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THE GUIDE

By BARBARA DELATINER

Best Bet

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Student Activities Center Gallery at the State University of New York at Stony Brook is offering the exhibition "Threadbare: A Subversive Aesthetic." Featuring works by Faith Ringgold, Harmony Hammond, Miriam Schapiro and Judy Chicago, the show looks at female artists who use traditional media like fabric and thread to create works with feminist leanings. The pieces on display range from early 20th-century quilts by black women, with subtle political messages, to works from the 1970's, with overtly political themes.

The exhibition opens on Thursday and runs through March 27. Information: (631)632-9392.

Singing and Talking

Other events this week celebrating women's history include "A Century of Women in Song," a concert performed by Close Enough, a women's barbershop quartet, at 2 p.m. today at the Half Hollow Hills Library in Dix Hills. Information: (631)421-4530.

On Tuesday at 10 a.m., the writer Gina Barreca offers "A Sitdown with 'The Sopranos," a talk about the women in the television series. The event is at Nassau Community College in Garden City. Information: (516)572-7082.

Also on Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m., Rachel Simmons discusses her book "Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls." The lecture is at the Jacobson J.C.C. in East Hills. Information: (516)484-1545.

Making Music

Chamber music enthusiasts have a lot of choices this week.

Today, the musical group Ridotto presents "Nocturne: In the Still of the Night," which includes works by Chopin, Mozart and Schubert. The music starts at 4 p.m. in Old First Church on Route 25A in Huntington. Information: (631)385-0373.

Also today, at 5 p.m, the North Shore Pro Musica plays works by Britten, Ibert, Saint-Saëns and

Schubert at the Three Village Garden Club Sanctuary on Bates Road in Setauket. Information: (631)584-8945. And the Turtle Island String Quartet and the Ying Quartet perform jazz and classical music at 7 p.m. at Staller Center on the State University campus in Stony Brook. Information: (631) 632-2787

Saturday brings two concerts devoted to Baroque music. The Long Island Baroque Ensemble pays "Homage to the Master, Johann Sebastian Bach" at 8 p.m. at St. Andrews Lutheran Church on New Mill Road in Smithtown, repeating the concert at 3 p.m. next Sunday at Christ Episcopal Church in Oyster Bay. Information: (631)724-7386. In Southold, the German Baroque music of Bach, Buxtehude and others will be performed by Artek, a group specializing in works "of the early keyboard." The concert is at 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church on Main Road. Information: (631)734-7696.

But No Pastry

Staller Center for the Arts on the Stony Brook campus of the State University stages "A Night in Vienna" at 8 p.m. on Saturday. The benefit concert features the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Zsolt Hamar, and the mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade in a program of works by Bartok, Berlioz, Brahms, Liszt and, of course, Strauss's "Blue Danube." Information: (631)632-2787.

Young Hal

For its 54th Shakespeare Festival, Hofstra University offers a play that its actors have not done before: "Henry V." The drama about Young Hal's efforts to put his restless, war-torn country at ease will be performed starting Thursday, through March 16.

A concert of medieval and Renaissance music by the Collegium Musicum, and "Be With Me," a contemporary play about Joan of Arc, will be performed at 2 p.m. on Saturday and March 15 as part of the festival.

All events take place at the John Cranford Adams Playhouse on the Hempstead campus. Information: (516)463-6644.

Free Choices

TODAY Planting Fields Arboretum holds a family-oriented "Mardi Gras Gala" from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a \$5 parking fee. Information: (516)922-9201.

TOMORROW The Touro Law Center on Nassau Road in Huntington offers a symposium, "The Pursuit of Peace and the Justification of War: A Political and a Jewish and International Legal Perspective" at 7 p.m.. Information: (631)631-2244. BARBARA DELATINER