

CHAT ROOM



Princess Madiha

Accident prods dancer to host hospital benefit

Let me introduce myself. My name is Princess Madiha Bishara. I am a Farmington Hills resident. But I originally came from Damascus, Syria.

When I was 14, I left home to become a professional Middle Eastern dancer. I toured the world. I danced in the Middle East, Far East and Europe, and finally, I came to America.

While performing in Detroit, I met my husband, had a son, and that ended my career as a professional dancer.

All of my life, I have loved helping God's creatures. For instance, I have held fund-raisers to help senior citizens and I'm known around the neighborhood for feeding the animals. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not pretending to be Mother Theresa. I just have a firm belief that the strong should help the weak.

Eight years ago, in the fall of 1989, my son and his friend were involved in a serious car accident. I was so grateful that God spared both of their lives that I vowed I would do something to help children.

The problem was the only thing I felt that I knew how to do was dance. So with the help of my husband and students, I decided to use my talent to raise money for sick children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

This year will mark the seventh year that I will sponsor a dance benefit for St. Jude's. And with the sup-

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Sink your teeth into dentist's fare

A Farmington dentist and his staff have produced a cookbook to benefit two local charities.



BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER

It seems logical that a cookbook compiled by a dentist's office staff would start out with a hint that tells readers how to sweeten tea without adding sugar.

After all, the care of teeth and gums is the primary business at Dr. Jeffrey Zanetti's dental practice in Farmington. But next to the sign-in sheet in the office reception area is a stack of cookbooks for sale aptly titled "Sink Your Teeth Into These," compiled by patients and friends of the dentist.

"We try to be as personable here," said Zanetti, who has been tending teeth in the Professional Pavilion on Orchard Lake Road for ten years. He estimates that 70 percent of his patients reside in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

Dorothy Lysak, a hygienist, cooked up the idea for the cookbook a year ago based on a similar fundraising project at her daughter Laurie's elementary school in Brighton.

"It was a way to get to know our patients better and to raise money for charity at the same time," said Lysak.

Also involved with the book were office coordinator Linda Shinsky, dental assistant Lin Adie and dental hygienist Denise Pashnick. Hours were consumed by the processing of family recipes, everything from appetizers to soups and salads, main courses to desserts. Recipes were solicited through a general mailing to patients.

"I've made a few recipes," said Zanetti. "Lin brought in pineapple zucchini bread."

"It's the type of cookbook we like," added Lysak. "It has good appeal."

Together the group chose to give proceeds from the sale of the \$6 cookbook to the St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills, which provides care to children in crisis, and to the Alzheimer's Disease Association,



Dental delights: Dr. Jeffrey Zanetti and his staff hold copies of their cookbook, "Sink Your Teeth Into These," now available for \$6. Proceeds will benefit two local charities.

headquartered in Southfield.

"My grandmother has Alzheimer's," said Zanetti. "So does Dorothy's aunt and also some of our patients. We have a lot of families with young children so we wanted a charity that helps children who aren't as fortunate as our young patients. With these choices, we're covering both ends of the spectrum, young and old."

If all 760 copies of the spiral bound cookbook with the attractive cover fea-

turing fruits, vegetables and flowers sell, Zanetti says they'll be donating between \$1,000 and \$1,500 to each charity.

"So far my mom has been the biggest seller," he said. "She's sold 50 copies down in Trenton. So it's really spread out over the metro area."

Besides the doctor's office, the cookbook is available at the Sarah Fisher Center, Twelve Mile at Inkster, and the Alzheimer's Association office on

Twelve Mile between Southfield and Greenfield.

While the book was a way to get to know their patients better, Lysak admits "Selfishly we all wanted recipes for great quick dinners."

In fact recipes have been quite the topic of conversation in the office over the past year.

"It helped ease the nervousness some-

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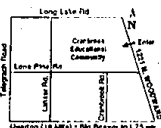
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