

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 and enterprising entrepreneurs. Write her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2309, Ext. 313.

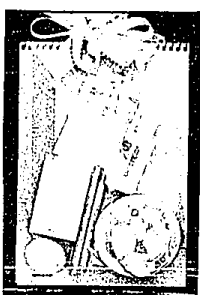


Scentsible

Nothing is more beautiful than an array of magnificent perfume bottles on a lovely tray to hold your precious scents. The ones shown here range from hand-blown glass, painted and glazed alabaster, to a very feminine Lolique bottle, all arranged on an octagon tray. Tray, \$28; bottles from \$35 to \$156. Chantel, 6885 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

Memo to the boss:

Those British folks Crabtree and Evelyn have a jolly good idea for Secretary's Week now in progress. They've come up with some nifty gift items that come together to say thanks for a job well done. Carry on, old chap. Crabtree and Evelyn, Somerset Mall.



Scrub-a-dub graffiti

It's suppose to be for kids, but anyone can have a ball with Scribble Stix — something like crayons — but these are made just for the tile walls in the shower or tub. Kids can scribble their favorite graffiti or draw pictures. It comes right off with a sponge. For adults, it's a great stress reliever. Just think what you could say about the boss! \$5 Marmel Gifts, Farmington Hills.



Topping things off

This ultra chic handmade natural straw hat is complemented with a twisted grosgrain black ribbon. Almost looks like fashions of a decade or two ago. One of several new styles by renowned hat designer Patricia Underwood. \$110. Twigs, 28 W. Maple, Birmingham.



Toeing the mark

The French pedicure is very in for summer — especially with the popularity of open-toed sandals. The big toe shown here is decorated with miniature jewels in red, white and blue Fourth of July motif. The fun part is that you can make up your own motif or let nail technician Suzanne Clark surprise you with one of her butterflies or abstract patterns. The process takes about 20 minutes more than the actual pedicure. Decorations start at \$1.50 and up per toe. Daniel J. Salon, Farmington Hills.

An Irish tradition

The Traditional Irish Music Organization has announced that Ireland's leading female vocalist, Mary Black, will be performing at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 29.

After two successful tours with Dedannan behind her and two prestigious music awards in her pocket, Black's soaring vocal ability has had a dynamic musical impact on audiences from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Sold-out performances and glowing reviews have followed her across the U.S.

Black will be returning to the Monaghan K of C Hall with Declan Sinnott, Mick Daly and Pat Crowley. Tickets cost \$109 and are available at Irish Imports, 13251 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, or at the door.

More information, call 537-3459.

Take it off

That's what the entertainers at the striptease joints used to hear from the patrons, but these days, it's the traditional spring ritual of shedding excess winter weight clothing and otherwise — in preparation for the summer months ahead.

If you're one of those people in need of losing a few pounds, you might want to consider "Think Trim." It's a weight-loss program for sure; it helps you not only lose

weight, but keep it off for good, according to psychologist Patricia Stefano, Think Trim founder and director.

Her "think trim" philosophy stresses the importance of realizing the true relationship between food and individual. Clients learn the ways to conquer inner battles over food and practice techniques for coping with stress. At the same time, they acquire skills to strengthen motivation and develop a trim self-image.

Stefano is offering an introductory Think Trim class at the Birmingham Community House, 380 S. Bates in downtown Birmingham, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 3. The class costs \$12 and registration can be completed by calling 644-5832.

Sci-fi fans get together

Forbidden Knowledge Inc. is promising that it will be a swash-buckling weekend, but don't look for Errol Flynn to come swinging across the lobby of the Southfield Hilton.

The swashbuckling will be a science fiction-fantasy convention featuring the likes of science fiction author Octavia Butler and Arthur Hailey, classified as the fan guest.

The convention will be Friday-Sunday, April 29-May 1, at the Hilton, 17017 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. It will feature an art show and auction of works of well-known and emerging artists in science fiction and fantasy, a dealer's room with

books, buttons, T-shirts, handmade jewelry and games available, a masquerade ball and a video room with continuous showing of well-known and not so well-known films.

Memberships for the convention, billed as Swashbuckler's Contraption, is \$15. For information, call 971-9243.

Get down!

The community concert series will be kicking out the jams, so to speak, at 60 E. Ferry St., between John R and Woodward, Detroit, Friday, April 29.

The doors open at 8 p.m. and aspiring musicians can wait a tune or two during the open-mike sessions — 9-10:30 p.m. — before the entertainment takes to the stage.

Leading off the lineup at 10:30 p.m. will be poetry reading by Ken Donaldson, better known as Lor-Ren, followed by the piano improvisation of Hannah Elkin at 11 p.m., experimental music by Robert Matson at 11:30 p.m., folk music by Tracy Jablonski at midnight, jazz music by the Victor Williams Jazz Group at 12:30 a.m. and the blues as performed by Johnny B. and the Big City Buckaroos at 1:30 a.m.

A jam session will follow the final performance at 2:30 a.m.

As always the vegetarian kitchen will be open all night and the admission will be \$3.

A classic?

Interested in classical music? How about seeing Santa Fe, N.M.?

If you answered with anything ranging from "yeah!" to "you bet," then the Michigan Opera Theatre Guild wants to hear from you. Why? Well, it seems the group is offering its first national opera tour to — yes, you guessed it — Santa Fe July 30-Aug. 4.

The deluxe trip features sightseeing tours of Albuquerque's Old Town, the artist community of Taos, Indian pueblos, the famous Santa Domingo Corn Dance and opera under the stars, including performances of "The Black Mask," "Die Fledermaus" and "Der Fliegende Holländer."

The cost is \$1,495 per person, which includes round-trip airfare, accommodations at the Hilton Hotel, meals, all trips and taxes, ground transportation, a professional tour escort and a \$200 donation to the Michigan Opera.

For more information, call 874-7850 or write MOTG trips, P.O. Box 334, Franklin, Mich. 48025.

Oh, by the way, other guild trips include an autumn weekend in New York and the opening of the opera season in Italy in December.

Marvelous Mexico

If you're just bonkers about Mexico or if you spend your free hours planning your next excursion south of the border, Mexico Magazine may be just what you're looking for.

If you're interested in getting the magazine, write Mexico Magazine, P.O. Box 700, Carbondale, Colo. 81623.

Pousadas are popular in Portugal

Continued from Page 1

There are three classes of pousada, ranging from simple country inns to elaborate castles like this one. The most popular and spectacular pousadas are either castles or the new-but-still-regal inns in panoramic settings. Most of them are north and east of here — Dom Dinis and Santa Helena near the Spanish border, Obidos near Lisbon, Lelos at Evorra, Santa Isabel in Estremoz and Palmela, which I can see on the top of a nearby hill as I lean over the battlements here at San Felipe.

WE HAD lunch at Palmela, took the car ferry with all the weekend bathers to the resort hotels of Troia, drove south down the coast and uphill through pine forests to the pousada overlooking a man-made lake at Santa Clara-a-Velha.

Then we went on to the two small pousadas on the south coast — Pousada de Infante at Sagres and Pousada de Sao Bras at Alportel near Faro in the Algarve.

We are at the Pousada San Felipe in Setubel for one last night before we fly home tomorrow on TAP, Air Portugal.

SANTA CLARA-A-VELHA — There were few villages on the road as we passed from the sand dunes of Troia and the cliffs of Sintra into the mountains at Odemira. When we stopped to take a picture of a group of whitewashed houses on the curve of a mountain road, an old woman greeted us with a rose picked from her trellis.

The sun was low when we climbed the last hill, past wildflower fields and piles of cork that had been cut and peeled from the trees, to a low white building overlooking a lake — Pousada de Santa Clara.

The lake spread into the hills behind the dam like a splash of blue silk. Santa Clara, with six rooms, is the smallest of the pousadas and it fills exactly the goal of those innkeepers who created the system in the 1940s — to give Portuguese families a moderately-priced place to go in the country.

Pousadas have expanded their goals considerably since then, but that goal is still important. They are so popular that it is sometimes difficult to get room at the inn, so book as early as you can or take a chance.

POUSADA DO INFANTE, SAGRES — It was a morning's drive from Santa Clara to the whitewashed walls and red tiled roof of Infante in the town where Prince Henry the Navigator established a school for explorers like Vasco da Gama and Christopher Columbus.

Infante is bigger and more elaborate than Santa Clara, like a large roadside hotel in America, with a swimming pool and other facilities. Like all the pousadas, it specializes in good food of the area.

POUSADA SAO BRAS, ALPORTEL — The rough Sao Bras on a winding mountain road 12 miles from Faro, the main tourist city of the Algarve, a 100-mile stretch of coastal tourism from Sagres to the Spanish border. You should plan to get lost several times, even after you have spotted the whitewashed pousada high on a hill.

The inn has a full view from its terrace and swimming pool of tiny Sao Bras, nestled in a hollow of hills below. The rooms are simple and comfortable enough, if you like hard beds. Guests retire after dinner to

the bar/lounge for coffee and port.

SAN FELIPE, SETUBAL — From the fishing docks in the city below, this castle turned pousada looks stony and stern on its high perch above the city. There is nothing to dispel that as you wind uphill to the walled entrance, or when you climb the wide staircase to the battlements above. Only after you see the panorama below you and explore the rich setting does the charm of the inn become evident.

On the way up the stairs, you pass a great gift shop and a tiny blue chapel fit for a medieval knight.

There is dancing and disco in the medieval basement, a small comfy after-dinner bar and a well-fed, well-served dining room.

Pousada rates for two, including breakfast, at present exchange rates range from \$35-\$65 in winter to \$55-\$100 in summer and \$45-\$70 in spring and fall, depending upon the class of pousada.

For more information, call your travel agent or the Portuguese National Tourist Office, 548 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10036 or call (212) 544-4403.

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