

table talk

Holiday feast

Traditional fare will be featured at an Old English Holiday Feast at 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 15-17, and Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 22-23, at the Lark in West Bloomfield. Highlights of the menu are smoked salmon, broiled oysters with bacon or prawn bisque, grilled Dover sole à la meunière, and roast goose. Music featuring madrigals and carols will accompany the meal, priced at \$57.50 per person. For reservations call 661-4465.

Espresso bar

An espresso, cappuccino and coffee bar has been added to the Twelve Oaks location in Novi for Pastissima's, a fresh pasta and sauce retail store. Customers at the espresso bar may order pasta salads, single-service sized prepared foods, radicchio and arugula salads, fresh baked pastries and Italian ice cream.

Dine with Santa

Children may have breakfast with Santa at 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 or 21, at the Dearborn Inn. Mrs. Claus will also be there. To make reservations for breakfast at \$7 per person call 271-2700.

Stately dinners

"En route with the Orient Express" is the theme of the Stately Dinners featuring international cuisine at Meadow Brook Hall's Christopher Wren Room on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Dinners are planned for Jan. 16 (Italy), Feb. 20 (Italy), March 20 (Switzerland), April 10 (France) and May 15 (England). For reservations at \$60 per person call 370-3140.

New beaujolais

The Lark in West Bloomfield is

serving Beaujolais Villages Primeur of Georges Dubouef, the "King of Beaujolais," through December. The wine, released on Nov. 20 each year, is celebrated in French restaurants and hotels. Beaujolais Nouveau is now featured at many Detroit-area restaurants, but when the Lark first had the wine flown to Detroit in 1982 it was a rare event, restaurateur Jim Lark notes.

Cajun entrees

A menu insert, "Cajun Primer — learn what delicious Cajun food is all about," is being presented at Benjamin's restaurants including locations in Bloomfield Hills and Southfield. Cajun cooking, which originated in southern Louisiana, is hearty fare using lots of rice, tomatoes, onions, celery, bell peppers and a variety of spices.

Holiday drinks

Dearborn Inn is marking the holiday season with both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages served in the Snug Bar, Golden Eagle Lounge, Early American Room or the Ten Eyck Tavern. Coffee drinks include Grand Irish Coffee, Tennessee Mud, Bavarian Mint, English Blackberry Muffin and Black Gold. Non-alcoholic beverages are Spleed Cranberry Cider, the Snug Bouillon and Windsor Coffee.



Cathie Breidenbach

Director achieves perfection with 'A Christmas Carol'

By Cathie Breidenbach
special writer

The rich production is sweet, but not cloying, and touching, with only a light sprinkling of sentimentality.

In the last five seasons, Meadow Brook Theatre has refined and embellished "A Christmas Carol" like a favorite cookie recipe that started out good and keeps getting better.

Charles Nolte who adapted and directs Dickens' classic tale now has the recipe down to perfection. The story of skintight Scrooge and his miraculous turnaround has become a Meadow Brook tradition and, like the best holiday traditions, the old story seems delightfully new each Christmas.

The rich production is sweet, but not cloying, and touching, with only a light sprinkling of sentimentality. The secret for creating traditions is never to change the best parts. Director Nolte wisely brings Booth Coleman back for his fifth season as crotchety old Ebenezer. Thom Haneline returns as the good clerk Bob Cratchit, and his performance grows more heartfelt as the years go by.

Phillip Locker makes Mr. Fezziwig a caricature of infectious, high-spirited cheer, then does a virtuoso switch to play a morbid undertaker with a basso voice.

WITH JOSEPH Reed as the ghost of Christmas Present, Glen Allen Praelit as Jacob Marley, Wayne David Parker as the flabbergasted turkey boy, and the rest of the accomplished cast, the production couldn't take a bad turn. In fact, 70 percent of the cast has been in the show before and seems to like the holiday homecoming as much as audiences do.

Reld G. Johnson does an exceptional job with the lighting. When the tale of Ebenezer's encounter with ghosts resonates in somber thoughts of "what might have been" and in "what yet might be," Johnson uses a diffuse yellow light and the players move in slow motion like the rerun of an old film yellowed by time. As the action moves to livelier times, the lights brighten and the pace accelerates, making the stage

percolate with cheer and vitality. The varied lighting and rhythms are a nice touch.

The fine mobile set designed by Barry Griffith returns this year to contrast colorful bustle in the street with the stark, silent gloom in Scrooge's counting house. Watching the cast rotate the scenery is an integral part of the show.

Director Nolte knows showmanship matters on all levels. He uses to advantage the major razzle dazzle of fireworks, trap doors and rolling fog to astound the audience and makes even the simple task of changing scenery into an interesting onstage event.

Meadow Brook's fine production of "A Christmas Carol" embellishes Dickens' timeless tale with rich theatrical garnishes to make the old story seem forever new.

Cathie Breidenbach of West Bloomfield has always loved theater. A former high-school English teacher, she works in public relations, advertising and as a freelance writer.

Performances of the Meadow Brook Music Festival production of "A Christmas Carol" continue through Sunday, Dec. 28, on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. For ticket information, call the box office at 577-3300.

Michigan State Fair Flea Market

Open Dec. 12, 13, 14, and every weekend

Christmas Gift Ideas

Fri. 4-9 pm; Sat. & Sun. 10-6 pm

Free Admission

Dealer Information Call

540-9822

STAGE
DELICATESSEN

13821 W. 9 MILE
(Just W. of Coolidge)
Oak Park, MI
548-1111
OPEN TUES.-SUN. 11 A.M.-8 P.M.

FREE DELIVERY ON CATERING WITHIN A 10 MILE RADIUS
EXCEPT DURING THE HOLIDAYS

STAGE DELI COUPON

50% OFF

BUY ONE
SANDWICH
GET 2nd OF
EQUAL OR
LESSER VALUE
FOR
1/2 PRICE

WITH COUPON
EXPIRES 2-28-87

STAGE DELI COUPON

\$5 OFF

ON ANY
OCCASION OR
PARTY TRAY
10 PERSON
MINIMUM ONE
COUPON
PER ORDER

PRESENT COUPON
WITH ORDER
EXPIRES 2-28-87

STAGE DELI COUPON

50% OFF

BUY ONE LB. OF
CORNEED BEEF
OR PASTRAMI
GET 2nd POUND
FOR
1/2 PRICE

WITH COUPON
EXPIRES 2-28-87

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

Patrick's
Shalea Inn
3315 AUBURN ROAD
Between Adams & Opdyke Rds.
852-3410
NOW RESERVING FOR
NEW YEAR'S EVE
6 p.m.-8 p.m.-10 p.m. SEATINGS
PLEASE CALL 852-3410

5 GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD EAT AT TRINI & CARMENS

1. Independent and family owned.
2. Centuries of knowledge and culture.
3. Serving this area for 25 years. We are now serving the children and grandchildren of our earliest customers.
4. We were the first with our own style Nacho- and copied by many.
5. We serve quality food!



TRINI & CARMENS
1715 N. Telegraph Rd.
332-6851



LA FAMILIA MARTINEZ
848 Woodward Ave.
338-8477

REJOICE!

Enjoy the many good tastes of the Mon Jin Lau



Ask about our group accommodations available now for the holidays.

DISTINCTIVE CUISINE OF ALL CHINA • EXOTIC SPIRITS
Share our good tastes with a friend

Mon Jin Lau

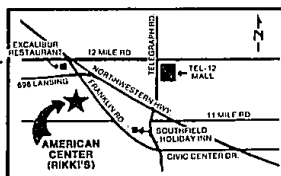
1515 EAST MAPLE RD. • TROY
689-2332

A Restaurant & Much More!

- ★ LUNCH - 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
MONDAY-FRIDAY
- ★ DINNER - 5:00 P.M.-12:00 A.M.
MONDAY-SATURDAY
- ★ LOUNGE - MENU
AVAILABLE TIL
2 A.M. MON.-SAT.

IN THE
AMERICAN MOTORS BLDG.
27777 FRANKLIN RD.
SOUTHFIELD, MI

350-8450



1 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION IN

Fannys

Appearing Live
RUMPLESTILTSKIN

\$24.95 per person — Reserved Seating
\$19.95 per person — Stand Up

*Includes Party Favors, Noisemakers
Champagne at Midnight and Continental Breakfast

Doors Open at 8 p.m.

Proper Attire Required (YOU MUST BE 21)
Advanced Tickets Required • 583-9000

Troy Hilton Inn

2 SAVOR A SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S EVE DINING EXPERIENCE IN

THE
HAYMARKET

Complete
Six Course Dinner
6 p.m. or 9 p.m. Seating

\$17.95-\$34.50 per person
(Includes Party Favors, Noisemakers and Champagne at Midnight)

featuring
THE JIM DIXON TRIO

Advance Tickets Required • 583-9000

Troy Hilton Inn

3 Do It Right — Spend The Night!

Cap Off Your New Year's Eve Celebration And Take The Elevator Home

\$65 per couple

FOR RESERVATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION CALL

Troy Hilton Inn 583-9000

Troy Hilton Inn 1455 Stephenson Hwy. • Troy, MI 48063