

Observer Life

Jon Hubred, editor
(248) 477-5450
fax: (248) 477-9722
jhubred@oe.homecomm.net

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Chat Room



Ellen
Herscher

More to taking tea than drinking

There is much more to "taking tea" than partaking of the hot beverage. Tea is reputed to have medicinal powers, is soothing to the soul, and provides a delightful social experience.

Making an ardent comeback, tea is enjoyed by both men and women throughout the world.

In England, Low Tea which is more commonly known as Afternoon Tea, is generally served around four o'clock in the afternoon, followed by dinner after eight o'clock in the evening. It was originally called Low Tea because of sitting in low-backed chairs while taking tea.

Traditionally, tea is accompanied by a medley of dainty finger sandwiches, delectable scones, and scrumptious cakes that are served in that sequence. A variety of spreads, such as cucumber, chopped egg, and chicken, are prepared either open-face or between crustless white and light wheat breads.

Lemon slices, clotted cream, and jams are served with scones. No tea is complete without an impressive cake or other delicate confections.

The first time I was served tea in England, I made an embarrassing mistake of putting a spoonful of clotted cream into my teacup. Immediately, the owner of the establishment swooped the teacup off my table, announcing sternly that clotted cream was for scones and NEVER to be dropped into one's tea. Quite mortified, I learned an important lesson in social grace.

HIGH TEA

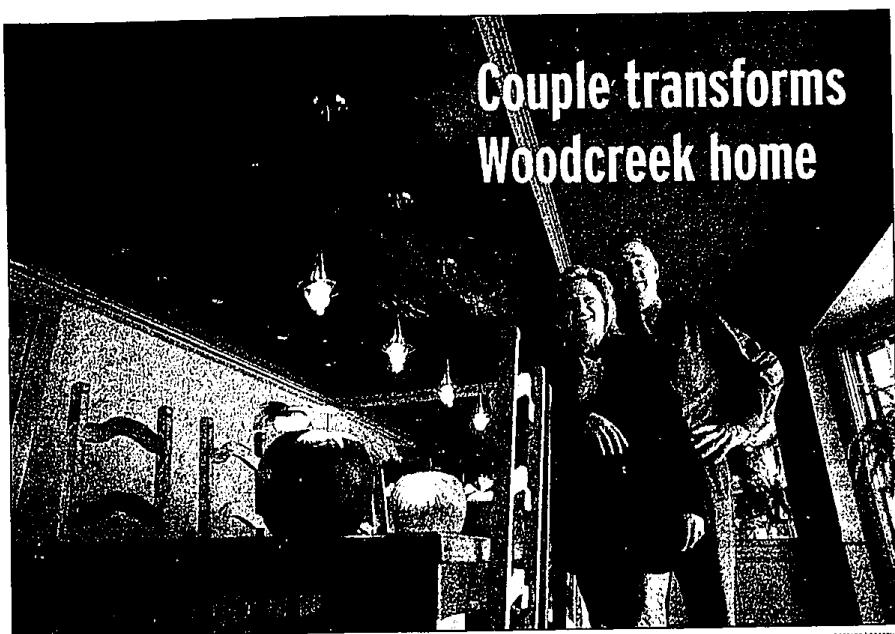
High Tea is a heartier fare, usually taking place directly after work, with the whole family gathered at the dining table. The plentiful meal may consist of cheese, meat-filled pasties, sandwiches, and desserts. Because High Tea is routinely served around six o'clock in the evening, the meal is sometimes followed later at night by a biscuit and warm beverage.

For many ladies, socially chic tea parties have become a way of getting together with cherished friends for an afternoon of pleasant tete-a-tete, sipping hot tea, and nibbling luscious treats. Tables are often set with crisp linens, fine china, fancy teapots, and fragrant flowers. On balmy days, garden teas are quite enchanting, where ladies wear exquisite dresses and splendid hats while engaging in amusing conversation.

Tea plants are slow-growing bushes, cultivated primarily in Africa, Asia, and India. The different countries and regions in which the tea is grown dictate diverse flavors. Other determining elements of taste are altitude, climate, cultivation methods, origin of bushes, plucking leaves, processing, and soil type.

Specialized processing produces three distinct types of tea: black, oolong, and green. Because of shorter fermentation, which results in leaves that are not as dark, oolong has a flavor

PLEASE SEE TAKING TEA, C2



PHOTOS BY DALL BRASLER/OBSERVER

Lynn and Jim Masters combined creativity and good old fashioned hard work to create their showplace home in Woodcreek. Lynn painted this mural on the ceiling of their dining room.

These true do-it-yourselfers used themes in each room

By Paul R. Pace
Staff Writer

The kids in the Woodcreek subdivision like to visit the Masters home on Eastbrook Court.

And why not?

It has its own movie theater room with an 8-foot-wide screen, lots of comfy seating, loud speakers and best of all, the admission is free. That's just one of the many rooms in the home Lynn and Jim Masters painstakingly remodeled since taking ownership of the house five years ago.

But what's more intriguing to note is that Lynn and Jim Masters really did the remodeling of the 1966 colonial on their own, and neither is a carpenter.

"We couldn't find anybody who would do our ideas," Lynn said with a laugh.

It's a clear case of letting their imaginations guide how they wanted the home to look.

Through a little ingenuity, she and her husband's trial and error reconstruction saved them tens of thousands of dollars on the home that they share with their five children, ages 15-20.

They added a sunroom to the kitchen area that overlooks the large completely remodeled deck and leads to a in-ground, backyard swimming pool shaped like a three-leaf clover.

"Everything was white in the

house," Lynn said.

That's all changed with warm tones and attention to detail with a touch of ingenuity at every turn.

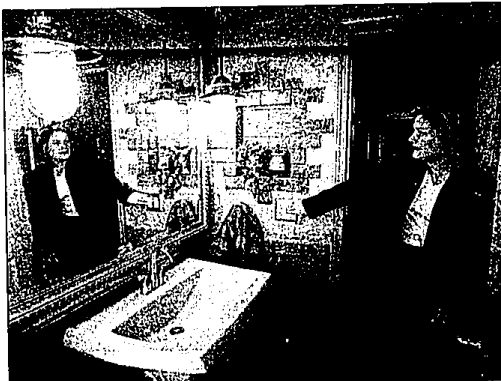
THEMES AND VISIONS

Letting their thoughts run freely, the couple chose themes for rooms. Saving a buck or two didn't hurt either, as when they created a bowl sink in the bar area of the living room. Lynn said she simply took a large stainless steel bowl and had a hole drilled in the bottom, rather than pay much more for a sink with the same design in the end.

Underneath carpeting in the family room, the couple also discovered a beautiful hardwood floor with wide planks and exposed nail heads that offer an old world look. It accents the exposed wood ceiling beams large stone fireplace well.

The couple even made the large coffee table in the living area, because they couldn't find a pre-made one in the size they wanted.

Probably the most popular room



Exposed brick, pedestal sink and wired light fixture give this bathroom a unique "old time" decor.

for visitors in the 6,000-square-foot home is what used to be the formal dining room. The couple transformed it into a movie theater, complete with dark purple walls and window treatments. Low, hidden lighting in the

ceiling's crown molding gives it a grand theater effect.

Wrap around couches allow for plenty of guests and a raised platform

PLEASE SEE REMODEL, C2

Painter lets art lead

Jeri Fellwock's abstract works on display through Nov. 25

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills artist Jeri Fellwock says she doesn't approach a canvas with a preconceived idea. She tends to let the piece develop itself.

"I put in the colors and shapes down and it takes usually two or three attempts before I can get something I can work with to reach the final layer," she said of her abstract artwork.

Fellwock has exhibited her popular paintings locally, nationally and in England. Several of her works are on exhibit now through Nov. 25 in the City Gallery at Costick Center on 11 Mile between Inkster and

Middlebelt.

"It comes from within my heart and soul," she said of how she approaches a piece. "It's like a production - you put on a show."

An award-winning artist who works with acrylics and watercolors, Fellwock's style is bold and colorful.

"I love to paint," she said, pointing out that she originally started painting realistic scenes until about 12 years ago, when she dove into abstract.

Her works include use of materials on the canvas, including a collage style that blends elements under the acrylic paint.

One of her favorite pieces,

PLEASE SEE PAINTER, C2



DALL BRASLER/OBSERVER

Hills artist Jeri Fellwock says she lets the colors and shapes guide her as she creates bold acrylic paintings.