

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1993

THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Benefit evening to offer bubbly

To leave a message for Gretchen Hitch, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2247, 1985. Material for The Scene may be mailed to Hitch at 646 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 642-8277.

The ninth Champagne Gala 1993 is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Somerset Collection in Troy. The enticing price per person includes valet parking, glasses of the best French champagnes (except Dom Perignon), delectable "petit buffet" by Sebastian's and spectacular fashion show comprised of the top designer lines such as Bill Blass and Adrienne Vittadini. Vittadini attended the Champagne Gala 1992. Champagnes served in former years and planned for this event include Perrier-Jouet, Tattinger, Laurent-Perrier, Mumm, Louis Roederer Brut, Charles Heidsieck and Billecart-Salmon from Mareuil-sur-Ay. Chairmen and chairwomen are Susan Nine, Mado Lile, Ron and Fran Theris, and Howard and Bobbi Hill. Honorary chairmen are the Hon. Stephen Gulttard, Honorary Consul of France, and the Hon. Jean Safir, French Trade Commissioner in the Detroit area. Working on the benefit for the French-American Chamber of Commerce and the International Visitors Council are Jacques Bossennoy, Val Corradi, Molly Swartz-Smyk, Cheryl Hill, Sandy Mueller, Judie Sherman, Ann Bruttelli, Margaret Sellgren and Elaine Overstreet.

The invitation arranged by Val Corradi was interesting, as one side is printed in French. It becomes "Vous invitez au Neuviesme Gala Champagne Mardi le 26 Octobre." To receive an invitation call 259-2680 or 646-1474.

Children's research

"Your children are not your children, they are sons and daughters of life's longing for itself." This startlingly profound quote from Kahlil Gibran's "The Prophet" was used by Dr. Yvan Silva to open his remarks at the Weizmann Institute of Science's annual dinner Sept. 22 at the Hyatt-Renogy, Dearborn. The Weizmann Institute's Detroit committee held its annual black-tie dinner last week, establishing the Detroit Children's Research Fund.

Honorary chairmen were Matthew Rabinowitz, M.D., and Yvan Silva, M.D. Rabinowitz is a pediatric ophthalmologist, and Silva is a professor of surgery.

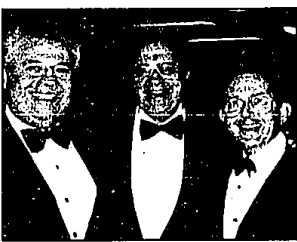
Lois Spector Freeman said farewell as chairwoman of the Weizmann executive committee. Dr. Rabinowitz observed, "You are the bows of which the children are the arrows."

David Hermelin was his usual brilliant self as a speaker. He noted that he had just returned from Israel and that there is tremendous optimism and a true consensus for peace.

Bernie Moray was seated next to me at dinner, and he regaled the table with early Barbra Streisand stories. When Streisand sang at the Caucus Club in the late 1950s, she needed clothes. Dick Sloan and Moray used to go to hear her, and Moray gave the singer material from the upholstery department of his furniture store, from which she sewed skirts. He now owns Garman's Gallery.

Spotted in the Hyatt lobby before dinner, sampling a lavish spread of hors d'oeuvres (some people momentarily thought it was dinner), were Florine Mark Ross and her husband Bill Ross, Fred and Kathy Yaffee, and Sheila and Dick Sloan. Sheila was talking with Rabbi Elze Spectre of Farmington's Adat Shalom Synagogue.

See The Scene, 3C



For children's research: Bernie Moray (left), Alan Freeman and David Hermelin glow at Weizmann Institute of Science annual dinner.

Expanding her wardrobe

She dresses smart in maternity clothes

Dressing in a businesslike manner for the office at the same time a working woman is looking forward to the birth of a child means she has to have a special wardrobe. Here's how a Bloomfield Hills resident stays dressed for success.

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

In her fifth month of pregnancy, Denise Kurowski of Bloomfield Hills has started wearing well-cut maternity clothes that barely reveal her expanding figure.

A marketing representative who works in the office and also calls on customers, she dresses smartly in a mix-and-match wardrobe of suits and separates. A mom-to-be for the second time, she combines new clothes with some of the garments she wore when expecting her first child, Matthew, who is almost 3.

She also has come a long way in her ideas of dressing since her last pregnancy. "I wore a lot of slips and blouses," she said, recalling that time. The basis of her maternity wardrobe now is two suits she bought recently at Pea in the Pod in Birmingham. The suits aren't lined, but are heavy enough so that she can wear them without a slip. She also can wear them with or without a blouse.

Kurowski said, "This gives me a lot of flexibility," pointing out that when pregnant, "I don't want a lot of undergarments to bind me around my waist."

OFF THE CUFF

In the beginning, the expectant mother wears loose-fitting regular-sized clothes. This day she has a gold, black and green jacket from Gantos. "It has carried me through the increase in breast size," she said.

When still wearing "normal" suits, she uses a rubber band to hook the eyelets of the button on the waist and tops the skirt with a looser jacket that has broad, padded shoulders, to balance a "thick waist and larger breast."

The fourth month is when you really start showing, and need to wear more maternity fashions, she said. And because this is her second pregnancy, "The muscles stretch out and you show earlier."

Mainstays of her maternity wardrobe are a forest green suit and an olive green suit. "Both hang beautifully and move smoothly," she said. Other maternity clothes include a white blazer, a pleated white skirt and a pleated black skirt. To get variety into her wardrobe and create different outfits, "I just mix them all up."

Besides wearing the two maternity suits to work, she can change them for the evening. Kurowski pulls her hair back with a bow and goes heavier on the jewelry. "I normally wear very conservative jewelry," she said. At night, "I wear more color in jewelry,

and dangly earrings instead of studs." The young mother has big brown eyes, light freckles on her nose, and brown hair with blonde glints. She is naturally pretty but likes to devote more attention to her appearance when she is expecting.

"Pregnancy to me is a time to go ahead and wear stuff I would never wear, to 'pull away' that I've got 20 pounds ahead of me," said Kurowski, who ordinarily wears petite sizes, and is 5-foot-2 1/2 inches tall. She goes for "a lot of face stuff. It's a new role. I feel a little more license."

For casual wear, she dons sweaters or jackets and maternity stretch jeans with a stretch panel that goes all the way around. "It's good when you're bending over," she said.

On the job, she sells data processing contract services for Strategic Staffing Solutions in Detroit and spends half of her time in the office, the other half traveling throughout the metropolitan area. Originally from Mundeville, Ill., she holds an engineering degree from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University.

Husband Mark is a software engineer for APT in Birmingham. The two have known each other since they were children, when he lived down the street. They began dating when she was a sophomore in college.

Kurowski exchanges maternity fashions with friends, borrowing from them and loaning out her clothes. A neighbor, Karen Hazelton, who is the mother of four children, said, "I've given her quite a few things. I'm a stay-at-home mom. I've got three under 3."

"Denise was very excited with the stuff she just bought at Pea in the Pod. She dresses great. She always looks very professional, very feminine."

Off the Cuff is an occasional feature that focuses on ordinary people with extraordinary flair for fashion. If you know an Observer & Eccentric area resident - man, woman or child - with a distinctive clothing sense, be it classic, trendy, homespun or outrageous, give us a call at 901-2576.



STAFF PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL

Well suited: Bloomfield Hills resident Denise Kurowski wears forest green suit, one of two versatile, rayon maternity suits she bought at Pea in the Pod.



Fun wear: In loose sweater and maternity jeans with stretch waistband, Kurowski plays with family's golden retriever Chelsea.

Author-artist brings new fairy tales to life

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Creating a book of fairy tales that can be shared by the family and handed down for generations is what former Birmingham resident Lillian Somersaulter Moats was after when she wrote and illustrated "The Gate of Dreams."

The newly published book launches the revival of Cranbrook Press at the Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills.

"The Gate of Dreams" contains three stories, along with reproductions of her beautiful oil vignettes, plus black-and-white silhouettes that "perform," or carry the story along, for young children to follow.

One morning last week, Moats sat down in a quiet area at the Village Woman's Club in Bloomfield Hills to talk about herself. The author-artist also is internationally known as a maker of animated films for children. She was scheduled to speak at the club following lunch, for the season's first "Focus" program, which would include one of her award-winning films.

Among guests in attendance that day was 89-year-old children's book authority Helen Southgate Williams of Rochester Hills, whom Moats described as "one of my two mentors." Her other mentor, renowned artist Glen Michaels of Troy, couldn't be there.

"Helen and I met when I was 10 years old," Moats recalled, telling how she had visited the Rochester

bookstore Williams owned. "That was kind of a pivotal year for me, when I was 10. I started going to Brookside (at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills), and that opened up my world. While I was there, I decided to write and illustrate for children."

Referring to Williams, she said, "We've been friends. She's been a great influence in my life - and Glen Michaels too." Moats said she studied with Michaels at the Young People's Art Center at Cranbrook. She took after-school classes and also began working with Michaels at 14 "as a kind of apprenticeship. I worked directly with him on his murals." She helped by gluing things in, on his architectural sculptures.

After graduating from Kingswood in 1964, she attended Barnard College, then graduated from the University of Michigan, majoring in painting and creative writing. She also has a master's degree in education and taught kindergarten and elementary school before she and a partner founded their own film and production company.

She is still in business partnership with "J.P." Somersaulter, now her ex-husband, to whom she was married for nine years. Moats said they are still the best of friends. She has remarried, and her husband Mike works as a sound engineer on her films. Mike also is a computer network manager at a small college near their home outside Chicago.

See Author, 2C



Family book: "The Gate of Dreams" cover is illustrated with oil painting by Lillian Somersaulter Moats.