

## HELOISE

FROM PAGE C1

after school, she drops off permission slips, notes and other important papers in the "In" box. Signed documents go in the "Out" box.

Simple? Sure. But Heloise believes there's a hint for everyone. She tries to present a blend of material received from readers — even those who rinse and re-use paper coffee filters.

It can be done, by turning the filters inside out and drying them over a coffee can.

Why anyone would want to do it when filters are so inexpensive, Heloise has no idea.

"When I get 50 or 100 letters saying 'this is what I do, obviously it merits interest,' she said. 'It's all point of view.'"

She has worked to keep her column fresh.

The latest addition is an update, which provides new information about old hints.

For instance, a popular suggestion was to use a raw potato to remove a broken bulb base from inside a light socket.

You'd press the potato onto the broken edges, and that would provide a handle to twist the base.

An important element left out of that hint when it was first published was making sure the outlet isn't electrified, whether that involves unplugging a lamp or shutting off the power to a ceiling fixture.

"And really, there are better ways to do it," Heloise added.

**KEEPING IT FRESH**

Looking for that better way has kept her researching and testing household hints for more than 25 years.

She describes her childhood as growing up in a "Heloise household."

"I grew up like Ann (Landers) and (Dear) Abby's daughters," she said. "It was kind of osmosis for me."

In addition to public appearances, research is her favorite part of the work.

"I really find it challenging," she said. "It's like being an investigative reporter. We find new information."

That all becomes part of the presentations she makes to a

wide variety of groups across the country. One of her recent speaking engagements was at a national conference on hazardous waste, where she learned about the importance of recycling fluorescent light bulbs, because they contain mercury vapor.

"I like getting the feedback from the audience," she added. "I stay after if I can, because that's when I really hear what's on people's minds."

Since 9/11, those thoughts seem to be turned inward, toward home.

"You can just tell by the tone of the mail," she said, adding many of the hints were about entertaining at home, cooking family meals and other "cooconing" kinds of activities.

She has also gotten many questions about how to keep and preserve newspapers. Despite the advent of Web versions, "people still want that front section," she said.

In addition to household tips, Heloise shares some of the things she has learned about life as well. Her new 5-Point Plan, for instance, involves taking large tasks that might seem impossible to accomplish five minutes or five items at a time.

A hall closet, for instance, could be completely cleaned by taking five minutes to sort through and toss items.

"If I have five minutes, I would rather do things in a burst, because I do get distracted," she said.

"You would be amazed. You can take the junk drawer, or your make-up case or even your purse, open it up and remove five things."

Even after 25 years, Heloise speaks about her new plan with such energy one might wonder whether she has given any thought to retirement.

"Retire? Puh-lease," she said, laughing as her husband reacted with surprise at her even saying the word.

"It's always evolving. In 10 or 20 years with the technology, who knows? But even with all of that, there's always going to be a need for Heloise."

Adrienne Shalom is at 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Call the synagogue office for further information at (248) 851-6100.

## Former Hills resident practices fine art of glass-blowing

BY KAREN SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

As an engineer, Tom Long was taught the importance of details.

As the son and grandson of artists, the former Farmington Hills resident inherited the ability to create beautiful designs.

That combination of precision and creativity has enabled the 55-year-old to perfect an age-old craft that few have learned: glass blowing.

Long, who lives in Independence Township and works for EDS in Southfield as director of quality assurance for commercial software products, will show his glass work during the 28th annual Crafts & Cider Festival recently in downtown Clarkston.

"My grandmother and mother have a lot of art ability in drawing, watercolor and painting. I grew up in that environment," Long said. "Art has always fascinated me; what has fascinated me more is the craft-work that goes into glass blowing."

Long started out working with stained glass about 20 years ago. He did that for about five years. Then he read an article about glass blowing, which requires a lot of analysis, as well as detail and design work — which is "perfect for engineers," he said.

Long took a class at Corning Glass in Corning, N.Y., temporarily rented facilities at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit and then built his own 1,000-square-foot studio on his property. He has been blowing glass for 15 years now.

"What appeals to me is ... you can do so many things — engrave it, cut it, saw it, enamel it with colors. It just has a number of possibilities that I lay awake thinking about. With glass, you can be as creative as your imagination will let you," he said.

He also likes being involved in all phases of making glass — designing, manufacturing and



ELIZABETH CARNEGIE / ECCENTRIC

Tom Long of Independence Township puts the molten glass into the shape of a flower. His work will be on display this weekend at the Crafts & Cider Festival in downtown Clarkston.

marketing it. His wife, Julie, assists every step of the way.

"She is the designer," he said. "She does all the color arrangements."

Long said his wife's background as a seamstress gives her an eye for color and design. And, she shares his enthusiasm for attention to detail — like her husband, she's trained as an engineer and employed by EDS. (Julie Long was out of the country on business last week and could not be interviewed.)

**ART GLASS**

The craft of glass blowing hasn't changed since it began thousands of years ago, Long said. "The tools are very simple; built most of my equipment," he said.

What has changed somewhat is the reluctance of glass blowers to share the secrets of their craft.

Long said it took him two years to learn what he needed to know to get started making glass to sell.

"There is still the mystique and mystery behind it," Long said. But in the past five years — partly because of the

Internet and partly because glass blowers are seeing the advantages of sharing information — the "curtain has been coming down."

"Before that it was very much a closed society ... people are making money and they don't want to give up their secrets."

Long has learned secrets from some of the most noted glass blowers in the country such as Lino Pagliapetra and Mark Matthews, a marble maker. He's shared what he's learned with Julie.

Long does both furnace and lamp work, meaning he makes larger pieces using an oven and smaller, more intricate pieces using a torch.

Sometimes he combines the two, adding a hummingbird he made with the torch to a vase he made using the furnace.

For the furnace work, Long heats "batch material" — a sugar-like mixture that contains, among other ingredients, soda, lime, pot ash and feldspar — in a 2,600-degree oven for 12 hours. Then it is heated for another 12 hours at 1,800 degrees.

"After 24 hours, it's perfectly clear, like crystal," Long said. Color, in the form of powder

or chips, is added later to make beautiful hues like hunter green, ruby red and turquoise.

Long specializes in 3 1/2- to 6-inch round ornaments that can be hung on Christmas trees during the holidays or in windows year-round.

They sell for \$15 to \$30 each, depending on their size and finish.

He also makes perfume bottles, paperweights, vases, bowls, flowers, marbles and other glass objects.

Long sells most of his work, which retails for up to \$250, at Michigan craft shows and through the Mole Hole stores, a national chain.

In addition, Long does wholesale work for other artists, including a metal sculptor, who incorporate his glass into their designs.

One of Long's best customers is his next-door neighbor, Denise Myers.

"I really think he does a beautiful job — the craftsmanship, the choice of colors," she said.

An artist herself, Myers does "flat" glasswork, such as stained glass. "I guess that's why appreciate what he does. To get the different shapes, it's just truly an art form."

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## BOYS

FROM PAGE C1

Detroit in 1924. "His work as a construction electrician has taken him from New York to Alaska. We can thank him for the oil flowing in the Alaskan pipeline, as well as the subway system in New York."

The other Botsford Boys are:

■ Mr. March-Maury Williams

■ Mr. May-Norm Roosa

■ Mr. June-Blair Algie

■ Mr. July-Bill Cleary

■ Mr. August-Jack Joym

■ Mr. September-Jim DeRinnesco

■ Mr. November-Malcolm Goodwin

Waddell said the boys have already started to talk about the 2004 calendar.

"We've talked about going drug or maybe getting the Indiana to participate, but we've gotten 'no' from everybody we've asked. So that's a bummer."

One idea, he added, has already been dismissed.

"There are aprons we wear because we serve dinners here

at the old folks' home...the retirement community," he said. "We talked about putting on our aprons and then turning away from the camera."

"Somebody voted that one down."

Proceeds from calendar sales will go toward the Benevolent Association and to Michael J. Fox's Parkinson's Foundation.

Calendars can be obtained by sending a check or money order in the amount of \$11.75 (or more) to The Boys of Botsford, 21268 Sycamore Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

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