

## CHAT ROOM



REBECCA MOSS

## Don't miss this June garden party

For the past 14 years, thousands of guests have strolled the gardens of the St. Vincent Sarah Fisher Center at the annual Garden Party, held the first Sunday in June.

Metro Detroit's finest restaurants serve delicious appetizers, entrees and desserts, fine wine is available for tasting, and guests have enjoyed fabulous live music and wine auction. But have you ever wondered what it takes to make this event happen?

The planning begins in September, while actual logistics are put into place starting in January. As you can imagine, hundreds of staff and volunteer hours are required to execute the Garden Party, but there is much more:

- ✓ 4,800 invitations
- ✓ 20 committee members
- ✓ 600 guests
- ✓ 400 VIPs
- ✓ 148 volunteers
- ✓ 48 restaurants
- ✓ 48 chefs
- ✓ 240 restaurant staff
- ✓ 46 wine vendors
- ✓ 16 valets
- ✓ 9 tents of various sizes
- ✓ 130 eight foot tables
- ✓ 90 six-foot tables
- ✓ 50 round tables
- ✓ 40 bistro tables
- ✓ 320 table linens
- ✓ 550 folding chairs
- ✓ 40 cases of Styrofoam plates
- ✓ 2,000 pieces of silverware
- ✓ 1,300 wine glasses
- ✓ 15 canisters of sterno
- ✓ 80 auction items
- ✓ 1,000 anti-bacterial moist towelettes
- ✓ 6 porta potties

The only missing ingredient is YOU! The 15th annual Garden party will take place on the grounds of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center on Sunday, June 2. Enjoy delicacies from favorites such as The Lark, Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro, McCormick and Schmick's, Sweet Lorraine's Café & Bar, Cuisine, 220, Golden Mushroom and many more, including a few new restaurants like Loving Spoonful, Fiona's, The Palm, Restaurant Villegas, Steve & Rocky's Bar at Little Italy. Guests will also sample wines from the Detroit International Wine Experience.

In addition, the traditional live wine auction has been expanded to include a Peele Island getaway, Nappa Valley trip, property in Garland with membership, many Epicurean and Detroit sports packages. The Silent Auction also has many interesting and unique items that are sure to please.

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The VIP reception begins at noon with general admission at 1 p.m. Individual tickets to the Garden Party are \$160 each, VIP ticket packages are available. For more information or to purchase tickets to this tremendous event, please call (248) 626-7527 ext. 3900.

Rebecca Moss is community relations coordinator for St. Vincent and Sarah Vincent Center

# A sobering look at teen drinking

BY STACY JENKINS  
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**TEENS ALCOHOL**

Editor's note: Eight high school students recently shared their thoughts and observations about teen drinking. They candidly talked about the allure, the popularity and the consequences of drinking alcohol, as they've witnessed it. The forum was moderated by Patrice Flax, the Alcohol and Other Drugs Campus Initiatives Coordinator at the University of Michigan.

The halls on Monday mornings at area high schools are often buzzing with gossip about who did what at the parties over the weekend. Local high school students say it's not gossip, it's the truth — drinking is commonplace among their peers.

"It's very common," said Julie Patterson, a senior from Plymouth Salem High School. "It's ridiculous, you come back on a Monday and you hear, 'Oh, I went to this party and everyone was so smashed.'"

And the story doesn't end there. The teens who shared their thoughts on alcohol during a recent forum hosted by The Observer Newspapers said their classmates seldom remember what they did while drinking at a weekend party.

"I think it goes too far when you get to school and you hear rumors about people... then, you talk to them and they're like, 'Well, it could've happened. I don't remember,'" said Patterson.

"There's nothing funny about excessive drinking, according to the students.

"Alcohol, it makes you stupid," said Charlie Pepper, a student at Farmington High School. "You can go out driving and kill yourself, or kill other people. It's so easy to screw up."

Watching drunken behavior and seeing the consequences of drinking alcohol has steered some teenagers away from it.

"I don't drink because I like to know what I've done," said Kate Keim, a student at Plymouth Salem High School. "I've had times when I look back and think, 'What was I thinking?' You just don't use your brain."

## Weekend parties

Whether it's a small gathering in the basement of a friend's house, even if the parents are home, or it's a crowded, rowdy party at some unsuspecting, vacationing parents' house, the scene is pretty much the same week after week.

"The end thing about it is that people do it every weekend," said Patrice Wade, a student at Farmington High School. "A lot of people do it who you wouldn't even think do it."

For students who choose not to drink alcohol, attending parties is an interesting experience.

"I know some people who are convinced they can't have a good time without alcohol. It's different for us, because you step back and look at that party scene from an outsider's point of view. You realize... look what's going on, why is that fun? What's so cool about that? They can't see that from the inside. They don't see what we're seeing and it's a whole different world."



Patrice Wade  
Farmington High School

Julie Patterson  
Senior, Plymouth Salem High School



In discussion: Angela Tablac of Plymouth Canton High School (left) listens as Julie Patterson of Plymouth Salem High School makes a point.

## Familiar Behavior

### Drinking during teens sets pattern for adulthood

BY STACY JENKINS  
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Social habits that revolve around drinking during the high school years will likely carry on to college.

Patrice Flax, a professional social worker who coordinates the University of Michigan Alcohol and Other Drugs Campus Initiatives program on the Ann Arbor campus said regular and excessive drinking in high school sets a pattern for the college years.

"Students who drink heavily in high school tend to go into the Greek (fraternity and sorority) system," she said. "It has to do with familiar behavior. They learned at a young age how to handle anxiety... it's a very difficult behavior to change."

A survey of 2,824 U-M students, including 2,041 undergraduates, conducted by the U-M Substance Abuse Research Center, shows 45 percent of undergraduates, most of whom are under 21 years of age, binge drink. That's on par with the national average of 43 percent, according to a 1997 Harvard study.

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Of those students surveyed, 72 percent said they increased their drinking once they arrived on campus. Eighty-three percent of the students considered themselves to be light to moderate drinkers and 4 percent said they were heavy drinkers. Forty-five percent admitted they had at least one binge drinking episode in the past two weeks, when surveyed via the Internet in 1999.

Flax said the goal isn't to eliminate campus

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To the point: Panel moderator Patrice Flax provides some sobering statistics for participants in the Observer's panel on alcohol use by teens.