

Creative Living

Bob Sklar editor/591-2300

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



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Country Lane Flower Shops' floral arrangement brightens the great room of this Coventry

Gardens home in Livonia. The tile steps lead to the dining area.

Friends hosting walk to benefit Greenmead

By Janice Tiger-Kramer
special writer

FOR A glimpse behind the doors of seven private homes cheerfully decorated for the holidays, consider Livonia's annual Christmas Walk from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8.

Advance tickets are \$5 at Greenmead Historical Village, Livonia City Hall and all Livonia libraries, or \$6 the day of the walk at Greenmead's Hill House (use the Newburgh Road entrance).

Booklets with a tour map and description of each house will be available only on Saturday at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 3277 Five Mile, or at the Hill House. Tour goers also may go through the historic Hill House, a Greek Revival style farmhouse, which will be decorated in a bright, patriotic theme.

'We want to dispel the notion that Livonia is a cookie-cutter community. We have a cross-section of home styles here that date back to the turn of the century.'

— Theresa Jaye,
walk chairwoman

The Friends for the Development of Greenmead sponsors the second annual Christmas Walk. Proceeds will be used to restore Greenmead's Alexander Blue House, an Italianate style house built before 1850 and the former home of Alexander Blue, once a county auditor, township su-

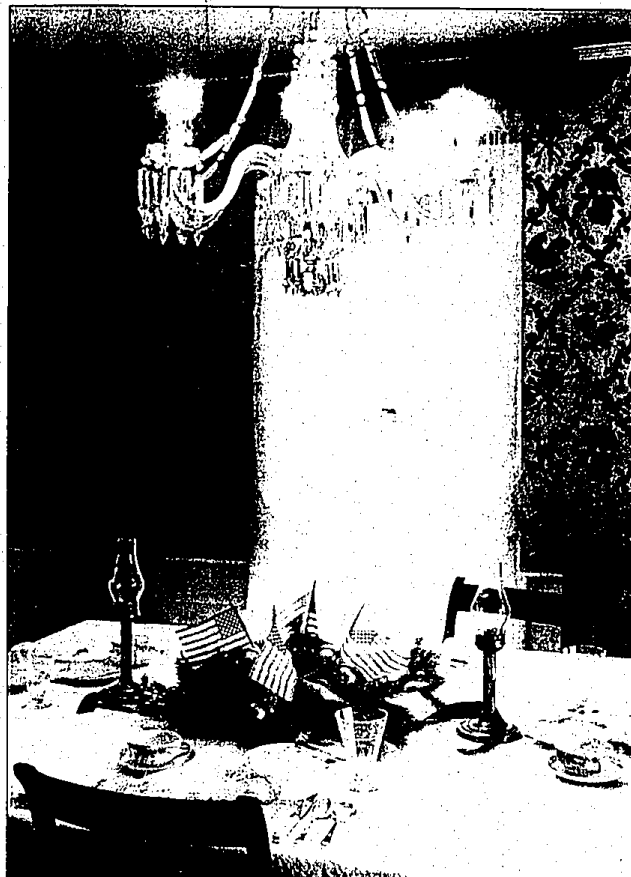
pervisor and justice of the peace. Plans call for the 13-room house to be used as a conference center and reception hall for Greenmead's nearby chapel.

BESIDES BEING a major fundraiser, the Christmas walk is one way for the city to exhibit its diverse architecture.

"We want to dispel the notion that Livonia is a cookie-cutter community," said Theresa Jaye, walk chairwoman. "We have a cross-section of home styles here that date back to the turn of the century."

Each home on the walk will be filled with holiday flowers and decorations donated by one of six Livonia florists. One homeowner plans her own decorating this year. The Livonia Historical Society will decorate eight rooms of the 149-year-old Hill House.

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photos by JIM JAGDELO/staff photographer

A centerpiece of greenery, flags and ornaments cast the Hill House dining room at Greenmead in a patriotic glow.

Symphony stages 'The Nutcracker'



Bettina Sulser of New York will perform the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet.

By Linda Ann Chomin
special writer

Before the evening ended, trumpets would announce the violins, then a single crash of a cymbal resounding through the rehearsal hall would awaken the 1990 holiday season with the magic music of "The Nutcracker" by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky.



F. DiBlasi

In an hour and a half, the Livonia Symphony Orchestra's rehearsal, under the direction of Francesco DiBlasi, would begin with Tchaikovsky's March of the Trumpets.

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra, along with the Contemporary Civic Ballet under director Rose Marie Floyd, will present two performances of Tchaikovsky's Suite from the Ballet, "The Nutcracker," on Friday-Saturday, Dec. 7-8, in the

Churchill High School Auditorium, Livonia.

"We are importing two dancers from the American Ballet Theater for 'The Nutcracker,'" said Francesco DiBlasi, conductor of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

Bettina Sulser and Fritz Masten are the New York dancers who will perform roles in "The Nutcracker," Sulser as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Masten as the Cavalier and Snow King. Sulser has danced professionally since 1984 with the American Ballet Theater under artistic director Mikhail Baryshnikov.

At 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, the Livonia Symphony Orchestra and the Contemporary Civic Ballet will present the full production of "The Nutcracker" with Sulser and Masten.

At 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, the orchestra and ballet will present Act II of "The Nutcracker." Gene Autry's "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" with guest conductor, Santa Claus; "Toy Symphony" by Haydn; "Disney

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Fritz Masten will perform the roles of the Cavalier and Snow King in the Livonia production of "The Nutcracker."

She's a deserving award winner; Smile and Say Read

TAPPING THE creative pipeline:
• She's Co to those of us who work with her.

And it's no surprise Corinne Abatt of the Observer & Eccentric staff was one of nine 1990 Governor's Arts Awards winners Monday at a lavish dinner at the Clubland in Detroit.

The statewide awards honor excellence and recognize leadership in the arts, two qualities Co exudes. Co won the Media Honor Hall Award "for fostering public recognition and support of the arts and artists in Michigan through a sustained commitment to providing significant media coverage."

Creative Living editor of the Eccentric newspapers since 1975, the Beverly Hills resident not only appreciates the arts, she also can write about them with style and verve yet

simply.

Co figures she has tapped out more than 1,000 major stories on the arts. But her love for chronicling such artistry hasn't faded. As she put it: "In most instances, I've enjoyed the people."

Co is on a first-name basis with most of the major local movers and shakers in the arts world. And gallery owners in communities served by the Eccentric typically look to her first when they host a major exhibit.

When WJBK-TV2 recently did a prime-time news report on the growing Birmingham arts colony, they quoted Co as an authoritative voice.

Her goals when she took her job tell much about her top priority: to bring the world of fine art into the homes of folks who enjoy the arts



Bob Sklar

but who isn't necessarily connoisseurs.

Co strives to expose readers to events and people who comprise the arts, to portray artists as vital community assets and to highlight the excitement and richness of artistic creations.

To Co, the arts are a friend. To her they make a difference in our everyday lives. That's keynoted through the special way she can make them interesting for even the casual arts

follower.

Thanks, Co for being sure to inspire co-workers readers and artists alike.

You've earned this moment in the sun.

• Smile and Say Read.

That's the theme of the Year of the Lifetime Reader Photo Contest.

To remind Americans of the power and pleasure of reading as a life-long activity, Librarian of Congress James Billington has designated 1991 as the Year of the Lifetime Reader.

Amateur photographers of all ages are invited to capture the spirit of lifelong reading and vie for prizes in a contest sponsored by the Farmington Friends of the Library, American Library Association and Library of Congress. The Center for

the Book.

Your subjects await in classrooms, at the library, in coffee shops, at home, in the park, at bookstores — anywhere people read.

Entries will be judged on photo quality and artistic merit. Prizes will be awarded in youth and adult divisions for black-and-white and color photos.

Entries, due Jan. 10, will be displayed at the Farmington Hills Library during judging. Winners will be picked during National Book Week Jan. 20-26.

For entry details, call the Farmington Community Library: 553-0300. Photographers may enter only one local "Year of the Lifetime Reader Photo Contest."

Top local winners will be eligible for national competition with a

\$2,000 grand prize awarded during National Library Week April 14-20.

Why make such a fuss about bookworms? As historian Barbara W. Tuchman put it:

"Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill. They are engines of change, windows on the world, lighthouses (as a poet said) 'erected in the sea of time.'"

Added Farmington librarian Maureen Baugh: "We're always looking for ways to get people into libraries and get them to read. We're hoping this contest will help."

So do I.
Bob Sklar is the O&E's assistant managing editor for special projects.