

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Benefit pairs fashions, tea

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Apple of My Eye fashion show Saturday, Aug. 28, at The Community House in Birmingham came in the form of a Rolla Doner and Dolly Goldberg Tea. The late, beautiful sisters both were strong supporters of Orchards Children's Services during their lifetimes. The sisters had loved fashion, so a children and mothers fashion show was a perfect pairing.

The tea also was a benefit for the Early Childhood Center of The Community House, Judy Haffler, a Community House volunteer.

Carol Klein and Sholley Roberts were committee co-chairwomen for the fashion show/tea. Klein, who is on the executive committee at Orchards, opened proceedings to welcome the sold-out crowd. Roberts, chairwoman of the Early Education Center at The Community House, narrated the show.

While taking photos we met Doralee Goldman, on the board at Orchards and a 20-year volunteer, who told us, "Dolly and Rolla were sisters, you know. They both loved fashion and children." Repeating a sentiment we heard over and over, later.

Goldman's daughter Carol Klein was chairwoman and her daughter Natalie was adorable in the show, wearing a gamine, blue beret and little blue jogging suit.

The apple theme went into apple for the teacher, Jessica Mathews, daughter of Quanton School principal Janice Matthews, modeled, as did the principal of Midvale School, Dale Trudling. Trudling posed for a photo with Joshua and Benjamin Friedman, grandchildren of Rolla Doner and sons of Aviva and Dean Friedman. The brothers, 8 and 4, were very Calvin Klein in matching red and white striped long-sleeved shirts.

The children's back-to-school clothes were from Kiddilywinks, which is operated by Clady Kahn. Nancy Paley represented Edward Dorian, and Diane M fashions also were featured in the choreographed show. Megan McMahon, who freelances at Saks, handled the choreography.

Sponsors of the Rolla Doner and Dolly Goldberg Tea were Richard Jacob, Dean and Aviva Friedman, Fred and Barbara Goldberg, and Irving and Doralee Goldman.

People were talking about energetic Midvale principal Dale Trudling, who has the parents of incoming kindergartners painting the interiors in original sponge methods.

Trudling said with a laugh, "It's a wonderland for kids."

Speaking of apples

The St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Women of Mercy is holding its annual Fun and Fitness Day benefit Monday at the Birmingham Country Club. It's called An Apple a Day.

Available are golf, tennis, fitness walk and bridge. Women of Mercy buys equipment to advance women's care, such as the mother-baby unit at St. Joseph's Hospital in Pontiac, and has raised more than \$235,000.

Children's research

The Weizmann Institute of Science Detroit

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GRETCHEN HITCH

3 generations: Carol Klein (center), chairwoman of Apple of My Eye show, watches daughter Natalie bite into an apple as Doralee Goldman looks on.

Raising kids

This couple has lots of experience

■ The Wayne Wrights have already raised two older daughters whom they adopted. Now, the Troy residents are going through the child-raising process again — with their three younger children.

By **ETHEL SIMMONS**
STAFF WRITER



As parents of five children, whose ages range from 2-25, Rhea and Wayne Wright of Troy have spent a lot of years

raising kids. Because the Wrights were first told they probably couldn't have children of their own, they adopted two little girls. Then, years later, Rhea gave birth to three other children. So, the Wrights have raised their family not once, you might say, but twice.

The two older girls are Ruth, 25, and Becky, 23. The younger threesome is Kristyn, 12; Michael 9, and Ashley, 2. "Ashley was our surprise," said her mother with a smile, as she held the child on her lap.

In the living room of the family home, she was surrounded by husband Wayne; Kristyn, who attends Boulton Middle School, and Michael, a student at Hamilton School.

Referring to Ruth and Becky, Rhea said, "They are natural sisters. They were 7 and 9 when we adopted 15 years ago. We adopted them at the same time." All grown up now, the sisters share an apartment in Grand Rapids.

She's a nurse
Besides taking care of the three youngsters still at home, Rhea works as a registered nurse at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. "I work part-time in the oncology unit," she said.

Wayne is secretary-treasurer at Copper and Brass Sales in Eastpointe. Active in the Troy community, he ran for city council in April but lost. He said he may run again. "I haven't made up my mind."

He continues to keep busy in the growing city and recently marked his 12th anniversary with Troy's planning commission, of which he is vice chairman.

When the Wrights decided to adopt back in the '70s, "We thought it would be a good idea to adopt children who are not adoptable," Rhea said, explaining why they didn't ask for newborns.

She recalled being told by the agency, "Would you like to be a



Family time: At their home in Troy, Wayne and Rhea Wright hold 2-year-old daughter, Ashley, with Kristyn, 12, and Michael, 9, standing in rear.

See CHILDREN, 2C

Publisher's escort smooths way for author

By **ETHEL SIMMONS**
STAFF WRITER

When authors come to town on book tours, they often get around with a little help from a local person usually called a publisher's escort.

Publishers representing the authors keep in touch with companies such as Publisher's Escort Service Inc., which is operated by Shirley Carp of Farmington Hills. Carp or one of her employees may be hired to meet an author at the airport or hotel to drive them and accompany them on stops during their local visit. The escort also may arrange hotel accommodations.

Recently Carp escorted Naomi Epel, author of a new book about writers' dreams and the creative process, called "Writers Dreaming," published by Crown Publishers Inc. By coincidence, Epel, who now lives in Berkeley, Calif., is a former West Bloomfield resident and is "a friend who was one of the first media escorts in the country," Carp said.

Describing how book tours first started, Carp recalled that Jacqueline Sussan, author of the big best-seller "Valley of the Dolls," was the first author to promote her book by going on tour, visiting radio and TV stations and signing copies at book shops.

Carp got into the business through a friend of hers, Maureen Hill of Farmington Hills, who was an escort working with a woman who did publicity for Bantam.

"I fell in love with it and I started building the business," said Carp, who is an outgoing, people-loving person. "I bought her out." Carp has been in the business about 12 years, originally working with her friend and then running the service herself for the last six years.

"This is seasonal," she explained. "I can have eight authors in a week, and five of them could be in one day." One of the prerequisites of becoming an escort is to have a nice car, she said.

Carp has several associates including Judy Brenneman of Southgate who recently escorted former Detroit and one-time Roper School student Kristin Clark Taylor who wrote a book about her years as director of media relations for President George Bush. Also working for Carp are Sylvia Schane of Southfield, Elise Copeland of Walled Lake and Carol Pobocik of Allen Park.

"I have become a friend of (radio and TV) producers. They'll say to the publishers, 'Who's driving? Oh, Shirley and her people . . .'" and it's a positive reaction.

To keep appointments running smoothly, Carp may make adjustments in the schedule with the author, without bothering the publisher who made the original plans. She might ask someone at an

upcoming stop, "Can we come a half-hour later?" to allow time for lunch. "In New York, they have no concept of how spread out we are. Tomorrow, I have things that are 15 minutes apart."

When she hires someone new, she might tell them, "Please do a dry run the day before," to make sure they hit all the appointments on time.

Carp said there's "always something new" to contend with. "The author may not want to do something, and we kind of have to go behind their back."

She gave an example of an author who was difficult to deal with and wanted to cancel one book signing and take the book seller, whom he knew, to

See AUTHORS, 2C



Author's tour: Shirley Carp chats with author she is escorting, Naomi Epel, formerly of West Bloomfield, at Radisson Plaza in Southfield.