

SUBURBAN LIFE

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SOCIAL EYES



DENISE LUCAS

Evening begins with regal stroll

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. 1888. You can mail information to Lucas at *The Eccentric*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or call her at 442-2339.

It was an evening of majestic elegance and excitement as supporters of Hospice V "A Grand Night" made a royal grand entrance at the Ritz Carlton-Dearborn.

Guests were greeted at the "front" entrance of the Ritz (a new touch) by a complete staff of doormen and welcoming staff, and regally strolled through the posh hotel. Dick and Mary Lou Jones (chairwoman), Peter and Elaine Schwitzer (co-chairwoman), and Ross and Donna Roberts (president of Women's Committee for Hospice Care) headed the receiving line. Mary Lou looked radiant in a gown of black velvet and peau de soie accented by a jeweled pin at the hip.

Honorary chairs of the evening were Rita and Siegfried Buschmann, Heinz and Wally Prechter, Sue and Robert Rowoy, Richard and Valerie Stralath and George and Chris Strombo.

Valerie Stralath made her fashion statement in an animal print evening jacket with a black floor-length skirt. Hospice committee member Luann Battenberg wore a gorgeous magenta strapless ballgown and worked with Margo Gormley coordinating the photography sitting of all the guests. Margo turned heads wearing a black column gown with an Egyptian look neckline. Hanan Farah wore a turquoise Mary McFadden gown while Barbara Warner was spotted in a silk chiffon leopard print.

Deborah O'Brian in an Escada ball gown was with fiance Patrick Morin. The couple are planning a spring '93 wedding.

The breathtaking table display of coral metallic tablecloths and candelabra floral centerpieces provided a beautiful background for a dinner that included smoked roasted loin of veal with wild mushrooms, sweet potato duchess, asparagus, flowered carrots and zucchini.

A fabulous auction of nine "special events" — Superbowl, Indy 500, Tony Awards, Kentucky Derby, U.S. Open Tennis, Emmys, Academy Awards, Kennedy Center Honors and Wimbledon — were auctioned off by Frank Boos.

Other committee members included Sue Bowler, Carol Grava, Ruth Guzman, Dee Mastell, Val Morion, Mary Kay Rich, Ginger Scott, Jean Stroh and Susan Topping.

Mark your calendar for the Hospice Spring Luncheon and Home and Garden Boutique on April 20.

Children learn how to handle phone, door

In a class offered locally by the American Red Cross, youngsters can learn skills that will help them when they are left at home, on their own.



BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

"Home alone." Those words conjure up hilarious pictures of a clever child who outwits burglars, in the movies, or somber reflection on real-life situations where neglectful parents leave their youngsters alone while pursuing other interests. But even good parents occasionally may leave their children at home without supervision, for brief periods of time. In those instances, what's a kid to do, to stay away from trouble?

The American Red Cross has an answer of sorts, with its one-and-a-half-hour class entitled "Home Alone," for kindergarteners through sixth graders. This class isn't a newcomer to the scene. It's been offered for at least five years, according to Cynthia Montgomery, public relations specialist for the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Using a teacher-leader guide, "Teachers, group leaders or anyone who will have an audience of young children can conduct the class," Montgomery said. Each child gets a copy of a workbook to reinforce things taught in the class. A 16mm film or videotape illustrating the information also is available. Materials for the class are only 25 cents for the teacher-leader guide and 16 cents for each workbook.

The most important information kids alone need is learning how to handle emergency phone calls, as well as regular phone calls, and how to answer the door. How to hide the house key is another thing they should know.

In an emergency, the child should dial and tell the operator, "This is an emergency and I'm home alone." The child should give his or her name, address and phone number and tell the



operator what the emergency is. As the final step, "Do not hang up until you are told to," Montgomery said.

Always answer phone

When it comes to regular phone calls, children should always answer the phone, the class stresses. Youngsters should play near the house, to be sure to hear the phone. When they answer, "Never let a stranger know you are alone," Montgomery pointed out. "If the caller asks to talk to a parent, children should tell them the parent cannot talk now, and ask to take a message."

Great caution should be taken when the child hears a knock at the door. "Do not open the door. Talk through the door. No matter what the person says, never let them come in," she emphasized.

Anyone in the area who wants to hold the class should contact Robert Haase, volunteer youth representative for the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross. He can be reached at 334-3575.

The individual who will teach can pick up materials for the class and borrow the videotape, Haase said. Videos must be reserved because only a few are available for the entire county.

Hide house key

"The kids like the video. It's the best part of the course," Haase said. The film shows children doing what is suggested, such as hiding the house key by putting it in their pocket, rather than keeping it on a string around their neck.

He pointed out that "home alone" includes what they do on the way home from school, as well as at home. By hiding the key, kids aren't revealing they will be "home alone" after school until their parents return.

The class is especially popular with schools and Scout groups. In an average year, as many as 1,200 youngsters in the area may see the program, Haase said.

"I've taught it myself. The kids like it. It's common sense stuff," he said. Some kids may already know what's in the program, while others will be learning something new. "It usually depends on what the parents have taught the kids."

No one should have qualms about teaching the course. "It's easy to teach. The instruction guide takes you right through it. It's most like watching a video and discussing it," Haase said.

Art of food and wine

What do you get when you mix more than 40 restaurants, 15 tables of wine, more than 300 auction items, two jazz bands and 1,000-plus people? A fund-raiser for Temple Israel in West Bloomfield.

Five years ago Jimmy Lutfy and family (proprietors of the Cloverleaf Market in Southfield) put together a food and wine tasting that has snowballed into one of the year's most-talked-about social happenings.

Gary and Rita Wasserman were found in Koran Hall sampling desserts, listening to the music of the Orchard Lake Middle School Jazz Ensemble and talking about their latest challenge.

"No one knows this yet," whispered Gary, "but the Opera Ball will be at the D.A.C. on April 29 with an Egyptian theme for the evening." Gary was attached to his darling bride Rita who wore a wonderful Escada "watch" suit. Excitement also flowed with the plans of their new home.

See SOCIAL EYES, 3C



DENISE SUSAN LUCAS

A Grand Night: Ford VP Ross Roberts (left) and Women's Committee for Hospice Care's Donna Roberts celebrate a successful night for Hospice with honorary chairwoman and chairman Sue and Robert Rewey.

How will Hillary influence fashion scene?

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

What Hillary Clinton wore to last night's inaugural ball is a hint of what's in her fashion future and that of many American women.

Early last week Carol Bendorff, assistant buyer at Roz & Sherm, in the Bloomfield Plaza in Bloomfield Township, predicted what guests would wear to the inaugural ball. "The main point is that this year, fashions for the inaugural ball are going to take a younger slant." And for the next four years, at least, "The fashions are going to be younger, chic and more '90s," she said.

Bendorff guessed that Hillary would wear something "more tailored, less decadent" to the Inaugural Ball than what previous First Ladies have worn. "Not a big, voluminous, satin-draped ballgown," she explained. With the new administration taking hold, "I think her overall look will be a little less than what we saw in the '80s."

Later in the week Bendorff heard a description of the sheath dress in embroidery and lace, with chiffon overskirt, which Hillary planned to wear. She said it confirmed her opinion, declaring, "That sounds nice."

When it comes to politics, Hillary may be considered a liberal or moderate Democrat, but in her personal style the First Lady will influence American women with a look that "could become a little more conservative," Bendorff said. She thinks Hillary's choices in dress will inspire working women, and that the First Lady herself may become more fashionable.

"She tends to wear more muted colors. With her hair and skin tone, she could use stronger colors," Bendorff said, and suggested deep chocolate brown, black for evening, and red to brighten Hillary's appearance.

Some Roz & Sherm customers invited to the big bash in Washington chose options to traditional, elaborate ball gowns. Bendorff said the shop sold



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

What to wear: Following Hillary's lead, ball gowns are giving way to less elaborate dressing for gala evenings during the Clinton administration. At Roz & Sherm in Bloomfield Township, cocktail dress (left) and cocktail suit are shown as options, which some customers chose to wear to the inaugural ball.

a lot of gowns but also many cocktail suits with beading, rhinestones or trim (some with long skirts) and dressy cocktail dresses at the knee or above.

"The overall difference for this inaugural ball is that there are no longer mandatory rules of dress," she said.

Over at Saks Fifth Avenue, at the Somerset Collection in Troy, regional fashion director Cheryl Hall compared Hillary's style to that of other presidents' wives. "She is a much more conservative dresser. Her style is more businesslike, crispier," Hall said. "I have never, in the years I've been following First Ladies, seen a working-woman look — a career look."

Hall believes Hillary will wear a lot of suits, ones that are tailored and businesslike, rather than luncheon or theater suits. Describing suits Hillary has worn, she said, "They look like she means business. She expects to be working while she's wearing them."

Although Hillary's look is conservative now, "Once she becomes in the public eye we'll see a transformation," said Karen Daskas, buyer and store manager at Diane M in Birmingham. "All the New York designers are interested in dressing her." Daskas thinks we may see Hillary in Bill Bliss or Oscar de la Renta creations.

She said Hillary will probably look more updated but not trendy. Daskas pointed out, "I don't think she'll be a trendsetter like Jackie Kennedy was."

Women who voted for Bill Clinton are likely to follow Hillary's fashion lead, in the opinion of local designer Bette Appel — who has a shop in West Bloomfield, but whose fashions are also sold outside Michigan.

"I hope Hillary will choose classy, energized looks and not be too cute, and give up the headband," she said.