

# STREET SCENE

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## Baubles and beads

A little of the glitter, some of the glitz and a tab of the glamor of Hollywood and New York has come to northern Oakland County. And surprisingly it's not all that costly to enjoy. The place is Kathryn Post and it's the in place to go for baubles, bangles and beads.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

As a flight attendant for American Trans Air, David Oamola has traveled entirely around the world in 37 days, including stops in Katmandu, Beijing and Puntas Arenas in South America.

## Coffee, tea and a friendly face

By Janice Brunson  
staff writer

### Men invade air 'service'

After stints of bartending and sales 10 years ago, Jack Simpson of Livonia responded to the passing suggestion of a brother and applied for a job with the airlines.

He's been flying for a living ever since, working as a flight attendant for the Detroit-based Republic Airlines that in 1986 became part of Northwest Airlines.

"All you have to do is get along with people," said Simpson, 35, of the job. "It's nice. I enjoy the days off." Flight crews typically work about 15 days a month.

Simpson's wife Kathy, until recently a Northwest administrator who supervised flight attendants in Detroit, paints a more telling portrait of the job.

"It's hard serving all those people. Flight attendants have my utmost respect," she said, citing their common traits. "Very outgoing, flexible, strong sense of self, extremely smart and witty."

"Actually, I can't think of anything negative to say about them as a group."

Jack Simpson is one of 2,300 flight attendants based in metropolitan Detroit, and Northwest is the only major carrier with attendants stationed here.

Tom Kassel, 27, a Westland native who recently completed training as a flight attendant for American Air-

lines, is based in Chicago.

A 1988 GRADUATE of Eastern Michigan University in French and International trade, Kassel sought employment "fied" to his major. He investigated teaching abroad and interviewed with a cargo carrier, Trans Intercontinental, before being hired by American last May.

Like most carriers today, American is experiencing enormous growth. Kassel is among the 2,000 new attendants the company will hire this year from a pool of 30,000 applicants, those who perform well in such areas as problem solving.

During a group interview, Kassel and the others were asked to collectively solve a problem.

"They wanted to see how each of us got along and worked with others," he said.

Training, scheduled in Dallas for six weeks, was typical of that required by most scheduled airlines. Kassel received free round-trip transportation and room and board. But he was not paid a salary during the training. Once completed, he was assigned to fly immediately, even before he had time to find living accommodations in Chicago.

"It's been busy," Kassel said, but

things are now settling into a routine. He is currently assigned to Montreal flights and hopes to fly internationally to Europe soon.

Of the 63 trainees in Kassel's class, 10 were men, four older than him, four about the same age and two who were younger. The mix reflects industry trends.

AS A RESULT OF fair hiring standards established in the late 1960s, the number of male flight attendants has increased significantly in recent years. Of 76,297 attendants employed nationwide by 77 scheduled airlines, 14 percent are male, based on figures maintained by the Association of Flight Attendants in Washington, D.C.

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## Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



"I told you two coats wouldn't be enough."

## A Little Inn with a 4-star rating

By Iris Sanderson Jones  
contributing travel editor

Sometimes life makes unexpected connections, as it did when I sat by the fireplace in the Little Inn with Richard and Corinne Fitoussi.

The Fitoussis are co-owners of the three-story inn on the historic main street of Bayfield, Ont., 135 miles north of the metropolitan area on Lake Huron.

We were sipping Kir Royale, nibbling chips of dried reindeer meat and talking. "Where do you come from?" I asked.

"I come from France," Richard said. "Alsace."

I have visited the French side of the Rhine River so I named the first town that came to mind. "Ribeauville?"

"No, Illhaeusern."

And then we both said "Auberge de L'ITL." I had never met anyone else who knew that wonderful restaurant in France, which has a three-star Michelin rating. My husband Micky discovered it years



IRIS SANDERSON JONES

Richard and Corinne Fitoussi are co-owners of the three-story Little Inn on the historic main street of Bayfield, Ontario, named for a British naval lieutenant who surveyed the Great Lakes early in the 19th century.

ago and took me there for one of life's memorable meals.

As it turned out, Richard apprenticed there as a teenager, then worked in restaurants in Germany and England before moving to Canada. He worked for Westin Hotels, helped open the Westin Renaissance in Detroit in the 1970s, joined Pat and Gayle Waters as owners of the Hotel Saskatchewan in western Canada and followed them to Bayfield as co-owners and managers of the Little Inn.

THE INN is an entirely different setting from the high-rise glass splendor of city hotels, but as Richard likes to say, "It has more trees around it."

If you drive north along Lake Huron on Highway 21 past lush farms and roadside antique markets, you could easily look the other way and miss the sign that says "Bayfield - Population 500."

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