocolate-purple foliage. Show it off at its best with anything yellow or chartreuse, such as lady's mantle or the chartreuse coleus called "The Line."

Loosestrife plants are not prone to any serious pests or diseases. Occasionally, four-lined plant bugs mar the foliage of my yellow loosestrife, but the damage is only cosmetic. If the sunken tan spots on the leaves look too bad, I simply prune off the affected leaves.

Jan Rigenbach writes her syndicated gardening column from her home near Glenwood, Iowa.

- How to tell if you're a good candidate for an estate sale, 8D.
- Businesses that conduct sales, 8D.



LIFESTYLE

3 intriguing eateries worth visiting while in Milwaukee

**By Michael Muckian**  
*Special to The Capital Times*  
As the weather warms and you find yourself heading east to Summerfest or the Milwaukee Public Museum's excellent Egyptian exhibit, "The Quest for Immortality," here are some dining suggestions you might not otherwise consider.

DININGOUT

All are interesting and all have outdoor dining facilities. At the southern end of the new Sixth Street bridge, which connects Milwaukee's downtown with the largely Hispanic Walker's Point neighborhood, exists the only "Medriatic" restaurant we've ever seen. Il Mito, Italian for "The Myth," takes as its province both the Mediterranean and Adriatic sides of the Italian peninsula, producing some surprising and charming dishes. Chef/owner Michael Fekr, who was born in Iran, raised in Switzerland, trained in France and ran a similar restaurant in Los Angeles before coming to Milwaukee, combines all those

**Il Mito**  
605 W. Virginia St., Milwaukee. 414-276-1414.  
Hours: lunch Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; dinner Mon.-Thurs. 5:30-9:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 5:30-10:30 p.m.  
Parking; wheelchair access; credit cards, no checks.  
★★★★ 1/2 out of ★★★★★

elements into one menu distinctly Italian in nature, but with pleasantly surprising twists and turns. The myth of the name refers to Fekr's belief that creative, high quality Italian food doesn't have to be expensive. We're not talking corner spaghetti joint prices, of course, but Il Mito offers some excellent value combinations between price and quality. Lunches usually have a selection of daily specials priced between \$6.95 and \$8.95. Most come with soup or salad and bread accompanied by olive oil topped with Fekr's light tomato cream sauce. Dinners are even more delectable, with Pollo Libertino (\$13.95), an excellent roasted chicken, and the house risotto (\$9.95) served with porcini, shiitake and Portobello mushrooms, among our personal favorites. Il Mito features live blues on Mondays and live jazz on Thursdays, both from 6:30 to 9 p.m. . . . The Cafe Metro inside the Hotel Metro, the city's single concession to European hotel style, can be oddly inconsistent. Service can be brisk, or it can lag. The food can be ordinary, or its creativity can sparkle. But when it's good, it's very, very good and may be worth a visit. The 65-suite hotel is charming and its restaurant understated in its elegance. The continental cuisine blends a variety of influences comfortably and expertly, resulting in dishes as attractive to look at as they are flavorful to eat.

A recent lunch date yielded a new favorite. A filet of mahi-mahi (\$9.95) had been basted with homemade shallot butter prior to broiling. The 5-ounce filet was then served over Asian vegetables that had been stir-fried with sliced jicama, carrots and baby shrimp and Japanese soba noodles. The whole thing was topped with a rich homemade ginger reduction sauce. As my business contact talked on about his enterprise, I nodded politely, savoring each mouthful and wondering how soon I could schedule another lunch. . . .

Walk into Trocadero and you'd swear you were in Paris. Located in a neighborhood adjacent to downtown, the wedge-shaped corner building would look more at home on the Left Bank than on Milwaukee's near north side. Inside the door is a coffee bar and tobacco stand, complete with French magazines. Walk through the restored brick bar into the small restaurant and enclosed outdoor patio and the ambience never fades. Owner Mike Eitel has

**Cafe Metro (in the Hotel Metro)**  
411 E. Mason St., Milwaukee. 414-272-1937.  
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 6 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 6 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Valet parking; wheelchair access; credit cards, no checks.  
★★★★ 1/2 out of ★★★★★

**Trocadero**  
1758 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-272-0205.  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.  
Street parking; wheelchair access; credit cards, no checks.  
★★★★ out of ★★★★★

even opened a bar upstairs called Red Light, rumored to have framed brothel photographs to complete the mood. We haven't seen the relatively new upstairs bar, but have eaten outdoors there several times, including under the stationary heaters in January. Lunch is good, dinner is much better and Sunday brunch is the best of all. Where else could you get a Nutella banana crepe or berry waffle (both \$6) alongside your glass of Vovray?

For dinner we liked the Gorgonzola Walnut Ravioli (\$16), little pillows of pasta stuffed with Gorgonzola cheese and ground walnuts and tossed with mushrooms and snap peas, then served in a garlic sherry butter. Be forewarned: Service and consistency can be a challenge. But that may be a small price to pay for brothel photos.

Tips on deciding if you should hold an estate sale

**By Nadine Goff**  
*Special to The Capital Times*  
Are you a good candidate for an on-site estate sale? Here are some questions to ask yourself before you contact a potential organizer. **Q.** Do you have wide variety of items you want to sell? **A.** If the majority of the items you want to sell fall into only a few categories — such as furniture, kitchenware, books or used clothing — you may not be a good candidate for an on-site sale. Organizers prefer a "good mix" of merchandise because a wide variety of items generally attracts more buyers to a sale. Carol Bostad of Bethel Parish Shoppe says her group is looking for the contents of a "complete house." If you're primarily interested in selling a large, specialized collection of items because you're downsizing, you may want to investigate other, off-site options. For instance, Richard Lust, owner of Lust Auction Services, says one of the recent auctions held at his Mount Horeb facility featured a collection of more than 800 teapots belonging to a collector who was moving to a smaller home. Some organizers also prefer

to handle estate sales only if they involve "high end" merchandise such as antiques or other items likely to sell for relatively high prices. Many organizers report that people often sell the "good stuff" on their own before they call about an estate sale, expecting them to deal with only "the junk." Other people discard what they believe is "junk" because they don't understand the market. Nancy Wolf, co-owner of Golden Key, says it's not uncommon to find an item "lost" in the back of a drawer that will sell for much more than an item someone erroneously believes to be very valuable because it has a sentimental value for them. . . . **Q.** Are the gross receipts from the sale likely to be high enough to make it worthwhile to organizers? **A.** Most estate sale organizers, whether nonprofit organizations or for-profit businesses, take a percentage (usually between 25 percent and 35 percent) of the gross receipts rather than working for a flat fee. The more the sale makes, the more organizers earn. As a result, most organizers will not agree to work on a sale that



GRACE CHURCH ESTATE SALES

**If the majority of the items you want to sell fall into only a few categories, you may not be a good candidate for an on-site estate sale. Generally, it takes a wide variety of items to attract the most buyers.** will not yield a significant amount of money. The minimum for most organizers is \$5,000 to \$6,000 in gross sales. One exception is Knight Estate and Household Sales, whose owner, Karen Knight, says they do not have a gross sales minimum. . . . **Q.** How flexible is your schedule? **A.** Most organizers prefer to have four to six weeks to organize and advertise an on-site estate sale, although some may be willing and able to negotiate

a shorter timetable. Additionally, if organizers already have commitments for other sales, you may have to wait until they have room on their schedule to work for you. Groups such as Bethel Parish Shoppe and Grace, which rely on volunteers, may need extra time to recruit personnel. The timing of your sale is also important. Holidays and wintry weather may affect attendance at sales. Organizers prefer to conduct sales on dates that will attract the highest possible number of buyers. . . . **Q.** Is there anyone still living in the home where the estate sale would be held? **A.** For practical reasons, organizers require that the home be unoccupied. Statz calls this the "workability" factor. Organizing an on-site estate sale is usually a labor-intensive project, particularly if it's a tag sale. Organizers need room to work and the space to create attractive displays using special display stands and tables they provide as part of their service. They also need be able to move large pieces of furniture in order to create enough space for buyers to move around easily and safely as they look at the sale items.

Savvy

Continued from Page 1D

moniker. It has a certain cachet that, for buyers and sellers alike, sets it apart from what are perceived to be its humbler cousins: garage sales, moving sales and rummage sales. There are two primary kinds of estate sales: tag sales and auctions. Grace and Golden Key, for instance, specialize in tag sales. Every item in their estate sales has a price tag. Buyers may purchase items on the spot. There are no price tags at an estate sale auction: Each item is sold to the highest bidder. Buyers usually have to wait

until an item comes up for sale before they can bid on it, but they typically have an opportunity to inspect it in person before the bidding process begins. Many local estate sale organizers also have Web sites with photographs of some of the items available at upcoming sales. Most buyers are familiar with estate sales where items are displayed and sold in the owner's home, but there are other kinds of estate sales. When sellers do not have enough items to qualify for an on-site estate sale (see accompanying article), organizers may offer to include some or all of their items in a combined sale. Statz says Golden Key often includes items from other homes in their on-site tag sales

because it helps to attract more buyers. Other organizers prefer to hold off-site combined auctions. "We move items to our facility in Mount Horeb for combined sale auctions," Lust says. Susan Pride Caulum, owner of Touch of Pride Sales, also combines items from many sellers and conducts large tag sales at her storefront on Monona Drive. On-site or off, tag sale or auction, there are three things that distinguish an estate sale from other means of disposing of goods, such as buy-outs: ■ Its objective is to sell everything at a single event. ■ Its duration is relatively short (one or two days), with specific hours of sale. ■ It involves a written con-

tract between the seller and the organization conducting the sale. . . . Although they offer similar services, each Madison area organization that conducts estate sales has its own areas of specialization and its own set of business practices. Prospective sellers should ask lots of questions, request references, and discuss and negotiate the handling of any special concerns they may have before signing a contract. Organizers say one of the most frequent concerns that sellers have is what will be done with items that remain unsold after the conclusion of an estate sale. Finally, it's important for sellers to keep in mind that although there are many success-

ful estate sales held in the Madison area annually, there are practical limits on the total number of estate sales that each business or nonprofit organization can conduct in a year. Unlike buyers, sellers don't need to take a number and stand in line. But they should make inquiries as early as possible, be flexible, and remember to postpone selling or discarding any items until they've consulted with estate sale personnel. **Grace Church Estate Sales:** 255-5148. [www.graceec.org/estate.htm](http://www.graceec.org/estate.htm). **Knight Estate & Household Sales LLC:** 273-0846. **Lust Auction Services:** 833-2001. [www.lasauctions.com](http://www.lasauctions.com). **Touch of Pride Sales LLC:** 233-3749. [www.touchofpridesales.com](http://www.touchofpridesales.com). **Vintage Harvest LLC:** 873-0438. [www.vintageharvest.com](http://www.vintageharvest.com).

It's official: Tulipa Laura Bush

**By Nora Boustany**  
*The Washington Post*  
WASHINGTON — As an even more flattering sequel to having her hand kissed by a French president, first lady Laura Bush now has a tulip named after her. The Tulipa Laura Bush, cultivated in honor of the "gracious, current first lady, Mrs. Laura Bush," is a blend of white and pink — her stated preference — and was presented to her at a ceremony at the residence of the Dutch ambassador, Boudewijn Johannes van Eenennaam. The tradition of naming tulips after U.S. first ladies started in the late 1800s, the ambassador said, with the naming of one for Frances Folsom Cleveland, wife of Grover Cleveland. The month of April signifies

renewal and is a time when the Dutch countryside bursts into colors and blooms, van Eenennaam said, addressing the first lady and other guests Thursday. "It is a time of hope and triumph." More than 9 billion flower bulbs from the Netherlands are shipped around the world annually, the ambassador said, and of those, 3 billion are tulips.

AMBERS	TSAR	CASA	FEST
TOATEE	OTTO	ADEN	TINTO
ONSAL	WILDB	LUUE	YONDER
POE	LINEIT	SELLS	CLEAT
FLASH	TACK	GOTT	PEARLS
FLASHIN	THEPAN	ELAN	
OILS	BAH	LUNG	SANDBAR
UNLACES	PVT	ACCTS	URI
REID	SOX	SLIT	LOOT
TR	ALANS	LYRE	NINE
BRAIN	TOYS	SCOT	EDNAS
LTIMN	MAGI	THATS	LEE
ENOS	EVAN	RARE	TERSER
SSIN	STING	TAB	BEATISME
SEDA	TES	EMAN	SEC
FROM	HOLE	INTHEWALL	
ASKFOR	DEL	ROOT	SSR
PARIED	SOFAS	DOERS	TAD
PLACED	FWORSHIP	BEANIE	
LOFT	PRIOTONE	UNHIRE	
ENTS	AXEL	SPEED	SEARED

# Not Just the Futon... but the WHOLE SET!

SALE ENDS SATURDAY MAY 1st

WAREHOUSE DIRECT PRICES ON THE BEST FUTONS

End Table Reg. \$126, SALE \$99

**YOU GET:** • Full Size Futon Sofa • Futon Chair • 8" Double Foam Mattresses • Choice of Solid Washable Covers • Mission Style Coffee Table with Shelf. If Purchased Separately \$759,

## Golde's Futon Warehouse

6701 Seybold Rd • 608-277-8088

Bellline	
Gammon Rd.	★ Slumberland
Seybold Rd.	★ <b>Golde's</b>
Watts Rd.	

SALE PRICED **\$599**

**www.golde.com**

## TENT SALE This Weekend

# K2, Escape & Impulse \$99.99

Reg. Price \$129.99

Prices good thru 05/02/04

Come Skate with the Mad City Rollers on Saturday, May 1st

## PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS

720 S. Gammon Rd. Madison 608.277.1988