

# Traditions help turn on seasonal glow

The halls are decked, the boughs of holly are hung. Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village stand ready to welcome holiday visitors to a seasonal celebration warm with tradition.

The glow that marks the holidays will burn bright at the Dearborn historical complex with "Traditions to Treasure," a special program of festive displays and demonstrations Dec. 1 through Jan. 1 (except Christmas Day).

Henry Ford Museum will celebrate the holiday, keeping youngsters and the young at heart in mind. A towering Christmas tree decorated with cookies, candy, dolls, stuffed animals and small toys is the centerpiece.

Every child, young and old, will find something to wish for on the giant tree. It's not inconceivable that a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle or two might find their way into the branches.

The cheerful toots from a fantasy Lionel train layout will mingle with the strains of Christmas music. The toy trains, including one equipped with a tiny camera that broadcasts an "engineer's-eye-view," will wind their way through a sparkling gingerbread village. Visitors can watch gingerbread houses pieced together and decorated with every imaginable kind of candy as well.

THE CHILDREN will have the chance to create their own holiday cards in the form of ornaments and gingerbread boy bookmarks. Everyone is invited to leave a little bit of their own family history with the museum by bringing a photograph of their own seasonal traditions to the holiday photo wall. (The photographs will become part of the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village Archives.)

Of course, Santa Claus will be available over the merriest and be preside

to hear every little one's Christmas wish.

Greenfield Village will revive a variety of "traditions to treasure" in dozens of historic buildings. Customs and trimmings from past decades will be featured, ranging from a rural English yule in the 17th century Cotswold Cottage to a more modern 1880s American Christmas celebration at the Firestone Farm.

At scheduled times each day, costumed stunts in various themes throughout the village will create decorations and gifts and demonstrate cooking and food preparation using recipes, utensils and techniques from the past. The Edison Homestead will offer one such domestic scene with the preparation of old-fashioned candies and baked goods.

Other holiday settings and activities to be enjoyed will include an 1890s millinery where ladies busily fashion winter bonnets; the creative craftsmanship of potters and glass blowers; and the General Store, where children are welcome to play with reproductions of yesterday's toys.

AT THE Activities Center in Town Hall, fashioning ribbon roses and making Christmas cards and ornaments will keep little fingers busy. Holiday singers will be on hand to brighten winter days.

For a final touch of enchantment, the Henry Ford Museum Theater will present "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." The two-hour play was written in 1912 by Jessie Bramham White. White's "pre-Disney" characterizations of the dwarfs will amuse and entertain Dec. 26-30. Two matinees will be staged each show date, the first at 11 a.m. and the second at 2:30 p.m., except Dec. 30 when only a 2:30 p.m. show will be performed. The audience is invited to meet the characters after each

performance. Call the Henry Ford Museum Reservations Center at 271-1620 for more information.

Nighttime weaves a special kind of spell around the museum and village that all are invited to discover in two after-hours programs: a 1920s Holiday Gala at Lovett Hall and an 1850s Holiday at Eagle Tavern.

The festivities at Lovett Hall recreate the high society scene of the 1920s, complete with champagne toasts, elegant dinner and dancing under glittering chandeliers to the vintage tunes of the Hotel Savarine Society Orchestra.

The village's Eagle Tavern pre-

sents a hearty, family-style meal in the manner of the 1850s, complemented by the holiday music and singing of a troupe of "stranded" traveling musicians and entertainers. Advance reservations for both programs are required.

The stores and shops of the muse-

um and village provide some out-of-the-ordinary suggestions for anxious visitors with troublesome gift lists. Items reproduced from museum collections, Christmas decorations, wares fashioned by village craftspeople, and a variety of distinctive gifts and souvenirs will be welcome under any tree.

## gardener's book nook Marty Figley

From the bookshelf:

• "10,000 Garden Questions," edited by Marjorie J. Dietz (\$32.50, Harper & Row, hardcover) is the fourth edition of this authoritative book, with the questions answered by 20 experts.

Chapters are devoted to specific garden areas, including one on regional gardens. To indicate the thoroughness of the book, the "Cornell Mix" formula, used for starting seedlings, is included. When I was in a class recently, no one knew this formula. All types of gardening questions are answered and a list of sources for further information is included.

• The completely revised and updated edition of "The Wise Gardener Encyclopedia," Wise, (\$39.95, Harper/Collins, hardcover) is just out. It will be a much-used copy on my bookshelf.

I own an earlier edition, which has been a constant source of reference, so I expect this one will live up to expectations. All gardening terms are explained. The information about flowers, trees, shrubs, lawns, herbs, soil, fertilizer, vegetables, in-

door plants (and more) will assist any gardener. Four stars for this one.

• Who I researched a column for the food section of this newspaper about edible flowers, some information was gleaned from the book "Cooking from the Garden," Rosalind Creasy (\$35, Sierra Club Books, hardcover).

This subject, plus many more such as how to design, plant and harvest produce from these gardens (17 in all) will inspire the reader to try and replicate the successes.

Creasy visited famous chefs and gardens and shares their tips and recipes (180 luscious ones). The interview with these gardeners make fascinating reading and are educational great book to put on your holiday gift list.

• Another book by Rosalind Creasy, "The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping," (\$19.95, Sierra Club Books, soft) is up-to-the-minute with advice about home landscaping with edible plants. How to plant a garden, large or small, and how to maintain it using practical methods are discussed.

The 10-page encyclopedia of edibles lists more than 120 of these plants with information about how to buy, plant and care for, use and preserve them. Many recipes are included. The photographs and drawings will educate as well as inspire the reader to use edibles in the landscapes, and reap the rewards.

• White flowers in a garden and in the home always add a special spark. "ALBA, The Book of White Flowers," Deni Brown (\$32.95, Timber Press, hardcover) won't disappoint with the wealth of information provided.

Symbolism, meaning and the history of white flowers is just part of this book. Color photographs taken in different seasons are an important part, as is the section with descriptions of more than 1,000 white-flowered species. For lovers of white flowers, this is THE book.

• "Herbs, 1001 Gardening Questions Answered," (\$16.95, Garden Way, hardcover) will help both the novice and accomplished herb lover. Designing the garden, growing and maintaining the plants, harvesting, culinary uses and crafts are all given space. Container growing is also discussed.

One chapter deals with five favorite herbs, but I did miss Monarda listed (since there are several varieties). In its stead, bee balm (Monarda didyma) is featured. This is a book with lots of information from the editors of Garden Way.

• "Personal Landscapes," Jerome Malitz (\$39.95, Timber Press, hardcover) presents the author's view of gardening. Most of the photographs are scenes from the western states, but one can adapt the ideas to any part of the country.

One of a stone stairway with sedum as a ground cover could easily be copied. Famous paintings can also inspire garden design. The author lists specific plants to "create moods" reminiscent of them.

We might also get inspiration from parks and gardens we visit and adapt the concept to our own gardens, but, he states: "Each garden develops a personality of its own no matter what the original intention might have been." A thought-provoking account... you will either agree or disagree.

Marty Figley is a Birmingham-based garden writer.

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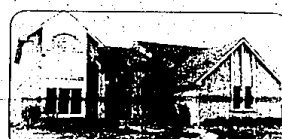
**ABSOLUTELY MINT!** Farmington Colonial features an open and spacious floor plan. Boasts hardwood floor, bay window, recessed lighting, fireplace in family room, 4 bedrooms including master with his and her closets, breakfast nook and finished rec room. \$167,900 626-9100 02-B-5277



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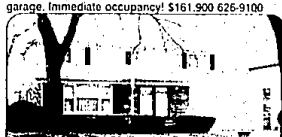
**A PLEASURE!** Well maintained Farmington Hills Condo features expansive living room with fireplace and doorwall to private deck, 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, professionally finished rec room, kitchen with skylight and garage. Complex has pool and tennis! \$109,500 626-9100 02-B-5285



**DESIGNER FLAIR!** Dramatically decorated Contemporary is better than new. Features bridge overlooking great room with distinguished fireplace, formal living and dining rooms, tiered deck and step down family room. Includes chef's delight kitchen with Jenn-Air and island. \$249,000 626-9100



**REFRESHING FLOOR PLAN!** This Colonial is located in a great family neighborhood and is filled with extras. Bay windows, family room with fireplace and 3 doorwalls to deck, huge master suite with dressing area and private bath, island kitchen and 2 car garage. Immediate occupancy! \$161,900 626-9100



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**CALLING FIRST TIME BUYERS OR RETIREES!** Freshly painted Ranch is filled with improvements. Accents hardwood floors, 3 bedrooms, roomy living room, breakfast nook, doorwall to patio and finished basement with 2nd kitchen. Includes central air, porch and all appliances! \$71,500 626-9100 02-B-5149

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