



JERRY ZOLYNSKI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Table manners: Holly Beth Moncher and class practice with napkins at Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills.



Meeting friends: Sharon Gioia and students go through routine of making proper introductions at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn.

Remembrance

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My older cousin, her daughter, was also marked by this need for order and elegance in life. When she became engaged, she and her mother naturally assembled a trousseau. (Is this word obsolete?) Just before the wedding, my cousin showed me her cosmetics, all neatly lined up in matching pink bottles. She noted that it was important for one's husband to see beauty in the medicine chest.

Some years later, when I became engaged to my husband, Aunt Eve recommended that we give serious thought to a change in his surname. The "oy" sound, she noted, was unpleasant to the ear. He was not amused.

Aunt Eve's shower gift was a monogrammed blanket cover from Moseley's. I would never confess to her that I didn't quite know the function of blanket covers. Our wedding gift was six extra silver teaspoons. Aunt Eve naturally assumed I would need double teaspoons when I set the table.

Aunt Eve and her sister Flo loved monogrammed handkerchiefs. My cousins and I still have drawers of them, presented over the years in honor of birthdays and holidays. What is so amazing is that handkerchiefs are probably anachronisms. As a teacher, I found many a lesson was interrupted by urgent requests for tissue. Occasionally I suggested that handkerchiefs would be appropriate. My students sneered. "Who

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would do that?" one said. Clearly there were not many Aunt Eves out there any more.

I was also taught by my students that it is common today for families to gather together at mealtimes with the pizza box set squarely in the middle of the table. There is plastic silverware for those who are not eating with their fingers. Aunt Eve would banish that box and reset that table!

"Role model" is such a popular epithet today — and so inadequate to describe Aunt Eve. The year is 1993, and she is dead, and somehow I can't help thinking we should all mourn what we have lost. Today I still dry my tears with monogrammed handkerchiefs. And then I have the notion that it is urgent for me to order a monogrammed handkerchief for my daughter — even though Eve is gone and Moseley's is closed and that era is over. Alas!

Manners from page 1H

In the hotel kitchen, the chef helped the children decorate little cakes while Gioia talked to them about what to do when entertaining friends at their home. At the pool and health club, she talked about protocol and etiquette. In the Presidential Suite, they learned about visiting someone's home.

Gioia has taught children's classes before, but working with the Ritz-Carlton this summer was her first all-day session. Her

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Sharon Gioia

classes are usually for eight to 10 students. "They're really small on purpose," she said. "I like the one

on one. I want the children to feel comfortable."

She said the boys and girls all ask her about the proper way to act when they meet people and introduce people. The boys also want to know how to ask someone to dance. "It is scary," she said. "You walk up and start a conversation with, 'Isn't this a great party?' That opens the door. Then you ask, 'Would you like to dance?'"

Gioia stressed, "I think the

kids should know that the most important thing is to be kind and courteous to other people. Send thank you notes for gifts. When you're with a friend, introduce them. That makes them feel important, that you care about them."

What works best

She tells the children that mistakes are all right. "It's okay if you use the wrong fork, but this is the one that works better in your meal."

Gioia is expanding the 30-page workbook "Etiquette and Style," which she created for her classes.

Holly Beth Moncher's manners classes for 7-14 year olds begin Wednesday. For more information, call 540-6348. For information on Sharon Gioia's classes call 851-3963.

FASHION CALENDAR

FRIDAY, OCT. 22

At Jacobson's

Gem and Mount Collection Show noon to 8 p.m. in Fine Jewelry at Jacobson's in Birmingham. Alexa Jared Collection Show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fashion Jewelry.

ImaginKnit

A Dyed in the Wool trunk show 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at ImaginKnit yarn shop at Applegate Square on Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

Ritz-Carlton

St. Hugo fashion show and luncheon, with luncheon at noon and show at 1 p.m. at Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. For tickets, call 644-5460.

SATURDAY, OCT. 23

Neiman Marcus

Loro Piana trunk show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fashion Accessories, Level One, at Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Southwick Trunk show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Men's Clothing, Level One. Fur Pick-Up Party noon to 6 p.m. in Fur Salon, Level Three.

Don Thomas

Killy skiwear representative Mike Johnson brings his knowledge of Killy skiwear to Don Thomas Sportshaus at Bloomfield Plaza in Bloomfield Township.

Sweaters, knits

Presentation of sweaters and wearable knits, many one of a kind, informally modeled noon to 4 p.m. at Rox & Sherm at Bloomfield Plaza in Bloomfield Township.

SUNDAY, OCT. 24

Tuesday musicale

Annual benefit fashion show presented by Rochester Tuesday

See FASHION, 7H

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