

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

'No tricks' but luck for Machus magic

Restaurateur and pastry shop owner Harris Machus of Birmingham brought some of his magic to The Community House for a Coffee & Conversation program recently. The food demonstration was entitled "The Magic of Machus."

But, according to Machus, "I don't do any tricks." He explains his success as a combination of luck and a careful plan that has three essential ingredients.

These are good business practices that add up to magic: A distinctive facility with the right plans and time, a staff of dedicated personnel, to create a memorable experience; and the selection of well-trained chefs and the expertise of other well-qualified people.

Tanned, slim and smiling, Machus spoke to the audience of 400 women from the stage of the auditorium at The Community House in Birmingham.

MORE INGREDIENTS of the Machus magic were detailed by Martin Kreger, vice-president of operations. He talked about professionalism in management.

Machus Red Fox in Bloomfield Township is the flagship of the operation.

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ation, and waiters there work in tuxedos in the evenings.

If you have a complaint at any of the Machus restaurants (there are five, plus five family cafeterias in Michigan), be aware Machus welcomes complaints.

When something is wrong, the Machus chain wants to know about it, because it is important to learn when they aren't doing their job.

This customer-pleasing policy is also borne out by hiring employees who have the right attitude. On the application form is asked, "Can you smile?"

A Machus good grooming guide is another essential.

THE MAGIC of Machus also includes the Machus Salad Service—a recipe that has been reprinted in Gourmet magazine—and the pastry cart.

"To want you to save room for dessert. We're very proud of our pastries," Kreger said.

Three Machus pastry shops sell the luscious desserts for which the chain is known. Just a sampling of these was offered to a few lucky recipients in the audience.

Everyone groaned with delight when the Napoleons, chocolate eclairs, chocolate dream torte and fresh strawberry whipped cream torte were shown before the give-aways.

THE PROGRAM also featured Machus Executive Chef, Leopold Schaefer from Switzerland, who demonstrated how to make quiche lorraine, and Maxine Mathie, a pastry shop demonstrator, who added floral decorations to a white-cake and then adorned a pink Easter egg cake.

Although of the recipe for the quiche were given to the audience, no one had to wait to sample some of the dish. Everyone received a plate with a piping hot square of the open face cheese pie, along with a petit four and a cookie.

A mimeographed souvenir collection of most frequently requested recipes was passed out, in a booklet especially prepared for the Magic of Machus presentation.

Completing the very polished program was the opportunity to chat with the speakers and to share coffee and more pastries.

BIRMINGHAM'S Midtown Cafe is also offering a bit of magic, for Sunday brunches that combine music with your dining from an "Ides of March" menu.

This Sunday, a special program of Easter music will be presented, in three sets by the baroque music ensemble Musica da Camera.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I brunched on cucumber soup with sour cream, eggs sardou (poached eggs with artichoke hearts and spinach). I also had a taste of eggs sultan. This is really something different—chilled scrambled eggs with pistachio nuts, recommended for those who have tired of more traditional egg dishes.

Brunch can begin with champagne, or wind up with marmite brulot, a coffee served in an orange peel cup. All food and drink is priced a la carte.

Enjoying the music along with brunch is an easy way to take your culture, reports Larry Balog, who plans the programs. I couldn't agree more.

Children's activities offered for Easter

By CATHY REDDY

Parents with young children at home may be looking for activities to keep them occupied this Easter season. A number of area shopping centers are hosting holiday-related programs.

Through Saturday, children can meet the Easter Bunny, visit with real barnyard animals and talk to little Bo Peep at Northland shopping center in Southfield. This Easter exhibit is located in Penney's north court. Hours daily are 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

In Waterford Township you can stop at Pontiac Mall and take part in the mall's "Pick-a-Pet for Easter" program. In the center of the Mall on Friday and Saturday, Jim Yardley and Booker Bryant from WJL-TV's "Pet Parade" will assist in pet selection. The pet's first shots and worming are covered by a \$25 donation to the Michigan Humane Society. Hours are noon-5 p.m.

ANOTHER ACTIVITY for children at Pontiac Mall is the Bob Brown marionette's production of "Peter and the Wolf" through Friday.

The show will last approximately one-half hour and will be presented three times daily, at 1, 4 and 7:30 p.m. on the stage in the south mall of



Show bunnies will perform.

the center.

Serge Prokofiev's adventures of a boy and his animal friends who trap a troublesome wolf will be acted out by almost life-size string puppets. For information on "Peter and the Wolf" call the Pontiac Mall office at 682-0123.

The Bob Brown Marionettes will also be performing at Sterling Heights' Lakeside shopping mall Monday through April 25. The performances of "Bunny Business" are approximately 15 minutes in length and begin at 11 a.m. and 1, 3, 5 and 8 p.m. at the stage of the West Central Court at Lakeside.

The show features Clara Cluck and acrobatic bunnies.

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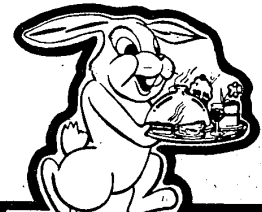
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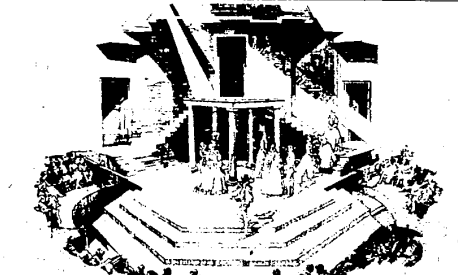
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