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WEEKEND PLANNER

As you begin your weekend, take a look at this list of what's happening to help you plan

TOP FIVE

- 60th Annual CIML Kiwanis Basketball Jamboree.** 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. today. Knapp Center, Drake University, \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door.
- History Hunters: Historical Museum Vault Tours** 10:30 a.m. today. Behind-the-scenes walking tours. More than 100,000 artifacts are kept in the vault. No children under age 7. State Historical Building, 600 E. Locust St. 281-6412. Reservations suggested. \$12 adults, \$8 for children ages 7-12.
- "Avenue Q"** 2 and 7:30 p.m. today; 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Civic Center of Greater Des Moines, 221 Walnut St. 246-2300.
- Cavalcade of Choirs.** 3 p.m. Sunday. All four Drake choruses along with the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble in a concert called "The Earth Adorned: A Scandinavian Sampler." Sheslow Auditorium, Drake University. Free.
- Tour de Lights** 5 p.m. Sunday. A 1.5-mile or 3.5-mile walk/run starts at Santa's Wish Shop at 5 p.m.; a 14-mile bike ride starts at 4 p.m. at Court Avenue Brewing Company. Proceeds go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Water Works Park, 2201 George Flagg Parkway. 334-2636 general@iowawish.org. \$5 plus T-shirts for those who raise and/or pay a minimum of \$15 in pledges.

MORE TO DO

Art

"Iowa and Beyond," today-Sunday. Photography by Uldis "Whitey" Ilvess. Cowles Gallery, Grand View College, 1331 Grandview Ave. 263-6024.

2007 Annual Iowa Chinese Community Photography Contest. Photos must have been taken between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2007, in Iowa, China, Taiwan or Hong Kong. Awards given for first, second and third place in two categories: unaltered photos and computer-enhanced photos. Photographers must have been residents of Iowa in 2007. 988-0901, IowaChinese.org. Submission deadline is Jan. 5. IowaChinese@yahoo.com.

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Find listings for more events at DesMoinesRegister.com/calendar.

HG | HOME AND GARDEN

DESIGNING A HOME FOR AN ARTIST

A remodeler helps wildlife painter Larry Zach and his wife add personality and value to their abode



JOHN GAPS III / REGISTER PHOTOS

Remodeler Mary Mason coached Larry and Marcia Zach, above, through their home renovation. The house now reflects Larry's nature-inspired work and showcases African art and animal pelts, including one from a zebra Larry shot in Namibia. At right, Larry's studio offers a view of the natural environment.

By **ERIN CRAWFORD**
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Marcia and Larry Zach spent years looking for the perfect home. A house surrounded by nature. A studio for painting and lots of space to display Larry's art. An Old World feel. They never found that home. But last spring they found a nice-sized house on a nearly two-acre Ankeny lot, surrounded by woods. "We're both outdoors people,"

said Larry, a wildlife painter, hunter and former life sciences teacher.

The lot was a stunner. The house, not quite. After a few months of consideration, they hired Mary Mason Custom Homes & Remodeling to help renovate the kitchen, which had an oddly positioned island and countertops the Zachs didn't like. The project quickly evolved into something bigger as the Zachs talked about problems with other areas of the house.

Larry and Marcia felt a little strange about doing a major remodel on a house built in 1999. The home was so new, and nothing was worn out or broken. But Mason helped them choose projects that would add value to the home, such as redoing the kitchen and overhauling the master bath. They saved money by reusing the former kitchen cabinets in other areas of the house, including the new laundry room and Larry's studio.

"One of our goals was to make it a house we really like, but also get our dollars out of it," Larry said.

Mason began her work by visiting the Zachs' gallery, Larry Zach Wildlife Art in Ankeny, where Marcia is manager and Larry shows his nature-inspired work. Lacking the space in their former home, the gallery was where they kept many of their favorite art pieces, including artifacts Larry collected on his travels through Africa.

Mason looked around the gallery and listened to the Zachs' plans for Old World decor. Then she ex-

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Artist drew earth and sky together in 'Stellar Axis' at Antarctica



Michael MORAIN

Last December, the artist Lita Albuquerque and a team of assistants placed 99 blue fiberglass spheres at precise coordinates around the South Pole. They trudged over the snow and tethered each ball to ropes anchored in the crusty ice.

"We had to dig 500 holes in the cold," she said, adding that one crew member slipped and fell underneath one of the larger spheres. "I'm sure he had nightmares. And nearly every hour he asked 'Now, who's idea was this anyway?'"

The idea was Albuquerque's. With a hefty grant from the National Science Foundation's Artists and Writers Program, the California-based artist installed the project as a way

'Stellar Axis'

An art installation by Lita Albuquerque

WHEN: Today through Jan. 2

WHERE: Hentschel Art Gallery, 835 42nd St., Des Moines

RELATED EVENTS: An opening reception is scheduled from 6 to 9 tonight. The artist plans to discuss her work at 7 p.m.

INFO: (515) 277-3200

to map constellations on the polar ice cap and symbolically place Earth in a universal context. A smaller

version of the project, called "Stellar Axis," opens today at Hentschel Art Gallery in Des Moines.

"It's really a scientific way of looking at things," said the artist, who plans to talk about her work tonight at a gallery reception. "My main interest is to locate ourselves in space and time."

With that in mind, Albuquerque created 99 spheres of varying sizes to represent stars of varying degrees of brightness. Then her team arranged them to correspond with a portion of the sky on Dec. 22, the Southern Hemisphere's summer solstice.

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SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Artist Lita Albuquerque created 99 fiberglass spheres of varying sizes to represent stars of varying brightness.

EXPERIENCE THE REGISTER

New online dining guide

Looking for a great dinner this weekend? Search our new database of restaurants based on a range of options — cuisine, city, smoke-free, children's menu and more.

Search for restaurants at DesMoinesRegister.com/dining.



'Threepenny Opera' adds show

WHAT: The Westminster Fine Arts Series has added a performance of "The Threepenny Opera."

WHEN: In addition to shows at 7:30 tonight and Sunday, it will be performed at 4 p.m. Sunday

WHERE: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4114 Allison Ave.

ADMISSION: Free.

Search for more opera events at DesMoinesRegister.com/calendar.



They jumped in the lake for a cause

Twenty participants from around the state plunged into the cold waters of Big Creek State Park as part of a fundraiser for Special Olympics Iowa this month.

See photos of the event at DesMoinesRegister.com/photos.

Join the book club for moms

dmMoms.com is starting a book club in which members can participate online or in person.

To learn more, go to dmMoms.com.