

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Brilliant night is shaping up

Material for The Scene may be mailed to Gretchen Hitch at 645 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you can call her at 646-5277.

Plans are going forward for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation's Evening of Brilliance set for Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. Gov. John Engler has accepted the invitation to be the guest of honor.

Co-chairwomen are Lorraine Schultz and Julie Sherman. Honorary chairmen and chairwomen are Tom and Bev Moore, Doug and Sydel Schubot, and John and Judy Lero. The byword is "Be an angel on Devil's Night." Mel Ball will present a half hour of show tunes.

The Schubots are giving a treasure chest, the key to be won at the Evening of Brilliance. Wachler Jewelry is using a window to promote the event and is giving a ticket to anyone buying a diamond ring.

The Wachler window ties in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," playing at the Birmingham Theatre, in which Stella Parton as Lorelei Lee sings "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend."

Tiffany's will be the scene for the benefactor party Wednesday, Oct. 13. Some women on the committee are Helen Wachler, Irene Bader, Diana Howard, Marie Brigstock, Annette Kolon, Georgiann Kralik, Estelle Elkus, Marilyn Connor, Linda Howling, Carole Wendzel, Rosanne Duncan, Sally Victor, Teckia Rhodes, Julie Weyand, Pam Rock, Cheryl Hall and Janice Cherkasky.

In discussing diabetes, Dr. Yvan Silva explained, "Diabetes is ubiquitous (it can attack every part of the body), affecting millions of Americans. It must be considered the leading primary cause of multiple organ deterioration, leading to severe morbidity and to mortality."

More Angels

These "angels" are not to be confused with the heavenly Angel Gala set for the Ritz-Carlton on Saturday, Oct. 16, for the Michigan Cancer Foundation. The Angel Gala was started by Helen Zukerman.

This will be the eighth Angels Gala. The function has raised \$1.5 million for research. Zukerman said, "With the support of the Angels, MCF scientists identified a cloned receptor for a protein which causes cells to move. Current work is going on using this receptor to develop a new, easier diagnostic test for bladder cancer."

The evening features Pierre Fraclananza in "Just Pierre," a multimedia musical presentation. According to Fraclananza, it's "A marriage of acoustics and electronics, providing listeners with a glimpse of music of the future." Tickets are \$2,000 per couple.

Evening with Interlochen

Several hundred friends and members of the Interlochen Center for the Arts enjoyed a multi-store fashion show after buffet and cocktails Saturday night at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Following the fashion show, called "What's in Store" with incredibly slim (thin) models, a collage performance was presented by Interlochen students, faculty and alumni.

On the honorary chairmen and chairwomen lineup and in attendance were Alan and Marianne Schwartz, financial planner Isabel Smith and her husband Lawrence Smith, James Tolley, Charlotte Roe and Woodward Rowe. Other arealites we spotted in the throng were Tom and Laurie Cunningham, the Phillip Handlemans, Dorothy Dunitz, Alice Hadassian, Lloyd Reuss, Warren Goodell, Bob and Betty Bright, Charlie and Jo Kessler, Saks

See The Scene, 3C



GRETCHEN HITCH

Interlochen Night: Supporters Warren Goodell and Isabelle Smith smile at turnout at the Somerset Collection in Troy.



STAFF PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CASTRELL

Follow me: Myrna Partrich (front, left) leads class in aerobics at the Workout Co. The exercise studio run by Partrich and partner Barbara Schiff has 32 teachers and is open seven days a week.

What a workout

Area exercise studio remains a leader



BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Workout Co. in Bloomfield Township has survived the craze of the '80s when the baby boomers were younger and exercise studios proliferated.

One reason for the top-rated studio's longevity is its scientific approach to aerobic and other kinds of exercise. Also, the friendly attitude of the studio keeps women, men and young people over the age of 12 coming back.

Partners Myrna Partrich of Bloomfield Hills and Barbara Schiff of Bloomfield Township outlined some of the studio's assets during an interview one recent morning at the Gallery restaurant in the Bloomfield Plaza shopping mall, where the Workout Co. is located. In keeping with their healthy approach to living, Schiff ordered oatmeal and Partrich chose the restaurant's pita bread that is toasted and topped with Parmesan

cheese. "I can eat a lot," said Partrich as she munched on the low-calorie snack. Exercising keeps the petite Partrich (just under 5 feet tall) in trim. Schiff is 5 feet 4 and looks in great shape, although she watches it too. "Don't ask my weight," she said.

Keep close watch

With aerobics as the heart of the studio, Schiff explained how they watch over their clients. "From the beginning, we knew you shouldn't bounce and stretch. We were looking at the scientific end of the business, not just the creative. Jane Fonda was still bouncing stretches on tape and we knew we shouldn't."

Partrich stressed another element, "What people feel comfortable with." Some studios may have a certain style but, "We're not cool. We want to be friendly. Most people are a little intimidated by what they first see," she said.

When the studio began, Partrich and Schiff each taught 15 classes a



Bodies beautiful: Instructor Carol Joliet energizes the group, calling out rhythmically as she demonstrates.

week. The partners still teach six to eight classes, although instructors now include 32 women and men. "We're a family unit together," Partrich said. "Our teachers are not competitive with each other."

See Workout, 2C

Personals ad leads couple to a wedding

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

A divorced, 47-year-old male executive in Farmington Hills who had been putting all his energies into his work decided in January "to take stock" of his life.

He placed an offbeat ad in the "Personal Scene" ads of the Observer & Eccentric, hoping to meet some interesting women to date. The ads are scheduled to run an entire month, but after the ad appeared just once, on a Monday, and he talked to the first woman who responded, he said, "Whoa!" He already knew that this could be the start of something big.

"By Thursday, I called the paper to have the ad pulled," said Jim Nelson, who was beaming happily, in the Birmingham home of his new bride, Linda, whom he married just a few weeks ago in Las Vegas.

See 2C, Personals



STEPHEN CASTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Contented couple: At home in Birmingham, newlyweds Jim Nelson and Carol Waters describe how they met through the personals ads in the Observer & Eccentric. "We thought it was important to do this article because there are a lot of lonely people," Jim said.