

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Concours lauds classics of 1932

To leave a message for Gretchen Hitch, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1885. Material for The Scene may be mailed to Hitch at 646 Kinberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 646-5277.

The annual Concours d'Elegance at Meadow Brook, which ranks with the Concours at Bugatte in Paris and the one at Pebble Beach, is set for Aug. 8 on the Meadow Brook grounds.

More than 250 classic automobiles will be in groups on the lawn at the fund-raiser for continuing restoration and maintenance of Meadow Brook Hall on the Oakland University campus in Rochester.

The Concours committee announced recently that the featured marque of the 1993 Concours d'Elegance is not a single car as before, but a year — 1932. Dave Hollis, former director of design for General Motors, led the search for 1932 automotive gems.

This year to honor the year 1932 is because automotive historians believe 1932 produced the most beautiful cars ever made and is often called the year of the classics. Hollis explains, "After this single point in time, cars grew more streamlined. This was the last year for the classic look."

Lloyd Reuss, former GM president, is honorary chairman. John L. Schwartz, president of Troy Design and Manufacturing Development, serves as chairman for Concours.

A new way of grouping or layout — the real nuts and bolts — for the Concours is being planned by Jack Maddox and Dave Hollis' committee. A unique presentation of the 1932 cars on Concours day will be six or 10 cars in seven groupings, arranged according to the car's original price in 1932 — from less than \$600 to more than \$5,000.

An activity surrounding Concours is the TDM Meadow Brook Historic Races Aug. 6-8 in Waterford.

The Invitational auto art show will be held Friday, Aug. 6, at Troy's Somerset Collection. The auto art auction is set for Saturday, Aug. 7, preceding the banquet in Meadow Brook Hall.

On the Concours committee from Rochester are Otto Rosenbusch, a member of the first Concours committee; John Block; Randy Evans, and Randy's dad Stan Evans. Lorraine Schultz of Birmingham is the only woman on the committee. She and her husband Art have eight classic cars including a Rolls Royce.

Former Birminghamite

Recently when we were in Berwyn, Pa., on the Main Line, to visit our daughter's family, the famous 117-year old Devon Horse Show was in progress nearby.

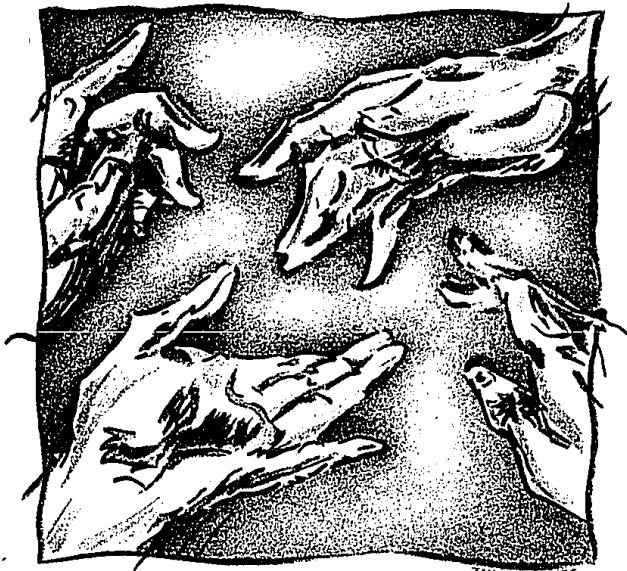
Former Birminghamite Marce Regan, I recalled, moved to Philadelphia in the 1970s, and I decided to give her a call. We were immediately back two decades when her late husband Owen was transferred by Ford, and they were in the process of moving. CBS was filming "What if Your Dream Comes True?" Everyone in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area was trying to get in the documentary on Birmingham-Bloomfield, which was at that point presumed to be a positive portrayal. Always full of ideas, Marce phoned CBS in New York and suggested they film a moving-party segment in the empty moving van parked on their driveway, before their furniture would be transported to Philadelphia. CBS agreed that it was a great idea to show another facet of Birmingham. The network sent its crew along, armed with cases of champagne for Marce's party with her 100 close friends in the moving van. Many localities will remember being there.

See THE SCENE, 3C



GRETCHEN HITCH

Birthday cruise: Jan and Tom Hammond cruise on the yacht Infinity for his 50th birthday party with 90 friends and family.



TAMMIE CRANES



When someone is stricken with cancer, they need all the help they can get. One way is through a support group, such as this church-sponsored one open to all interested persons, that meets in Rochester.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Every day, people ask, "How's Ray?" said the wife of a cancer patient who was attending a cancer support group meeting with her husband at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Rochester.

Then, she admitted to the group she was sick of talking about Ray's illness with their friends. This was a declaration that she could make to those whose lives were severely affected by the disease, without hurting the feelings of other well-meaning people.

For six weeks so far, the group had been meeting Thursday evenings, sharing concerns about their individual lives, and listening to speakers who discussed subjects of interest to cancer patients and their families.

Led by facilitators Gloria Armstrong and Bob Mast, about a dozen people in all heard therapist Louise George talk to cancer patients could handle stress related to their illness.

During the talk, some of the people made comments that per-

taind to George's suggestions, but mostly they waited to the end of the program to add remarks or ask questions.

Inspirational poem

It was at the close of the gathering that individuals, who wished, spoke about about any of the things on their mind. One patient brought everyone a copy of an inspirational poem, "Oh, Mr. Tentmaker," written by Roselyn Aronson, and obtained from Family Life Radio's Family Ministries Dept. A helpful videotape on cancer was passed along by one patient to another.

It was dramatic and touching when the speaker asked people in the group to hold hands and repeat the stanzas of an Indian chant, "a healing chant," that began, "There are many people inside of me." Bringing the meeting to a caring close, facilitator Mast played guitar, and individuals sang a hymn along with him.

The Indian chant is one way of dealing with the element of fear a cancer patient faces, therapist George said. She pointed out you

can tell yourself, "Let me stay with 'I'm okay tonight.'" Having a mantra, word or phrase, or prayer, helps to calm you whenever fear threatens to overtake you, she said.

During the talk, she encouraged patients to control the media input they receive regarding cancer information. "Don't bombard yourself with information to increase your anxiety." Later, a woman in the group commented that she and her husband had been reacting to media reports on the drug he was taking for cancer treatment.

Can't do it all

A big concern for patients is trying to maintain as much of the daily schedule they had before they became sick, George told the group not to try to do it all. "Regulate what you do," she said. "Guard your energy. Pace yourself. Plan your day so that it's not go-go-go."

She told them to prioritize and be selective. "Prioritize is a positive word that means you have to give something up. Begin to streamline your life a little. Cut away some of the junk. Tend to what's important to you."

That's when a young woman in the group spoke up, recalling her "moment of awakening." She was cleaning her oven, during her year of chemotherapy, when she sud-

denly thought, "Who cares about this oven?"

Prioritizing is one of the "do's" on a list of "do's" and "don'ts" George gave the group. All the recommendations are geared toward the patient's goal, which is to stay healthy ("What do I need to do for me?") and to stay focused (What actually exists in the here and now?), according to George.

Day at a time

After her talk, one of the men said, "I agree with all the 'do's.' I used to be a planner, and it's stupid. When I first took sick, I used to have a big long list and have to get everything done on it." Now, when he gets up in the morning, he says to himself, "Hey, I made it one more day!"

When someone asked, "How do you avoid the extreme, using the disease to avoid getting out of things?" the speaker responded that's not usually a problem because the cancer patient wants to lead onto things.

An older woman, who has struggled with cancer and other health problems, has been fighting feelings of depression. "I'm at that point I'd just as soon stay home," she said. "I don't usually make phone calls anymore."

George told her, "Some depres-

See SUPPORT, 2C

Doctors, nurses answer hotline questions

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Cancer patients, their families and friends — or anyone with a question about this life-threatening disease — can get a fast answer by calling a newly established hot line.

The Michigan Institute for Radiation Oncology, on the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus in Pontiac, has staffed its hot line with nurses, to answer the basic questions, and doctors, available immediately for the more complex queries.

The number to call is 1-800-344-MIRO, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

When you call the hot line, a secretary answers and gets your name and phone number, according to Faridah R. Bagne of Birmingham, administrative director and vice-chairman. Then, a nurse who specializes in oncology provides the information you need, or the call is turned over to one of the physicians who take turns being available for the hot line.

"Most hot lines you don't really get to talk to a physician. You get plugged in to general answers on oncology," said Birmingham resident Dr. Donald G. Bronn, medical director and chairman. Although some callers ask fairly routine questions, usually "People have very special questions on their cancers."

Patients may be concerned because their doctors have told them one thing — they

have read or heard something that appears to be a conflict. Bronn explained, "You need an oncologist to reconcile the difference. A lot of time it's explaining a treatment philosophy. You need someone to mediate that kind of information."

"Modern cancer treatment is taking advantage of an interdisciplinary approach — chemotherapy, radiation and surgery," he said. Bronn declared remarkable results have been achieved by using a planned interdisciplinary approach — combining these possibilities — from the beginning.

He said cancer treatment has become so sophisticated that radiation and chemotherapy can be given at the same time. "Physicians are being very open to new ways, especially for a cancer that does not have a good prognosis," Bronn said.

Many of the questions callers ask follow the news. When the hot line first started in April, there were a lot of queries about the anti-hormone drug Tamoxifen, used as a preventive for patients with a family history of breast cancer.

Then, when media reports indicated that some elderly men with prostate cancer may not need to be treated, there was a flood of callers wondering whether men of all ages with prostate cancer could avoid treatment.

See HOT LINE, 2C

