

SUBURBAN LIFE

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SOCIAL EYES



DENISE LUCAS

Fairgrounds sets scene for sequins

Denise Lucas' column *Social Eyes* alternates with Gretchen Hitch's column *The Scene*. To leave a message for Lucas, on a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1868. You can mail information to Lucas at *The Eccentric*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or call her at 442-2393.

Eyebrows rise when you say you're going to a Goodwill industry event at the Michigan State Fairgrounds, donning sequins and black tie.

But long-time committee members of the 45th Junior Group Goodwill Antique Show know it must be "Gala Preview Night," and expect an action-packed black-tie optional gathering of more than 600 guests.

There's hardly enough time to view the 60 booths filled with 18th and 19th century American and English furniture and collectibles; shop at the country store stocked with handmade gifts, holiday decorations, baked goods and canned goods including dilly beans; and peruse the best-kept secret of the show, the Goodwill Booth housing affordable furs, furniture, china, crystal and jewelry. Raffle tickets were sold for an Amish handstitched quilt, and a silent auction of one-of-a-kind treasures was going on back near the Goodwill Booth. All this is happening as guests mingle at the endless flow of tables filled with tantalizing consuming passions.

Because the show is always scheduled during hunting season, many of the women come alone, including queen for the night and chairman of the board of Junior Group Barbara Smith. She made a great entrance in her multi-color striped silk top and black sequin pants. This "hands-on" woman sets up a workshop at her Burt Lake summer home where committee members gather during the summer months making beautiful handmade gift items. The honorary committee consisted of the Mori Orlins, the Manuel Morouns, the Paul Ninos, the Lloyd Reusses and the Roger Smiths.

Sue Nino, clutching one of "Smith & Co." handmade eery-robed Santas, laughed when she heard the fabric on the Santa she selected is also covering Barbara Smith's chairs up north. The three, fresh-faced, blonde beauties chairing the 46th Junior League Antique Show did a remarkable job. Providing persons with disabilities "Not Charity, But a Chance" is more important than ever, reports co-chairwoman Cindi Burke, Laurie Walters and Suzanne Reinhart, who greeted guests with their husbands Steve Burke, Paul Walters and Jim Reinhart.

Bringing enthusiasm, dedication and commitment with their efforts were Ruby Boechler, Peg Perry, Peg Dasovic, Mary Jane Dalgleish, Janet vonFoerster, Heather Ryan, Jo Batherston and Isabelle Smith, just to name a few.

Art attack

Unique treasures are in abundance, with artistic mediums varying from clays to canvasses and woodens to wood. Exquisite hand painted silks, delicate blown glass, decorative jewels and whimsical peppier magic animals are just some of the creative gift items on display at the new Detroit Artists Market. The gallery is a fine-tuned facsimile of the Ann Arbor Art Fair — in an intimate setting, all under one roof. Last week the Detroit Artists Market celebrated opening its annual Holiday Art Show and new location at 300 River Place (next door to the Pattiesnake).

The Michigan artist showroom moved its Harmony Park location of 30 years to the ever-expanding Detroit River Place which F&M Distributors (Talon) also calls "home." On display are the wonderful works of many local artists. Peter Gilloran, Barbara Dabrowski, Anita Ferry, Stan Megdall, Muriel Jacobs, Barbara Kelly, Carole Becharst and Mary Cullen are just some of the extraordinary talents exhibited.

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DENISE SUSAN LUCAS

Goodwill glamour: Greeting guests at the Goodwill Antique Show Preview Gala, go-chairwomen Suzanne Reinhart (left), Cindi Birke and Lauri Walters.

Sharing Thanksgiving Foreign students join celebration

Area people hosting foreign exchange students make them welcome at all family activities including Thanksgiving Day.

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Thursday, when Americans sit down to celebrate Thanksgiving, some area families will share the meal with foreign exchange students having their first taste of the holiday.

The Rivers family and the Russell family, both of Farmington Hills, and the Angel family of West Bloomfield are among local households acting as host families to teenager boys and girls from abroad.

The students arrived this summer and are attending high school as part of an Academic Year in America, a program of the American Institute for Foreign Study Scholarship Foundation.

Jorge Rodriguez, who comes from La Coruna, on the northwest coast of Spain, will have a big family dinner with his host family — Mary and Willie Rivers; their two sons, Chris, 13, a college student, and Brad, 13, an elementary math teacher in the Detroit Public Schools.

Jorge, who asked the family to call him George, is aware that at Thanksgiving "family members join together and they have a special meal." He is enjoying his whole experience in America. "I wanted to learn English for my career, and it will be positive for me to learn the other cultures and how they live," he said. The prospective law student attends North Farmington High School.

Mary Rivers said the family and George adapted to each other quickly. "It's almost like business as usual. We were lucky enough to get a student that blended into our lifestyle. His interests fairly closely parallel ours."

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HILL BRADLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Take a card: Spanish foreign exchange student Jorge Rodriguez, who enjoys card tricks, displays his magic for host family Willie and Mary Rivers and their son Brad of Farmington Hills.

Son Brad plays football, basketball and baseball, and George is active in soccer, basketball and tennis. One difference in schoolmates in Spain and the U.S., George said, is that here, "Most teens don't smoke. I don't smoke because I'm on a sports team."

Another foreign exchange student from Spain is Inigo Gonzalez of Madrid, who is staying with Roberta and Michael Angel and their son, Nathan. Both boys are 17 and attend Groves High School in Birmingham.

Inigo's host mom said, "I've always enjoyed teenagers or kids of any age. My daughter's away at school this year, and we've got a spare bedroom."

Describing the family's Thanksgiving, Roberta Angel said it was going to be an unusual one. She is a nurse at Beaumont Hospital. Husband Michael is vice president of engineering, for an auto-related company. Because a niece, who is also a nurse, is work-

ing on Thanksgiving Day, "We will have Thanksgiving dinner on Friday." She and her niece will make the traditional holiday dinner of turkey, dressing and cranberry sauce for the family and their guest from Spain.

Inigo said he wasn't familiar with American Thanksgiving, but "I enjoy the family activities." He has studied English for seven years. Asked how his American school compares to the one back home, he responded, "The schools are different. It's a little hard to study in English, but the classes are easier."

Shows interest

A girl from Cologne, Germany, Tina Steinbach, said she was looking forward to spending Thanksgiving with her host family, Sue and Allen Russell. "I had heard about this (Thanksgiving) in Germany," she said, "I was pretty interested because we don't have something like this." Sue Russell, the host mom, is youth director for the Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farm-

ington Hills. Husband Allen is a product engineer for General Motors. "We got to pick Tina from several applications," Sue Allen said. "She's been really wonderful. We're enjoying doing things together. She's been part of our church youth group."

Tina, 16, studied English for six years in her native Germany. She attends Farmington Harrison High School where she has played percussion in the marching band. For Thanksgiving, the family and their guest are getting together with Allen Russell's relatives, at a gathering for about 25 people.

"One of the things the foreign exchange students look forward to is American Thanksgiving," Sue Russell said. "There was a trip planned, but most of the students in the area decided to stay home with the local host families to celebrate Thanksgiving."

Lynne Levenbach of Plymouth is the local coordinator for the Academic Year in America. Anyone interested in becoming a host family may call her at 463-8522.

Books have been her guiding light

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

The world of books, and children's books in particular, has been a lifelong interest of Helen Southgate Williams of Rochester Hills.

This lively, talkative 88-year-old woman with the bright smile will be guest of honor at a luncheon celebrating her devotion to literature, Tuesday, Dec. 1, at The Community House in Birmingham.

For the occasion, Williams will wear a long Victorian gown that is a replica of author Beatrix Potter's engagement dress. "A very dear friend made it from a pattern in the Smithsonian catalog about 20 years ago," Williams explained. "It has lovely Italian lace sleeves," she said, touching a sleeve of the garment, which she donned for the interview.

Williams has been wearing the dress for special book-related occasions the last 20 years. For a period of 10 years, for example, she gave a program at Cranbrook P.M. in Bloomfield Hills that combined a Victorian tea with her thoughts on books of the period. Naturally, she wore the old-fashioned dress.

She had originally planned to wear her new suit to The Community House luncheon but decided on the Victorian dress instead because so many of the people coming to the luncheon had attended her Cranbrook P.M. programs.

Williams likes to keep pace with the times, however. "What I love most now is writing *The Trumpet*," she said, referring to a bi-monthly publication of her commentary on books. "I think that's pretty good for a kid my age." She has been editor-writer of *The Incessant Trumpet* since 1985.

One issue of *The Trumpet* was about Sherlock Holmes. Williams is proud to be a member of the Amateur Mendicant Society, an offshoot of the Baker Street Irregulars, an exclusive club for Holmes fans. Showing her membership card in her wallet, she said, "I treasure it more than my Visa."

Williams, who studied literature at the University of Michigan, came to Detroit in the 1930s and moved to Rochester in 1938. She and her late husband lived in a home they called the Old Red

■ 'I really live with books.'

Helen Southgate Williams

House, which also became the name of a bookshop she opened there.

Later, the Williamses built a house on Trestop on Main Street in Rochester. "After my husband died, in 1974, I closed the bookshop and moved to University (street). I opened a consulting service, just by appointment," she said. There, parents would discuss books for their children, and she also held "gatherings" where everyone talked about literature.

In the bedroom of her apartment in Rochester Hills, where she has lived for about five years, Williams pointed to the bookshelves lining a wall. "These are my choicest books," she said. "I really live with books."

She gave most of her children's books to the Sterling Heights Public Library, for its "Helen Williams Children's Literature Collection". On her bedroom wall hangs a grouping of old photographs, including one of her wearing the Victorian dress, against a tapestry background. "That was taken in Mr. Booth's library at Cranbrook. It was nice to have the old tapestries," Williams said.

Another photo shows Williams at age 35, with her husband Edward Watkin Williams, whom she said was the first president of the Avon Players, to which they both belonged. Still another photo is of her at age 3 — the same year she received her beloved teddy bear, Dolphin. She still has that adorable, small teddy, and said quite frankly, "Sometimes I take him out and play with him."

Turning from the wall, she said, "when you get to be my age, you have a lot of memories. I think the sad part of old ladies is they get to telling what they did when they were 20 and 30. I like to talk about what I'm doing now."



JIM NIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Setting the mood: Helen Southgate Williams, in replica of Victorian dress, reads from one of the books by Peter Rabbit author Beatrix Potter.

Williams is a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers). "They're very well read people," she acknowledged. "We're a peaceful gang and really nice people."

For information about the "Young at Heart" luncheon honoring Helen Southgate Williams, call The Community House at 644-5832. Tickets are \$20.