



Holiday lights

Amelia Letvin and Matthew Tukel light the menorah during a Hanukkah dinner held at Hospice of Michigan's Farmington Hills Hospice Home on Dec. 5. Before dinner, a brief ceremony was held, during which the home's Jewish residents were presented with a mezuzah made by students of Hillel - Wayne State University chapter. Hillel also catered and served dinner to residents and their families.

DOLLS

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knew she had to have one. It was made by Ideal and very popular because it came with a play wave kit to style and "perm" its hair.

"This doll was expensive and hard to find, so I had to give specific hints and clues to my Aunt Lil as to my desire for this doll since she always gave me a special gift on Christmas Eve," said Holcomb, who lives in Farmington Hills.

Aunt Lil came through, and on Christmas Eve presented her niece with a box containing the Toni doll. That same night Diane's family went out to dinner, leaving home Duchess, an uncle's boxer who were dog-sitting. When they returned home, Duchess greeted them with a mouthful of yellow hair.

"We knew at once that my new Toni doll was the victim," Holcomb said.

Forty years later, Diane saw an ad in a doll magazine for a 1959 Toni doll from an owner in Washington for \$200. She sent off a check and two weeks later her doll arrived.

"This time she is in a glass case," Diane said. "She will always remind me of my grandmother, Aunt Lil."

Noreen Kennedy remembers the sound of sleigh bells and Santa's "Ho! Ho! Ho!" on the Christmas Eve of her childhood in Dearborn Heights. On Christmas Eve in 1957, Santa entered her bedroom and placed a Tiny Tears doll in her arms.

"I was a very proud 6-year-old momma," said Noreen, whose sister, Colleen Giovanni of Farmington Hills, prompted her to tell her Christmas doll story. "The feeling and memory of holding Tiny Tears securely in my arms while walking into our living room remains so vivid in my mind. ... There stood a beautifully decorated Christmas tree with tinsel, colored lights and candy canes ... I still remember the expression on the faces of my mom and dad as we looked in awe and felt the magic of the evening."

Alas, poor Tiny Tears was soon to suffer an indignity. Noreen's 2-year-old brother, John, "nibbled" on her fingers and toes. Actually, he more than nibbled, Colleen said. "He bit the toes off."

Forty-five years later, Tiny Tears and Noreen still spend



Sandra Dalka-Prysby, a freelance writer for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, shows off her Revlon doll, the first doll that had breasts and high heels. "She was the pre-Barbie fashion doll," said Dalka-Prysby.

time together. This year, they'll venture from their home in Traverse City to the family home in Dearborn Heights.

"We'll reminisce about the years past and the wonderful memories of this special Christmas Eve," said Noreen.

CHATTY CATHY

In 1973, when she was just 3½ years old, Catherine Nichol of Canton received a Chatty Cathy doll. All a little girl had to do was pull the string on Chatty Cathy's buck and she started talking.

"It was most appropriate for me to get a Chatty Cathy doll because it wasn't until after my third birthday did I start talking. My older brother, John, did all the talking for me. He knew exactly what I need every time I pointed at something or grunted some sounds," said Catherine.

"But all of a sudden I started talking and never stopped ... To this day my family still calls me Chatty Cathy because I just talk, talk, talk, talk."

Catherine doesn't know what became of her Chatty Cathy, but she's looking for another one for her 37-year-old daughter, Amy, who, like her mother, never stops talking.

This reporter thanks all the readers who responded to her request for stories on Christmas dolls. These dolls are special.

They're something to love, cuddle and play with ... until you both grow old together. Merry Christmas.



Catherine Nichol's family still calls her Chatty Cathy, the name of the doll she received when she was just 3½ years old.

Antioch Lutheran members enjoy holidays

Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills is busy preparing for the holiday season.

The "Hanging of the Greens," a family event, took place on Dec. 1 after the 11 a.m. service. The event included decorating the church for Advent and Christmas and a simple lunch, crafts, stories, and games for the children.

Saint Nicholas also paid a

visit - a tradition in the church.

A large Tree of Angels has been erected with handmade angel ornaments from all over the world.

It can be seen in the evening from the corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Roads.

Holiday community gifts were donated and collected for women in an abused facility in Wayne County and residents of a nursing home in Warren.

These are provided by members of the church who pick an angel from the tree and purchase the gift according to information provided.

A Mittel tree holds warm mittens, hats, and scarves for needy children in Detroit, given after a month.

A toy box filled with new toys went to Christ Church Toy Shop in Detroit.

Special live trees, called Christmas Trees with gold and

white ornaments representing Jesus, set up in mid-December, will decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas service.

The following Christmas services will be held: 4 p.m., children's Christmas; 6 p.m., family worship; 10:30 p.m., Festival Candlelight worship with preservice music at 10 p.m.

Antioch Lutheran Church is located at 33360 W. 13 Mile Road. Call (248) 626-7906.

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