

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

'Pleasures' offers appealing menus

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. 1886. Material for *The Scene* may be mailed to Hitch at 646 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 646-5277.

The Temple Beth El fund-raiser "Pleasures of the Palace" scheduled for March 27 offers a wide range of dinners, from elegant to casual, observed Marshall Lowenstein, who with his wife and co-chairwoman Phyllis, heads the committee.

The round of dinners at 25 Temple Beth El members' homes each will be capped by dessert and dancing at the temple for the dinner hosts and their guests.

Lowenstein chaired *Le Gala de Cuisine* at Cranbrook several years ago, and that experience gave him this concept. The idea is that a host donates his home and provides the menu, while guests select the menu which appeals to their taste. The committee will help make the matches. On the committee are Faye ClareBlau, Suslo Bluestein, Larry Epstein, Lois Geranrich, Francine Kaplan, Herb and Ed Kaufman, Sandy Reitelman and Leslie Statkin.

For information about the cost of an evening, call chairman Marshall Lowenstein at 269-1800.

International Consular Ball

An intriguing invitation has been received by several thousand people, bidding them to attend the 1993 International Consular Ball on Friday, March 5, at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. The International Consular Ball is a project of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, at which the World Trader of the Year is presented with a handsome award from the World Trade Club.

Ball chairman Dick and chairwoman Linda Kughn and the World Trade Club have announced the World Trader of 1993 is Northwest Airlines. The award will be accepted by John Dasburg, president and CEO of Northwest.

Frank Smith, president of the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, said, "Northwest Airlines has served the Detroit area since 1946, and Detroit Metro Airport is currently the largest of Northwest's five hubs." Smith observed, "The airline has strengthened Detroit's economic vitality by providing easy access to domestic and international air transportation."

Main feature of the evening, along with the World Trader Award, is the presentation of the illustrious consuls of the Detroit Consular Corps. Usually almost all the consuls are in attendance and receive a dramatic introduction. Countries with consulates serving the metro area are Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Canada, People's Republic of China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Haiti, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Thailand.

Did you realize Detroit was so international? Some consuls general are coming from Chicago, when their country is served through Chicago for Detroit.

Gov. and Mrs. John Engler have accepted and will definitely attend the black-tie dinner dance.

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GRETCHEN HITCH

Fair Lane Estate: Ford chairman Red Poling and his wife Marian are on the honorary committee for the fund-raiser for the Henry and Clara Fisher home in Dearborn.

Refined taste

Designer dresses in minimal manner

Interior designer Suzanne Lucas applies the same principles to her design work as she does to the way she dresses. The Franklin resident favors jeans, T-shirts and lots of designer separates in black.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

A bright red Chanel jacket hangs in her closet, but almost everything else is black and white because that's the way Suzanne Lucas of Franklin prefers to dress.

An interior designer by profession, Susy Lucas likes things to be "clean and minimal and functional and very simplistic" — and this design philosophy has carried over to her wardrobe.

OFF THE CUFF

She didn't always dress mainly in black. "That just came to me several years ago when I refined my taste, even in my design work," she said. "Even when working in color for a client, I never wanted to distract them, by wearing clothes that shout."

With smooth blondish hair as the main color accent for her outfits, Lucas relies more on elegance of line when dressing. "I wear a lot of Jean Muir (a London designer)," Lucas said. She shops at Linda Dresner in Birmingham, where she buys Muir designs "and other designer names and no-designer names." The clothes she chooses are seasonless. "I don't like a contrived look," she explained. "I like my things to take me from afternoon to evening."

Day to night

This versatility is shown with her black wool Jean Muir suit. "I can wear it to a business meeting, and take it one step up and wear it to dinner," Lucas said. For work, she wears her hair down, and her shoes have a low heel. For dinner, she pulls her hair back, adds jewelry and puts on shoes with high heels.

She wears very little jewelry, except for earrings. "I like vintage types of jewelry. I look for pieces by Miriam Haskell," she said.

Lucas explained that Haskell is a designer from the 1940s who did intricate costume jewelry. She finds and buys the designer's jewelry in the United States. While traveling in England and France, "I saw all these pieces (by Haskell). They cost three to four times what they are here."

Although Lucas stands only five feet tall, she stressed, "I'm petite but I'm not little. I have broad shoulders. I have legs of a six footer." She believes this build enables her to carry off the fashion looks she likes.

"T-shirts are one of Lucas' favorite



STAFF PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL

Swinging out: Suzanne Lucas of Franklin stands in front of French poster, wearing black wool swing coat and matching skirt from Linda Dresner combined with black wool turtleneck top.

tops, which she prefers to silk shirts. She showed a black wool gabardine jacket by Jean Paul Gaultier that she bought in Beverly Hills, Calif., where she lived for a while.

"I wear it (over a white T-shirt) with my jeans," she said. "I can go to the fanciest restaurants in California with this." The jacket has long sleeves that tie onto the rest of the garment. "Sometimes people come up to me and say, 'Your jacket is torn.' They see my T-shirt," she said. The sleeves can be untied and removed, and then the jacket becomes a vest.

In T-shirts, "I feel very comfortable and cool. Calvin Klein, men's large, T-shirts, that's what I live in." She wears the T-shirts with everything from her blue jeans to a dinner suit from Linda Dresner that she said, "has enough integrity" to make the T-shirt appropriate.

Jeans with holes

Lucas wears different brands of jeans that look neat, and also has some with holes. "I've worked a long

time to get my holes in them," she said. That red Chanel jacket she owns is worn with her blue jeans. Although she does have some trousers, "I'd rather wear jeans than a pair of fine pants."

Lucas has lived in metropolitan Detroit her whole life, except for a couple of career-related moves — to the island of St. Martin in the Caribbean in 1981-82 and to California from 1989 to 1991. But she missed this area. "I think there's a lot more happening here in town," she said.

She is owner and designer of Lucas Design and works out of her home in Franklin. The man she describes as "my significant other" is Franklin resident Robert Binder, an Oakland County builder and owner of an art gallery, Gallery IV in Bloomfield Township.

Asked how he responds to Lucas' way of dressing, Binder said, "I think it's tremendous. I think she has a very good sense of style and balance and taste." He acknowledges, "We have different tastes. I appreciate the differences."



At the door: Lucas looks smart in black wool suit by London designer Jean Muir.

Church keeps families connected to roots

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Suburban blacks like Debra Turner, who live in predominantly white sections of Oakland County, stay attached to their heritage through Trinity Missionary Baptist Church.

Turner, a Troy resident, spends five to seven days a week there attending services and participating in activities.

The African-American church in Pontiac, celebrating its 75th Jubilee, fills the needs of Turner and her two children, who have lived in Troy since 1988. "I sent my kids to a church in Troy. It was an all-white church, but I wasn't comfortable with it," she said. Because there weren't any black churches in Troy and "my ex-husband (then her husband) said he would not be comfortable in a white church," they asked a friend to suggest a black church they could attend, Turner explained.

She first visited and joined Trinity in 1991. She spends nearly every evening there after work, often returning home from her Pontiac job to bring the children back for their church activities. Turner attends church services twice on Sundays and on Saturdays visits church members who are sick or shut-ins.

Once a month, she and daughter Kezia, 14, and son Jonathan, 7, go to the church's African-American History and Culture Center. "We learn about our heritage and our roots. It's really done a lot for my kids," said Turner, who works as a supervisor for Children's Protective Services in Pontiac.

The Turners are among many black residents living in areas that include Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, Troy, Southfield, Farmington and Rochester, who find themselves drawn to Trinity.

Part of the church's attraction is its stature as "the oldest African-American Baptist church in Oakland County," said the senior pastor, Dr. Robert E. Bailey. "We have people that drive as far as 40 miles."

Several black members of the Detroit Lions are church members, as well as a number of African-American management-level people from General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, he said.

Membership ranges from affluent to the needy. "We have everyone from people on welfare to millionaires" in the congregation, Bailey pointed out.

A Southfield resident, Bailey is in his 19th year with Trinity, which has been at its present location

since 1928. The church was formed in 1918 at another Pontiac site.

Bailey has a sonorous voice and a hearty laugh. He is frequently described as "dynamic."

When Walter Terry of Rochester Hills, an engineer for General Motors, moved with his family to the local area from Indiana "We visited a lot of churches in Rochester Hills and some in Pontiac that were closer than Trinity. We were looking for a church that our family would fit into," he said.

"We were looking for a church that had a strong religious leader and teacher — someone that was quite dynamic. We were looking for a church with a

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JOHN STORMZLAND (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Time to learn: Church member Walter Terry of Rochester Hills chats with Dr. Robert E. Bailey, senior pastor, during Bible study night.