

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1994

Mingling Single?

Smile and mind your manners



GERRY TOBIN

Puzzle people get new start

Three "puzzle people" met for lunch in a local restaurant recently. Puzzle people is a term coined by Dr. Thomas Starzl of the University of Pittsburgh, the international pioneer in transplant surgery.

The gifts of transplanted organs have already been given to two of the puzzle people who met for lunch. My husband, George Tobin, received a liver from a 27-year-old Georgia resident and Brenda Sebastian of Sterling Heights has the right lung of a 43-year-old North Carolina mother of three. Abo Shatzman of Farmington Hills, the third puzzle person, is anxiously awaiting the call to Pittsburgh Presbyterian Hospital for his surgery.

George and Brenda shared their experience with Shatzman and tried to help him cope with the ongoing worry of the upcoming transplant procedure.

Before a patient is evaluated by the transplant team, there is the evaluation of the person's ability to pay. Prospective patients must prove adequate insurance coverage, or they must deposit anywhere from \$150,000 to \$200,000 cash in advance. Currently, Medicare and commercial insurance cover the cost of the transplant procedure.

Less than 5 percent of patients pay cash.

During evaluation, the team assesses the extensive tests which have been done to assure that the recipient will be healthy enough to support the new organ. The psychological makeup of the patient is also examined.

After many years of disagreement in the selection of organ transplant candidates throughout the world, Pittsburgh's surgeons devised a system from such aspects as medical urgency, amount of time on the waiting list and additional scientifically-oriented criteria.

Some of George's uncles and an aunt died young of liver disease. It was suspected some ancestor had passed down a "bad liver gene" to the family. Twenty years later when George's two brothers died young of liver-related causes, we were sure the "bad" genes were very much in evidence in their generation. One of the visible signs something was wrong appeared on Christmas Eve 1989 when George's eye whites turned yellow.

Specialists at Henry Ford Hospital confirmed his liver had lost much of its function and had to be replaced. He was referred to the University of Pittsburgh Presbyterian Hospital. "Presby" is the largest and busiest transplant center in the world and is headed by Starzl.

After evaluation, the surgeons believed George was just not ready for a liver transplant. Life went on almost as usual but with much less energy. In April 1992, he was called into "Presby" and much to his surprise was transplanted just one week after entering the hospital. He has a rare blood type, B negative, so when the B negative liver came in, and no one was ahead of him, it was his.

The call came from the surgeon in charge, his delighted voice saying, "Cheer, Cheer for old Notre Dame, the liver is in and producing bile like number 10 oil." (Number 10 oil is the color and texture of normal bile. George had stayed football under coach Frank Leahy at Notre Dame.)

The drugs began to work immediately and he has had very few problems. Immunosuppressants must be taken for the rest of his life.

It has been almost two years since he got the 27-year-old liver and he is feeling so well he has resumed all of his former activities including his tasks around the house. Before the surgery, he was up on the roof brushing the pine straw and leaves out of the gutter!

There is a great need for organs to be transplanted. One organ donor can save many lives as there are about 26 different organs and tissues that can be transplanted. Each year, the shortage of organs increases. Many of the more than 25,000 people on the nation's waiting lists will die due to the lack of organs available. Every day, the lists become longer.

According to the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, anyone who is 18 years or older and of sound mind may become a donor. Minors with consent of parents or guardians may become donors. There is no upper age limit for becoming a donor.

Others including your spouse, immediate family, friends and physicians should know about your decision ahead of time as some states need family member consent before organs or tissues can be removed. In order to transplant an organ, a donor must be "brain dead."

Michigan and other states have donor driver's licenses with a signature on the back, the driver indicates his or her intention to become a donor in the event of death.

Information about becoming a donor is available from your physician, a local hospital, local kidney, liver, lung or heart foundation or association, the nearest regional transplant group, the local eye bank or Lions Club and your local library.

Gerry Tobin is a 19-year Farmington Hills resident and a member of the Farmington Garden Club and a longtime volunteer at the Community Center, Farmington/Farmington Hills.



BY DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

If you cringe at the thought of Larry and Lorraine the lounge lizards asking what's your sign, the Farmington Single Professionals offers alternatives.

"A lot of people just like to come and socialize," according to Dave Hurlbert, club president.

Sometimes people meet someone to date. Sometimes members use the club as an avenue for social events. And sometimes wedding bells ring.

In fact, at least 50 couples met their spouses through the eight-year-old club.

There are at least 10 (marriages) a year and those are just the ones I hear about," Hurlbert said, adding that he knows of one couple who met when it was the first time at a club event for both.

Hurlbert laughs when he explains that he often gets calls or cards from couples explaining that they no longer wish to receive the club's newsletters, because they are married.

With about 300 paid members, Hurlbert calls the mailing list phenomenal with more than 10,000 names of people who have inquired about the group at one time or another.

"A lot of people are non-members who come to the events," he added.

Initially, the group was for singles between the ages of 25 and 40, but there are people younger and older who attend events.

"My description of a professional is pretty much what the person does for a living," Hurlbert said, referring to the group's name.

"That's your profession. We won't turn anyone away."

Secretaries, dental hygienists, librarians, doctors, lawyers, cartoonists, teachers, engineers and people from a wide range of other professions are involved. Some are divorced and others have never been married.

The club events calendar is just as varied, including dances, cross country skiing, volleyball, wallyball, bowling, feather bowling, dinner and theater, visits to an art museum and just about anything else you can imagine.

Every Tuesday at 6:45 p.m., Farmington Single Professionals members and guests meet at Racquetball Farmington on Nine Mile. An \$8 donation is requested.

Some of the quieter events usually draw an older crowd, just as the more active outings bring in a younger group, Hurlbert said.

"It's a friendly atmosphere with no pressures and new people are welcome," Hurlbert said. "Quite a few people come up to me and say 'I really felt welcome.'"

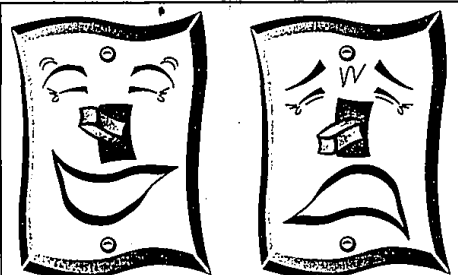
It's a switch from the bar scene where often times the music is loud, it's hard to talk and you don't have a chance to get to know the other person.

"Here you're dealing with people more on a social level and on a casual basis," he added.

For more information about Farmington Single Professionals, call 422-4232.



One plus one: John Barrett and Tricia Marine, both of Farmington Hills, are dating after meeting at a club function. Their friend, Jerome Koxielniak of Brighton, also attends events.



Members of the Farmington Single Professionals generated this list of turn ons and turn offs about the opposite sex

TURN ONS:

- What women like about men*
- nice smile
 - blue eyes
 - good eye contact
 - boxer shorts
 - down to earth and friendly
 - good communicator
 - well educated
 - broad shoulders
 - nice personality
 - nice laugh
 - good manners
 - funny
 - a man who washes dishes
 - a man who puts the toilet seat down
 - witty
 - ability to cry

TURN ONS

- What men like about women*
- a warm feminine glow
 - long thick and soft hair
 - good communicator
 - chemistry
 - good sense of humor
 - nice sparkling eyes
 - nice legs
 - overall positive attitude
 - athletic
 - jeans
 - spunky
 - sexy dresser
 - blonde
 - friendly
 - sincere
 - compassionate
 - smile
 - cute face
 - air of confidence
 - nice dresser
 - energetic
 - fun
 - nice eyes
 - down to earth
 - passionate
 - witty

TURN OFFS:

- What women don't like about men*
- sloppy appearance
 - yellow teeth
 - scruffy beard or poorly groomed
 - undresses with their eyes
 - self-centeredness
 - nose hairs
 - arrogant
 - insensitive
 - cockiness
 - bad breath
 - heavy drinker
 - quiet or shy
 - tattoos
 - bad table manners
 - dirty nails
 - dull conversation
 - men who watch other women while you're with them
 - possessive
 - smokers
 - hairy backs
 - beer bellies

TURN OFFS:

- What men don't like about women*
- uptightness
 - too much make-up
 - negative attitude or a complainer
 - poor groomer
 - whiney
 - unfriendly
 - smokers
 - drinking
 - shyness
 - hairy legs
 - mean spirit
 - talking about ex-boyfriends
 - gum chewing
 - overly concerned about money
 - poor memory
 - overweight

A snapshot of Farmington's pioneer days

BY JEAN FOX
SPECIAL WRITER

Two 19th century portraits of Farmington Township pioneers Elliott S. Sprague and his wife, Evaline Heath Sprague, are on display in the lower level of the Farmington Library in downtown Farmington.

The framed portraits, excellent examples of family heirlooms from 100 years ago, are the gift of the estate of Lettie B. Gaston to the Farmington Hills Historical Commission. The commission has loaned them to the library for public viewing. They will remain on the history wall of the library for several months.

Elliott Sprague was born in Farmington

Township in 1846, and died in 1933 at the age of 86 at the home on Drake Road. Eva Heath Sprague was born in 1844 and followed him in death five months later in 1933, also at the home at 26446 Drake. They were married in 1873.

The Sprague House is site number 215 in the Farmington Hills Historic District. It was an integral part of the Sleepy Hollow community, a 19th century settlement which included a grist mill, cooper's shop, store and several houses at the bottom of the hill on Drake Road between today's 11 Mile and 12 Mile roads. An historic marker details the site with a map of the area.

In the winter of 1878, a fire partially damaged the Sleepy Hollow store. Sprague, using an ox

team, pulled the damaged building to the top of the hill, situated it on the west side of the road, on land which he had purchased from Carlos Steele, and rebuilt it as his home.

The land and home became known as Maple Tree Farm and Sprague became a noted Oakland County orchardist and farmer. The site was distinguished by a maple tree more than 200 years old, as well as six others more than 100 years old at that time. A Michigan agricultural college arborist who examined the trees in the 1920s said the large one was more than 250 years old, and the other 150. Today their spreading branches lend privacy

See SPRAGUE, 3C