

CHAT ROOM



Judy Dunn

Garden Party is fun way to help children in need

Where else can you go and sample incredible food from 60 top restaurants across Michigan, taste wines from around the world, enjoy the music of Alexander Zonjic and the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, bid on rare and collectible wines in an exciting live auction, have a chance to win trips and unique items in a silent auction, help a great cause and only park once?

The Garden Party at 1 p.m. Sunday, June 6, presented by Ford Motor Co.

The Garden Party is a great day with a lot of fun and excitement to offer. The event takes place on the beautiful grounds of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. The gardens are impeccable. Spring and summer flowers can be seen in every direction. By 12:45 p.m., the tents are filled with energy and excitement. Sixty chefs from Michigan's best restaurants and their staff work diligently to prepare appetizers, entrees and desserts for 1,200 guests under three enormous tents. Mixed among the food stations are wine tables offering samples of fine wines from around the world.

Top restaurants

Some of the top restaurants participating this year include Tribute to Farmington Hills, voted "Best Restaurant of the Year" by Hour Detroit

Please See CHAT ROOM, B2

Back on the airwaves

Jimmy Launce continues midday gabfest on WYUR

Fans are happy to discover the familiar voice of popular metro Detroit deejay Jimmy Launce.

By KATHIE O'DONOHUE
SPECIAL WRITER

Since an abrupt departure from WJR radio in 1996, if you've missed the distinctive, velvety smooth voice coupled with that comfortable, welcoming personality, take heart, Jimmy Launce fans. He's tan, he's rested, and best of all, he's back.

On weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon, Launce once again rides the radio waves on 1310-AM, WYUR. Many have found him, but for those who haven't yet, it's vintage Launce with a variety format and much of what his fans have come to expect: a mixture of talk, comedy routines, music and topics ranging from news making to silly to controversial. And don't forget a giant helping of Launce-style fun.

Though Launce admits he has long been interested in broadcasting, did he always picture himself doing radio?

"Actually, no," he said. "In college, I majored in theology, thinking I would probably become a minister. I was associate pastor of a church for awhile, and I remember standing at the door shaking hands and asking people how they were. One little old lady told me and told me...and told me how she was. I made a mental note that I didn't think I was cut out for this."

While in college, Launce ran a successful radio show that was syndicated to 300 radio stations, and he was smitten. "It didn't take long to realize this was what I wanted to do. I've never looked back, and I've never regretted it."

Originally from Ft. Wayne, Ind., Launce went in 1954 to a station in Sturgis for two years, then WELL in Battle Creek as a program director



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

At the controls: Jimmy Launce is back in the saddle at WYUR-AM after a long stint at WJR. He was the mid-morning man there from 1958 through 1996, when the station underwent abrupt programming changes.

before his long running stint with WJR began in 1958. He and his wife, Brigitte, who live in Farmington Hills, have two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.

When asked what he most enjoys about radio, Launce smiled and said, "I like to say 'It beats working for a liv-

ing.' I like the variety of challenges. I am 100-percent in charge of my show. I can do whatever I want, and that's the beauty of working together with Joe Martell and Bob Hines, who I worked with at WJR."

Yet he adds, "Broadcasting is a profession that is misunderstood generally

by the public. A lot more goes into it than the public perceives. And you're always setting yourself up for criticism or praise. Either one can come, so that keeps you interested. You hope that you're doing the right thing always ...

Please See LAUNCE, B2

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• Novi, Novi Town Center • (248) 349-8090
• Rochester, Meadowbrook Village Mall • (248) 375-0823
• St. Clair Shores • (810) 770-0142
• 21429 Mack Ave. (North of Eight Mile Rd.)
• Sterling Heights, Eastlake Commons • (810) 247-8111
(On corner of Hall Rd. and Hayes Rd.)

• Troy, Oakland Mall • (248) 589-1433
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