

Brugnoni remembered for generosity, spirit

BY JOHN HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

"She never thought about herself, ever."

Marissa Miller describes her sister Carla Brugnoni as a kind of "fairy godmother" to her eight nieces and nephews, a generous and giving person who devoted 10 years of service to an organization that shelters needy children.

Brugnoni, 50, succumbed Monday to a baffling illness that led her to seek alternative medical treatment two years ago. Services for the Farmington resident will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington with the Rev. Ronald Browne officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Farmington.

Visitation will be held 2-9 p.m. today, Oct. 17 at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Best known locally as general manager of Focal Point photography on Grand River in down-

town Farmington, Brugnoni knew every customer's name and what was going on in their lives.

"She was Focal Point," Miller said.

Beloved volunteer Brugnoni was also active with Christ Child Society of



Brugnoni

Detroit and served on the board until her failing health forced her to resign as President-elect.

Shondell Patterson, who took over the post, said Brugnoni would have been finishing out her term this year.

"Carla has done everything under the spectrum of Christ Child Society," she said. "She got us involved in foundation work...She reached out and pulled members from all areas. And she did it in such a humble

way. She always had the children in mind."

In 1995, when Patterson joined, Brugnoni was in charge of "Night of Angels," the society's annual fund-raiser. "They did an Italian theme. I think they raised \$100,000 that year."

Brugnoni's involvement in the organization led to her receiving the 2002 Woman of the Year award, which is the Society's highest membership honor. To show their regard for her, members will form an honor guard at Brugnoni's funeral, standing with lit candles to send their beloved friend on her way.

"She was a very special woman," Patterson said, her voice filled with emotion. "She will be missed very much."

GENEROSITY REPAID

Brugnoni's generosity of spirit was also returned when she became ill. First treated in 1997, she suffered a recurrence in 2000.

"They couldn't find a chemotherapy to cure her, so she decided to go for alternative medicine," Miller said.

The family took her to Texas, fully prepared to shoulder the burden of treatment with a nationally renowned physician. While they were away, Brugnoni's friends and cousins got together to hold a fund-raiser.

They originally thought if 150 people showed up, they'd do pretty well.

"Well, 850 people came," Miller said. "It was unbelievable. A hundred and fifty items were donated...there was an

auction. It was all in honor of her. She was even able to be there for a bit."

Not only did the event raise enough to pay off her medical debts, but the family was able to start work on a brochure that would let physicians know about Brugnoni's rare form of cancer - which really isn't cancer at all.

The disease, pseudomyxoma peritonei, causes benign tumors to form in the abdominal area. If they are removed intact, the patient is considered cancer-free. If a tumor is perforated, however, the disease mimics cancer.

"We weren't able to find a doctor to treat her," Miller said. "They need more research in this area."

Ms. Brugnoni was born Feb. 12, 1952 in Detroit and died Oct. 14, 2002 at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

She is survived by her parents, Ontario and Ida Brugnoni; sister, Michele (Jerry) Jakacki and Marisa (Mark) Miller; brother, Rafael (Rosanne) Brugnoni; and eight nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Christ Child Society, 16751 Joy Road, Detroit, MI 48228.

You are cordially invited ...

Our host restaurants include:

Audiamo Osteria
Baja Fresh Mexican • Grill
Bistro Bourdeau
Boulder Pointe Golf Club & Conference Center
Breadwinners Bakery
Canterbury on the Lake
Castello Di Bologna
Corleone's Ristorante
Corporate Dining Concepts, Inc.
Cosi
Cravings Catering, Inc.
Duke Humphries Pub / Kosch Foodservice Group
Eventful Services Catering
Fatt Daddy's Restaurant
Food, Inc.
future brands, LLC
The Give Thanks Bakery & Cafe
Gloria Jean's Gourmet Coffees
Great Oaks Country Club
Historic White Horse Inn
Krus & Muer on Main
Krus & Muer Quality Foods
Lino's Restaurant
Mac & Ben's
Michigan Star Clipper Dinner Train
Morley Candy Makers & Sanders
O'Malley's Food/Music Sport
P. F. Chang's China Bistro
Palmet Creek Cider Mill & Restaurant
Palmet Creek Country Club
Panera Bread
Picano's
The Red Wagon Wine Shoppe
Rochester Chop House & Oyster Bar
Rochester Mills Beer Co.
Romano's Macaroni Grill
Shula's Steak House
Solexho
Stir Crazy
Toscani Grill



Sunday
November 3, 2002
5-8 p.m.
at the Troy Marriott Hotel

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call Crittenton's Community Relations/Development Department at 248-652-5345.

CRITTENTON HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER

Quality Care...Close to Home & Work

1101 W. University Drive
Rochester, Michigan 48307-1831

OBITUARIES

Lillian D. Cunningham

Services for Lillian D. Cunningham, 75, of Farmington Hills, will be held at 8 p.m. today, Oct. 17, at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. in Northville with the Rev. Jonathan Wilkes officiating.

Mrs. Cunningham was born Jan. 27, 1927 in Tracy, Tenn. and died Oct. 15, 2002 in Farmington Hills. She was a homemaker and loved to square dance.

She is survived by her husband, Lawrence; sons, Lester and Larry; daughter, Lynn Cummings; brother, Glen Kilgore; and three grandchildren.

Roy T. Eckert

Services for Roy "Tom" Thomas Eckert, 77, of Farmington Hills, were held Oct. 9, at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Jennifer Saad officiating.

Mr. Eckert was born Nov. 28, 1924 in Detroit and died Oct. 3, 2002 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He worked for Ford Motor Company as a claims adjuster and was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association.

He is survived by his son, Douglas; daughter, Kathryn (John) Stolarch; and granddaughter, Dawn Eckert. He is preceded in death by his wife, Florence.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

Clara B. Black

Services for Clara B. Black, 84, of Novi, were held Oct. 7 at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in Beverly Hills with burial at Roseland Park Cemetery in Berkley.

Mrs. Black was born Feb. 10, 1918 and died Oct. 4, 2002 at Charter House Nursing Home in Novi. She earned a master's

degree in education from the University of Detroit and retired in 1973 as a social worker for the Michigan Department of Social Services. She also worked as a teacher at Village Nursery School in Farmington Hills and was an active member of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church. She enjoyed needlecrafts and reading.

She is survived by her son, David (Diane); daughter, Marilyn (Michael) Cermak; sister, Kathryn (Bill) Peters; brother, Dan (Jenny) Fisher; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Forrest, and sons, Forrest and James.

Memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Beverly Hills.

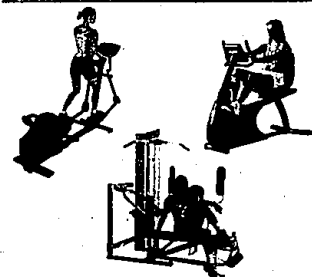
Arrangements made by A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home in Royal Oak.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT BLOWOUT!

Take advantage of
0% interest
for
12 months
24 MONTHS



OR...
SAVE 10%
ON ANY PURCHASE



GREAT PRICES!
FANTASTIC VALUES!
HUGE SELECTION!

SALE ENDS OCTOBER 31st!

THE FITNESS EXPERIENCE

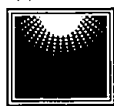
Your Fitness Solutions SuperStore

TREADMILLS • HOME GYM • ELLIPTICALS • EXERCISE BIKES • STAIR CLIMBERS • FREE WEIGHTS • BENCHES • MORE

ROYAL OAK 31272 Woodward Ave. (at Northpark intersection) (248) 948-3700
TROY 848 E. Big Beaver Rd. (at Northpark intersection) (248) 928-9800
WEST BLOOMFIELD 6189 Haggerty Rd. (across from Great Lakes Crossing) (248) 928-9500
AUBURN HILLS 4187 E. Lake Rd. (248) 451-8000
CANTON 43230 Ford Rd. (1 mile west of I-75) (734) 844-0500

www.fitnessexperience.com

*Total purchase price applied not less than monthly payment for 12 months. If balance not paid in full at the end of 24 months, interest charges will be applied toward the balance. Financing offer subject to credit approval. Sale prices not valid with any financing offer or other price discounts. Offer expires 10/31/02.



MURRAY FEISS
HOME FASHION FOR LIFE®



10% OFF
Our
40% - 50%
Already Discounted
Prices!
SALE 10 DAYS ONLY

STYLE, SERVICE, SELECTION and SAVINGS!

Come in and experience our beautiful designer lighting lifestyle collections exclusively by Murray Feiss. Contemporary to classic for bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, outdoor and entryway - all available to enhance and illuminate your home.

Lighting Fixtures, Lamps, Ceiling Fans, Mirrors, Art Work, Clocks for Every Decor

BROSE ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-6:00
Thurs., Fri. 9:30-5:00

37400 W. Seven Mile Road • Livonia, MI 48152 • (734) 464-2211