

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1993

# SUBURBAN LIFE

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## THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

## Evening benefits BBAA expansion

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 646-6277.

The popular Townsend Hotel was the scene of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association's "An Evening with Laura Trippi" on Friday.

The benefit for the building and renovation project of the BBAA honored the curator of the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York City. The curator was in town to jury the Michigan Fine Arts Competition April 10 through May 9 at the BBAA.

Conversation centered on the new two-story expansion and addition for BBAA. BBAA director Ken Gross gave a progress report.

BBAA president Susie Citrin served as chairwoman for the Friday dinner, assisted by Betty Sylvester, Stephanie Zack, Sue Markwell, Madelyn Rosen, Tina Parfitt, Jan Wood and Jo Snyder.

The evening also brought out more than 140 BBAA supporters and members of the newly formed advisory council. These included Francine and Marilee Costello, J.T. and Luanne Battenberg, Norman and Danielle Bodine, Al and Helen Febbo, Robert and Kay Hendry, Fritz and Pat Mayhew, and Alberto and Chris Negro. Trevor and Jenny Jones, former area residents and members of the BBAA, traveled from Cleveland for the event.

Gross said the goal is \$3 million and that one-third of the monies have been raised. Phase I will open this summer.

## Artful Garden

The Artful Garden began with a preview party Wednesday, March 31, at the Shetland Gustafson Pavilion at Oakland University in Rochester.

ROPARD and the Besumont Foundation benefited from the garden show, which ran through Sunday. ROPARD is an association dedicated to eliminating low vision and blindness caused by premature birth.

Preview chairwomen were Nancy Klockner and Gilly von Drehe. Klockner told us more than 335 guests attended the show on preview night. It was a cold rainy night, with multiple charity events on the same date.

Honorary chairwoman Marian Polling was there with husband Red Polling, Ford chairman. General chairwomen were Winnie Ostrowski and Kay White Meyer.

The chairwomen were concerned because floral artist and renowned horticulturist Barry Ferguson came into town with a cold, and it was questionable if he could lecture the next day. Ferguson made his well-rehearsed presentation as scheduled, constructing eight floral arrangements. Raffle tickets were quickly sold to the audience for the extraordinary arrangements.

On preview night we saw Phil and Sally Savage, Dick and Mary Lou Jones, Susan Lanciani, Judie Sherman, Margaret Sellgrun, John Bloom and Ted and Earline Jordan. Angie Meldman was in a multi-colored hat which drew much attention.

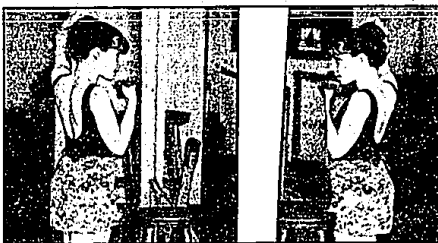
From Rochester came Ray and Glady de Steiger, Dick and Millie Wallin, and Dr. Michael and Caron Trese.

See THE SCENE, 3H



GRETCHEN HITCH

Pleasures of the Palate: Fran Malin (left), Bernice Gerschenson and Herbert Kaufman attend Temple Beth El 25-variety dinner.



Mirror image: Kristin Kosovec of Shelby primps during a break (photo at far left). Hard work leads to worn slippers (photo at left).



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM RUDER

Practice makes perfect: Mari Reuther of Rochester (above) and Gabriela Perezrios of Bloomfield Hills (right) rehearse at the ballet barre at the Rochester School of Dance. They are among students in a mixed class for adults and young people.



Loading by example: Instructor Maria Mogilevsky of Rochester Hills leads the ballet class.

## Area ballet studios lure adult dancers



BY ETHEL SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

**O**n your toes! It's not only children or teens who study ballet. Adults, primarily women, also enjoy the rigors of the dance.



At the Rochester School of Dance, which director Cornelia Sampson has operated since 1976, "Adult classes started two years into the school because of requests. Mothers would bring the children and say, 'It would be so nice if we could dance.'"

The academy is a professional training school but, according to Sampson, the adults who dance mainly for pleasure like to know they're getting the correct training and learning about the art form.

Another reason grown-ups dance, "It's just an enjoyable form of exercise. Women like it because it's a great form of body sculpting. It's also very good for your cardiovascular system," Sampson said. Adult ballet classes are offered Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and some students come as often as four times a week. Ages range from the 20s to the 50s.

Grow up, come back

See BALLET, 2H

## Teen show illustrates school dance fashions

BY ETHEL SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Graduating from eighth grade is a big deal, and at many schools this rite of passage is celebrated at a dance where students "dress" for the occasion.

Often the young people have a different idea of what to wear than their parents do. "The kids here who come to the dance tended to have overdone it. The dresses have been real exotic — strapless and such — we think are too much for kids," said Grace Titus, parent of a seventh grader at Boulton Middle School in Troy.

"Some parents think it should be Easter dresses and cotton, or Sunday dresses," Titus said, when asked what would be best choices for the June dance.

To encourage students to take a more casual approach to party clothes, Boulton held an after-school fashion show "Boulton in Bloom" last week, with eighth graders modeling. Girls and boys both showed off spring fashions from Jacobson's, and the second half of the show simulated a dance on-stage.

From a large group, partners took turns in the spotlight, doing a slow dance together as they modeled party attire. For girls the emphasis was on pretty, suitable-for-Sunday dresses, in florals or solid colors, but there also were suits, trousers and tops, and walking shorts outfits. Boys wore suits with shirts and ties, pants with sport coats and shirts or T-shirts, or just slacks and big-patterned short-sleeved shirts.

"Pat Whalen, our manager in the Miss J Shop, outfitted all the girls, and I outfitted all the gentle-

men," said Ellen Vigilante, assistant store manager at Jacobson's in Birmingham. "They asked us for looks appropriate for the eighth grade dance or graduation."

During the show, a number of the girls and boys wore hats, with several of the girls in perky off-the-face straw hats. "They could wear them to the dance, and take them off to dance," Vigilante said, emphasizing that the hats complete the look.

Two 10th graders at Troy High School who were in the auditorium recalled their Boulton School eighth grade dance. "Everyone in our grade pretty much dressed like, prom dresses. Only a few wore casual dresses. I bought a fancy dress for the dance and a casual dress for graduation," said Colleen Francek, 15.

She's all for a student fashion show. "I think it's a good idea to show what to wear. They never had anything for us."

Referring to the dance, her friend, Lori Litz, 16, declared, "I think it gets to a point where they compete and see who has the better dress — can get the most dressed up — and that's not the point of it."

Francek said, "My eighth grade dress was more expensive than what I bought for Homecoming or Sadie's (Sadie Hawkins Dance) at Troy High School."

During intermission at the fashion show, Julie Funke, 13, an eighth grader at Boulton School, said she and her mother were going shopping Friday, for a dress to wear to the dance. "She's going to take me to Laura Ashley, and we're going to Birmingham to see if we can find anything there." Funke wants "something flowery."



JIM RUDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Party clothes: Jenni Kryshalla and Kirk Stranahan model during a recent fashion show at Boulton School in Troy.