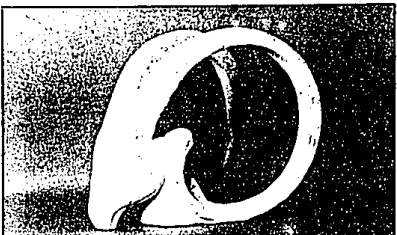


street seen
Charlene Mitchell



Street Seen-reporter Charlene Mitchell is always looking for the unusual and the unique. She welcomes comments and suggestions from readers. Write her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 313.

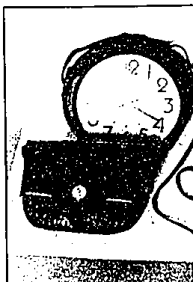


Sign of the Ram

If you're into birth signs, you'll know that this ram's head is the first sign of the zodiac. Done in bone travertine, it's a stoneware sculpture by artist Jaru. A wide selection of the artist's work can be seen on display, Charles Furniture Warehouse, Royal Oak. From \$60 to \$100. A variety of colors and styles.

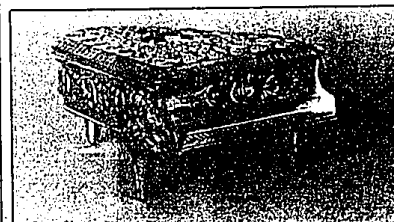
Time to bag it

OK, don't ask me the time, just look at my purse and check it out for yourself. The canteen bag has a full-sized clock on the front and a long shoulder strap. The clutch tells time too, with a smaller wristwatch-sized face affixed to the front flap. Both the handbags and Umepieces are top quality. These are just two of the clock-it bags in stock. Canteen bag, \$72; clutch, \$152. Baggit, Travlers Towers, Southfield or Applegate Square, Southfield.



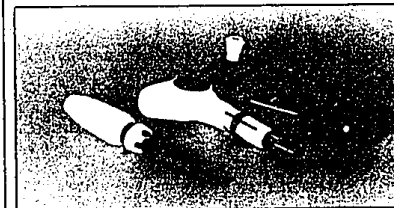
Keeping up with things

Keep the kids well dressed and happy at the same time with these clever suspenders with removable Volcro geometric cutouts. The child can make his or her own designs by rearranging the pieces. \$18. Smart Alice, Birmingham.



Play it again, Sam

The classic favorite "Lara's Theme" from the award-winning movie, "Dr. Zhivago," is what this authentic looking miniature baby grand piano plays in its real role as a music box. The collector's item is made of silver-plate. \$50. Diane M, Birmingham.



Tooling in chic

Today's yuppies and tomorrow's yupettes may not have the limo/or the know-how to perform routine fix-it jobs around the house, but these contemporary and functional tools in primary colors sure give the impression that you know your way around the maintenance circuit. Three-piece set includes a power grip wrench, screw driver and drill with various attachments. From \$14.95 to \$18.95. Gorman's, Southfield.

A star is born

Ever wonder about the Christmas star that the Wise Men followed into Bethlehem? Wondering about those other bright stars that seem more distinct than even our crisp winter nights?

"Holiday Skies"/"The Christmas Star" at the University of Michigan Natural Science Museums Planetarium might answer those burning questions for you.

"The Christmas Star" is an audiovisual journey back through time to look at the sky as it must have appeared to the Wise Men, along with speculations about the possible astronomical explanations of the star that heralded the coming of a new age.

"Holiday Skies" is an audiovisual show about the constellations visible in the winter sky. Both shows run through Jan. 3, with special weekday

showings of the "Christmas Star" Dec. 28-31. Also, shows are scheduled on Saturday and Sunday. Time for "Holiday Skies" is 11:30 a.m. each day. Admission is \$1.25. "The Christmas Star" has three daily showings at 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Admission is \$1.50.

(The U-M Natural Science Museums is at Geddes Ave. at N. University, Ann Arbor. Children under 5 are not admitted to "Holiday Skies." For more information, call 764-0478.)

Get art smart

Susan Mulcahy, an artist and instructor with the Birmingham/Bloomfield Arts Association, will present an introduction to the process of printmaking at the Farmington Community Center in January. Mulcahy will cover lithography, etching and engraving, woodcut, serigraphy, calligraphy and cliché

verre. Participants will learn to discern an original from a reproduction. The class will be held Monday, Jan. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or Tuesday, Jan. 26, from 7-10 p.m. Cost is \$12.

Also planned is an informational tea with Maureen Jannot. Through slides and photos she will cover women in art, concentrating on modern artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Judy Chicago and Louise Nevelson. Monday, Jan. 25 from 1-3:30 p.m. \$10 fee includes tea and cookies.

Last but not least Lawrence DuMouchelle, owner of DuMouchelle's Art Gallery, a cornerstone in downtown Detroit, will present a talk involving the world of antiques. Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. \$15 fee includes light refreshments.

(The Farmington Community Center is at 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Call 477-8404 for more information.)

Fall in love with language

Have a challenging and exciting foreign love affair? Join the fun and jilt the midwinter blues at the same time.

Your grand passion for the French, the Japanese or the Spanish language can begin the week of Jan. 11 at the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit. The accent will be on conversation and basic grammar in classes taught by experienced teachers who've previously taught their grade books.

(The International Institute is in Detroit's University Cultural Center on Kirby between John R and Woodward. For more information, call 871-8500.)

Retreats offer more than spartan living

Continued from Page 1

• Private retreats overnight cost \$25, with a spiritual director, \$30 a day, including lodging and meals.

• Weekend thematic retreats on a variety of subjects range \$65-\$80.

• Thirty-day guided retreats through the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius are offered June 30 to Aug. 1. Cost is \$600 and reservations must be made months in advance.

"The Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life" and "Busy Person's Retreats" are designed for those who want to pray at home.

Accommodations include private bedrooms with washbasins, community toilets and showers and meals. For more information, call 1-625-5611 or write to P.O. Box 139, Clarkston, 48016.

Manresa Jesuit Retreat House

Nestled in one of the most bustling suburban areas — at Quanton and Woodward in Bloomfield Hills — Manresa is an oasis in a commercial/residential jungle.

There's a brook, ducks, rabbits and other wildlife on 40 virtually untouched acres. Grottos and stone monuments representing "stations of the cross" are prayer stops.

"Catholic laymen purchased the property as a place for R & R (rest and relaxation) in 1926," notes the Rev. Eugene P. Simon, director. "They had the Jesuits run it for them. St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order, is the patron saint of retreat houses all over the world."

St. Ignatius spent three months in a cave outside the town of Manresa, Spain, in 1530, where he wrote "The Spiritual Exercises," a book of instructions on how to pray over a 30-day period.

The purpose is to spend quiet time thinking about man's purpose, the life of Christ and death, Simon said.

Nearly 3,000 men and women attend weekend retreats at Manresa and another 3,000 come for individual days of prayer and spiritual refreshment, he added.

Retreatants may spend time in their own rooms with a bed, chair, desk, toilet and wash basin.

For more information, call 564-6455, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays or write to the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, 350 Quanton Road, Bloomfield Hills, 48013.

Camp Maas (Tamarack)

"Judaism encourages people to renew themselves within the community," said Harlene Appelman, director of Jewish Experiences for Families.

Weekend retreats are designed to help people learn more about celebrating Judaism together. A winter Camp Maas festival Feb. 25-28 at weekend is planned at Tamarack. Cost is \$95 for adults and \$45 for children. Purim family week is March 25-27. Jewish organizations or synagogues may arrange their own retreats by calling Jeff Metz or Carol Parven at the Jewish Community Center, 661-0600.



Weekend social retreats for singles are sponsored by the Community Network for Jewish Singles. The next one is set for Jan. 22-24 at Camp Maas (another name for Camp Tamarack). Besides social events, participants will talk about values. For more information, call 651-1000.

St. Benedict's Monastery

You might hear Mister Mister songs blaring in the halls or sounds from the movie, "The Breakfast Club," at St. Benedict's. Silence isn't golden here.

"Adults are accustomed to silent retreats," said the Rev. Daniel Homan, director of the Oxford monastery.

"Our facilities were specially designed for young people. There are benches and areas where kids can sit and talk."

Located on 287 wooded acres, St. Benedict's accommodates 40 people overnight. Although it's primarily a Catholic retreat house, non-Catholics sometimes accompany their friends. Group discussions focus on loneliness, sexuality, faith, singleness, values.

Individuals may join in the Benedictine community's mass and prayer services.

Weekend rates are \$45, including food and accommodations. For more information, call 1-626-4274 or write to the monastery, 2711 E. Drahnar Road, Oxford, 48051.

St. Augustine's House

If you come across a tiny wooden shack — with no electricity or heat — on this 40-acre property, don't rush out and buy a friar's robe.

This hermitage is reserved for the Little Brothers of Jesus in Detroit.

St. Augustine's, a Lutheran center in Oxford, has its own building with five guest rooms.

Groups of Lutherans, Catholics, Episcopalians usually come for Saturday group retreats. Vigils start at 4:30 a.m. Private retreats also are offered. Participants may help with chores, read, take a walk, or pray. For more information, call 1-628-5155 or write to St. Augustine's House, 3316 E. Drahnar, Oxford, 48051.

Zen Buddhist Temple

Enter by the first gate. That may be the most important lesson for novices who visit the Ann Arbor Temple.

The "first gate" is the weekly Sunday service, conducted 5-7 p.m., and drawing anywhere from five to 50 visitors.

"This is not a place where thousands of people come because the practice is very challenging," said Sukha Murray, director and dharma teacher.

Special retreats for beginners are conducted nearly every other month. The next one is March 4-6. And a beginner's course is offered for six consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning Jan. 21.

Retreatants may arrange personal conferences with Korean Zen master, Samu Sunim, who leads the temple. They're taught body movements, bows and chants.

Intensive retreats are held from two to five days. All night sittings, from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. are designed for meditation.

Participants also engage in simple chores, such as separating raw cotton from seeds for cushions or gardening.

A three-story house renovated by monks is the setting for this temple. For more information, call the Zen Buddhist Temple at 1-761-6520 or write to the temple, 1214 Packard Road, Ann Arbor, 48104.

Bhakti Vedanta Cultural Center

Devotees at the cultural center practice Bhakti-yoga, which they consider "the culmination of all types of yoga," said Ad Raju, temple president.

Located in the 40-room Fisher mansion in southeast Detroit, this is the center for Hare Krishna consciousness.

Visitors will see a sky blue ceiling with white clouds and an audio visual presentation of Krishna, a primary Hindu deity. Prayers and chanting are part of the daily ritual.

Community members start the first chanting service at 4:15 a.m. and meditate privately 4:45-6:45 a.m. Worship services and classes are held throughout the day.

"Our doors are always open," said Raju. Visitors may donate by purchasing books, he noted.

For more information, write Bhakti Vedanta Cultural Center, 385 Lenox, Detroit, 48216; or call 824-6000.

Grumblecord

by Neal Levin

