

Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop Is A Family Affair

A 47-year-old, third generation family business dedicated to preserving traditional toys and learning activities is housed at The Doll Hospital and Toy Soldier Shop at 3947 W. 12 Mile in Berkley, (810) 543-3115.

Since children often don't see toys like these on television, a trip to The Doll Hospital can be an eye-opener. It's a wonderland of thousands of hand-crafted toys, made of wood or metal, durable and collectible, that have the ability to stimulate a child's

imagination. Children may discover "new" toys that just happened to have delighted their great-great grandparents when they were kids.

There are smartly dressed antique dolls from all periods, modern collectible dolls, metal-based, hand-painted toys soldiers, a doll house village and thousands of exquisite miniatures. Vintage-style trains, bears and Erector sets are also available.

Good service keeps customers coming back. Whether installing a large, wooden play system, restoring a doll, or assembling and painting a doll house, a genuine interest in customer satisfaction is evident among the employees.

Kay and Roger Parish first started the store in 1948. Ruth and Jack, their children carried on the tradition and now the third generation, Stacey and brother-in-law Jim run the operation along with Jim's wife Cindy and an experienced and caring staff.

The Doll Hospital and Toy Soldier Shop is completing their new wing. This expansion will offer you easier shopping and improved displays. They have literally hundreds of ideas of how to better present their traditional toy concepts to you and your kids. Watch for them in the months to come. The store is open Monday through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Jim, Stacey & Kay of The Doll Hospital.

Innovative Invites and Cards are in the Bag at Barbara's Paper Bag

It may be close to Halloween but Susan Sivak, owner of Barbara's Paper Bag, the stationery and gift shop at 147 Pierce in downtown Birmingham, has her mind on Christmas. That's the busiest time of the year for Barbara's Paper Bag and Ms. Sivak is especially proud of the store's collection of holiday cards, invitations and other paper goods - which she believes is the best selection in the area.



Susan Sivak, owner of Barbara's Paper Bag in downtown Birmingham, already has her sights on the holiday season with a special selection of cards and gifts.

Susan bought Barbara's Paper Bag over ten years ago, and this year marks the 20th year since the founding of the business by Barbara Travis. Three years ago Ms. Sivak doubled the square footage of the shop by moving into the space next door. With the help of her brother Steve, an architect, the new store was gutted and completely remodeled.

"We attempted to create a cozy boutique—a place to shop, think and plan special events," she said. "Customers can stay as long as they like and there's plenty of room to sit down and comfortably spread out catalogues on large, accommodating tables."

Susan Sivak is a former court reporter who started working at Barbara's Paper Bag part-time in order to make contact with people who might need her calligraphy talents. This original interest grew into what is now a very successful stationery/gift store. Sue's goal is to stay in town another 20 years; serving the people in this area by offering exceptional service for all of the important occasions in their lives.

In addition to an extensive array of cards, invitations, announcements and stationery, Barbara's Paper Bag offers numerous gift items. Hours are extended through the end of the year—including Sundays. Call 642-3860 for more information.

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