

# Friends call Fisher courageous

By Greg Kowalski  
staff writer

Area friends of Mary Fisher, daughter of millionaire philanthropist Max Fisher and his wife Marjorie, reacted with sadness to her announcement that she has the HIV virus.

Fisher announced last week that she is infected with the virus, which often is a precursor of AIDS. "I think she's very courageous," said longtime Fisher family friend Susana Winton-Feinberg, president of Walter Herz Interiors Inc. in Bloomfield Hills.

Winton-Feinberg said she has known the Fisher family for about 30 years, and decorated their house in Farmington Hills. Fisher made the public announcement, Winton-Feinberg said, that she has HIV out of "a desire to help other people to learn" about the threat of AIDS.

FINANCIALY, Winton-Feinberg has been active in AIDS fund-raising projects for the past eight years and was a founder of the Aid for AIDS Research program to raise money to find a cure for the disease.

Another close friend, Mira Linder, founder of the spa network with one in Southfield, said she was "devastated" by the news.

"She is extraordinarily talented, gifted. But her biggest gift is that

she is so kind," Linder said of Fisher. Linder has known the Fisher family for about 17 years and has a deep affection for Mary Fisher.

"She always has to do things, and everything she does she does perfectly well," said Linder, who lives in Bloomfield Hills.

Rabbi Sherwin Wine of the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills said he has met Fisher on occasion and, "I applaud her courage, her willingness to stand up and be counted." But he added, "I was very distressed by her situation."

AIDS IS A GROWING threat, Wine said, but when people such as Fisher and basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson announce publicly they have HIV, they help make the community aware of the AIDS threat.

"It's my general perception there is a growing public awareness that it does not just affect a small segment of the population," he said.

As in the Magic Johnson case, Wine said public attention to an individual case is limited.

"There was a short period of response, then interest died down," he said. "Public attention is very limited."

Fisher, 43, was active in the area for years before moving to New York.

She graduated from the Cranbrook schools and in 1969 went to work for

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Channel 56 where she helped produce the first of the station's annual auctions. She moved to Washington, D.C., in 1974 and worked in the White House for then-President Gerald Ford.

In 1987 she married New York artist Brian Campbell, who at one point had been an intravenous drug user. Fisher has said she apparently acquired HIV from him. They later

divorced, but last July he told her he had been diagnosed with the virus and advised her to be tested, according to reports.

ONLY A FEW MONTHS before, Fisher had a one-person show at the Linda Hayman Gallery in Farmington Hills where she showed her works of handmade paper.

The fashion world is reacting to the AIDS epidemic. Winton-Feinberg is on the executive committee of an upcoming fund-raiser for the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS, set for March 24 at the Industry club in Pontiac.

The event will include a fashion show and art auction of graffiti images produced just for the event. It will open with a VIP reception from 6-8 p.m., with tickets at \$100. General admission will be at 7 p.m., with tickets at \$25. The Industry club is at 15 S. Saginaw in Pontiac. For more information, call 334-1999.

Although saddened by the news of Fisher's plight, Winton-Feinberg added that after eight years of helping raise money to fight the disease, "I think I've gotten to the point that nothing shocks me anymore."



File photo

In happier days, Mary Fisher opened a specialty gift business in 1983. She has had a longtime interest in art and had a one person show last May at the Linda Hayman Gallery in Farmington Hills.

## recreation news

Each week, the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column.

For information regarding programs, call the recreation office at 473-9570. Pre-registration is required for most activities.

For matters regarding city council agenda items, call the city's Newswire at 476-3838.

### ● YOUTH SWIM LESSONS

Swimming instructions for beginners to advanced skill levels are offered at Harrison High School. The program meets on Saturdays for six weeks beginning March 7. Lessons are 9-9:50 a.m. for levels 1-2; 10-10:50 a.m. for levels 1-5, and 11-11:50 a.m. for levels 6-10. Fee is \$21 per person and pre-registration is required. Children must be 38 inches at their chin height.

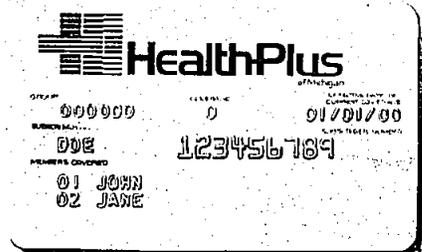
### ● SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Registration is now being accepted for returning adult softball teams from the 1991 season. New teams began registering on Feb. 3. Leagues will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Teams will play a 14-game schedule except co-ed leagues who play 10 games and playoffs. Fees are \$340 for co-ed leagues, \$380 residential and industrial leagues and \$420 open and 35 and over leagues.

### ● ASTRONOMY

During the course of the year, all of the 6,000 stars visible to the unaided eye rotate completely around the night sky. Learn about the constellation lore and other objects visible in the sky such as meteor showers, comets, planets, star clusters and galaxies. Class will be 7-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, at the Gateway Room, Mercy Center on 11 Mile Road. Pre-registration is required.

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7:30 PM	Wednesday	March 18, 1992	30¢	17¢	14¢
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