

# Suburban Life



Thursday, October 17, 1991 O&E

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## Real Nancy Drew is a success story

By Ethel Simmons  
staff writer

**S**HE'S NOT the Nancy Drew character — the young heroine of the mystery books for girls. Instead, she calls herself "The Real Nancy Drew."

One of the realities is that this mother of three children, who was raised in Bloomfield Hills, is now overseeing an empire of shops, a newspaper cartoon, coloring book and other projects that are all her creations.

A mixed-media artist exhibiting in galleries, before she turned to more whimsical work, Drew uses humorous labels on some of the clothing she designs. A jacket, for example, might sport labels inside and/or out, reading, "Handle Very Sweetly, Darling," or "Progressive Clothing That Works for Confident Folk Like You and Me."

One label even gives a clue as to where she now makes her home: "The Real Nancy Drew is Alive in Niles, Michigan."

THE REAL Nancy Drew Shop at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, which just happens to be across from the new Detroit Institute of Arts museum shop, is an explosion of colorful patterns and bright colors. Wares include clothing — everything from separates to dresses — and accessories — such as hats, purses and socks — as well as furniture — tables, chairs and mirrors.

Drew's lively designs can enhance almost any object. Just in-



Katie Canham of West Bloomfield, regional operations manager for the Real Nancy Drew shops, wears T-shirt designed by the artist.

side the shop door, on the day we visited, was a vacuum cleaner, embellished with her motifs. Hey, housewives, vacuuming can be fun!

While the shop's delightful jumble of merchandise may appear

wild, Nancy Drew herself exudes a quiet energy. She arrived for an interview one recent afternoon, smiling, dressed in what she said (when asked) was her real work coat. In other words, the paint splatters were real, not a design effect. She does, however, wear her own creations, and her home contains many typical Nancy Drew furnishings and accessories.

"There's been a little bit of luck and some timing," she said about her skyrocketing career. "Things didn't change till about three years ago."

Drew, who is 43, was born in Royal Oak and raised in Bloomfield Hills, where she attended St. Hugo Elementary School and Marian High School. She married Sherman Drew of Niles in 1970. "We met when I was in school at the University of Michigan," she said. "We fell in love and got married a week after graduation."

HE IS A lawyer in Niles, and she has her business in an old hotel there, where she employs 10 people who sew the clothes she designs and sells. Silkscreen is used for images on sweatshirts and dresses. She paints furniture, which she does not design, in her barn studio at home.

At U-M, she majored in painting and minored in art history, in the College of Architecture and Design. Then, she attended graduate school at Notre Dame.

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Nancy Drew is surrounded by colorful clothing and accessories she designed and by furniture she has hand-painted, in the Real Nancy Drew Shop at Twelve Oaks mall in Novi. Drew grew up in Bloomfield Hills and now lives with her family in Niles.

## Moms' depressions stifle smiles, hugs

By Shirlee Rose Iden  
staff writer

Kathie O'Donahue thought she was well equipped for motherhood. A registered nurse by training, she looked forward to having a family, never dreaming that with each of her four pregnancies, she would be assaulted by serious depression.

"I have post partum depression right this minute," she said, holding her six-month-old son, Matthew, close. "When Matthew was born, I didn't want to be near any of my children."

O'Donahue explained that depression following childbirth is more common than most people think and can manifest itself in many ways in-

cluding nervousness, anxiety, panic, sluggishness or significant fatigue.

"Other effects are sadness, hopelessness, poor concentration, confusion, memory loss, excessive concern for the baby or lack of interest," she said.

"Some women get spells of uncontrolled crying or exaggerated highs and lows. When Chris (her eldest) was born, I would shower and cry. I sought therapy because I knew my mood was not normal."

The so-called "baby blues" are a very mild form of depression, but may be an incipient onset of more serious problems, said O'Donahue. "Everyone has heard of cases where mothers deeply effected have caused the deaths of their own babies."

"THAT'S REALLY beyond depression, like a post partum psychosis where the women have auditory and visual delusions and a loss of reality. Post Partum Depression is a chemical thing."

O'Donahue confessed that she hid her depression after her first three sons were born, and that most women don't want to tell others they have it. Recently, she has done an about face by starting a support group for Mothers with Post Partum Depression (MPPD). O'Donahue received help from a national organization Depression After Delivery in forming the group.

"We meet at Providence Hospital in Southfield on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9 p.m. We've found that having someone support you who understands is wonderful," she said. The group started out very small but now have 10-12 members gathering at each meeting.

Both O'Donahue and her husband, Mitch Boguslawski, an electrical engineer, are native Detroiters. "I wanted to be a doctor, but didn't want to go to school for eight years, so I got my R.N.," she said.

KATHIE AND MITCH and their four sons live in Farmington Hills.

"In prenatal education little is said about PPD. Women expect to be elated and happy and then they are devastated."

There is no charge for attending the twice monthly meetings which are held in Room 8F, Providence Hospital Medical Building. For information call O'Donahue at 737-3612 or Jill at 681-6571.

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Kathie O'Donahue and her son, Matthew, are part of the post partum depression syndrome support group. Mother of four boys, O'Donahue, a Farmington Hills resident, has suffered from depression after each birth. Recently, she formed a support group, Mothers with Post Partum Depression.