

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, February 18, 1988 O&E

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The Chenille Sisters gives its first concert in northern Oakland County at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at the West Bloomfield High School auditorium.

upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming calendar is one week ahead of publication. Items must be received by Thursday, to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to: Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, 32251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

CASTING CALL

First Theater Guild will hold tryouts for the musical version of "Tom Sawyer" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, and 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, in Knox Auditorium, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham. Performances of the show will be May 13-14 and 20-21. There are roles for both youth and adults. For more information, call 540-6943.

AUDITION NOTICE

Auditions will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29, at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills. The play is "Reluctantly Speaking," a British comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. British accents are essential. The play calls for two men and two women. For further information, call 645-6715.

MEADOW BROOK

A benefit performance of Meadow Brook Theatre's production of "Harvey" will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. All proceeds will help to send children in the care of Methodist Children's Home Society to Camp Knight of the Pines. Tickets at \$15 and are available through Mary Banks in the Development Department. For more information, call 531-9465.

MUSICAL HIT

The Windsor Light Opera production of the Broadway musical hit "Annie Get Your Gun" will open Saturday, April 30, at Cleary Auditorium in Windsor. This production is produced and directed by John Watson, a resident of the Birmingham area. Performances run through Sunday, May 22. For ticket information, call the ticket hotline at 974-6593 during business hours.

AVON PLAYERS

Avon Players Community Theatre will open the drama "On Golden Pond" at 8 p.m. Friday, March 11, at the Avon Playhouse in Rochester Hills. Playing the lead roles of Norman and Ethel Thayer are Bill Doehring and Sheila Lyle, both of Rochester. Kip Lowrie of Rochester is Chelsea's son Billy, John Hollingsworth of Rochester is Bill and Kim Monterosso of Ulica is Charlie. Sue Warner of Rochester will direct the show. Tickets at \$8 go on sale Tuesday, March 1. Sunday performances are at 7:30 p.m. To order tickets call 656-1130.

SEPHARDIC BAND

The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit's series "Let Us Entertain You" will present the Sephardic Band at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, and Marilyn Cantor, daughter of Eddie Cantor, at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the center in West Bloomfield. There is an admission charge. This program is funded in part by Michigan Council for the Arts and the Manny and Natalie Charach Endowment Fund at the JCC. For further information, call 661-1000, Ext. 341.

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She handles keyboard, lively piano-bar crowd

By Chuck Moss
special writer

IT'S ONE O'CLOCK in the morning, somewhere between Saturday and Sunday, and the crowd is sparse. Snowdrifts and traveler's advisors dangle, but inside the lights are low, and the curved bar is still in business.

Intimates whisper in the darkness. A curl of cigarette smoke waits lazily upward. A convivial crowd is gathered around a blonde figure seated at a piano. Someone makes a laughing request and the air fills with "As Time Goes By." The ceiling fans revolve slowly.

Of all the gin mills in the world, I had to walk into this one. Actually, the locale isn't Rick's, but the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills. Neither is the pianist Sam, but a lively and congenial performer named Kathy Morrow, who can handle a keyboard and a wee-hours singalong crowd with equal aplomb.

"It's a matter of rapport. When you get a number of people sitting around a piano, anything can happen." Morrow's voice is full of energy, and her eyes flash large and vivacious as she talks about her job.

"IT'S A MATTER OF spontaneity. You never know from night to night... sometimes people are there for entertainment's sake, some people want music with dinner, others are just there to meet people. It's a different crowd every night and a different show."

Warm, animated and down to earth, Morrow in person is even more vibrant than her energetic stage presence.

"I haven't been doing this all that long," she grins frankly. "So it's still new, still a lot of fun."

Although sharp and professional,



Kathy Morrow plays piano at the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills. She performed at the pavilion of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island before coming to the Kingsley.

the slender Nebraska native actually has been in the piano bar business for only three years. "About three and a half," she laughingly admits. "I was a theater major at the University of Nebraska, and when I graduated did a lot of musical comedy."

"I did rep, dinner theater, then got connected with a jazz band and sang with them. Moved to Minneapolis..." She counts on her fingers with mock seriousness. "Then I played piano at Vail, and got asked to play at the Grand Hotel on

your Mackinac Island. From there I wound up here."

Morrow confesses she learned about Mackinac Island from the movie "Somewhere in Time." "I got turned on by the island, and the hotel is amazing. I was a little rowdy for the main dining room, so they put me in the pavilion. That was perfect."

ON A TYPICAL night, Morrow's act will run the gamut "from Cole Porter to anything." While she doesn't really know every song, Morrow will try any request. "If

you can hum it, I can probably play it."

She's a self-described night owl, whose act runs from 8:30 p.m. to 1:15 a.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays in the Kingsley Inn bar. Look for the cheery crowd of folks, leaning on the piano, who appear to know each other.

"Don't get me wrong. Some days are easier than others, but it's all a matter of attitude. If you like what you're doing, it's not really a job," she says, flashing another blizzard-melting smile.

table talk

Laura Ashley

The Moveable Feast restaurant in Ann Arbor, in conjunction with Laura Ashley Inc., will hold a reception 3-5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, for the public to view the new Laura Ashley Dining Room. Tea and sherry will be served. The second floor dining room is decorated in plum, sage and ivory. Members of the Laura Ashley Shop

in Ann Arbor also will be on hand, to discuss home decorating ideas. The Moveable Feast is housed in an old

Victorian mansion built by one of Ann Arbor's first brewers, on the historic old West Side. Both lunch and

dinner are served, with French and American regional food as specialties.

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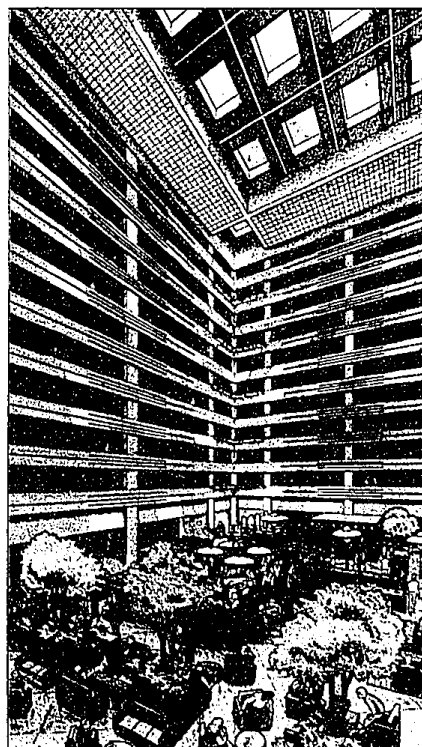
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