

# The Scene from page 1H

cluded host Jim Holmes, Cameron Buchanan, Verger Tony Williams, Dan Behring (head of Cranbrook school), John Street, Bill Gray, Fran Loud, Bill Bresford and Curt Wood.

Also at the supper party were Blanche Bell, Joanne Thorp, Karen Street, Marilyn Buchanan, Dulce Gray, Grace Loud, Linda Duhn, Al and Blanche Bell, Elliott and Patti Trumbull, Mike and Clare Redfield, Eric and Suzanne Mittelstadt, and Nancy Behring.

## Phantom gets a KISS

"A kiss is just a kiss," suggests a song, but the Sunday evening preview of "Phantom of the Opera" — to benefit the KISS coalition — at Masonic Temple proved it just isn't so.

The event for Kids in Social Services was as big a hit as the performance the audience anticipated, said general chairwoman Sue Nine. Among the 800 guests, who paid top price to secure the best seating for one of the preview nights, were Gov. and Mrs. John Engler, new CEO at General Motors Jack Smith and his wife Lydia, Chrysler executive vice-president Tom Denommo and his wife Barbara, and honorary chairman and chairwoman Fred and Betty Nederlander.

The Nederlander theatrical family is sponsoring the "Phantom" performance in Detroit as part of the Fisher Series.

The four agencies sharing the \$160,000 profits are Boysville of Michigan, Judson Center, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, and Oakland Family Services.

Nine said, "It is all so worthwhile. It took one year to put together. She attended with Dean Grolz because Paul Nine had to be in Grand Rapids on business.

At the microphone, chairwoman Nine told the assemblage at dinner, "Without the devotion of the heads of the four agencies who benefited, we couldn't have had the success of this special night." She admitted, "It wasn't easy to sell 5,000 tickets to the 'Phantom,' even with all its fanfare."

In the audience were Ron and Fran Thels with their son Brian, Tom and Laurie Dreisbach, the Art van Elslanders, Bob and Millie Pastor, Dick and Theresa Mazure, Doug and Sydel Schubot and Kathleen Sheridan, who chaired the champagne afterglow.

"The show is so spectacular, people left in high spirits, although it took a while for the valet parkers to find all the cars," Nine said.

## 'Tis the Season

The Salvation Army garnered dollars for Christmases for their clients at three events we know about. The long-standing Christmas sing-along, which started at the London Chop House decades ago, and is now moved to the Rattlesnake Club, happened Dec. 9, with Col. Clarence Harvey and the Salvation Army Band at full throttle.

Bill and Sigrun Kast hosted a table of women in red who call themselves the Birmingham Chorale, or the Birmingham-Bloomfield Bombers. Two guests paid \$1,000 each for special yuletide requests from the "chorale." The singers included Jessie Weyand, Mary Lou Jones, Judie Sherman, Valerie Struth, Sigrun Kast and this writer. Regulars Barbara Rau, Arlene Clifford, Mary Lou Bagley and Aggie Meldman couldn't make it.

Other localite singers were Bonnie Silva and Lucie Zurkowski. Ruth Frickhauf cheerfully passed the red kettle, and more than \$12,000 was raised. We still miss the charismatic Chop House.

The "Sharing Is Caring" Salvation Army sing-along was held Thursday and Friday at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. There were two seatings each day, at 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. On Friday, the Townsend was so crowded with other "ladies who lunch" and people having tea in the lobby, it was a bit confusing when the 11:30 a.m. folks didn't really want to leave at 1:15 p.m. as the second seating guests arrived.

Chairwomen Carol Wendzel and Jacqui Mulroni both hosted multiple tables. Betty Bright took a table and invited her husband, Bob, Patricia Burnett and husband Bob Siler. Wendzel's guests were her husband Bob, Barbara Tucker, Roger and Judie Sherman, and many more.

Rod Rieser was Santa, and Marge Slezak dressed as Mrs. Santa, with a holly wreath on her head and a holly wand for passing out good luck and granting wishes. Millie Fraker and Maggie Altesco, dressed as Christmas Carols, sold teddy bears. Rich Fisher dropped in to lead a few Christmas songs and carols. Bob Allison played the piano.

At the conclusion Friday afternoon, Carol Wendzel thanked everyone for coming and announced, "Next year we'll have the new large Townsend Ballroom and only have one seating, and it is already set for the first Friday in December." She added, "We made \$4,000 today for the Salvation Army."



Trio for hospice: Host Ross Roberts (left), Dennis Gormley and Phil Gurascio chat at the Roberts Christmas party to thank hospice committee.



Christmas carols: Santa (Rod Rieser), chairwoman Carol Wendzel (center) and Mrs. Santa Claus (Marge Slezak) turn out for the Townsend sing-along.



Nutcracker luncheon: Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall Women's Committee president Margie Saulson (left) poses with Annette Balian of Rochester, chairwoman of the luncheon held at the Ritz-Carlton.



Hospital Boosters: Celebrating 65 years for the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and 35 years for the Boosters are Amod Tootla (left), Boosters founder Helen Castle and Dr. Jalal Panah.



At Roberts home: Hosts Ross (left) and Donna Roberts pose with A Grand Night for Hospice V chairwoman Mary Lou Jones and her husband Dick.



Phantom preview: General chairwoman Sue Nine (standing) with Bob (left) and Millie Pastor and the Nines law clerk Dean Grolz attend dinner for preview of "Phantom of the Opera" at Masonic Temple.



Santa Clausen's galore: Sue Currier (left), Judie Sherman and Linda Ettenheimer enjoy Nutcracker boutique and luncheon.



Warm hug: At Holmes supper party, hostess Helen Holmes is given a big hug by Elliott Trumbull.

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