Village Players celebrate 75th

Crystals reflecting the glow of candlelight adorned the tables for the Village Players of Birmingham's 75th anniversary gala Saturday night at The Community House in Birmingham.

Party decorations by Tiffany Florist of Birmingham also included silver balloons and floral centerpieces for each table. The Whistle Stop restaurant in Birmingham donated a cake.

In the foyer, members looked over scrapbooks filled with memorabilia about the players. Each guest received a book that listed all the shows the private theater group has produced during its 75 years. Member Peggy McCall researched the history.

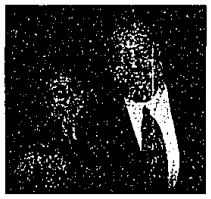
Some 100 new and veteran members enjoyed cocktails and dinner followed by music for dancing provided by the Eric Freudigman Trio.

PHOTOS BY JOHN REDDY

Leo Savoie (left), Sally Savoie, Dr. William Ward and Patty Ward

Lou Stewart (left), Lori Jacobs and Carl Stewart

Stacey McEwen and Steven McEwen



Linda Hammell and Pietro DiGiorgio, who star in "The Dining Room" by A.R. Gurney, which opens Friday at the playhouse

Jay Peterson, treasurer, and Sharon Jordan, chairwoman of the Capital Champaign Committee

Healthy newsletters offer many resources

ALL ABOUT FAMILIES

ALICE MCCARTHY

As I prepare one last defining editorial, and squeeze a brief mention of one more book, video, website or 800 number into my Healthy newsletters, I feel like Mother Hubbard who had "so many children ..." There isn't room to tell families about the many fine resources available to help them raise healthy, well-adjusted children. This column will give you some resources from the March 1998 issues.

But first, a little about the Healthy newsletters that have reached families since 1992. Published in March and October, the newsletters are distributed nationally to families of children in grades Pre-K-3, 4-5 and 6-8. Schools, intermediate school districts, unions, preschools and health organizations purchase the 1.2 million copies (yearly) and provide them free to families. Fourteen reviewers — physicians, social workers, health educators, preschool specialists and educators — suggest crucial concerns and review every word we write.

We read books, six national health newsletters, parent magazines, and newspapers. We study the research literature and check our copious files. Increasingly, we are using the Internet for research-based information to help families keep their children emotionally, socially and physically healthy. Every quote and every person mentioned is contacted.

We need four months from the first listing of suggested topics to the distribution of 620,000 copies. We check on research, verify quotes, write and edit copy, and work with talented artists, including Mary Douse of Birmingham. Our patient and creative design firm, P.S. Abrams in Troy, rearranges copy until we print at least 20 articles and 30-40 resources in three four-page issues. Listed below are a few resources found in the spring Healthy newsletters.

Health Information

■ Call Children's Hospital of Michigan at 1-800-666-3466 or (313) 745-5000 and ask for "Childhood Emergencies and Illnesses," a free, 45-page booklet for families.

■ "Guide to Your Child's Symptoms," edited by Donald Schiff, M.D., and Steven Shelov, M.D. (Villard, 1997, $25). Covers 100 of the most common symptoms from birth to adolescence, using clearly drawn, easy-to-follow charts.

■ For a copy of an excellent report based on findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health, write to Add Health, c/o Burness Communications, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1401, Bethesda, Md. 20814.

Discipline

■ "Don't Take It Out on Your Kids: A Parent's and Teacher's Guide to Positive Discipline" by Katharine C. Kersey (Berkley Books, 1994, $10). Gives parents practical, positive, discipline techniques. Also find tips on positive discipline from Katharine Kersey on the Internet at http://www.cei.net/%7Ercox/dontake.html.

■ Send for a free copy of "Plain Talk About Spanking: Parents & Teachers Against Violence in Education," P.O. Box 1033, Alamo, Calif. 94507-7033, or send an e-mail message to PTAVE@nilcom.com (include your mailing address). Specify English or Spanish edition.

■ Visit The No Spanking web page at http://www.cei.net/~rcox/nospan.html for many more references on alternatives to spanking and positive forms of discipline.

■ Articles featuring the resources listed here will be found in the Healthy newsletters. These newsletters should reach you this spring. Watch for them. Check our next column for another set of resources.

All About Families runs every other week in The Eccentric Newspapers. Birmingham resident Alice McCarthy, Ph.D., is a nationally known parent educator, writer and editor. She is the mother of five children and grandmother to eight young children. To leave a message for McCarthy, from a touch-tone phone, call (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1894, or write her at The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

The above article is Part One of two parts. The second part will appear as Alice McCarthy's next All About Families column.

Beaumont class enhances skills in life saving

Certification in Basic Life Support is a must for many individuals working in the health care field, day care centers and other jobs where another person may suddenly require life-saving skills.

To help individuals learn life-saving techniques and achieve BLS certification, Beaumont Hospital is offering a Health Care Provider Class, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Beaumont Rehabilitation and Health Center, 746 Purdy (at Frank) in Birmingham.

Registration for the class is $40. The class is open to the public.

For more information, or to register, call the Beaumont Physician Referral and information Service at 1-800-633-7377.

The class designed by the American Heart Association includes instruction on adult and pediatric one-rescuer CPR; adult two-rescuer CPR; pediatric and adult foreign-body airway obstruction management, and mouth-to-mask ventilation.

Bone marrow link joins with cancer center

The National Bone Marrow Transplant Link, a human service agency dedicated to assisting patients, their families and health professionals with information and support, has affiliated with the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

The program serves as a clearinghouse of information on bone marrow and stem cell transplantation, as well as donor centers.

It houses a resource center of transplant-related materials and also offers a person-to-person connection. In 1997, the transplant link received nearly 5,000 inquiries from across the country.

For more information on bone marrow transplant resources, call toll free: (800) LINK-BMT (546-5268) or locally (248) 443-5800, Ext. 6618.T

Agency seeks foster parents

Catholic Social Services of Oakland County is searching for loving families to become foster care families for infants, adolescents, children with severe emotional problems and sibling groups of two to three children.

For more information, call (248) 333-3700, Ext. 101.

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