

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1992

SOCIAL EYES



DENISE LUCAS

3 charities benefit from NM opening

To enlighten Social Eyes with information on upcoming events involving Greater West Bloomfield/Lakes, Farmington and Southfield area residents, 442-2339 or mail information to Denise Lucas at The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Entering into the Michigan scene with nobility and grandeur, the Neiman Marcus grand-opening black tie gala was a victorious benefit for the Cranbrook Educational Community, Michigan Cancer Foundation and Michigan Opera Theatre.

Tickets were limited, and more than 1,500 guests attended the high-profile gala that employed some 100 waiters and waitresses, served 10 buffet tables of cuisine stirred up by chef Jimmy Schmidt on three levels. Table themes represented Michigan's seasons, arts, sports, music, agriculture, auto industry and winter wonderland.

Greeting guests, along with the pageantry of the Michigan Fife and Drum Corps, were Terry Lundgren, Neiman Marcus CEO, and wife Nancy; Barbara McClure, vice-president and general manager, with husband Bruce, and the honorary co-chairmen and co-chairwomen, the Peter Cummings, the Charles Fishers, the Samuel Frankles, the Ron Lamperters and the Roger Penskes.

Designers Judith Leiber, Frank Olive, Henry Dunay, Jhane Barnes, Leo Brevard, David and Chrysa Yurman, Ike Behar, Marc Jacobs, and Chrysa Fisher, president of Hermes Paris, were among the special guests. Entertainment included the Fred Hill Executive Drill Team, the Celtic Pipe & Drum Corps, the big band sound of Johnny Trudell, jazz from Jack Brokensha, Motown beat of the Contours, Buddy Hudson and Ursula Walker, King Fish and the Mystic Knights, and bidding farewell, the gospel sounds of the New Bethel Church's Voices of Praise Choir.

"Entering the store surrounded by the fife and drum corps was majestic," coed West Bloomfield Shelly Cooper, wearing a Louis Feraud yellow two-piece silk dress. "This is a fantastic happening."

Harold and Ruth Tobias of West Bloomfield found the whole evening "overwhelming."

Gloria Gilbert of Farmington Hills said she never saw an opening such as this spectacular, with "an electric crowd." Gilbert wore a magnificent silk print with sequin overlay.

Tom Angott of Orchard Lake came sans wife Nancy. She was doing her civic duty as a volunteer at the Buick Open.

Cecil-Orman Stone checked out the jewelry. "I feel like I'm in New York," remarked the West Bloomfield retailer. She wore a magnificent silk print with sequin overlay.

Terry Lundgren and Chrysa Fisher ceremoniously cut the Hermes ribbon.

Immediate past president of Michigan Opera Theatre Founders Guild Vicki Kulla asked the rhetorical question, "Who said no one goes to fund-raisers in the summer?"

Other gala attendees were Barbara Loren Snyder and Murray Snyder of West Bloomfield, Karen and Alan Ruff of Farmington Hills, Dr. Jerry and Fran Uzansky of Southfield (she wore a Karl Lagerfeld gown), and Jackie Coburn of West Bloomfield, who was with Roger Kasle of Kasle Steel Co.

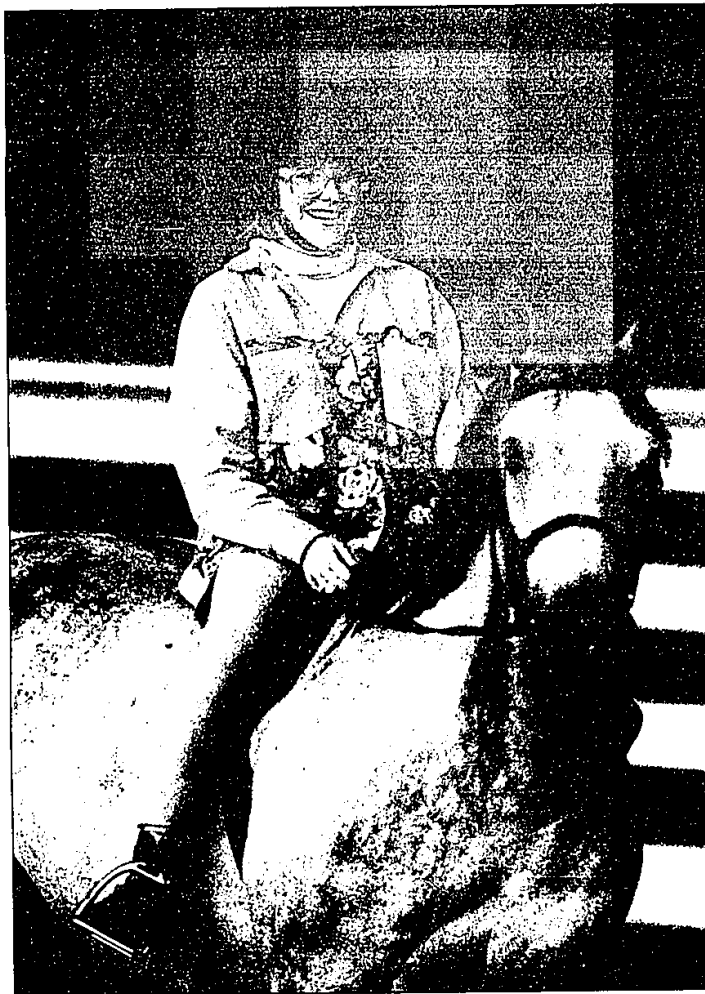
People are still talking about Jimmy Schmidt's exceptional menu — fig-wrapped foie gras, duck pizza, grilled eggplant wrapped around roasted peppers, pork tenderloin with maple and pesto, grilled squash glazed, grilled Asian pear with bacon and blue cheese on skewers.

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NM gala: Southfield residents Dr. Jerry Uzansky and Fran Uzansky (Somerset model) explore the unique treasures at grand opening of Neiman Marcus in Troy.

Kids find freedom on horseback



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Riding tall: Joanna LaPrad, 19, of West Bloomfield has found being involved in the Exceptional Equestrian program has made her less self-conscious about having a hearing impairment.

Problems tend to fade away when these special youngsters climb on their horses. It's all because of the Tollgate 4-H Exceptional Equestrian therapeutic riding program, which serves southeast Michigan.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

What someone can't hear, where someone cannot nimbly step, when one is not able to express something in words, the beauty and gentle grace of a horse in full stride becomes a liberator.

So the 350 children and adults with physical, emotional and mental disabilities in the Tollgate 4-H Exceptional Equestrian program have come to realize. All they have to do is climb aboard.

In three years of being involved in the program, Cindy Richards of Plymouth has witnessed children go from wheelchairs to walkers to being able to walk on their own. More so, therapeutic horseback riding injects self-esteem and confidence into those faced with personal hurdles every day.

"A horse is not real judgmental," said Richards, who is a program coordinator and a Plymouth resident. "It doesn't care if you have braces, if you are in a wheelchair... It (therapeutic horseback riding) allows them to form a bond with the animals and they can later learn to trust other people. They get a real sense of freedom."

The Tollgate Exceptional Equestrian program is the third largest of its kind in the country, serving southeast Michigan.

Benefit on Sunday

This Sunday, Aug. 16, a benefit polo match and auction will take place noon to 4 p.m. at the Detroit Polo Club, 2779 N. Milford Road, Highland Township. Proceeds from The Tollgate Challenge Cup II, sponsored by Roush Industries in Livonia, will help the program.

Last year, the fund-raiser brought in \$18,000. Organizers hope to raise \$25,000 this year.

The Tollgate Exceptional Equestrian program costs \$150,000 a year to run with two paid staff and 300 some volunteers. Though it costs \$30 for an eight-week session, many students are on scholarship.

"We haven't had to turn anybody away yet," Richards said.

Rather, the therapeutic horseback riding program has been able to turn around those whose self-esteem is usually fragile at best.

See EQUESTRIAN, 2C

Hometown staff serves Barneys customers

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

When Barneys New York opens its doors to the public Sunday, Aug. 23, at the Somerset Collection in Troy, it will be with familiar faces on the metropolitan Detroit retail scene.

West Bloomfield resident Pamela Pyke, who was assistant store manager at Lord & Taylor at 12 Oaks Mall in Novi, is manager of the newest store in the 68-year-old store group that began as a men's clothing shop and now also has been a trend-setter in women's apparel.

"They have really kept that family spirit," said Pyke of the third-generation owners of Barneys, which has been operated by the Pressman family since its inception. She explained that Barneys likes to have its staff be local to the community wherever one of its stores is operated.

Six people from metropolitan Detroit have been hired to fill all the jobs — 25 sales consultants and four non-selling positions (three assistant store managers and one visual manager) — at the Troy store.

Although many Detroit-area shoppers may not have heard of the Barneys stores until now, "It's surprising the number of people who do know about Barneys," Pyke said. Because Barneys has always put a big emphasis on menswear, "The men are more responsive," in terms of awareness, she said.

"I've taken down 100 names of people who want announcements (on store happenings), and 80 percent of them are men. Men's business will probably be stronger than the women's ready-to-wear."

Barneys customers

Southfield lawyer Marc Fishman, who lives in Bloomfield Hills, has been a customer at Barneys in New York. "It's quite an exclusive store," he said. "It's very upscale. It's certainly the kind of store the Somerset crowd would shop. They have a phenomenal

selection in terms of men's furnishings."

An area woman knowledgeable about Barneys in New York and Dallas is Kendall Sly of Orchard Lake, who owns a security business in Farmington Hills. "I'm absolutely thrilled that they're coming to Michigan," she said. "The joy of Barneys is that, as far as

service is concerned, it's impeccable. I have (Barneys) consultants call me when new things come in. I love the store." She said salespeople help her mix and match articles of clothing, and that Barneys also is a great place to buy gifts.

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JACOB L. STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Barneys' manager: Pamela Pyke of West Bloomfield is manager of the new Barneys store, specializing in men's and women's fashions, coming to the Somerset Collection in Troy.