

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

McLellan-Zapotocny

Charmain Zapotocny and Stephen McLellan were married June 23 at an outdoor wedding at Henry Ford Estate, Dearborn, by the Rev. Shari Johnson. She is the daughter of Rosalie Zapotocny of Dearborn Heights and the late Paul Zapotocny and he is the son of Suzanne McLellan of Novi and John McLellan of Canton.

The bride is a graduate of Dearborn High School and the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a bachelor's degree in health policy studies. She is attending the University of Michigan graduate school in Ann Arbor. She is the community education director at Northland Family Planning Centers of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

The groom is a graduate of Novi High School and is attending Eastern Michigan University to earn a teaching degree. Alisia Lewandowski served as maid of honor with bridesmaids Lisa Nahlik and Mary Cheri.



Jennifer Coe served as junior bridesmaid.

Jeffrey Taylor served as best man with groomsmen John McLellan and Mark Campbell.

The couple received guests at Henry Ford Estate before leaving on a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii. They are making their home in the Canton/Westland area.

Perna-Cowdrey

Cheryl Darlene Cowdrey and Kenneth John Perna were married Aug. 6 in The Little Wedding Chapel by the Rev. Tim White. She is the daughter of Debbie Davis and Dennis Cowdrey of Farmington Hills and he is the son of Sam and Maggie Perna of Highland.

The bride is a graduate of Harrison High School and the groom is a graduate of Milford High School.

Sharlene Russell served as maid of honor with bridesmaids Kim Guerriere, Stacy Cowdrey and Emily Cowdrey.

Paul Coopman served as best man with groomsmen Kevin Perna, Keith Perna, Andy Wort and Laurence May.

The couple received guests in Oakland Baptist Church before leaving on a trip to Florida.



Arthur-Voss

Ray A. and Ellen Voss of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their son, Ray H., to Julie Ann Arthur, daughter of Donna and Gene Arthur of Asheville, N.C.

The bride-to-be holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina and a degree in physical therapy from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga. She is employed as a pediatric physical therapist at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C.

Her fiancé is a graduate of North Farmington High School and received his bachelor of science degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan and his master's degree in nuclear engineering from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. He is employed as a senior engineer in the Engineering and Proj-



ects Division — Safety Engineering Department of the Westinghouse Savannah River Company in Aiken, S.C. No wedding date has been set.

Painting to be unveiled at Parents of Murdered Children event

By DIANE GALE STAFF WRITER

When William Austin was murdered Dec. 5, 1987, his mother wondered how she would cope.

"It was very devastating to our family and I needed to find someone who could help me deal with the grief," according to Lezada Austin-Giesey, Austin's mother and the president of metro-Detroit chapter of the Parents of Murdered Children, covering Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

"I found the organization (Parents of Murdered Children) has been a tremendous help to me and my daughter, Angela. A violent death is something you have to deal with minute by minute, hour by hour and day by day, but you never forget."

"You just learn to deal with it and this organization is tremendous in that aspect. We have all ages, all nationalities, religions,

economic levels and education levels, so it covers everyone."

Austin-Giesey and her daughter aren't alone. From 1978 to 1991, there were 295,599 people murdered in the United States. About 200 people belong to the Michigan group and an average of 10 new members join annually, according to Dorie Shwedel, Parents of Murdered Children spokesperson.

The local group is holding its fourth annual Love for Life Benefit, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 13 Mile Road and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. The theme is "United to End Domestic Violence: No More Loved Ones Lost."

"This event is not depressing, it's upbeat and respectful," Shwedel said.

Brian Zubel, senior assistant prosecutor in Oakland County, donated his painting, "Truth ...

Just Wait" to Parents of Murdered Children. It will be unveiled at the benefit and will be used as a national campaign for the group's 1995 calendar, posters and 500 lithographs. Calendars are \$2, posters are \$10 and 500 lithographs will be sold at \$100 each at the benefit.

Zubel, who will receive the Parents of Murdered Children humanitarian award, donated all rights and proceeds from the painting to the organization.

A Parents of Murdered Children national memorial wall, with the names of people who have been murdered etched on a series of wooden panels, will also be on display at the benefit.

The wall will hang Oct. 20-21 at the Oakland County courthouse and the week of Oct. 24 at the Macomb Mall.

Parents of Murdered Children started in 1978 in Cincinnati after a couple's daughter was murdered

in Germany. A Cincinnati priest introduced them to a few other couples whose children had been murdered and the idea kept growing.

Today there are 415 chapters across the nation with more than 100,000 families and friends of murdered people involved. Other groups have begun in Australia and in Canada.

Money raised at the local benefit will go to support the chapter, which provides a monthly newsletter, offers a lending library and sends members to conferences and seminars so they can help other new members.

"It's all geared to the emotional support of the families," Austin-Giesey said. "As the president of the chapter for the past five years the most rewarding thing for me

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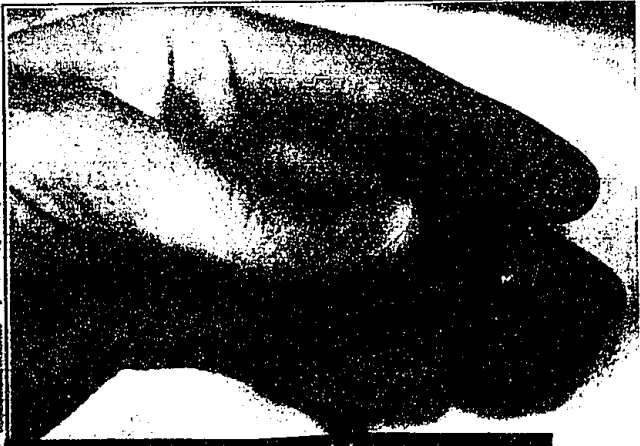
Lezada Austin-Giesey

is to watch the people grow in their grief until they are able to once again laugh and that they have built a new normal life.

"The organization becomes an extension of your family," she said. "You're very comfortable with the people, especially around holidays, birthdays and anniversary of the death. You need someone who understands. It's getting the word out to new families that is so vital."

That job is endless considering that every 21 minutes someone in the United States is murdered.

Tickets for the benefit are \$37.50 each. Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Edward Sosnick and his wife, Darlene, are co-chairpersons and Gov. John Engler and his wife, Michelle, are honorary co-chairpersons of the event. For more information, call (810) 932-3898.



Sometimes the smallest feet must travel the longest distance.

Ten years ago, the road to a normal childhood would have been too long for this baby to survive. Your donations to the United Way have supported the kind of medical research in prenatal care that gives premature babies like this the chance to survive. The United Way supports some 140 agencies in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties that help the home-

less, the illiterate, the unemployed and many more. And because nearly 90 cents of every dollar you contribute goes directly to those in need, you can be sure your donation will make a difference. So please give to the United Way. And help shorten the distance the tiniest feet must travel.



THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

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Advertisement for 'Sweetest Day Flowers' featuring a large floral illustration and a grid of florist contact information for various locations including Livonia, Redford, Southfield, Westland, Canton, and Farmington Hills.