

Song revue promises romantic dining

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

IT'S A PLAY ON words in more ways than one when soprano Nina Machus and her piano accompanist, Martin Burwell, present "Heart to Hart," a sophisticated, song revue Thursday-Saturday at Sally's Saloon at Machus Sly Fox in Birmingham.

Not only does the show highlight Rodgers and Hart songs, but Sally's is introducing a menu that includes a section on HeartSmart foods for good health.

"I have a particular fondness for Rodgers and Hart songs, of the '20s and '30s," said Nina Machus. She defines the tunes as light and romantic. Some of her favorites are "Spring Is Here," "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered," "My Funny Valentine" and "Falling in Love with Love."

Performances will be at 7:30 and 9:30 each of the three evenings. There's no additional charge for the revue, but reservations for the 100-seat Sally's Saloon are recommended. The music will be piped into the main dining room for other customers to hear.

Nina is the wife of Bob Machus, the new chairman and chief executive officer of Harris O. Machus Enterprises, headquartered in Birmingham. Bob Machus is the third generation of the Machus family to run the restaurants and pastry shops. He

took over Jan. 1 for his father, Harris, who has retired.

HARRIS AND wife Elaine were both active running the Machus restaurants which also include the Red Fox in Bloomfield Township, Foxy's of Troy, Foxy's by Machus of Rochester and Foxy's West in West Bloomfield.

Now that Bob and Nina are at the helm, she has come up with the idea of offering musical revues and other live entertainment, possibly theater. Nina is handling all the promotions for the Machus restaurants, so she is involved in much of the planning.

"It's unique to have the chairman of the board entertaining there," she said. But Nina has the musical background to make this event well worth attending.

She is director of vocal music at Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills. The Madrigal group she directs there has been to Europe twice.

Martin Burwell, who works with her, teaches piano at Cranbrook, is an accompanist for groups throughout metropolitan Detroit and also is organist at the Christian Science church in Birmingham. "He's a fabulous pianist," Nina said.

If the Rodgers and Hart revue they do together at the Sly Fox is successful, they may do another R&H revue in the summer, and perhaps do one on Stephen Sondheim's

songs. "I may want to get other people to do things," she said. One of her ideas is to have "aspiring, serious musicians perform at brunch."

"I'M ACTIVE at St. Dunstan's (Guild of Cranbrook), and I would like to see local theater groups perform at Machus."

Purpose of the shows at Sally's Saloon is to draw attention to the room's comfort and intimacy, Nina said. The spotlight is also on the new menu.

Helping make changes at the Machus restaurants, along with Bob Machus, are Martin Kreger, president of Machus Enterprises, and John Wood, executive vice president and general manager. At the Sly Fox, glass doors in the entryway are part of the new decor to make the restaurant lighter and brighter.

Talking about the revamped menu, "It will be less like the Red Fox and more toward Foxy's," Nina said. The dining room, which has offered multi-course dinners, and Sally's Saloon, which used to have a separate, lighter menu, will share the same menu. "It will be a less expensive menu throughout."

The HeartSmart section includes such entrees as baked Boston scrod at \$8.95, lemon broiled chicken at \$8.50, each with potato or vegetable, salad and French bread, and broiled steak salad at \$9.50.

Other entrees range from seafood

Fettuccini at \$9.95 to baked Michigan rainbow trout at \$10.95 and from chopped sirloin with burgundy mushroom sauce to New York sirloin at \$14.95. All entrees are served with salad, bread and potato, vegetable or mixed rice. There are also burgers, sandwiches and nachos, from \$3.95 to \$5.95, and a broiled petite fillet on toast at \$10.50.

APPETIZERS, SOUPS, salads including a warm poulet salad at

\$7.95, sides, desserts including a selection from the pastry cart, and beverages complete the menu.

Nina said husband Bob, who has been an attorney, is still in counsel with the firm of Hill, Lewis of Birmingham.

"His office (Machus Enterprises) is now at Adams Square. His occupation is restaurateur. Bob has been involved in the restaurant business with his family."

"He was on the board — treasurer

and secretary of the board of directors. As he got involved more, he found he was more interested."

His grandfather started the business, in Lansing, more than 50 years ago. Bob is the only son of Harris Machus.

Nina said she and Bob, who have been married five years, "were lifelong friends."

"It's enjoyable to have been in the community all our lives and now be a part of the business community."

table talk

Aristocrat open

Jack McCarthy may be leaving the Detroit area for Florida, but Jack McCarthy's Aristocrat in West Bloomfield isn't closing, said Avelina Laxa, owner of the restaurant. She said the Aristocrat is still serving McCarthy's Cajun cuisine.

Jack's wife is staying on as catering director, and two McCarthy sons also work at the restaurant — one as a bartender, the other in the kitchen. McCarthy's family will join him

when he gets settled in Florida, Laxa said.

McCarthy plans to return to Detroit once a month, to continue the "Friday Feast" dining segment on WXYZ-TV, and he is still connected with the Aristocrat, she said.

Newly renamed

The Burroughs Farm sign has come down on the restaurant formerly known as the Roadhouse Restaurant at Burroughs Farms. The

new name is Roadhouse Restaurant, at Oak Pointe.

Burroughs Farms was purchased by the restaurant's two owners — James Dewling and Myron W. Serbay Jr. — from the Burroughs Corp. in 1982. The 120-year-old Dorr family house on the property was developed into a 250-seat country-casual dining facility.

A 45-foot white gazebo has been installed adjacent to the Roadhouse to accommodate additional seating and outdoor receptions up to 200 from April to October.

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

HAPPY EASTER

FROM
Topinka's

Bring the whole family and enjoy Easter Dinner with us.
Complete Dinner Menu Available.
Call now for reservations.
Open Easter Sunday 12 noon

Banquet Facilities Available
• Weddings • Anniversaries • Showers
...whatever the occasion
our beautiful facilities will provide an elegant setting.

Serving
dinner
Open 7 days

Topinka's

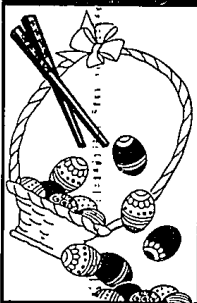
24010 West 7 Mile at Telegraph

Gift
Certificates
...the perfect
gift for any
festive occasion

531-9000

E.A.S.T.E.R SUNDAY

Enjoy the many good tastes of the Mon Jin Lau



DISTINCTIVE CUISINE OF
ALL CHINA • EXOTIC SPIRITS
Share our good tastes with a friend

Mon Jin Lau
Restaurant

1515 EAST MAPLE RD. • TROY
689-2332

Jacques

Enjoy
Easter at
Jacques

Sunday Brunch . . . 10:30-2:30
An elegant buffet worthy of the holiday

Sunday Dinner . . . 4:30-8
Featuring our dinner menu

Children's menu (under 10)

Call 642-3131 for reservations.
30100 Telegraph Road (N. of 12 Mile)

Kids! It's Eggstra Special! It's our

EGGCITING EASTER COLORING CONTEST!

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Our Eggstra Special Easter Coloring Contest is fun! Just color, clip and mail (or bring) to the address below. You can win a Pool Party for 10 people or a savings bond! Two age groups: 9-12 and 8 and under, two winners each! Judging will take place Friday, April 17 at noon, so hurry and enter!

And don't forget our Easter Eggstravaganza! There'll be a kiddie theatre, cartoons and stories, pictures with the Easter Bunny, great prizes and a bunny-tiful buffet! Call 879-2100 for details.

Northfield Hilton
5500 CHURCH RD. • TROY, MI 48068
(313) 879-2100

Easter Dining

at a **Machus Restaurant**

Sly Fox Deluxe Breakfast Brunch
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Adults \$10.95/Children \$5.95 (Under 10)
Help yourself to all you can eat from an exciting array of Fresh Fruits and Juices • Scrambled Eggs • Hash Browns accompanied by Sausage, Bacon and Ham • Crepes • Chicken a la King • Corned Beef Hash • Chicken Livers • Lyonnaise Potatoes • French Toast • Pancakes • and a varied assortment of our scrumptious Machus Pastries.

Dinner Menu
Featuring Easter Favorites, starting at 3:00 p.m.
725 South Hunter • Birmingham • Reservations 642-6900

Machus Red Fox
Open 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Dinner Menu includes
Traditional Easter Selections
Telegraph & Maple • Bloomfield
Reservations 626-4200

Machus ADAMS SQUARE
Cafeteria Style Dining
Open at 11:00 a.m.
643 South Adams
Birmingham • 644-1042

FOX'S Great Oaks
Dinners 12 Noon to 8 p.m.
Dinners Beginning at 7:05
Located in Great Oaks Mall • Rochester
Livemore & Walton Blvd.
Reservations • 652-1177

FOX'S West
Dinners 12 Noon to 8 p.m.
Special Menu Items
6500 Orchard Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield
Reservations • 626-1387