

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

'Phantom' benefit helps kids groups

Gretchen Hitch's column *The Scene* alternates with Denise Lucas' column *Social Eyes*. To leave a message for Hitch, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1885. Material for *The Scene* may be mailed to Gretchen Hitch at 645 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 646-5277.

The long-awaited arrival of "Phantom of the Opera" to the Masonic Auditorium's stage in Detroit will be greeted with a KISS at its Sunday evening preview performance Nov. 29. That KISS, however, will be in the form of 2,500 supporters to the four charities who have formed a fund-raising coalition as part of the fanfare that precedes the regularly scheduled performances of the musical.

The gala evening planned by Kids in Social Services, known as the KISS Coalition, will benefit Boyville of Michigan, the Judson Center, Oakland Family Services and the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center.

A star-studded cast of local individuals has worked diligently on this ambitious project. Only infrequently does a group contract to take the "whole house" for a benefit, and the Masonic Auditorium is immense, so this has been an extraordinary effort.

Honorary chairman and chairwoman for the evening are Fred and Betty Nederlander of Franklin. The idea to form the charitable coalition was the brainchild of Fred Nederlander, one of the brothers in the Nederlander family who own and operate the Fisher Theatre, which is hosting "Phantom" as part of its regular subscription series this year. Performances for this show will be at the Masonic Auditorium in order to take advantage of the larger stage and seating.

Working for almost a year to ensure success of this evening has been general chairwoman Sue Nine of Bloomfield Hills. She said, "I have been absolutely thrilled by the cooperation between the development directors of the four charities, a committed committee of individuals who had never worked together before, and the unbelievable support from the business community—especially the automotive industry."

Other area individuals serving on the Steering Committee are Susan Lancelotti, Betty Fisher, Millie Pastor, Brigitte Harris, Marilyn Klein, Diane Graczyk, Sandi Burton, Mary Jo Dawson and Lorraine Jeffe of Bloomfield Hills; Julie Eskoff, Pamela Livingston-Hardy, Efron Cavazos, Margie Kell and Kathleen Sheridan of Birmingham, and Meg Harrison and Gillian von Drehe of Franklin.

Seating is still available in each of the price categories for interested persons. Benefactors (\$250) will enjoy dinner before the show in the Masonic Temple's Crystal Ballroom, valet parking and an afterglow with the cast, in addition to the performance; patrons (\$150) will get valet parking and the afterglow; and special friends (\$80) who wish to support the charities will see the performance. Ticket information may be obtained by calling Sylvia Ashton at the Oakland Family Services office, 858-7766.

Creative headaddresses

For the Cranbrook Academy of Art's Guy Fawkes Ball set for Saturday, Carol Worsley held a creative headaddress workshop in her home recently.

Alice Aikens, who has attended all the Guy Fawkes Balls, tried on "Bee in her Bonnet," made as an example of creative headaddresses by Barbara Cox, while hostess Worsley put on "Christmas Angel."

Molly Tehoy was smiling as she wore the "Cranbrook Peacock" or the "Cranbrook Crane," whichever you want to call it, fashioned in gold foil by son-in-law Daniel York. Guy Fawkes chairwoman Helen Guttard perched "Cranbrook

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Headaddress workshop: Molly Tehoy (left); Helen Guttard and Barbara Cox got decked out at Cranbrook.



'TIS THE SEASON FOR HOLIDAY GREETINGS



Glad tidings: Among cards available through the American Lung Association of Michigan is the Teddy Toy Soldier and through the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, a stylized Christmas tree.



It's time to start making your list and checking it twice.

Actually, make two lists, one for whether you've been naughty or nice and the other of those who will receive your very special greeting card this year.

And special is the word for the cards being sold by charities this year. The from the silvery Seasons Greetings on a wintertime card from the Spina Bifida Association to the cherubic carolers

card from the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Michigan, the cards offer the chance to wish your friends the very best while helping the organizations continue their work through the New Year.

If you're an animal lover, the Leader Dog for the Blind and Michigan Humane Society have cards to bring out the cat or dog lover in you. If your into birds, consider the American Brain Tumor Association's holiday parrots or white dove of peace, gracing cards from the Arthritis Foundation, Myasthenia Gravis Association and Leukemia Research Life Inc., to name a few

An idyllic winter scene of the Forest Place shops in downtown Plymouth, created by Kathleen Tobias Montgomery, is available from the Plymouth Community Arts Council, while holly branches, a Victorian Santa and holiday gathering scenes grace cards printed on recycled paper from Dawn Farm.

One place to check out the card selection are in books available for perusal during business hours at the five Observer & Eccentric offices—36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia; 805 E. Maple, Birmingham; 744 Wing St., Plymouth; 21893

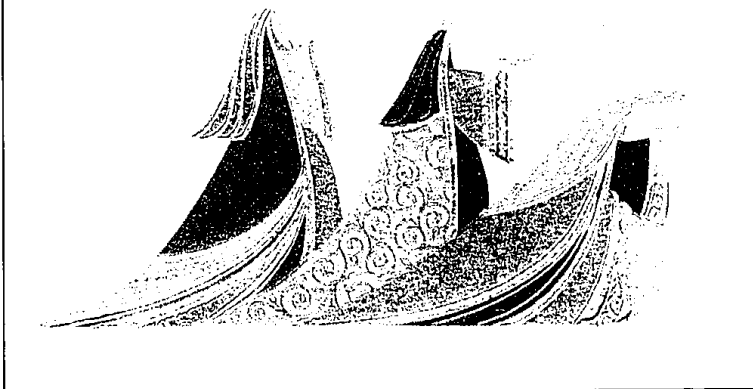
Farmington Road, Farmington, and 1814 Rochester Road, Rochester.

Another place will be the annual holiday card sale 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates Birmingham.

More than 40 non-profit agencies from throughout the Detroit metropolitan area will be selling cards and other holiday items.

Sponsored by The Community House and The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, more information about the sale is available by calling 644-5832.

Three Kings:
Just as the
Magi
brought gifts
to the Christ
Child, the
Michigan
Cancer
Foundation
is counting
on the card
to raise money
for its
work.



Great Oaks gala wraps up holiday gifts

Celebrity wrappers will wrap and sign packages of purchases made during the Great Holiday Wrap Up on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Jacobson's and the Great Oaks Mall in Rochester Hills.

Hosted by Jacobson's and the mall, the gala event will benefit Meadow Brook Theatre, Oakland University's professional theater company.

Among celebrity wrappers is Monte Nagler, Observer & Eccentric "Focus on Photography" columnist and award-winning photographer who studied with Ansel Adams.

The Great Holiday Wrap Up will feature hors d'oeuvres from Fony's by Matus and music by the Dave Huber Trio and pianist Millicent Leigh Schneider. Tickets are \$30 per person, or \$55 for two. Benefactors tickets are \$75 each. For more information call 370-3316 or visit Jacobson's Rochester business office on Walton Blvd. at Livernois. Co-chairing the wrap up are Lois Matesa and Doris Atwood, both past presidents of the Meadow Brook Theatre Guild. "We had requests for our tickets

before we even had them printed," said Matesa. "Now that's what we like to hear. You can't get any better than that."

Other celebrity wrappers include Ernie Harwell, voice of the Detroit Tigers, who will be joined by his wife, Sonia; Doris Biscoe, arts supporter and news anchor on Channel 7; Chuck Muer, restaurateur/entrepreneur; Sonny Elliot, weatherman; Jeanne Arnold, Meadow Brook Theatre star; Ray Lane, Channel 50 sportscaster; Jim Clary, marine artist; Dawn Welch, Miss Teen Detroit 1991, and Joyce Knudsen, the "Image Maker."

Nagler will donate a percentage of the proceeds that night from the sale of his new coffee table photography book "Statements of Light" to Meadow Brook Theatre. Muer will sign and wrap his "The Simply Great Cook Book," and Harwell also will sign his book "Diamond Gems."

More celebrity wrappers are Detroit newspaper columnists Molly Abraham, Rick Sylvain and Pete Waldmeir.

Three Detroit-area chefs will share their culinary secrets in demonstrations at Kitchen Glamor. They are Brian Polcyn of Pike Street, Chimayo and Andia; Ed Janos of Too Chez, and Michael Gott of Touch of Europe's Merchant Cafe in Rochester. Throughout the evening, models will stroll in authentically constructed costumes made by the Meadow Brook Theatre costume department and worn in "Pygmalion" and other productions. Models also will wear lavish furs from Jacobson's collection.

Grand prize of a \$1,000 shopping spree at Jacobson's will be presented at 8:30 p.m. to the person holding the lucky ticket. Tickets may be purchased, up until the big drawing, from any Meadow Brook Theatre Guild member.

Gift certificates or prizes will be given by Great Oaks Mall stores Kitchen Glamor, Thorne's Pendleton Shop, Selferts Plus, Status Faux Jewelry,

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