

The Scene from page 1C

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall Volunteer Council president Marjorie Saulson and her husband Saul strolled by.

Preview party committee members Marilyn Barnes, Carol Hanzel, Brigitte Krawiec, Barbara Madigan, Patricia Ray and Queenie Sarkesian were all busy with the preview night arrangements.

MOT Volunteer Kickoff

Otto Haensler, vice-president and general manager of the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, invited 180 volunteers from various areas for Michigan Opera Theatre for the evening of Sept. 23.

Carole Wendzel, chairwoman for this special event, greeted arrivals at the ballroom entrance in a chic purple two-piece bolero suit trimmed in gold kid leather. She said, "This is the big kick-off reception for the new Michigan Opera Theatre Volunteer Association." Wendzel is special events chairwoman for MOT fund-raising.

Chairman of the MOT board of directors Robert Dewar and MOT general director David DiChiera announced the formation of the new volunteer structure for the opera company. Gloria Clark is chairwoman of the governing Volunteer Committee.

Dewar explained the need for this larger, strong volunteer group in anticipation of demands on MOT to launch the Detroit Opera House to be completed in 1995.

We talked with two young professionals who plan to join. "We just came from our jobs at Chrysler," said Dave Trebing, referring to himself and Laura Winicki. He was talking to Sharon Giolla of West Bloomfield, who is involved with recruiting new members for the young professionals group.

Dale Austin, chairwoman of special events for the executive board of directors, arrived early. Her husband Dr. Don Austin struck the first blow of the wrecking ball on the old movie theater, to begin construction of the opera house this summer. Dewar and DiChiera presented the new volunteer organization to the MOT board of trustees at that time.

The groups at MOTVA include the Ballet, the Young Professional Group, a General Events Support Group, Education and Outreach Committee, the Opera Boutique, the MOT Movers (who ferry artists around the Detroit area and to and from the airport), the Office Corps, the Super (supernumerary) Club, the Opera House Ambassadors and Ushers.

MOT is building connections to communities and individuals. Dewar explained, "The cornerstone of the Detroit Opera House is now being set, by becoming a member of the association — each one of you is part of the cornerstone."

Director DiChiera said, "A task force was formed in fall of 1992 to review MOT's many volunteer activities, from making phone calls to running the main fund-raiser,

the Opera Ball." In June the board ratified an amendment to the by-laws, establishing this new volunteer structure.

Among a throng of longtime and new volunteers for MOT at the kick-off reception were Robert and Carole Wendzel, Karen DiChiera, Robert and Nancy Dewar, Donald and Bettina Gregg, Sylvia Sullivan, Roger and Julie Sherman, Tom and Betty Bright, George and Chris Strumbos, Rosanne Duncan, Jacquie Mullaroni, Joan Saperstein, Edye and Don Longyear, and Alice Hadassian.

Cole at the Collection

Thinking 1994 for St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook's first significant fund-raiser are Duffy Wineman and Chris Pagnucco, who will co-chair the event Feb. 4 at the Somerset Collection in Troy. The black tie party focuses on Cole Porter music for an "It's delightful, it's delicious, it's delectable" gala evening.

Not by accident, St. Dunstan's is presenting a production of "Cole" at the theater around that time. Gary Walker is president of St. Dunstan's.

Presently in production is "Steel Magnolias," set in a small-town beauty shop, and directed by Eddie Guest. Cast in the all-woman show are Liz Brooks, Nancy Brassert, Laurie Jerrell, Sally Garrison and Fran Haynes.

Director Guest said, "I'm not a hair person, so we got technical help from Josh Dawson on how to wash hair. Nancy gets hers washed every night at rehearsal." Opening night is Friday, Oct. 29, with show dates Saturday, Oct. 30, and Friday-Saturday, Nov. 5-6. Call 644-0527 for reservations.

Puttin' on the Ritz

St. Hugo of the Hills Altar Guild is presenting its 35th annual luncheon and Saks Fifth Avenue fashion show Friday, Oct. 22, at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn.

Culver Academy

Recently a group of area Culver Military Academy alumni gathered to welcome their alma mater's football team who traveled from Culver, Ind., to play Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills.

Maury Brassert said Culver celebrates its 100th anniversary this school year. "There are over 600 alumni in the Detroit metro area," Brassert said.

A new alumni club for Culver has become active under Brassert's leadership. He is a graduate of the Class of '62. More than 60 alumni gathered at Bloomfield Open Hunt for the organizational meeting. At that meeting were Maury and Nancy Brassert, Gus and Susie Leader, Dick and Jane Roeser, Bowen and Joy Broock, Paul and Jessale Weyand, Rick and Julie Weyand, Bill and Nancy Morrison, and



Letter from Clinton: At the preview Friday evening are volunteer staffing chairwoman Annette Balian of Rochester and her husband Dr. John Balian, with Dr. Reza Mohajer.



3 generations: Suzanne Letica Hogan (left), Kate Johnson, Mara Letica and Gudrun Letica attend opening night for DSOH.



At the collection: Eddie Guest (left), Duffy Wineman, St. Dunstan's president Gary Walker and Chris Pagnucco talk over Feb. 5 benefit, "Cole at the Collection."

Steve Briggs

At the Detroit Country Day vs. Culver Military Academy football game were most of the above, plus Dick and Susie Wickham, Bill and Peggy Bushnell, Dr. Robert Wood, and Dan and Mary Dahl. Parents with children now attending Culver were Frank and Annika Hamilton and Ed and Barbara Schwarz.

Hearts afire

The Sweetest Day Ball, for an evening of romance to benefit Baldwin Human Services, is set for Saturday, Oct. 16, in the Ross Roy Building in Bloomfield Hills. Caters by Opus One, tickets are \$55 per person. Honorary committee members are Jim and Tricia Eng, Ed and Juliette Jonna, Peter and Nicole Mills, Jim and Maria Kokas and Dr. Patricia Meyers.



At the Townsend: Ready to greet arrivals for MOT reception Sept. 28 are Robert (left) and Carole Wendzel with host, Townsend manager Otto Haensler.



Young Professionals: New members chairwoman Sharon Giolla explains MOT to Dave Trebing and Laura Winicki.



At Neilman Marcus: Dorothy Dann and Jim Chapman enjoy reception for Metropolitan Ballet on Sept. 28.

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