

LET'S GO!

Your guide to suburban entertainment

Let's go to the Theater

Let's go Dining

Let's go to the Movies

Let's go Traveling

Let's go listen to Music

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1994

ON THE MARQUEE



KELLY WYGONIK

'White Christmas' to be shown at library

Take a break from the Christmas rush and attend the showing of "White Christmas," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21 at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Dr. Frank Ross will lead a discussion about the movie starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney. Admission to the series is \$5 — the cost of a current membership to the Friends of the Livonia Libraries. Memberships will be available at the door.

■ Even a huge undertaking like presenting the "Nutcracker" ballet is possible when parents and teachers work together. Here are two local groups who are presenting the "Nutcracker" for the first time.

■ Artistry in Motion Dance School of Southfield and Ferndale is presenting an all African American production of the "Nutcracker" ballet 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16-17 in the auditorium of Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door. Call (810) 867-9720.

This production features a cast of 220 children ranging in age from 3 to 18. Guest dancers are Debra Miller and Tyrone Talley of the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. "We wanted to do this. It's a large project. The parents helped and were very supportive," said Gwendolyn Smith of Birmingham, show producer and executive director of the dance school. Crystall White is the artistic director.

■ The Farmington Dance Theatre, resident dance company of the Barbara Hatch School of Dance, is presenting "Nutcracker" 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 at Farmington High School. Tickets \$8 available at the door, senior citizen discount available. Call

See MARQUEE, 2B

Now showing

Dining
When it comes to creative seafood dishes, John Cleveland's Water Club Seafood Grill in Plymouth is a water wonderland.

Theater
Find out what's on stage in your community.

Movies
"Dumb and Dumber" featuring Jeff Daniels and Jim Carrey enjoys smart premiere at Fox Theatre.

Travel
Holiday magic sparkles through the streets at Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad.

Music
Brother and sister help local musician release his 1991 recording, "An Intimate Christmas."

Looking ahead

▶ **Antiques** — The Holiday Antiques Show, 12-13 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Tickets \$5. Call (810) 867-9720.



DAVID JAMES

"Speechless" Michael Keaton and Geena Davis star in MGM's new comedy.

Chances are you've received at least one Christmas gift that left you, well, "Speechless."

Maybe it was a Day-Glo green necktie or a gift certificate for six auto-wrestling lessons. One reader recalled getting a can of sardines.

We asked readers to write and tell us about gifts that left them speechless to celebrate the opening of the movie "Speechless," which opens Friday at area theaters.

It's a romantic comedy starring Geena Davis and Michael Keaton as a pair of political speech writers who meet in a convenience store and begin a relationship of romance and rivalry.

No one likes to look a gift horse in the mouth, of course, but sometimes there's just no other place to look. Try to be grateful, try to be polite but some gifts leave us speechless.

Of course, some gifts are so wonderful and generous — like childbirth — that they leave us speechless with joy.

Sandra Ingeoulian of Redford, who found out she was pregnant last December, presented her husband, George, with a toy rabbit with a noose around its neck. He opened it and looked confused.

"He didn't catch it at first," she said.

"Honey, don't you get it? The rabbit died," she said, referring to the old method of testing for pregnancy. He eventually caught on. The couple named their son Ryan.

Winners received a "Speechless" sweat shirt and tickets to the Dec. 13 screening of the film at the Star John R Theater in Madison Heights.

Here are excerpts of reader letters:
■ "The gift that left me speechless happened in 1973. My husband for

our anniversary bought me the car of my dreams, a green Ford Thunderbird. Everytime I would get in that car I would feel so excited because it was the car of my dreams."

— Wendy Weingarten, Westland

■ "We had been looking for lake property for several years, and my husband found and bought a place as a gift to me. My name is Diane, and the lake is Lake Diane."

— Diane Karr, Livonia

■ "A holiday gift that left me speechless was a can of sardines. Yes, a can of sardines. My boss vacationed in Florida, and a friend gave him a case of sardines. He detested seafood."

— Neil Boyer, Sterling Heights

■ "It was Friday, Dec. 22 1989 and I was awakened from a nap on the couch by my wife who said she had a surprise for me. Still half asleep, I opened my gift, a book entitled 'The Complete Book of Pregnancy and Childbirth.' My wife and I had been trying for three years to conceive. She said we were going to have a baby, but it didn't register. I said, 'Yes, we will someday.' Then my wife reached into her pocket and showed me the pregnancy test indicator with the positive sign. It finally sunk in, I was not dreaming. We really were going to have a baby. Needless to say, I was speechless."

— Steven Coloska, Redford

■ "My father, Tom, and I have hunted together for 15 years. He has bagged six deer and I have been shut out all those years. He always teases me about it. I was totally speechless when I saw a huge box wrapped and opened it to find a deer head with 10-point antlers. He said he felt sorry that I was 0-for-15 so he gave

me the deer head. I was speechless."

— See GIFTS, 2B

Hilarious & thoughtful gifts leave readers 'SPEECHLESS'



DAVID JAMES

Together: Michael Keaton and Geena Davis star as complete opposites who can't fight the laws of magnetic attraction in "Speechless."

Festive events perfect way to wrap up holidays



Skater: Olympic champion Oksana Baiul performs in "Nutcracker on Ice."

Attending a holiday concert, dance performance or event is a wonderful family tradition, and a great way to introduce youngsters to classical music and ballet. Here are some holiday happenings your family is sure to enjoy.

■ "Nutcracker on Ice," — a holiday classic, adapted for ice features three gold-medal winning skaters. It's coming to Joe Louis Arena, Detroit, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22.

"Nutcracker on Ice" features former Olympians Brian Boitano, Oksana Baiul and Viktor Petrenko. Also featured will be U.S. Open Pro Champion Rory Flack Burghart.

The show is based on "Nutcracker Suite" by Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky. It's about a young girl who receives a Nutcracker Doll for Christmas from her godfather. With a little magic, the doll comes to life in Clara's dreams.

The show also features elaborate sets and costumes and the Tchaikovsky score.

Ukraine native Baiul and Petrenko won gold medals in 1994 and 1992, respectively; she will play Clara and he will play the Nutcracker.

Boitano is a 1988 Olympic gold medalist who will make a special appearance as the Sugar Plum Fairy.

The tour is playing major arenas in the United States and Canada during the month of December. It is scheduled to air on NBC television 4-6 p.m. Dec. 31.

Tickets are \$25 and \$40. For more information, call Ticket master, (810) 640-6666 or (813) 396-7800.

■ Cool Yule will be presented by Farmington

Community Chorus 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16-17, at Harrison High School, 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake Road and Middlebelt.

Tickets \$8, senior citizens and students \$5, children 10 and under \$3. Tickets will be sold at the door on an availability basis. Call (810) 474-4518.

■ Julie Rose of Redford is one of the singers performing Handel's "Messiah," 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16 at St. Clement Roman Catholic Church, 5275 Kenilworth, Dearborn, (one block south of Ford Road, two streets east of Chase). The performance will feature the 35-voice DeHaven Chorus and Chamber Orchestra. Tickets are \$7 each, \$5 for children 12 or younger, available in advance or at the door. Call (313) 561-7495 for information.

■ Schoolcraft College Community Choir presents "Echoes of Christmas" 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church (Six Mile between Merriman and Middlebelt) in Livonia. The concert will feature the ensemble "Solid Brass," traditional holiday favorites and a Christmas Carol sing-along. The Schoolcraft College Chamber Singers will also perform. Tickets are \$4 each. Call (313) 462-4448.

■ Livonia Civic Chorus, featured in our photo above, will present its 30th annual Christmas concert, "A Christmas Wish," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia. There is no admission charge.

■ The Schoolcraft College Chamber Singers will also perform. Tickets are \$4 each. Call (313) 462-4448.

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