

Giving credit to Mom



All smiles: Gretchen Hitch of Birmingham (center) is pictured last week with her daughter, Deborah Hopkins, formerly of Birmingham, and author Tom Wolfe at the May 3-5 Forbes Chief Financial Officer Forum in Charleston, S.C. Hopkins, a Walsh College graduate formerly of Unisys Corp. and General Motors, now senior vice president and CFO of Boeing Co. in Seattle, and Wolfe, whose latest book, "A Man in Full," is a New York Times bestseller, were speakers at the forum. Hopkins gave credit to Mom, a longtime Eccentric writer, in her speech, which was just days before Mother's Day.

International Institute honors 3 metro Detroit area leaders

Walter E. Douglas, Denise Ilitch and Mary Lou Zieve, all of Bloomfield Hills, will be honored by the Friends of the International Institute on May 16 at the 18th Annual Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon at the Detroit Athletic Club.

Frank D. Stella, president, Friends of the International Institute, announced the honorees, who will be inducted into the International Heritage Hall of Fame at Cobo Center.

It is one of several celebrations this year marking the 80th anniversary of the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit.

Walter Douglas is president and majority stockholder of Avis Ford in Southfield. A former president of New Detroit, Inc., the nation's first urban coalition, Douglas has led many organization and community efforts during his tenure, which targeted social economic and political issues.

A trustee of the Henry Ford Health System, Oakland University Foundation, Tiger Woods Foundation, and African American Museum, he also serves on the board of Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, AAA Michigan Board of Directors and Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. Douglas and his wife, Retha, have three adult children.

Denise Ilitch is vice chairwoman of Little Caesar Enterprises, Inc., and the president of Olympia Development, the Ilitch family's downtown Detroit real estate and entertainment development company. Ilitch most recently was part of the team that organized and promoted the side-by-side stadiums for the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Lions in Detroit's theater district.

She is involved in many charitable groups, including the Love-light Foundation of which she was a co-founder in 1993. The non-profit organization is dedicated to enhancing the lives of impoverished children. She has two children, a daughter,



Walter Douglas



Denise Ilitch

Brooke, and a son, Sam.

Mary Lou Zieve, civic leader and activist, is founder of the advertising and public relations firm, ML Productions. She was producer of the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon for the Detroit area at WJBK-TV from 1976-1980.

A founding member and past president of the Jewish Ensemble Theatre, she was president of the Detroit Historical Society for four years, board chairman of the Wayne State University Press, and has served the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Michigan Opera Theatre and Greater Detroit Interfaith Round Table and is a volunteer for the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives. She has a son, Robert, a daughter, Melissa, and two granddaughters, Sara and Julia.

This year's inductees join 65 others who have been recognized through the years for making important contributions to Detroit area citizens and their ethnic communities. The International Institute was established in 1919 to assist and encourage immigrants to learn English, become American citizens and to assimilate successfully into their communities. It continues today to provide many other services to the foreign born as well as to present programs and events that further understanding and tolerance among children and adults in a multi-ethnic society. Proceeds from the celebration will support the Ethnic Enrichment Education Program, which provides presentations on various cultures to school groups and community organizations.

The event will begin with an 11:30 a.m. reception. Singer/pianist Jo Thompson with the J.C. Heard Trio from New York's Tavern on the Green is the featured entertainment. Tickets are \$125. Reservations may be made by calling (313)871-8600.



Mary Lou Zieve

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