

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1993

THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Cranbrook plans its auction event

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.

The invitation to the Cranbrook Art Academy's Art and Antique Auction must have been difficult to compose, as the event is a complicated one.

A figure from the Orpheus Fountain in soft taupe formed the background of the artistic invitation. The auction, which is held in alternate years with Brody Day, consists of valuable antiques, paintings, jewelry, fabrics, porcelain and furniture.

We chatted with chairwomen Page Yeager and Lillian Zouara who noted that in 1991 \$160,000 was raised for the scholarship fund. "We are planning on \$180,000," Yeager said.

A preview party will be held 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday in the Cranbrook Art Academy Museum in Bloomfield Hills. Admission is \$35 per person for patrons; benefactors tickets are \$125. Benefactors also attend a candlelit supper after the April 3 auction.

Jean Schuler of Birmingham is chairwoman of the processing committee, a big job, as it starts for 1995 right after this auction.

We visited the Cranbrook garage, where donations are accumulated beginning two years prior to the event. You may have experienced rummage or garage sales, but this staggering array is impressive. More than 2,000 items are on sale, not counting the 40 auction pieces.

While we were photographing, Jean Schuler held up John Torrance's cross constructed of chrome yellow wood and aquamarine plastic gems. CAA Student Council president Carol Stakenas examined fiber and metal constructions. CAA staff liaison Bob Yares and chairwoman Yeager unwrapped a Christo painting with great care, and Yeager pronounced it a "handwrapped litho of Paris" wrapped trees on the Champs Elysees. The chairman noted the lithograph sells for \$17,000 in New York at Christo's studio.

Peggy Perry and Mario Harness, prices working on the sale, paused to admire an Indonesian puppet. CAA student Stakenas was interested in a bottle in the shape of a vase by CAA alumnus Bruce Winn. A large acrylic on canvas by Aris Koutroulis, named "Emergence B" and measuring 83 inches by 65 inches, made an excellent backdrop for showing off a John Glick tray. The museum and garage are open to the public April 1-3 free of charge. Non-auction items may be purchased at the preview party in the museum and the garage. Works are on display 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 3, begins with 40 very special items. The auction will be conducted by Robert Woolley of Sotheby's, who has donated his professional services.

Both Graves and Pat Warner are chairing acquisitions.

Yeager observed, "The variety of donations is amazing. The alumni of CAA responded generously to letters from Jan Swanson. The scholarship fund gets all the profits, which is helping the next generation of artists."

Bought on house

When a benefit night for St. Dunstan's production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" was canceled, Larry and Audrey Kron enlisted Arnel

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GRETCHEN HITCH

Large acrylic: Bob Yares, staff liaison at Cranbrook Art Academy, holds student donation, and chairwoman Page Yeager shows John Glick platter, in front of Aris Koutroulis' "Emergence 8."



INTERVENTION

A caring group confronts drinker

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIT BOTTOM



BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Getting an alcoholic to seek help often seems hopeless to family and friends of the chemically dependent person.

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BY ETHEL SIMMONS

STAFF WRITER

Do your kids get enough exercise and the right foods to eat? In busy families (and whose isn't?), maybe not.

On Saturday, YMCAs across the country will hold a Healthy Kids Day, devoted to fun for children and their parents, with demonstrations, active participation, and information about health-related subjects.

In the Oakland County suburbs, area Y's taking part in Healthy Kids Day include the Farmington Area YMCA at 28100 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills and the Birmingham YMCA at 400 E. Lincoln. Both will have open houses.

The South Oakland YMCA at 12116 W. 11 Mile Road in Royal Oak won't have special activities that day but instead will offer a Healthy Kids Breakfast on Friday. This too is open to the public.

At Fairview Early Childhood Center in Farmington, "They've been preparing for one-and-a-half to two months," said Robin Suggs, referring to kindergarten children who will demonstrate exercises during Healthy Kids Day at the Farmington Y. Suggs directs the Prime 5's program, offered through the Y to latchkey kids at five Farmington Schools.

It's scary when you think of the statistics about children's health. Vicki Kloosterhouse of Oakland Community College has revealed that a national survey cites Michigan as the most overweight state in the nation for a second year in a row, and Michigan's children among the most unfit.

Kids in the local suburbs may not match these figures, but they undoubtedly reflect this pattern. Perking them up with more exercise and better

An intervention by caring family members may save the life of an alcoholic who is on the downward spiral. Here's how an intervention is conducted, as told by an area therapist and some of the people who have been helped.

Gerger was at Maple Grove Alcoholism Chemical Dependency Treatment Center in West Bloomfield for nine years, working in the intervention program there, before going out on her own as a partner in Gerger, Spivack and Associates.

She still has some contact with Maple Grove, often referring families to that center for the treatment that follows one of her interventions. She pointed out, "Maple Grove is not the only treatment I use. Each case is individually decided by me and the family as to what treatment center would be most appropriate." Gerger said she does use other quality programs.

Group meets ahead

An intervention may be initiated by a family member, friend or even business associate. The people who

will confront the alcoholic usually meet with Gerger a day before the intervention, to discuss and rehearse what they will say the next day. They may come from out of town or from across the country, to make up the group.

"Some people feel it may be punitive, cruel, risk the relationship," Gerger said, describing misconceptions about an intervention. "It's none of those. The approach I use is very loving, nonjudgmental, caring and firm."

"Usually the person being intervened on feels better about themselves because people are telling them how valuable they are," she said. Anywhere from three to 16 people make up an intervention group, which may include family, friends, co-workers, clergy and doctors. Usually, the intervention is not done at the alcoholic's home, where "you're on their turf," Gerger said.

"Ninety-five percent of interventions are successful in that the person will go into treatment as a result of that process," she said. "The chances of their success in treatment are a little better because they go in with a lot

of support."

All arrangements for treatment are made prior to the intervention, so that the alcoholic is taken directly to the treatment center, after agreeing to accept help. Usually treatment in a center lasts a couple of weeks, and then is followed by weekly group therapy.

Intervention for mother

"Tom" (not his real name) of Birmingham is one of Gerger's clients, who requested an intervention for his mother. "She had been drinking for a long time," he said. "I was the one in the family who was always prodding her to have something done."

Tom had gone to Gerger to set up an intervention. When his mother was hospitalized unexpectedly, after throwing up blood, "I had three or four days. I flew my sister in from California. I got a group of about eight of us and arranged with the doctors for her to go directly to Maple Grove."

Even though some things went wrong, it all worked out right. A doc-

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YMCA day turns kids on to good health

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

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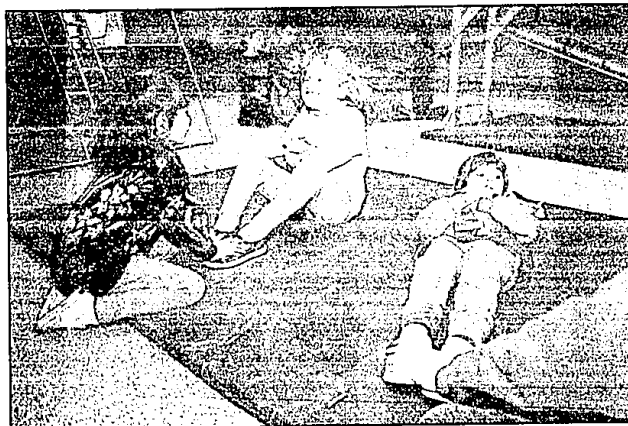
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SHARON LEMKE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Never too young: Kindergarten students exercise at Fairview Early Childhood Center in Farmington Hills, in preparation for demonstration during Healthy Kids Day on Saturday at the Farmington Area YMCA. They are Melissa Gold (left), Elyse Samardzich, Jessica August and Evan Finley.

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