

table talk

10th birthday

Le Gala de Cuisine will celebrate its 10th birthday with more than 40 of metropolitan Detroit's top chefs creating specialties from 3-7 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at the Eliot Scharren-designed Quadrangle at Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills. Featured this year will be hors d'oeuvres ranging from cream of lobster smoked sturgeon and mousseline of duck to black bean cake, sushi, sweetbread pie and grilled seafood. Entrées will include rack of lamb, peach-glazed duck, salmon in puff pastry, veal and beef dishes, as well as varieties of seafood favorites. Chefs will vie for dessert honors with fondue and truffle concoctions, edible chocolate sculptures, assorted pastries, tortes and creme brûlée. In addition to white chocolate mousse for dipping potato chips, there will be an entire beach scene comprising sugar sand with chocolate sailboats, surf fish and shells. Topping off the dining experience will be varieties of local and imported coffees, as well as liqueurs and other after-dinner drinks. General admission is \$125, patrons are \$150, benefactors \$200. Ticket prices include beverages, the 1988 Le Gala cookbook and poster, and continuous entertainment. For more information call 645-3134.

Festival time

House specialties from many of metropolitan Detroit's most popular restaurants will be featured at the Michigan Restaurant Association's annual Fine Food Festival from noon to 11 p.m. Friday, April 22-23, and noon to 10 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at Hart Plaza in Detroit. Twenty-six area restaurants are participating in the 10th annual "Taste of Detroit." Local radio personalities will be on hand during the festival and Detroit-

area bands will offer continuous entertainment.

'Dinner Orgy'

Focus will be on food and wines Thursday (April 21) on the Channel 56 Auction. One of the items up for bid is a "Dinner Orgy," offered by Chef Douglas of Brasserie Douglas and wine merchant Rick Lupus. The dinner will be prepared for 11 guests by Chef Douglas in a private home. Lupus will be present to explain the romance of the accompanying wines to the dinner guests. Douglas values the "Dinner Orgy" at \$2,000.

For secretaries

To encourage bosses to take their secretaries out to lunch during Secretary's Week (Monday-Friday, April 25-29), the Blue Sky Restaurant in Southfield is picking up secretaries and their bosses in a stretch limousine and returning them to work afterward, on Monday and Tuesday. The limo service is being offered within a 10-mile radius of the restaurant. Every secretary receives a fresh flower upon arrival at the restaurant. Reservations are required for luncheon seating and limo service.

Nation's taste

"Taste of the Nation," a sampling of food indicative of America's culinary heritage, from Detroit-area restaurants, will be 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, at the Top of the Pontich and the Ontario Room at Detroit's Hotel Pontchartrain. The gathering represents people in the restaurant industry in each of the 50 states all on the same date doing their part to assist in the problem of hunger in America and worldwide.

Seventy percent of the money raised in the local event will stay in Detroit, and the balance will go to worldwide causes. Tickets at \$50 per person will be available at each participating restaurant, the Merchant of Vino Stores, or by mail to: "Taste of the Nation," c/o the Whitney, 4421 Woodward Ave., Detroit 48201, phone 832-5700.

Chicken Stix

Hardee's, the nation's third largest fast-food hamburger restaurant chain, has introduced a new menu item, Chicken Stix, made from whole breast white meat and cooked in all-vegetable oil. The fried chicken fingers are being introduced in nearly all of Hardee's 3,000 restaurants this month.

Gala benefit

Uccello's, Dearborn's newest restaurant, will celebrate its grand opening with a gala event to benefit the March of Dimes 5-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 18. People Reaching Out, a volunteer group sponsored by the March of Dimes, will host the event featuring strolling musicians and Italian pastas and desserts served by Uccello's owners Joseph and Rick Bird. Tickets at \$15 are available at the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes in Southfield, or by calling 423-3207.

Gourmet brunch

A six-course gourmet brunch is being served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays at the Royal Eagle Restaurant in the Parkstone Hotel in Detroit's historic Indian Village. The fixed-price meal at \$12.95 offers a weekly changing menu highlighted by foods of the season. Each week

there will be five entrees, which may include Poached Trout, Tarragon Chicken and Veal with Roquefort Walnut Butter.

Gourmet tasting

Executive Chef Al Large prepared a variety of special dishes for a recent Gourmet Food and Wine Tasting at the Hillside in Plymouth. The event, open to the public, is expected to become an annual one. For the tasting, food stations offered bluepoint oysters with creamed horseradish, mesquite-smoked shrimp with Cajun dressing, quenelles of lemon sole with saffron sauce, angel hair pasta with smoked turkey in garlic pesto cream, chicken tempura with teriyaki sauce, baked mushrooms with farce of snails and sherry wine sauce, game and fennel sausage en croûte, cold sliced breast of pekin duckling with lingonberry sauce, duck liver pate en croûte, tenderloin of pork au poivre, and Stilton cheese with walnuts. Wines from the Hillside's suppliers were served at each station. The evening began with a reception table where champagne was poured.

Carinci's Deli

Livonia residents Bob and Glenda Carinci own and operate Carinci's Deli & Cones at Plymouth Square in Livonia. The deli specializes in homemade soups such as cream of broccoli, vegetable, chicken and cream of potato. Sandwich favorites include Bob's Famous Reuben, Tracy's Italian Whopper and Mom's Cleaning Day Special. Hand-dipped Guernsey ice cream is featured for

dessert. Also offered are three, four and five-foot party subs, as well as deli trays. Lunchtime delivery to offices and shops in the area is available. The Carincis, who have lived in Livonia eight years, formerly owned Carinci's Beer Stein and Wine, a convenience store in Westland for five years.

Heads caterers

Nils Johansson, owner and president of Bowman's Catering in Berkeley, recently was named president of

the newly formed National Off-Premise Caterer's Roundtable Association. Bowman's Catering is one of the largest catering companies in the metropolitan area, serving an average of more than 200,000 meals a year. It is also the caterer for Meadow Brook Music Festival at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Johansson has been in the catering business for more than 40 years. He was born and raised in southern Sweden, was a founding member of the Caterer's Roundtable.

For KIDS Only

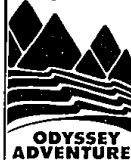
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