

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1993

THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Neighbors vie at Olympic

To leave a message for Gretchen 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 Kimberley-Melbourne Olympic Block Party was staged Saturday - where else - at the corner where Melbourne runs into Kimberley in front of the home of party planner Lori Parks.

Lori, whose job is party planning, instigated this unusual event as a neighborhood block party while her husband Tom was sort of an assistant for arrangements.

The splendid sound of the Olympic March played as high decibel opened the ceremonies. Charlie Dillon carried in Greek toga sprinted down the street carrying aloft a flaming torch in one hand and an American flag in the other. Under an Olympic flag snapping in the breeze on the Parks' front porch, Dillon ignited the Olympic flame in a barbecue grill which would later serve for grilling dinner.

Lori stood on a bench to explain the rules of the Olympic competition on the Tour de Birmingham. The assembled group, largely clad in Bermuda shorts, stood with their bicycles on the ready.

The game was based on movie titles and finding clues to the movie test in the area between Cranbrook Road and Woodward, Maple and Quanton. The competitors were divided into three teams called "Raging Bulls," "Ruthless People" and "Dangerous Liaisons."

Participants included Buck and Julie Drummond, Jon and Amanda Uffelman, Hobb and Glary Wilson, Charlie and Carrie Dillon, Jay and Liz Dientz, Tom and Lori Parks, Lyle and Julie Bendle and Jill Paton.

The Tour de Birmingham set off about 4:30 p.m. armed with little envelopes holding clues. A piece of a branch and "Emerald Forest" gave them a "Ghost" of a chance. That answer, if you haven't guessed, was Greenwood Cemetery. At the cemetery, movie titles abounded: "Arthur," "Carrie" and "The Adams Family."

The last clue led to a house on Puritan with a pool in which was floating Tom Parks in fins and snorkel gear on a raft with tennis racket, ski poles and football. Parks sighed, "What I did for love!" The answer, "A Man for All Seasons." Being good at Trivial Pursuit with a minor in movies helped.

Somehow the three teams reassembled by 6 p.m. with their answers to be graded by Lori, the Olympic judge. Adjudged winners because of bonus questions about movies were the Raging Bulls team: Jay Dientz, Hobb Wilson, Buck Drummond and Carrie Dillon. Each team members received an Olympic gold coin on a red, white and blue neck ribbon.

About 20 toddlers, babies and youngsters attended this event with their parents, but only seven-month-old Katie participated in the search, riding in father Charlie Dillon's bike's child seat. The three Parks children, Alex, Ben and Madeleine, and the rest of the children amused themselves running unofficial races on the lawn.

With permission of the City of Birmingham, the streets were blocked off for the Olympic. After the barbecue, folks stayed on, socializing well after midnight.

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GRETCHEN HITCH

Wedding dress: Helen Holmes and husband Jim celebrate 40 years of marriage with Helen in her original wedding dress at the Chicago Club in Charlevoix.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAN DEAN

Bouncing boy: Jeff Stone, 13, of Bloomfield Township jumps on a trampoline at Ortonville's Camp Maas, a Jewish summer camp that integrates special needs children with the other young campers. Counselor Jeff Dannewald (left) is Stone's personal special needs instructor. Camp Maas is one of eight camps operated by the Fresh Air Society in Ortonville, Brighton and Hartland.

Happy campers

Activities are special to these kids

Special needs kids from the local area get a chance to have fun, along with other Jewish children, at Camp Maas in Ortonville.

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER

Dear Mom and Dad - I'm having fun here at Camp Maas. I went swimming, canoeing and learned how to swing from a trapeze. (Don't worry, there was a net.) I also rode an elephant on the Fourth of July and held a 16-foot snake named Ka around my neck. Do I really have to come home next week? - Love, Junior

Summer camp is always lots of fun for area youngsters who look forward to spending time away from parents while exploring the great outdoors.

In Ortonville, Camp Maas is just one of many summer camps in metro Detroit that offers kids the chance to be kids and enjoy various structured activities such as swimming, canoe-

ing, sailing, horseback riding, and even a mini circus with trampoline, trapeze and tightrope. Elephant rides also were offered to campers during the July holiday.

But what is unique to Camp Maas, a camp for Jewish children, is that it's also open to children with special needs.

"The kids do everything basically that the other kids do," said Ann Quwerker, a third-year child-studies student at Concordia University in Montreal. "If they can't participate, a special needs instructor will structure it so that they will have other things to do. One of the kids has a problem playing baseball and soccer so during that period a counselor will find something else they can do, maybe arts and crafts or something like that."

For the most part, the handful of special campers, some who are autistic or have Down syndrome, will water ski, do gymnastics and join in on other activities with the rest of the camp.



This year is the first time that Camp Maas, one of eight Tamarack Camps, has had the special needs program called Horizons, said Harvey Finkleberg, executive director of the

Wooded walk: A Camp Maas counselor and Sam Miller of Oak Park walk to the Environmental Nature Center to see Ka the snake.

Fresh Air Society, a nonprofit group that operates the summer camps.

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Orthodox followers expand their horizons

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER

Chabab (pronounced Ha-bob) Lubavitch is a very old form of Judaism, dating back some 200 years to White Russia, but in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area it's a relatively new movement attempting to gain steam.

About one month ago a group led by Rabbi David Polter began meeting in the Birmingham Hebrew Temple for Saturday Sabbath services. Prior to that, the orthodox followers met for about two years in the Birmingham home of one of its 15 members.

Since the movement now has a home base or Chabab house that is close enough for the Lubavitchers to walk to services they are prohibited from driving automobiles on the Sabbath - a public relations effort is underway to gather new membership and reach out to the community. In fact, Rabbi Polter said the group "is going big in terms of P.R."

Although this is the first organized gathering in the Birmingham area, there are about 300 Lubavitchers in the metropolitan area, Polter said.

The Lubavitch movement already has a large center in Farmington Hills on Middlebelt Road near Northwestern Highway, as well as, extravagant plans for a \$16 million synagogue, rabbinical college and retreat center on 40 acres of property in West Bloomfield. The facility will be adjacent to the Jewish Community Center on Drake Road pending township board approval.

Currently the Chabab house in West Bloomfield is on Maple Road east of Orchard Lake Road. Southfield followers, part of the North Oak Park



GUY WARREN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Father and son: Rabbi Moshe Polter gives a crash course in reading Hebrew with his son Rabbi David Polter.

group, worship at the JCC on 10 Mile Road where the Lubavitchers rent space.

Rabbi Yitzchak Kagan of the organization's center in Farmington Hills and the associate director for Lubavitch in Michigan said the number of actual Lubavitchers is close to 300, although supporters of the movement add up to about 8,000 in the met-

ropolitan area. "We're not a card-carrying membership. People see there is a need for our outreach movement and the supporters are making it possible for us to build these facilities," he said.

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