

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1992

THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Literary luncheon kicks off festival

Gretchen Hitch's column alternates with Denise Lucas' column. Material for *The Scene* may be mailed to Gretchen Hitch at 646 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 646-6277.

The Cranbrook Writers Guild, the Friends of the Baldwin Library and the Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric are sponsoring Book Festival Weekend, Thursday, Oct. 29, through Monday, Nov. 2.

Frank Angelo, a member of the Cranbrook Writers Guild and the Friends of the Baldwin Library, conceived this unique Book Festival Weekend.

How about luncheon with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? The literary kickoff is a Community House luncheon with a reincarnation of

Frank Angelo

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in the form of Mark McPherson, at noon Oct. 29. Tickets are \$15. Send checks to Book Festival Committee, 32700 Evergreen, Birmingham 48025, with a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Tom Nicely, Ann Arbor book dealer, will discuss keys to collecting and appraise volumes for attendees, at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 29.

Sonny Elliot will auction books, a Caribbean cruise and other exciting items at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 29, at The Community House. John Reddy is chairman of the Cranbrook Writers Guild Literary Soiree & Auction, with tickets at \$15. Send checks to Auction Committee, 1730 Hammond Court, Bloomfield Hills 48304.

Friends of the Baldwin Library will hold a Members Preview of the sale of hundreds of donated books at 7 p.m. Oct. 30, at the library. The sale is open to the public Oct. 31, Nov. 1-2. For more information call 646-5769.

A panel of distinguished Birmingham writers, Corinne Abbott, Carolyn Hall and Marilyn Lyman, will offer insights on writing and publishing, in a program "Women of the Word," at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, at The Community House. A donation of \$3 can be made to the Cranbrook Writers Guild.

Champagne gala

The eighth annual French Champagne Gala is set for the Somerset Collection in Troy on Sunday, Nov. 8. "A personal appearance by hot designer Adrienne Vittadini, and her fall and special occasion collection will be featured, with a fascinating fashion show by Saks Fifth Avenue in the rotunda," said Saks fashion director Cheryl Hall.

Ron and Fran Thels of Bloomfield Hills are co-chairing the event, along with Howard and Bobbi Hill of Grasse Pointe Farms.

Thels, director of international public relations for General Motors, is president of the International Visitors Council, and international attorney Hill is president of the French-American Chamber of Commerce. These two organizations and the French Trade Commission are sponsoring the popular champagne gala.

Premiere French champagne will be served including names like Perrier-Jouet, Piper Heidsieck, Veuve Clicquot and Mumm's.

Chairwoman Fran Thels said, "The admission of \$75 is a bargain, with a petit buffet by Sebastian's, the wonderful champagnes and the Vittadini fashion show — all in the magnificent new Somerset Collection."

The patron party (\$100) begins at 5:30 p.m. with Vittadini present in Saks Designer Sportswear. General admission (\$75) starts at 6:30 p.m.

The working committee consists of Val Corradi, Sandy Mueller, Judy Bruggemann, Julie Sherman, Ann Brail, and Molly Smyk, plus the Thelses and Hills.

Auction items include two air trips to Paris for two, via British Airways and Air France, plus a mystery destination trip by Northwest. The chairman promise the auction will last only 15 minutes.

Honorary chairmen are French Trade Commissioner Jean Sella and honorary Consul for France Steve Guitard of Bloomfield Hills. For tickets or information, call 259-2680 or 567-6010.

Under the Stars XII

The art of romance is the theme of Under the Stars XII on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

At a recent committee meeting, Constantina told the committee that besides being romantic, it will be reminiscent of the Victorian era.

Designing the romance is Bloomfield Hills florist Jerry Earles, who will use a large, magnificent rose he only discovered a few months ago. It is called the Madame Pompadour, named for France's Louis XV's mistress.

The bud of this rose is the size of a teacup, Earles said.

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JIM REED/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kid stuff: Businessman B.J. Leet of Rochester Hills shows some of the merchandise featuring Bad Brian, who is spotlighted in one of the songs on the audio tape "My Best Friend."

'My Best Friend'

Songs have message, on tape for kids



Bad Brian may give bad Bart Simpson a run for his money. A new character, Bad Brian is part of an audio tape for kids called "My Best Friend" that talks about children and the family in an upbeat way.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

"In the corner
In the corner
Stand Bad Brian in the corner
He's as bad as he can be"

In the lyrics to the song called "Bad Brian," this little kid is spelled out as a toughie. Is he kind of a Bart Simpson?

"I would say," responded B.J. Leet, the pony-tailed partner of Wayne Brand Music company, who hopes to turn Brian into a popular character kids will identify with.

Leet, a Rochester Hills businessman, and Wayne Tweed, his California musical partner, have put together "My Best Friend," an audio cassette with a group of tuneful songs that appeal to children and talk about serious problems in the family. The tapes have been test-marketed in California schools and are currently being tested in Rochester schools.

"Kids today are in such sad shape, we decided with rap music and all the gangs, we needed to get to the kids," said Leet. "All the songs deal with love and the family. There's even a song in there about divorce."

Leet and his wife Lauri, an executive secretary at the Taulman Co. in Bloomfield Hills, have an eight-month-old son Brandon. Partner Tweed is the divorced father of a teen-age daughter, Cyndee, to whom the tape is dedicated.

The two men draw their awareness of children's needs "just from dealing with kids and friends with kids," said Leet. He has empathy for some of the situations in which young people can find themselves, and has worked as a counselor in drug rehab in California. Songs on the tape have a positive note, and even "Bad Brian" ends up being a good guy. "At the end of the song, Wayne narrates and says, 'Brian doesn't like being bad,'" Leet pointed out. This bratty kid decides to change and is told "Good going, Brian."

The partners are banking on Brian

being a big hit and have started merchandising T-shirts, sweatshirts and baseball caps with his image on them.

The tapes, at \$9.95, are being sold locally at Sam's Jams in Ferndale and Livonia. Tapes also will be available shortly with optional packaging that includes a coloring book featuring "Bad Brian and pictures you hear in the songs," Leet said.

Tweed did all the music and lyrics, except for one song he wrote with executive producer Lori Finch. The tunes are presented by a musical group called Wayne and Friends which Tweed created especially for the project.

"The response has been overwhelming to the test marketing in Los Angeles and Southern California schools," Leet said. "The kids liked it so much, they came in with cash and checks demanding tapes."

Working moms find time to help Goodwill

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

They are working moms but that doesn't stop them from doing their share, helping those less fortunate.

As members of the Junior Group Goodwill Industries, some of the younger women do have as much time to spare as other members of the organization who may not work outside the home, or have already raised their families.

But these working moms are committed to the good work of Goodwill Industries, whose charitable efforts help the mentally, physically or emotionally disabled. "I just wanted to give something back," said Junior Group member Pam Bouchard of Birmingham, wife of Michael Bouchard, Michigan State Senator for the 65th District. "I felt I was blessed with so many things."

She mentioned that many groups have an age limit and, "after 40 you're out. This is a commitment you can continue forever." She enjoys both the opportunity to provide assistance to the needy, and to work with Junior Group members. "You're dealing with the educable handicapped, and you're meeting a lot of wonderful women."

Bouchard is one of the working moms who is taking an active part in the 46th annual Metro Detroit Junior Group Goodwill Antiques Show, which will be held Friday-Sunday, Nov. 20-22, at the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit. Her role with the show is as its one-woman decorations committee.

The Bouchards have one daughter, Mikayla, 3, and "It's like having six kids, with his job," she said. Besides being busy with her family, she also works full time for Otel, a communications company in Farmington Hills.

Tina Rowley of Troy is one of several working moms in the Junior Group who have 9-year-old daughters. In fact, she brought daughter Annie with her to the recent annual preview tea for the



Working on show: Active in various roles with the 1992 Junior Group Goodwill Antiques Show are members and working moms Tina Rowley of Troy (left), Carol Anderson of Rochester Hills, Laurie Walters of Birmingham and Pam Bouchard of Birmingham.

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