

TRAVEL

Surprise your Valentine with a romantic getaway

Do something really sweet for your sweetie this Valentine's Day. Plan a surprise getaway that will warm their heart. Here are some options for destinations near and far.

■ **The Winter Getaway Package** Brochure for Grand Haven, Mich., offers lots of ideas for weekend getaways to the West Michigan lakeshore. Featured in the brochure are travel packages that include "spa" treatments complete with massage and cabin fever escape packages. Package prices start at \$30 a night. Choose a romantic getaway for \$125 for a luxury whirlpool room for two or a lakeside room on Lake Michigan for as low as \$125 per person at a bed and breakfast inn. Call 1-(800)-303-4090 for your brochure.

■ Southfield based Hamilton,

Miller, Hudson and Fayna Travel Corp. has put together a "Valentine's Day" package to Honolulu, Hawaii. You and your Valentine can escape to Hawaii via Rich International Airways on Feb. 13 and return on Feb. 20. Air only prices start at \$499.90 per person and include round trip airfare, in-flight meals and free inflight movies.

Complete air/hotel packages begin at \$749.90 per person and include: round trip airfare, in-flight meals, free inflight movie, 7 nights accommodations, round trip baggage handling, round trip transfers between airport and hotel, flower lei greeting, alone complimentary breakfast the day after arrival, all tips and hotel taxes. Call your local travel agent for details.

■ Ontario's Historic Country

inns are serving up winter getaway packages through March. From the shores of Lake Erie through to the Ottawa Valley, Ontario has been transformed into a winter wonderland with some of the best snow conditions in years.

Inn packages include country cooking courses, spa treatments, wine tastings, gourmet weekends, cross country and alpine skiing. Jim Corcoran of St. Anne's Country Inn & Spa, one hour east of Toronto, is celebrating the Canadian winter weather with free Via Rail transportation from either Toronto or Kingston with "The Twelve Weeks of Winter" themed packages. For more information about this and other packages, call 1-(800)-263-2663.

Ontario's Independent Inn-

keepers have compiled a 25-page guidebook with information on getaway packages at 24 inns. Call the number above for your copy.

■ When the Candlelight Lounge's gold-fabric stage curtain goes up for "midnight special" shows aboard Carnival Cruise Lines' new Superliner Inspiration, the audience will enjoy late night entertainment in an intimate, romantic setting.

A warm, glittering mood is created by hundreds of elegant electric candlesticks throughout the room. A roseate French marble called "Rouge Roi" enhances the dance floor, tables, bar and edging throughout the lounge.

On March 22 the Inspiration departs Miami on the first Panama Canal cruise ever offered on one of Carnival's 70,000-ton ships, arriving in Los Angeles on

April 6. The ship will leave San Francisco April 13, traversing the Panama Canal, reaching San Juan, Puerto Rico April 28. Inspiration will then begin weekly seven-day southern Caribbean sailings from San Juan calling at St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles; Dominica and Barbados, West Indies; and Martinique, Lesser Antilles. Call your travel agent for more information.

■ During the month of February, Icelandair's Valentine package makes it easy to visit Europe for a romantic weekend in Iceland. The price is \$449 per person, based on double occupancy, with a Thursday departure and Sunday return (airport taxes/charges not included). For reservations and information call your travel agent or

Icelandair 1-(800)-767-EURO (3876).

The package includes round-trip air transportation from JFIC or BWI airports, hotel accommodations for two nights with a full Scandinavian buffet breakfast daily, airport/hotel transfers, city sightseeing tour and four-course candlelight dinner with music.

Couples can share a peaceful weekend or a spirited adventure during this mini-vacation. Travelers are often surprised to find that the temperate effects of the Gulf Stream provide warmer weather in Iceland than in many U.S. cities this time of year. Outdoor swimming pools are enjoyed year-round, and the fabled Icelandic horses offer a delightful way to explore the countryside.

FINE ARTS

Birmingham artist's work adorns book cover

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Mary Klemic, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling (810) 644-1314.

COVER STORY

Birmingham resident Louise Hego's art work is featured on the cover of "Human Exceptionality," a recently released book by Harman, Drew and Egan. The book offers a multidisciplinary view of exceptionalities covering such topics as mental retardation, emotional behavior disorders, learning disabilities, mild and severe multiple disabilities, autism, hearing loss, vision loss and physical and health disabilities.

Since 1973, Hego has been dealing with disabilities from a head injury from an auto accident. As part of her recovery, she turned to art. She was juried into her first statewide competition in 1987 with an abstract expressionist painting entitled "That's Life."

Hego continues to compete locally and statewide. She has been a featured artist of the Very Special Art Gallery, a non-profit gallery in Washington, D.C., that represents professional artists with disabilities. The gallery features rotating exhibits of paintings, prints, crafts, jewelry, sculpture and folk art.

Proceeds from art sales benefit exhibiting artists and the programs of Very Special Art, an international organization that pro-

vides learning opportunities through the arts for people with disabilities. Founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith as an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Very Special Art provides programs in creative writing, dance, drama, music and the visual arts in 15,000 communities in all 50 states and in more than 80 countries.

LOVELY EVENING

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts proudly presents a fund-raising Valentine's gala, "For the Love of Art," 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 10, at Rochester's Great Oaks Country Club. The event features dancing to music by the Jello Shota, romantic door prizes, gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts and cash bar. Tickets are \$50 per person (\$20 is tax-deductible). Reservation deadline is Thursday, Feb. 1. For more information, call the PCCA at (810) 651-4110.

WILDLIFE ARTIST

Russell Cobane of Clarkston

has been named featured artist for the seventh annual Northern Wildlife Art Expo. The nationally acclaimed expo will take place Friday-Sunday, Jan. 26-28, at the Lansing Center in Lansing. For more information, contact Hawk Feathermeyer & Co. at (617) 788-6044.

Cobane will be one of the instructors at a one-day, intensive art workshop offered by ArtVentures of Colorado 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Holiday Inn-South in Lansing in conjunction with the expo. Tuition for the workshop is \$95, which includes all classes associated with the seminar, hands-on art instruction, demonstrations and wildlife presentations; art critiques; live rapier models; admission to the expo; business instruction materials and buffet lunch. Among the other instructors will be award-winning bird artist Wanda Mumm, nationally acclaimed wildlife photographer Carl Sama II and 1995 NWAEE artist Lee Cable. To register or for more information, call ArtVentures at (719) 687-2555 or Hawk Feathermeyer & Co.

Improv at Comedy Castle

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak will be holding improv classes beginning Saturday, Jan. 27. This is due to the success of their ongoing Tuesday night improv shows featuring "Totally Unrehearsed Theatre."

For more information, call (810) 542-9900.

The improv classes will teach basic improv skills, voice projection, theater games and character work.

BALLET AUDITIONS

Jefferson Baum, director of

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's dance program will conduct auditions in Flint (Friday, Jan. 26), Detroit (Saturday, Jan. 27) and Ann Arbor (Sunday, Jan. 28) for

ballet students who want to attend Blue Lake, a west Michigan summer arts school 16 miles north of Muskegon, this year. For information, call (800) 221-3796.

SKI

Cross-country skiing is a fun, exciting and healthy way to enjoy the outdoors this winter. Learn to cross-country ski at the Observer & Eccentric Ski Schools listed below. Because there is limited space available, pre-registration is required. For more registration information call Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the session.

OPEN

Bridge

Get on the right track with THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

Cross-country Ski School

Addison Oaks County Park - c/o Oakland County Parks & Recreation, 1480 W. Romeo Road, Leonard, MI 48367-3706 810-693-2432
Ski a special event! Family & Friends Ski Nights - January 13, 20 & February 3 & Winterfest - January 27

Bloomfield Hills Schools - Recreation and Community Services 4174 Dublin Drive, Bloomfield, MI 48302 810-433-0885

Independence Oaks County Park - c/o Oakland County Parks & Recreation, 9501 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, MI 48348-2064 810-625-0877 Ski a special event! Learn to Ski Day - January 6 and 20

Rochester Avon Recreation Authority - 104 East Second Street, Rochester, MI 48307 810-656-8308

Wayne County Parks & Recreation 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, MI 48185 313-261-1990

This winter at Waterford Oaks County Park, Michigan's first refrigerated toboggan run! Call 810-858-0906 for more information.

THE RIVER PLACE
A Grand Lodge Hotel

An incomparable setting in a grand hotel. Dining at Baron's in The River Place Hotel is truly a rare experience. Impeccable service, a comfortable, casual atmosphere, and a waterfront view of Canada offer the perfect setting for a perfect meal.

The higher the grade, the better the taste.

Transported directly from the Chicago Stock Yards, Baron's steaks are Prime grade, a grade traditionally reserved for the finest hotels. Cut from young, specially fed cattle, Prime is richly marbled, which makes it tender, well-flavored and fine textured.

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Like fine wine, beef improves with age. Baron's beef is aged in 8-inch insulated maple wood coolers designed with special ventilation systems to keep tenderness sealed in. Beef that is tenderized naturally is much tastier (and much healthier) than beef treated with artificial tenderizers. Your palate tells you the difference.

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