

Dance class leads to the wedding march

Lois meets Gerry in class. Bound together with a common interest and the goal of successfully completing the class, Lois and Gerry become a cohesive unit. They fall in love. They get married. They dance happily ever after.

It happens all of the time. You expect it in college classes.

But in this love story, Lois Edwards is 53 and Gerry Kaercher is 58. They didn't meet in a typical college class on campus. It was a ballroom dance class in Farmington Community Center.

You never know where or when Cupid will strike. Love just happens. You can steer yourself in the right direction, be at what you think is the right place, but it is the magic and spontaneity that will take over to seal the love bond.

ORIGINALLY FROM New York, Lois Edwards came to Michigan in 1955 with her cat, Tippy. She came looking for more opportunities. She happily got more than she expected.

"When I moved here, I was a bit lonely and I wanted something to do to meet new people," she said. "I

don't bowl worth a darn, so I went to dance class. I wanted to learn to dance correctly and not fumble on the floor."

She didn't know she'd find Mr. Right.

Mr. Right is Farmington Hills resident Gerry Kaercher, a man with 34 years as a project engineer for Detroit Edison.

"I do well as an engineer but my dancing is horrendous," Kaercher said. "I was single and I thought it was time to learn to dance."

He happily got more than he expected, thanks to dancing maven Kathy Muscillo.

MUSCILLO, WHO will be starting her third year of teaching dance in the community center, remembers the particular class when the couple met.

"Friday night ballroom classes are always packed with adults so it's not unusual to become close with other students. It's inevitable with touch dancing," Muscillo said.

"In beginning touch dancing the students are rather nervous and they often need help loosening up a bit.

Lois and Gerry were standing near each other so I paired them together for the class."

What progressed, Muscillo described as "beautiful."

"I noticed that after the initial trauma of being paired for dancing, they began giggling and laughing together. It was just a matter of time after that. The way they interacted on the dance floor made you think they were already married," she said.

ACCORDING TO Kaercher, one night after dance class he approached his partner and asked her out for a drink. She accepted, and the next week he was courting her to dance class. He waltzed into her heart and on May 28 they were married.

Ballroom dance class in the community center is one of the best things that ever happened to her, the bride said.

Ballroom is more than a dance class. It's a great way to meet people. It's a nice social thing to do. Also, the setting of the community center is a better atmosphere for socializing than a high school gymnasium," she said.

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MUSCILLO HAS another perspective.

"Ballroom dance music is actually at a sound level that allows you to talk to your partner. It's a social thing and you can visit with each other. It's fun and it's good for you, too," she said.

"Dancing is something Gerry and I can enjoy together. If you know a few basic dance steps, you can go anywhere and feel comfortable," the bride said.

The groom prefers a low-key approach to dancing.

"We go to weddings and dances all over but we're not on the professional tour. I'm going to learn to polka this year when we enroll in our seventh session of ballroom dance."

"I used to have two left feet. I feel more comfortable now than ever before. It's made a terrific impact on my life," he said.

Muscillo's ballroom dance class begins Sept. 16. To register to reserve a spot in beginners, intermediate or advanced classes, call the center at 477-8404.



Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Kaercher

Project HERS offered

Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center is offering a Displaced Homemaker Program funded through grants from the Departments of Education and Labor. Project HERS (Homemaker's Employment Re-entry System) offers career interest assessment, assertiveness, assertiveness training, resume writing and interview techniques.

Displaced Homemakers are people who have worked in the home most of their lives and who have lost their source of income due to death, disability, desertion, divorce or separation from the person on whom they have been dependent.

Financial aid is available to cover the cost of tuition for those who are on public assistance, displaced homemakers, homemakers, or single parents who lack adequate job skills as well as recent, skilled, full-time work experience.

Project HERS meets at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday beginning Sept. 20. For information on registration and financial assistance, call 591-6400, ext. 430. Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

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Bus leaves for matinee

Farmington Community Center will sponsor a trip to Westgate Dinner Theater in Toledo Wednesday, Oct. 5, for a special matinee performance of "Nunsense." A bus, chartered by the center, will leave from Oakland Community College's Farmington Road parking lot at 10:30 a.m. and return at 5 p.m.

"Nunsense" is the winner of three awards for off-Broadway productions "Best Book," "Best Music," and the prestigious "Outer Critics Circle Award" for best off-Broadway musical.

The cost of the outing is \$33 per person and includes luncheon, the show and transportation to and from the Westgate Theater.

For reservations call the center, 477-8404.

Clarification

The Farmington Falcons is the name of Farmington High School's baseball team, and it is also the name of the softball team made up of students who attend South Oakland Skills Center, located in Farmington High School.

An article about the softball team, which competed in Michigan Special Olympics, appeared in the Aug. 11 issue of this newspaper.

Greeting card contest winners announced

Traditional drawings of dogs and cats, whimsical animals and realistic wildlife designs were among the entries in the Michigan Humane Society's holiday greeting card contest.

The winning designs will be made into holiday cards featured in the society's catalog with a wide variety of other holiday gift suggestions. The catalog will be mailed to 60,000 friends and members in the fall.

First-place honors went to J. Marie Steward of West Des Moines,

Iowa. Second place was awarded to Helle Kobmann of Plymouth.

Rose Marie Starke of Farmington Hills won two of the eight honorable mentions.

Cash prizes for the winners were provided by Compton Printing of Farmington Hills.

All proceeds from the card and gift sales will benefit the homeless animals cared for by the society. Copies of the catalog can be obtained by writing to the society at 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit, 48211.



Skiba-Sinnaeve



Sinnaeve-Varcie



Sinnaeve-Kalota

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert B. Sinnaeve of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their son Michael Joseph to Sharon Lynn Skiba, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Skiba of Detroit.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Providence Hospital School of Radiology and is employed with Arbor Lane Medical Village and Oakwood Canton Hospital. Her fiancé is a graduate of Oakland Community College and is employed with Gilden Paint.

An October wedding is planned in St. Paul's of the Cross in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert B. Sinnaeve of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Carolyn Alicia to Thomas Michael Varcie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Varcie of Garden City.

The bride-to-be is a student at Oakland Community College and is employed with K mart. Her fiancé is a student at Eastern Michigan University and is employed as a staff writer for Associated Newspapers.

A March 1990 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert B. Sinnaeve of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Eileen to Joseph C. Kalota, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Kalota of Wilkom.

The bride-to-be and her fiancé are both graduates of Ferris State College. She is employed with the Novi Hillon. He is employed with the Grand Prairie Police Department in Texas.

A January wedding is planned in Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak.

Communication skills taught in workshops

Div Burgelesien offers a free workshop on "Assertive Communication" from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 10, in her office in Southfield.

Participants will learn the three basic styles of communication, passive, aggressive and assertive, and be given an assertive model that allows one to say what they want in a

positive manner.

Burgelesien's classes on communication skills begin at 10 a.m. for four consecutive Saturdays beginning Sept. 17. Fee for the four sessions is \$50.

Pre-registration for both the free workshop and the class is necessary by calling Burgelesien at 557-3960.

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

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