

ON THE
MARQUEE

Aretha Franklin

Tickets are still available for the "2nd Annual Franklin Scholarship Awards Ceremony," 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4 at Fisher Theatre in Detroit. Hosted by Aretha Franklin of Bloomfield Hills, the event will honor six students who will receive scholarships. Featured performers include Oleta Adams and Eartha Kitt. Tickets start at \$30, and there are four levels of seating. Call 855-6586.

Avon Players

Avon Players open their season with the musical comedy "Baby," 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17, at the playhouse, 1185 Washington Road, Rochester Hills. Shows 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sunday through Oct. 9. Call 375-1390 for ticket and season information.

Classical event

Members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will present a concert, 7-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10 at Conant Elementary School, 4100 West Quanton Road, Bloomfield Hills. A brass quintet and string quintet will perform. Bring a blanket to sit on. Tickets are \$30 a family, adults, \$10, students, \$6, children age 6 and under free. For information, call 855-9151. Proceeds to benefit the DSO endowment fund.

Jazz benefit

Jazz in the Courtyard, a benefit for Kadima featuring Alexander Zonjic and Friends, will take place 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at 3950 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$75 per person, call 659-8235.

Birmingham Theatre

Season opens 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, with "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes." Show runs through Oct. 17. Tickets range from \$19.50 to \$35, available at the Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Woodward, 644-3553 and all Ticketmaster outlets.

Jazz pianist

Sasha Burshstein, internationally acclaimed classical and jazz improvisationist will perform 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at the Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend, Birmingham. Tickets \$20 per person, cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. Call 642-7900 Ext. 7159 for information.

"Nutcracker" auditions

Auditions for "The Nutcracker" performed by the Michigan Classic Ballet Company will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, and 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, at the Geiger Classic Ballet Academy, 5926 Drake Road at Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Junior (ages 8-12) and senior company positions available. Call 661-2430 for information.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- Meet Dan Cogan of Westland who stars in "Evita" opening at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit on Sept. 14.
- Ami Dolenz and Laraine Newman talk about their newest movie, "Witchboard 2, The Devil's Game," opening Sept. 10.

Roman Terrace II lightens up menu

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER



Like a film sequel, Roman Terrace II is a continuation of the original, popular Farmington Hills restaurant that burned down in February 1990. It still features pasta dishes, provincial veal and seafood specials, but in its new incarnation, the Italian-American restaurant in the Halsted Village shopping center, Halsted and 12 Mile, has lightened up.

"We've kept a lot of the core of the menu," said Terrace co-owner Bob McDonald, who also co-owned the first Roman Terrace restaurant. "But we cook with olive oil and have made by the fire, leaving McDonald scrambling to find a job and help his 100 or so employees find work elsewhere."

The new restaurant, which opened in July, also features a lighter decor. With a seating capacity of 140 — compared to 200 in the original — the new Terrace is decorated with pastels, primarily antique rose and blue, accented with a mahogany bar.

McDonald, 60, had planned to rebuild at the old location, but could not come up with the financial backing in 1990. Insurance covered only about half of the \$500,000 loss caused by the fire, leaving McDonald scrambling to find a job and help his 100 or so employees find work elsewhere.

"We were able to help everyone who wanted a job to find one," he said with pride. "But I had my doubts about whether I would be able to start another business."

Businessman Harry Phinney was so impressed by McDonald's abilities that he asked him if he'd like to join forces and start another restaurant.

And although most of his former staff members have found jobs elsewhere since the fire, some have found



Tradition continues: Chefs Joe Del Vecchio (left) and Jim Shaffer, restaurant owner Bob McDonald and Chef Steve Kedzierski are continuing the tradition of fine Italian cuisine at Roman Terrace II.

Roman Terrace II

Halsted Village shopping center, at Halsted, 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, 553-0080, fax number for take-outs, 553-0082. Reservations: accepted.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday for lunch and dinner; and 6-9 p.m. Sundays. Children's menu: There is no children's menu, but half orders are available.

their way back to the McDonald's employ.

"I was real happy to be working for Bob again," said night chef Bill Wamby. "I'm happy to say that some of the recipes I helped develop are on the new menu."

Wamby said pasta dishes account for 60-70 percent of the orders, just as they did at the original Terrace. But

the switch to olive oil for cooking and vegetables as an appetizer are among the changes designed to combine the best of traditional with the new, healthier tastes.

The restaurant also features half-orders of all its entrees to accommodate lighter appetites and budgets. "A lot of people eat out more than once," McDonald said. "We don't

want to 'one-time' them price-wise. Also, a lot of people don't want to eat a full portion, especially at lunch time."

The menu features has plenty of variety, including daily specials, fresh seafood, tempting desserts such as a melt-in-your-mouth tiramisu, and even a steer burger at \$3.95. With the exception of chateaubriand for two at \$41.95, most entrees cost between \$3.95 and \$16.95.

Authentic Italian food is the theme. McDonald has even hired Italian native Giannina Giachino, whose husband works for Fiat, as his pastry chef. The Terrace has a computerized ordering system to help speed up service, and a fax takeout number.

JET opens season with hilarious, touching play

BY KEELY WYONIK
STAFF WRITER

Jewish Ensemble Theatre opens its 1993-94 season 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8 with Wendy Wasserstein's hilarious and touching play about two young women, "Isn't It Romantic," at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre in the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield.

Preview performances 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 8-9, 8:45 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12. Opening night is 7 p.m. Sept. 12. Performances continue through Oct. 3, call the theater 788-2900 for ticket prices and show times or TicketMaster, 645-6566.

Wasserstein's "Isn't It Romantic" is a story about the dilemmas two

PREVIEW

single women in their 30s face trying to find personal independence and romantic fulfillment.

Although they have very different backgrounds, Janie and Harriet have been best friends since high school. Both grew up on New York's Upper East Side. Harriet was raised by Lillian, a single mom and very successful executive. She was a role model for her daughter. Janie grew up in a "very nice Jewish family."

The girls have drifted apart but renew their friendship after moving back to New York.



Contemporary drama: Maureen McDewitt (left) as Harriet, and Marilyn Mays, (Janie) rehearse a scene in the Jewish Ensemble Production of "Isn't It Romantic."

"Janie is a free-lance writer, but her parents want her to have a safe career like being a lawyer. They also want her to get married and have children," said Evelyn Orbach of Bloomfield Hills who portrays Tasha, Janie's mom. "The girls live in separate apartments and struggle with a

double dream — they want careers, but they also want guys."

The cast also includes — Maureen McDewitt of Southfield as Harriet, Henrietta Hermelin-Weinberg of West Bloomfield as Lillian, and Marshall Zweig of Southfield as Vladimir.

Chamber society, DSO volunteers plan special events

Here are some upcoming classical music events to note. The Beat Arts Trio, Cleveland Quartet and Guarneri String Quartet

will perform together for the first time when the Chamber Music Society of Detroit begins its 60th anniversary season Saturday, Sept. 11, at Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

Ticket prices for the dinner, concert and afterglow are \$125; concert and afterglow, \$60; and \$35 for concert only. Call 833-3700 for tickets.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall Volunteer Council will celebrate DSO's opening week performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 by hosting "Late Night with Ludwig," at Opus One after the Sept. 17 and 18 concerts, and at Orchestra Hall after the Sept. 19 afternoon concert.

Call 962-1000 or 393-7362 for tickets.

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 6
LABOR DAY
20%
DISCOUNT

TEL-TWELVE MALL

MCL
CAFETERIA

NOW THRU
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH
VEGETABLE
PLATE COMBO
ONLY
\$3.59!

CHOICE OF 3 VEGETABLES,
FRESH BAKED BREAD & DRINK

TEL-TWELVE MALL

MCL
CAFETERIA

TRY MCL'S
CARRY OUT!

Marios
The finest in
Northern Italian Cuisine
BALLROOM
DANCING
Every Friday &
Saturday Evening

4222 Second Avenue, Detroit
(313) 832-1616

Valer Parking - Banquet Facilities

DETROIT'S
LEGENDARY
STEAK HOUSE
Now Serving SINCE 1967
10-10:30-11:30
CARL'S
CHOP HOUSE
3020 Grand River
Detroit • 833-3700
Now Hiring
Dishwashers