

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1993

THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Hope is the theme of Discovery Ball

To leave a message for Gretchen Hitch, from a Touch-Tone phone, call 963-2047, Ext. 1885. Material for The Scene may be mailed to Hitch at 646 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 646-5277.

Where there's hope, there's hope" is the theme of the fourth annual Discovery Ball — "Dancing in the Street."

Spearheading this year's Discovery Ball for Leukemia are co-chairwomen Marcia Fosnaugh-Avis and Elise Fisher-Hayes. The elegant event is set for the Presidential Ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn, on Friday, May 21.

Ruth Johnston said the big news is their having Martha Reeves and the Vandellas.

On the committee are Caprice Wilson-Baum, Patricia Coolidge-Coulson, Julie Fisher-Cummings, Carolyn Doyle, Beth Fisher and Lauren Gibbs-Fisher.

More on the committee are Susan Hamilton-Foley, Ruth Johnston, Ronni Keating, Denise Hitch-Lite, Yvonne Fisher-McCreedy, Missy Christie, Kerri Meritagh, Janice Nichols, Leslie Petersen-Price, Kathryn Brooch-Raft, Teckla Rhoads, Susan DuShaw-Smith, Lynn Heinzerling-Stinson and Anne Caltani-Treman.

Using their family or maiden name as middle name makes sense when so many of the young women on the committee are second generation working on charity events in our area.

Deborah Hitch-Hopkins, our daughter, doesn't use the middle name. As a result, when the Wall Street Journal carried the story that she was named controller of the Unilever Corp., our friends didn't realize that Deborah Hopkins is Debby Hitch-Hopkins.

Starring Paul Anka

The Michigan Cancer Foundation's 11th annual dinner is set for Saturday, May 22, in the Renaissance Ballroom at the Westin Hotel in Detroit.

Honorary chairman and chairwoman Randy and Judy Agley are hosting a patron party at their Grosse Pointe Farms home Thursday, May 20.

Patron tickets are \$500 per person. Chairing the event are Joe and Kathy Antonini, Gene and Marcia Applebaum, John Boll, David and Doreen Hermelin, Ron and Sue Lamparter and Red and Marian Polling.

Internationally known singing star Paul Anka will entertain. Johnny Trudell's orchestra will play for dancing. The invitation to this golden anniversary evening is dedicated to the six million Americans who survived cancer.

Junior League

Jewelry designer Carollee showed her new collection recently at Nelson Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy. In a traveling retrospective, Carollee's designs of the last 20 years were exhibited in a row of showcases in the jewelry department.

But first the Junior League of Birmingham sustenance (more than 40) enjoyed brunch in the NM cafe. Carollee was elegantly dressed in cream trousers and a navy jacket with her signature lapel pins. NM general manager Barbara McClure attended as well as Joan Emde, whose daughter, Karen, is in NM public relations.

New name, new place

The former Northwood Institute is now Northwood University. To celebrate this milestone, the National Women's Board of the university has invited friends to celebrate Friday, May 21, at the Scholarship Showcase 1993 in the Detroit Athletic Club.

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GRETCHEN HITCH

Antique show: Roy and Lucia Zurkowski, both of Bloomfield Hills, chat with Doreen and David Hermelin of Bingham Farms.

Spring in their step

The movement to ballroom dancing

Ballroom dancing — is it dying out or ready to renew its onetime popularity? Many older adults are tripping the light fantastic, and young people are learning these dances, at places such as the Botsford Inn.

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Ballroom dancing has never really gone away, but some times it seems to be hiding out. Those who love to dance, ballroom style, always find some place to enjoy themselves moving to the beat of the fox trot, waltz, swing and rumba.

The newest spot is an old one that has returned to the scene Wednesday nights at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills. Upstairs, on a spring board dance floor, singles and couples attend the dances that resumed several weeks ago.

The dance floor has a history that began when automaker Henry Ford I purchased the inn in 1920. Because dancing was a passion, Ford ordered the special dance floor to be built. He designed the wooden floor, which springs when dancers move and helps prevent their legs and feet from tiring.

Last week, Irv and Char Gorlich of West Bloomfield attended the inn's dance for the first time. The couple goes dancing a couple of times a week and came to the Botsford because the Knights of Columbus dance they regularly go to in Dearborn had been canceled.

Wood floor

"This floor is very nice — a wood floor," Irv said. Char commented, "There aren't very many wooden floors, and that's the best to dance on. It's easy on your feet, not like dancing on tile or concrete."

When not on the floor dancing, people sit along dark green benches that line three walls. Adolph Benick of Warrendale came by himself. "It's my first time," he said, as he watched the dancers. "I lost my wife nine months ago. We used to dance a lot. We danced everything including polkas and waltzes and fox trots."

Martha Kowall of Novi was one of a group of women friends who came to the dance for the first time. Kowall said she takes dance classes from Nora Nader, who also teaches a weekly dance class at the Botsford Inn (\$2 a lesson).

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STAFF PHOTO BY SUZANNE LA MARCA

Ballroom partners: Shirley Palmer of Novi and her date, Kal Nager of West Bloomfield, twirl around the spring board dance floor at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills.



For all ages: Yvonne Conatas of Livonia dances with Al Miller of Novi (foreground) and Christina Newman and Jerry Stutzman, both of Farmington Hills do some ballroom steps. The dancers are from a Southfield church singles group.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Country chorus line: With dance teacher Stephanie Hindmarsh (in center, wearing skirt), students in country dancing class practice a step from the Achy Breaky line dance.

They're lining up for country dance

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

With the phenomenal success of the hit song "Achy Breaky Heart," country line dancing has taken off in a big way. Learning how to do these dances requires some practice — and maybe some lessons, too.

That's why classes in country dancing and in country line dancing are drawing adults to the Bloomfield Hills Middle School cafeteria Wednesday nights.

"I've been teaching country for about a year," said Stephanie Hindmarsh of Pontiac, who offers

line dances in both classes, taught consecutively at the middle school. She has been dancing for 15 years and teaching dance for eight years.

To those who want to become comfortable with doing country dances, Hindmarsh recommends practicing at country and western bars. "Sometimes we even have our classes go," she said. Domestica of Waterford and Stetson's of Belleville are two Detroit-area bars she favors.

In the bars, "They do the Barn Dance, and line dancing of the Achy Breaky, the Texas Two-Step, and the Electric Slide or the Hustle (also called the Detroit Hustle)," she said. By the second meeting

of her country dancing class, students already were doing the Barn Dance, with partners, and learning the line dance to Billy Ray Cyrus' "Achy Breaky Heart."

In the line dance class, students alternated practicing two dances that don't require being paired with partners, the Achy Breaky and the Detroit Hustle.

After the country dancing session, Evan Kaas of Bloomfield Township explained why he and wife

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