

# Gazette

Livonia

April  
2009  
Free

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# Speaker to share lessons learned from tough times

BY KAREN SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Within one week, Katherine Larson went from being extremely wealthy to very poor, having lost her job, her brand-new home and everything else she owned



Larson

because the company she worked for went bankrupt.

The 27-year-old had to borrow money to drive back to her mother's house in Indiana. On her way there, her mother died.

Three years earlier, she had lost her fiancé to a car crash.

"My life is rather unusual," she said.

Larson's life continued to spiral downward, with her engaging in self-destructive behaviors. "I turned towards some darkness," she said.

Today, at age 52, Larson is an accomplished classical singer and landscape artist. She's in a place in her life she couldn't have imagined during her dark period in her 20s.

Larson will share her life's story and the wisdom she's learned along the way during an inspirational talk at 7 p.m. Monday, April 27, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile.

"You find a voice within you at those times that brings you a higher wisdom," she said.

"Manifesting Miracles: Discovering the Difference Between Creating Opportunity and Being Lucky" is a fund-raiser for the Livonia-based chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary sorority for women educators.



"Beth's Cardart" is Katherine Larson's watercolor painting of the bay in Frankfort, Mich.

## 'MANIFESTING MIRACLES'

**Who:** Katherine Larson, artist and classical singer

**What:** Motivational talk

**When:** 7 p.m. Monday

**Where:** Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile

**Why:** Fund-raiser for Livonia Public Schools Foundation and First Step women's shelter

**If you go:** Tickets are \$5 for Livonia Public Schools staff and Alpha Delta Kappa members, \$6 for general admission.

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Not wanting to give away everything in her talk, Larson said one of the things she will share with the audience is that everything happens for a rea-

son. "Good and bad, both work out to the good," she said. "We often don't see it as good, but everything eventually does come around."

Larson said part of what got her through was changing her attitude. "You can change your mind about your circumstances," she said. "It's a choice."

She said the talk isn't a religious message. "It's about the human experience."

Barbara Eko Murphy, a retired Livonia teacher and member of Alpha Delta Kappa, said it was her idea to have Larson speak. Murphy, who's also an artist, has heard Larson talk to artists' groups.

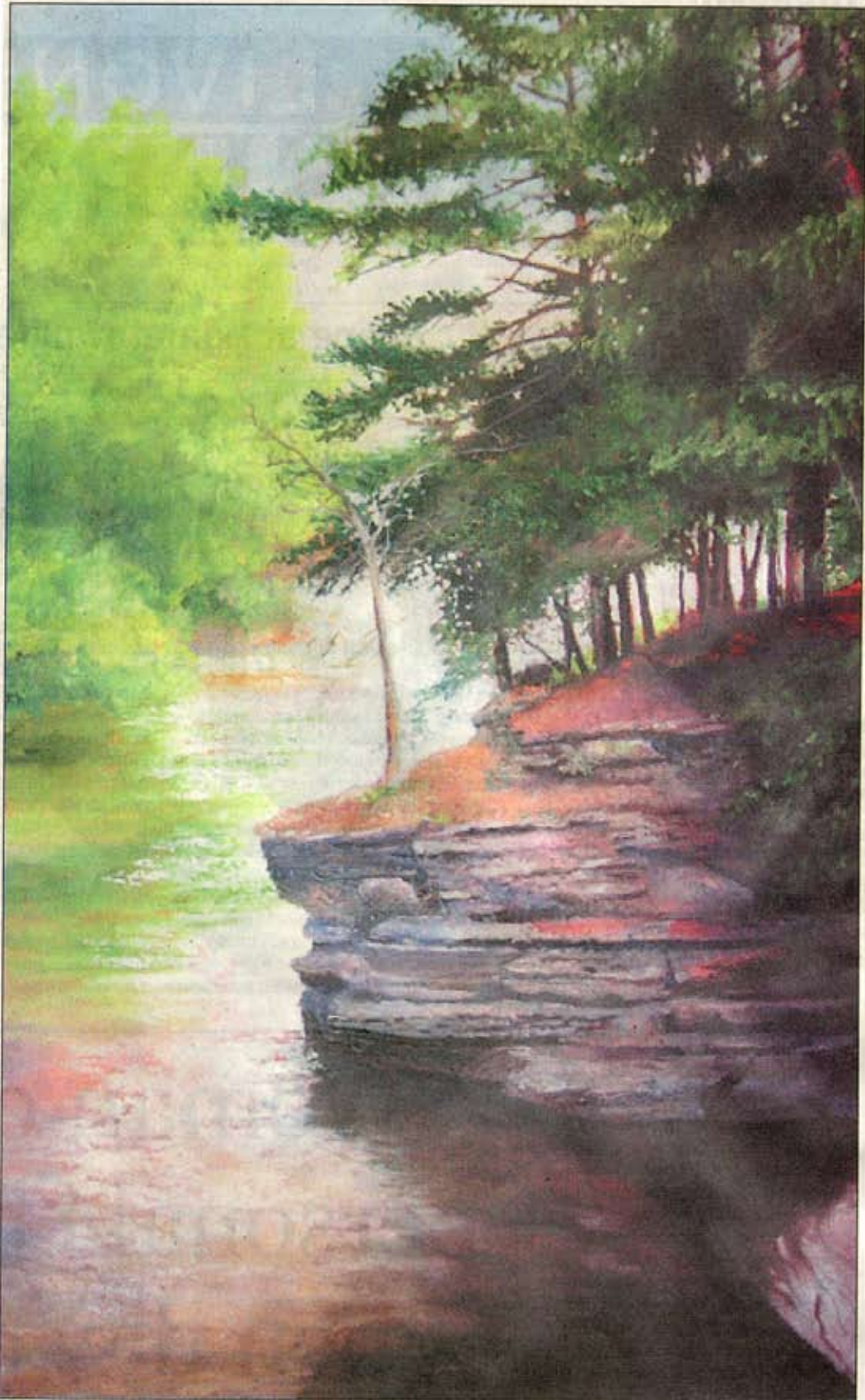
"She is somebody who has reinvented herself," Murphy said. "Her attitude is contagious. I think she would be an uplifting speaker for anyone to hear. I think anyone would feel better themselves listening to her."

Larson, who lives in Hamburg Township, paints in oils, acrylics and water colors. She was the artist in residence last summer at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, both in the Upper Peninsula.

A classical singer as well, she recently performed Mahler's Fourth Symphony with the Ann Arbor Symphony.

Larson said she couldn't have planned her life herself. She said she's learned not to make hard-and-fast plans for the future. "Sometimes better things will happen on their own," she said.

Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling (734) 464-7099 or e-mailing [arose@livonia.k12.mi.us](mailto:arose@livonia.k12.mi.us). They will also be available at the door.



Katherine Larson painted "Cliff Painting" while an artist in residence last summer at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.