

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Hospice group plans 5th gala

Gretchen Hitch's column *The Scene* alternates with Denise Lucas' column *Social Eyes*. To leave a message for Hitch, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1885. Material for *The Scene* may be mailed to Hitch at 646 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 646-5277.

Ready or not, here comes 1993. A Grand Night For Hospice V, chaired by Mary Lou James and Elaine Schweitzer, is set for the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn, Saturday evening, Jan. 6, opening the new year social season.

The black-tie dinner dance number five will benefit Hospice Care, James said. "We expect about 300. This event is always a sellout." Reservations are open, with patron tickets at \$250 per person and benefactor tickets at \$400 per person.

The navy-and-gold-sequin invitation is a standout for elegance.

Recently Ross and Donna Roberts held a party for the committee, and to thank people who had helped during Donna's term as president of the Women's Committee for Hospice Care. The festive Christmas party was jolly, and 30 couples enjoyed cocktails and a buffet.

Among those present were honorary chairpeople of hospice's fifth Grand Night, Dick and Valerie Strath, Bob and Sue Rewey, George and Christine Strumbos, and Sigfried and Rita Bushmann.

On the committee for the Grand Night are Luann Battenberg, Sue Bowler, Marge Gormley, Carla Grava and Ruth Guaraselo. Also on the committee, and at the party with their husbands, were Dee Maslotti, Val Morton, Mary Kay Rich, Val Strath and Susan Topping.

Hospice Care benefits various hospice groups in the area.

Double anniversary year

The St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Boosters joined in a special anniversary dinner dance Sunday evening at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. Master of ceremonies Dr. Abner Ragins said, "We are here tonight to celebrate St. Joseph Mercy Hospital's 65th anniversary of providing compassionate, quality care to the community. It is the 35th anniversary of Helen Castle beginning the Boosters for St. Joe's and continuing its support and commitment."

Dr. Amad Toth and Dr. Jalal Panah co-chaired the party and welcomed the 300-plus guests, thanking them for their support. Dr. Frank and Rose Green secured the band for dancing - Rosendo Garcia and His Blue Notes. Rose said, "I insisted that the sound decibel be kept at a comfortable level. People are not here for a concert by the band." Rose told Garcia, "They want to be able to talk across the table." If only more bands got that message ahead of time, it would save us all the shouting in trying to hold a conversation while the band is playing.

Christmas tree cutting

A group gathered Thursday afternoon at the Christ Church Cranbrook parking lot, in Bloomfield Hills, for a caravan to Jim and Helen Holmes' property in Metamora to cut trees for CCC. The tradition of trekking out to the Holmes tree farm is an annual event, with folks who help cut and carry being allowed to take a tree for their own homes.

After the tree-cutting rigors, the group, with added guests, enjoyed a cocktail buffet at the Holmes' home in Bloomfield Hills.

The Rev. Almus Thorp and the Rev. Don Waring were part of a tree-cutting gang. Other industrial-strength lumber men in the woods included...

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GRETCHEN HITCH

Apres tree cutting: Curt Wood (left), Ellen Mason and host Jim Holmes warm up after spending the afternoon in the Metamora Woods cutting Christmas trees for Christ Church Cranbrook.

Dressing for the holidays



Wearing the pants: Rossman's double-breasted pantsuit leads a versatile life, being appropriate for many occasions.

Dressing right for every occasion requires a blend of common sense and imagination, as this young Off the Cuff personality, a Birmingham resident, reveals.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER



Knowing how to stretch your wardrobe is especially important when you're young and need daytime clothes for your job, as well as evening apparel for business or social events, including holiday parties.

Denise Rossman, who graduated from the University of Michigan in 1986, is an account executive for Seltzer, Kaufmann & McGraw in Bloomfield Township. The agency does niche marketing for retailers, which sometimes requires Rossman to attend nighttime advertising-related functions. She also does fundraising for the March of Dimes, a volunteer effort that includes such glittering affairs as the annual Detroit Auto Dealers Association International Auto Show black-tie charity preview.

"I do get invited," the Birmingham apartment dweller said, referring to



STAFF PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL

Festive mood: In her Birmingham apartment, Denise Rossman is aglow with the spirit of the holiday season. Jeweled dress is her favorite of the many smart outfits she owns.

OFF THE CUFF

some of her company's events. "In the beginning, you don't have a lot of money to buy things. You have to take the simple things and make them go into the evening."

Rossman studied economics at U-M and is getting her MBA at Wayne State University, but until her earnings increase, she has to make sure she buys clothes that can be adapted to many scenes.

To change her office look into an evening one requires only switching blouses. "I wear the same suit, 9 to 5, then go to a big client dinner, with a lace top or silk camisole — something

a little bit prettier or delicate," she said.

This refreshing blonde with a flashing smile wears a lot of black. "It goes a lot farther for me right now," she said. Rossman also prefers solid colors to patterns. "I get a lot more mileage than from a skirt that's striped or plaid."

For the informal office setting, she dresses casually at least three days a week. "A sweater and skirt, jeans, stretch pants — something comfortable. It's so hectic, if you were uncomfortable it would not be as easy to get through the day," Rossman said. She may wear a suit or dress the other two days. Her suits are double-breasted solids in navy blue or black,

and she has a lot of condtresses. Defining her wardrobe as functional, she pointed out, "When I started working, I bought more inexpensive things. Now, I buy fewer, nicer things. I had 10 suits. Now I have three, but they'll make it for a long time."

Cocktail parties or dressier events may be the perfect time for a black dress. "I have the ever-so-popular little black dress. They don't even have a season." When glitz is called for, "Recently, I acquired my first beaded sequin dress, a mini-investment," she said, talking about a short black-and-gold dress adorned with brightly colored gemstones.

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Those who speak Esperanto are a close group

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

It's a small world, especially when you and someone from another country can speak the same language. If that language is Esperanto, then it's even easier for people of all countries to come together.

That's the inspiration behind Esperanto, which has been promoted as an international language. But do people who study this language really make good use of it? Just ask some local suburbanites, who speak from experience.

For years, Kurt Jung of Birmingham was interested in learning more about Esperanto, but, "It was only last year that I was able to start pursuing it." Now he speaks the language well enough to teach it.

Jung will teach an eight-week Esperanto class tentatively scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Mondays beginning Jan. 25 at Seaholm High School in Birmingham. (Call the Community Education Department at 433-8444 for more information.) At the end of the course, his students "will be able to correspond with people in different countries, read fairly comprehensive books, and participate in some initial discussions in Esperanto."

Newcomers are welcome at Esperanto meetings held 4-6 p.m. the third Sunday of the month at the

Troy Public Library, from January-April and in the fall. Jung himself attends more advanced Esperanto sessions held every one or two weeks in different people's homes throughout the Detroit area.

"It's a language that's so easy to learn by the book," he said, explaining how he was able to pick it up so quickly. "It's very regular. There are no irregularities in the whole language structure."

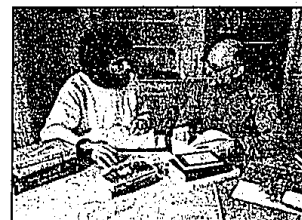
Asked why he studied the language, Jung, who works as a computer consultant for the airline industry, said, "I like it for being in contact with other people throughout the world."

Esperanto is used for writing letters to protest human rights violations to leaders of other countries. He thinks that because the language does not represent any one country, "I really believe the United Nations could benefit from the use of Esperanto."

Jung's friend, Dr. Sylvan Zait of Farmington Hills, has exchanged a couple hundred letters in Esperanto with people on five continents, since 1956. "I carried on a spirited debate with a communist professor of history in Russia," he said, recalling one of his former correspondents.

Zait retired this summer from Cass Technical High School in Detroit, where he was in the social

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STEPHEN CANTRELL

Talking it up: Kurt Jung (left) of Birmingham and Sylvan Zait of Farmington Hills go over writings in Esperanto. Both men speak Esperanto and meet regularly with others who promote the invented international language.