

Memorable trip is outgrowth of 'desperation' French class

BY DOUG JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

It started as a class — *Desperation French for Travelers* — and ended up as a memorable trip to Provence, the romantic and picturesque south of France.

Those on the trip included Luan Brownlee, who works at the Plymouth Historical Museum and lives in Livonia, as well as Richard and Rainy Kirchhoff of Plymouth, Allen Odell of Plymouth, and Genevieve Townsend of Farmington Hills and Robert and Monica Koenig of Farmington.

The trip, food and scenery apparently caused Brownlee to become poetic:

"Our flock of wild geese soared across France from sunup to sundown viewing sights colored golden and azure, Mediterranean blue, orange and shimmering red. Come evening, we dipped down to dine on the best of French cuisine in chateaus, farmhouses, Moroccan medinas; smelled yellow broom and lavender, sage and saffron."

That was part of a memory booklet Brownlee put together to remember the trip.

David Groen, a retired Livonia foreign language teacher, took the group to



Richard Kirchhoff of Plymouth, tour guide David Groen, Patricia Howe (Royal Oak) and Genevieve Townsend (Farmington Hills) enjoy a French meal in sun-dappled shade.

'The trip was just great. David (Groen) takes you to such interesting places. He designs the trips so they are quite different than those run by a travel agent.'

Genevieve Townsend
Farmington Hills resident

France earlier this summer.

The trip included Nice, St.-Paul-De-Vence (a medieval walled city), Renoir's home

and gardens in Les Collettes, Aix-en-Provence, an antique fair on the Sorgue River, a tour of Arles whose locale inspired



Gallery browsing in Lourmarin (France were, at left, Joette Bickel (of Howell) and Joan Hauber (Brighton) and Luan Brownlee (Livonia) and Rainy Kirchhoff (Plymouth).

Gauguin and Van Gogh, more of Nice and then the cliff village of Eze.

"This group was as sunny as Provence. They were always so upbeat... they were gallery-goers, museum-goers, shop-goers, and they enjoyed having their eyes opened. Some

had never been overseas. And they were delighted with the reception they got from the French people," Groen said.

"The trip was just great. David (Groen) takes you to such interesting places. He designs the trips so they are quite different than those run

by a travel agent," Genevieve Townsend said. "It was a nice group of people."

Groen taught the class at Frameworks in Plymouth, and his class led the group to plan a trip to France. Frameworks has offices in Plymouth, Canton and Livonia.

SINGLES MINGLE

Send items for consideration in singles calendar to *HomeTown Life*, Observer Newspapers, 794 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, fax (734) 459-4224.

EVENTS

Single Point Ministries

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, invites you to join over 500 single adults every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in Knox Hall, for fellowship and encouragement. The Rev. Paul Clough delivers messages to help equip you to maximize your singleness and relationship with God. Coffee, donuts, conversation and Christ are always present. SPM has a program and activity

for every age group and life situation. Give us a try. For more information or to have a newsletter sent, call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920.

Walking Club

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church offers a walking club. We meet in the hospitality area in the Grand Mall on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. on walks outside, rain or shine. Open to all fitness levels.

Metropolitan Single Professionals

Book Discussion Group MSP's book discussion group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders Books in Farmington Hills. Borders will offer a 20-percent discount on all titles chosen for discussion.

Volleyball In The Park

In need of summertime exercise? Join us for several casual games of volleyball. Nets will be designated Social, Intermediate and Competitive. Everyone is welcome to come and play or just socialize. We play at two locations: Every Tuesday at Heritage Park (Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile), socialize afterward at Shots Tavern on Ten Mile just east of Orchard Lake; or on Thursdays at Harding Park (just South of I-496, Exit 17). Afterward we socialize at Warrilows, 2140 Hilton, just south of Woodward Heights. The cost is \$2 and we play through September.

Golf Co-ed Monday through Friday, we have nine social golf leagues so pick your best

night, a course, and join us for a great season of golf. All levels of players are welcome. Call for locations at (248) 360-0284.

Softball Co-ed

Now forming six weeks of doubleheaders, starting Aug. 25. Softball practices and sign-up at 5 p.m. at Founders Sports Park, located in Farmington Hills on 8 Mile between Farmington Road and Holsted. No refunds will be given two weeks prior to the start of the league. You must be paid to be placed on a team. After practices we socialize at Dunleavy's Pub on Grand River and Drake at 7 p.m. You may also

sign up at this time. **Selective Singles Social and Travel Club**

For people 35 years old and up. Activities include dinners, dances, cards, camping, theater, sports, travel. To learn more about the club call (248) 435-5320 or go to www.sssc.org.

Fun & Fine Dining Parties

Join us every Thursday between 6-7:30 a.m. for socializing with dinner afterwards. Our goal is to provide our members and friends with a sampling of some of the best and most interesting dining places in the metro Detroit area. On Aug. 22 we will be meeting at

Patio located at 347 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor. Phone (734) 960-6100 for further information.

West Side Singles

Friday dances to be held every Friday night at Burton Manor, located on Schoolcraft Service Drive, just west of Inkster in Livonia. The dances are open to the public. Doors open from 8 p.m.-1 a.m., 25 years of age and older. Dressy attire required. Hosted in non-smoking ballrooms with a D.J. and budget bar. Admission price is \$4 before 8:30 p.m. and \$6 after 8:30 p.m. For information, call Anita at (734) 981-0909.

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Michigan Jewish Institute to offer new degree program

Michigan Jewish Institute, a senior college based in Oak Park, will begin offering a new Associates in Applied Science degree in Business and Information Systems in the fall semester.

The program will incorporate general studies foundation with course work in accounting, business law and management, economics, communication and business-level computer applications.

"Students transferring from post-secondary schools may be able to attain this degree in three semesters (one year) and then

will be within two semesters completing a Bachelor's degree program," said Paul Levine, MJII's director of marketing.

"This program works well not only for traditional students, but also for adults planning to reenter the workforce or who need to upgrade their office-management skills," he said.

At Michigan Jewish Institute, accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, students can earn a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in business or computer information

systems technology.

In addition to the Oak Park facility, MJII is planning a new main campus in West Bloomfield, with construction expected to commence during the 2002-2003 academic year. MJ is now accepting enrollment for the Baccalaureate studies and the new Associates degree program at 25401 Coolidge Highway in Oak Park. Classes begin the week of Tuesday, Sept. 3, for the 15-week fall semester.

For more information, call Levine at Michigan Jewish Institute, (248) 414-6900, ext. 16, or e-mail: info@mjii.edu.

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So, if your mower or blower dies, find help from your neighbors in your hometown classifieds. Of course, people have been known to begin looking for a lawn mower and discover a great set of golf clubs or a ski mobile or a lot of other really neat stuff.

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