

Tea serves special purpose

Every year, for the past 12 years, Shirley Maddalena has invited approximately 70 of her friends, business associates and family for high tea at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham the first Friday in December.

What started out as simply a social event has evolved into an opportunity to raise money for The Women's Survival Center of Pontiac.

In 1995, Cindy Beckman, who was at that time on the board of the center, suggested that all of those attending bring their "white elephant" jewelry for a silent auction, said Maddalena, principal designer of Maddalena Design Ltd. in Birmingham.

The auction was a huge success, with many hotel guests bidding on pieces.

The silent auction has become quite a treasure hunt. Last year very aggressive bidding took place for some home decor pieces, Maddalena said.

People at her firm put in the auction some of the fine things they place in their clients' homes throughout the year — linens, bath accents, home accessories — Maddalena said.

This year's Christmas High Tea will be 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at the Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend, south of Maple Road in Birmingham. Tickets are \$30. Call Maddalena at (248) 644-4919 for more information.

Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to bring a mother, aunt, niece, daughter, sister or friend for a holiday treat.

Reader wonders about dust in home

APPLIANCE DOCTOR



JOE GAGNON

A letter from a reader reads, "My wife and I appreciate your articles in the Observer Newspapers. They have saved us time and money by reading them. We have a question regarding dust. Despite having our ducts cleaned approximately three years ago and nearly all the carpet removed (with hardwood floors underneath), and furnace filter cleaned or replaced regularly, we still seem to get a lot of dust balls."

"Our concern is that it is something more than just ordinary house dust. We have a ranch style house with blown-in insulation in the ceiling. Is it possible it could somehow work its way through the ventilation system? Also, is there a place we could take a piece to see exactly what it is? (We live in Westland. I'm thinking that mailing this material somewhere would not be a wise thing to do right now.) Please let us know what you think. We value your opinion."

This is a case where I know just enough to make you more concerned, but not enough to be any kind of expert. I do know that on occasion air quality in the American home has proven to be worse than outside air and today's concerns of homeowners

are well justified. If I were in your shoes, I would call a friend of mine who has checked air quality in homes and hospitals for years. Call me at the number listed at the end of this column.

I continue to receive inquiries about the Tang formula used to clean dishwashers.

I have given this Tang treatment to consumers many times and yes, I would love to give it out again. I always keep in mind that there are homeowners who read this column for the first time or first-time listeners to the radio show. I often ask callers to the number at the end of this column if they listen to the radio show and they answer that they

don't even know I'm on the air. You can reach me off the air by calling the number at the end of this column. And if you send a self-addressed, stamped, No. 4 envelope to the address below, and ask for a copy of the Tang treatment for your washer. I'll make sure you get one.

Joe Gagnon can be heard Saturday and Sunday on 760 WJR. He is a member and past president of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals.

Got a question for the Appliance Doctor? Call him at (313) 873-9789, or write to him in care of Ken Abramczyk, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

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And then in a twinkling I heard from the room a clatter, a bang and the drop of a broom.

I went to the basement and what did appear?

SANTA'S IN OUR FURNACE!

What... no chimney this year?

Warm wishes to all, and to all a warm night.

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