

# SUBURBAN LIFE

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## THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

### South Seas theme fits Belle Isle party

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River Rhythm's invitation for the Mariners Inn benefit Friday, Aug. 20, was different. It was blue overlaid with a rhythm-like wave pattern and carried the picture of a 70-year-old current resident of the Mariners Inn for transitional housing, Charles, a 23-year-old Mariners Inn graduate now attending Wayne State University, and Guy, 41, a recent recipient of the community outreach program, who completed his treatment and is now married. It brought in focus examples of those who will be benefited by the River Rhythm at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. The fifth fund-raiser began at 6 p.m. with a yacht cruise on the Detroit River for the \$160-per-person beneficiaries.

The boat had a bit of difficulty putting out into the river as a brisk wind kept swinging it into the dock piling.

Aboard the Diamond Belle were John and Janet Grant, Robert and Grace Campbell, Jere and Alicia Gillotte, Delbert and Charlotte Russell, Mariners Inn executive director Mary Ellen Robertson, Pete and Anne Whitelaw, Barry and Cindy Leonard, Bill and Wilma Blodose and James Procter.

On returning to the DYC to join the patrons and friends for the auctions and dinner, Robertson noted that since 1955 the Mariners Inn has become a nationally acclaimed organization providing shelter and treatment for the homeless. As a treatment center in the Casa Corridor, the Mariners Inn has received attention for its professional approach to chemical dependency and homelessness.

### Venetian Night

Just a week earlier, on Saturday, Aug. 14, the Detroit Yacht Club was the site of a brilliant Venetian Night when all the motor yachts and sailboats were decorated from stern to stern with burlap, flags and lights.

DYC Commodore Ron Dawes' cocktail party kicked off the evening of Carnival in Venice. Docks, clubhouse and grounds were transformed into a Venetian scene with the shops of Venice, the islands in the Venetian lagoon, the Lido beachfront and the Grand Canal. DYC provided a perfect setting, for it already has a lagoon and is on an island.

Participating in the action from our area were Tom and Betty Bright, Maggie and Bill Dull, Philip and Carol Perkins, Jerry and Jill Thomas, and Norm and Sandi Clements of Troy. Troy residents John Albrecht and Lillian Pilon were at their first Venetian Night, enjoying the carnival atmosphere. DYC has 250 new members.

More localities at the Venetian celebration of 125 years for the DYC were Carl and Marlene Bihlmeyer, Dane and Julie Christie, Ed and Debbie Shuttle, David and Tamara Brady, Jim and Geri White, and DYC director Paul Koepke and his wife Sandy.

Don and Edna Thomas decorated the Club Front Dock, turning it into the Lido Beach Casino. But it seemed the consensus for best dock decorations went to the West End Dock, or the Enzo Vineyard, where Pavarotti arias wafted in the breeze and tubs full of grapes waited to be stomped. Betty and gondolier Bob Bright took off their shoes and stomped grapes along with Bill Dull.

### Aloha

Mary Humphries and Jo Ann Stierlein invited about 40 women to say Aloha to summer at a luau Aug. 19 at the Stierlein home in Bloomfield Hills.

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GRETCHEN HITCH

Hula time: Dancer Joan Lyon shows moves to Dorothy Timmis (left) and Angie Meldman at Hawaiian party.

## Versatile reality

### The great coat covers up with choices

Great coat, waistcoat, anorak and pea. All this fashion jargon is clothes-ing in on me. Redingote, Chesterfield, princess style, frock. Fall's fashion trends are turning back the clock.



DENISE SURAN LUCAS

A bit dandy, a bit retro, autumn's fashion cover-ups take us back through the intriguing and passionate history of centuries past. Before the year 2000, technology wizards promise to take us into the world of virtual reality (where computerized images will thrill us with the illusion of experience).

This season, designers have taken the "virtual reality" concept, altering fashion to resemble Edwardian dandies, military revolutionaries and folkloric heroes.

On the top of this year's most-wanted list of fashion must-haves is the great coat.

Double-breasted military designs, velvet-collared Chesterfields, and brightly colored princess designs trimmed at the collar and cuffs with real or ecological fur heated up the hottest runways of New York and abroad.

"The red velvet trenchcoat is pure street chic, cinched over a cavalry turtleneck and paired with navy leggings and navy stretch top," reports A/X Armani Exchange at the Somerset Collection in Troy. A/X also salutes the navy with pea jackets and fitted military coats.

At Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection, Karl Lagerfeld's double-breasted, all-wool great coat personified this season's most important topper.

Leather also is making a strong comeback with on-the-road bomber jackets and ray hiker vests and jackets. In existential black or natural tones, short and long, leathers top cable-knit sweaters for that laid-back country weekend feeling. Alternately teamed with a crisp white shirt and piles of pearls and chains, the look transforms to Paris chic. Sheepskin tailoring appears in unfinished, rugged jackets for a "city shepherd" look.

According to Chris Morriaroe at Hudson's, fall '93 trends include medieval, hooded cloaks and robes, hip-scooped looks of military leathers and Alpine-inspired Tyrolean patterned jackets and parkas.

In the spirit of foppish nonchalance, the Edwardian dandy takes off as this season's jacket



Old World couture: The Mozart coat by Crisone is navy wool crepe gently embellished with lace at the sleeve and belted in the back (\$660), paired with soft palazzo pants. At Scott Gregory, Applegate Square, Southfield.

"Somewhere in time . . ." fall fashion supplement inside

front-runner, escaping to the time of Dickens frolicking in classic storybook toggery. Echoes of the English hunt and cries of "Tally Ho!" portrait velvet-trimmed redingotes, tapestry prints and wool tweeds and plaids follow close behind.

Hats always complete a look and this season hats are hot. Fashionable headgear for warmth and style includes velvet berets, helmet-shaped knit hats and Russian-style faux fur hats. Calvin Klein is showing cozy British bowlers with wide, soft brims.

Fashion's fall cover-ups return to the past, making American classics, legends of Excalibur, equestrian elegance and Alpine tales. The long and the short of it — it's a season of versatile reality.



British revolution: Above, the English redcoats may have lost the war but Karl Lagerfeld's scarlet great coat (\$2,310) wins commanding attention. Double-breasted, all-wool maxi adds passion and warmth, banishing winter-wind chills. At Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection, Troy.



Military intelligence: Specializing in size 14 and over avant-grade fashions becomes reality. From Stephanie Queller, a rayon gabardine military jacket with crested gold-tone buttons (\$129). At "For You From Spiegel," Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi.

## Eclectic fall styles flirt with character

BY DENISE SURAN LUCAS  
SPECIAL WRITER

The fall fashion image is described as "the new romantics" — feminine, softer, swept away by nostalgia.

But look closely. The theatrical inspirations designers played upon are historical masculine characters softened with ruffles, jabots and crochet accents.

I like to think of fall fashion as eclectic. A season of choices in the finest fabrics and designs that range from classic to outrageous, rich girl to

poor boy — fashions to fit every mood and lifestyle. Investment pieces with staying power.

### Pants

Like the endless options in breakfast cereals, so are the looks in pants. Choose from gentle free-flowing palazzo, equestrian jodhpurs, form-fitting knit or velvet leggings, radical '70s-inspired bell bottoms or classic menswear trousers. With hemlines free falling and skimming the ankles, pants are a natural to skirt the hemline issue and mirror the longette silhouette.

"Pants and skirts this season are long, sweeping and easy to move in . . . long and fluid," says Net Forman of Jacobson's.

### Knits

Not since the '70s have knits played a leading role in runway collections. Long body-skimming ribbed

Carnaby Street: Left, Armani jeans resurrect the '70s. Topped off by a classic navy, wool melton pea coat (\$100), ribbon-stripe woven classic belted trouser (\$100), basic two-pocket white poplin shirt (\$68), red worsted merino wool cardigan sweater (\$124). At A/X Armani Exchange, the Somerset Collection, Troy.

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