

## CHAT ROOM



JONI HUBRED

## Bridesmaid role requires right frame of mind

The question came at the end of a protracted Wedding Attitude Adjustment session. A situation had erupted with one of the attendants, who would probably have to step down, for personal reasons.

"So," The Bride asked, "would you be interested in being a bridesmaid?"

I sat back in my chair and gave the matter some thought, flashing on the last time I stood with a bouquet in hand. My best friend from college had asked me to be her matron of honor, and while I was unable to perform a great many of my "matronly" duties because we lived a fair distance apart, it was still a joy to stand at the altar with her while she and her high school sweetheart took their vows.

Of course, 20 years ago, I looked OK in baby blue satin.

### Attitude coordinator

I have been The Bride's Wedding Attitude Adjustment Coordinator for several months, through the Guest List Trauma, the Dee-Jay Selection Process and the Search for the Perfect Dress, which ended almost exactly where it began ... go figure.

More than once, I'd stopped her from dragging her fiancé onto a plane bound for Vegas, where they would eschew the grand, day-long nuptial fiesta with friends and family, in favor of the Little White Wedding Chapel on the Strip.

This was her greatest hour of need. Her attitude had never needed more of an adjustment.

What else could I say, except, "Of course I will!"

Then she asked, "What are you doing Saturday?" which clearly implied I would have something to do if I couldn't come up with a fairly good excuse: a death in the family perhaps. Major surgery.

I checked my calendar. No way out. That's how I found myself at Expressions in Silk, a tiny boutique prom shop in Swartz Creek. Keep in mind that I rank dress shopping right up there with root canal. And shopping for long, flowing dresses made of tulle and satin and crepe simply adds insult to injury.

The conversation went something like this:

"What do you think of this one?"

"I like the bows down the back, but the front is too plain."

"So long as it isn't PINK."

### Miss Piggy on steroids

The Bride pouted. I stood my ground. Forty-plus-year-old women who have had two children just don't look right in pink. Think Miss Piggy on steroids.

A clerk carried our final selections to the dressing room, which appeared to take up half the store. Billows of cotton underpinnings hung on the wall like raggedy clouds dragged from the heavens. Undergarments of the strapless variety hung haphazardly on a shelf and fell to the floor at the slightest provocation.

I hadn't changed clothes with more than one other person in the room since gym class, 1972. I was a little nervous.

After a great deal of pulling and tugging and sipping ourselves into dresses sized more for Ally McBeal, we finally agreed upon a fairly streamlined, sleeveless number in a nice shade of periwinkle.

That's blue, for those of you who haven't shopped for bridesmaid's dresses lately.

But the worst was yet to come. "Now all we need to do is take your measurements," said the nice lady who was helping us.

Uh-huh.

We stood, airplane style, while she deftly whipped a worn tape measure around three times, then and off the numbers, right out loud in the middle of the store. I'd never had a more sobering experience - until she announced the corresponding size.

Having just lost a fair amount of weight, I was stunned to hear I'd be wearing a bridesmaid dress three sizes larger than my regular clothing. Spotting the look of horror on my face, the shop owner assured us that

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## Artist in Residence

### Shutterbug Junebug Clark honored

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Junebug Clark is the Farmington Artist in Residence for 2001. He'll be honored during the Festival of Arts at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 29, in a public reception at the Costick Center.

A second generation shutterbug, he's the son of the late photographer Joe Clark, who was the first Artist in Residence 25 years ago.

"I think we're the first father and son to be honored," said Clark.

"I remember that first reception for my dad 25 years ago. It was in the basement of the brand new Farmington Hills library on 12 Mile. (Detroit radio personality) Bud Cluest was there, and (District Court) Judge Margaret Schaeffer."

Schaeffer, now retired, was one of several people who nominated Junebug for the honor. Others included Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock, Junebug's wife Kay Clark, former newscaster Jerry Stanecki, former Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, and Jeff Dwyer, Farmington High School teacher and coach. Denise Tawyen, special events coordinator for the Warner Mansion, started the effort last year when the mansion featured an exhibit of two generations of Clark photos during Fall Harvest Festival.

"I was really stunned," said Clark of the honor. "We were getting ready to go off to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary when I got the call. It's a whole series of emotions. It sure means a lot. Our family has always been involved in photography."

### Lifelong cameraman

Clark got his first camera at age 3. It didn't take him long to get the hang of it. While his dad was shooting a commercial in their home studio for Siro's beer, young Junebug picked up his own camera, and with his mom as a model, started clicking away.

"That night our lab person came in to process the work and made a 18-by-20 inch blow-up of the shot I took. She propped it up for dad to see," Junebug recalled. "The art director saw that shot and said 'I love that low angle. That's the shot.'"

A star was born. Junebug went to work as a freelance feature photographer for the old Detroit Times daily newspaper when he was 6. That lasted for nine months, until labor negotiations. He was fired because the paper was breaching child labor laws.

"The story of my firing went out on the national wires and I got assignments from Life, Look, and Sports Illustrated magazines. I did a piece for American Motors when George Romney was president. I later did Romney's campaign for governor."

Clark still has his first camera, a small Leica. Another vintage piece in his personal collection is a videotape produced by Chrysler Corp. when he was 8. He stars in the humorous 10 minute film as the boy wonder photographer of the 1955 Detroit Auto Show.

Clark moved to Farmington with his family at age 13. He attended North Farmington High School, where he served as school photographer for the yearbook and other assignments. As part of North's first class, he set up and operated the photo lab there.

He photographed "Best of Farmington" for city development committees as well as a slide presentation used in fund-raising for building the Farmington Hills city hall and police station.



Body of work: Junebug Clark in his Farmington home is surrounded by a career's worth of photographs.

### Official photographer

Later when his children were active in Farmington schools, he became the official photographer once again: first for son Wade, a Farmington Rockets football player, then for daughter Anna, a gymnast on the Farmington Unified Team. Both children are now in college.

Clark is past president of Industrial Photographers of Michigan, founding president of American Society of Media

Photographers, and a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps combat correspondents. Professionally, he works with partner Dan Moore, the two served in the Marine Corps together 30 years ago. Moore/Clark Photography produces advertising campaigns for national accounts.

Clark does not exhibit his photos often. He prefers to see them in print. For the Artist in Residence exhibit, he plans to include some of his father Joe's prints alongside his own.

In an artist's statement, he notes: "The gifts of vision and photography are mine. Using these gifts my passion. Sharing these gifts my pleasure."



PHOTO BY DAN MOORE

Father & Son: Joe and Junebug Clark. Joe was the city's first Artist in Residence in 1976.

## Starry Night gala is planned

The Farmington Festival of the Arts, to be held April 29 to May 6 at the Costick Activities Center, begins with a preview gala, Starry Night, on Saturday, April 28, from 6:30-11 p.m., hosted by Harry Hairton of Channel 50.

The gala will provide an evening of entertainment and food, as patrons enjoy a dinner provided by Gourmet Express.

An open bar, compliments of Page's Food and Spirits, hors d'oeuvres and a dessert table are also included.

Patrons can stroll among the many art displays and have the first opportunity to purchase artwork from the hundreds of pieces included in the Farmington Artist Club exhibit and sale.

The evening will also feature a silent auction, with items such as tickets to The Phantom of the Opera and a private showing of a movie, with popcorn and drinks for the winner and 130 guests, at the Farmington Civic Theater. Other items include a birthday/pool party at the Costick Center, an ice skating party at the Farmington Hills ice rink, and dinner and theater tickets.

Music for the black-tie optional gala will be provided by the Matt Michaels Trio. Tickets are \$25 each or \$45 per couple, and are available by calling 473-1857.

### Arts Council gets service award



Farmington Arts Council: (standing) Robb Clarkson, Dixie Doerr, Mary Abdula, Marvel Steiger, Cheryl True, and Paul Barber, (seated) Arts Coordinator Nancy Coumoundouros, Kay Briggs, President Ellen Kendall, May Arvo, and Tina Theeke. The council received the Service to the Arts award for 2001 and will be honored in a special reception on Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m. in the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. The council was established in 1993.

## Tyndale scholarship dinner April 26

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg has been named recipient of the 2001 Bartlett L. Hess Lifetime Achievement Award to be presented at the William Tyndale College Annual Scholarship Dinner on Thursday, April 26, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The Baroness Caroline Cox, Deputy Speaker, British House of Lords, human rights activist and member of the Tyndale College Board of Directors, will be the keynote speaker.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals who model the ideals of the college and who have a record of outstanding achievement personally and professionally.

"This award is an opportunity for the college to honor special people and communicate something about our values through the life of the individual we select," said Dr. James McMann, Tyndale president.

"We consider Rep. Knollenberg a special friend of the college so we are especially grateful to have this opportunity to personally express our sincere gratitude for all he has done for us. "Joe Knollenberg is well-known in the 11th District," said McMann. "His special attention to many individual problems has earned him a reputation for excellent constituent service, while his sincerity and compassion for the

individual is unmatched."

Knollenberg represents southwest Oakland and northwest Wayne counties. Currently, serving his fifth term, he was first elected to Congress in 1992.

Tickets cost \$150. For information, call the college at 553-7200, ext. 706.



Rep. Joe Knollenberg