

PARENTS

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is frightening," Beyersdorf said.

Many of the young parents she has shepherded through the birthing process also end up joining the Mother/Baby Club. Over the years, Beyersdorf has come to understand some of the language, although she doesn't speak it.

The mothers she works with don't seem to have any difficulty understanding her warmth and compassion.

"It's not just a job, it's a passion for me. I really enjoy being with young people at this time in their lives and share in their birth experience. I can't imagine anything more fulfilling."

Beyersdorf enjoys the hum of conversation and laughs along with the mothers as their children engage in antics that need no translation at all. Nicholas' collection of toys grows as he defines for the other little ones exactly what is "his."

And that's just about everything.

"He's started whining," DeBaker said, imitating her son with a tinge of frustration.

"You'll find at 3, his behavior will change dramatically," Beyersdorf assures her, offering a universal piece of parenting. For more information about childbirth education classes in Japanese or the Mother/Baby Club, call (248) 669-9192 or (248) 477-6100, Ext. 237.

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LONGACRE

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Menu offerings will include typical breakfast fare, with a cooked-to-order egg station, honey-baked ham and baked fresh fish as entrees.

Parents and children alike will appreciate Lunch with Santa, with sittings at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. The ticket price of \$12 per person includes a typical "kid-fare" lunch, storytelling, a make-it-and-take-it craft and goodie bag, as well as a visit with St. Nick.

Children will be entertained in shifts, so that rather than waiting in line as they might at a mall, they can be working on crafts or listening to a holiday-themed story.

"Here, you don't have to get in his lap to see Santa," said committee chair Susan Legg. "You can see him and be around other kids and enjoy the atmosphere ... We want

people enjoying themselves all the time."

She's looking for committee members to help with planning the event, as well as volunteers who can work that day. Seating is limited, so parents are encouraged to sign up their children early.

The holiday season ends with a classic "New Year's Eve at the Longacre," from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31. A five-course gourmet dinner will be the highlight of the evening; the sit-down dinner will include a choice of appetizers, soup and salad, three entree choices - The Longacre prime rib, baked salmon en croûte or Bohemian-Almond Carmish, topped off by the chef's special caramel nut apple pie.

Guests will receive two drink tickets, after which a cash bar is offered. At every table, there will be a bottle of champagne for the midnight toast.

For more information about any of these events or to purchase tickets, call The Longacre House, (248) 477-8404.

SCHNEIDER

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know his family has a German background, but his latkes are so good you have to think somewhere along the line he picked up some tips from St.

Eat - It's Good for You, the patron saint of Jewish Mothers.

Tedd Schneider is the community editor of the Canton Observer and a Farmington Hills resident. He can be reached via e-mail at tschneider@eohomecom.net or by phone at (734) 459-2700.

This month, concentrate on cultivating an attitude of gratitude

When we approach November we often think of the Thanksgiving holiday. Thinking about that holiday often engenders some thoughts about gratitude. Our pastoral counseling colleagues at the Samaritan Counseling Center of the Capital Region in the Albany area of New York had one of their staff reflect on gratitude.



Paul Melrose

If you have a discipline of prayer, meditation, religious ceremonies use these avenues as times to be thankful, to further reflect on gratitude, to see what is good in your life and in the lives of others.

Be sure to share what you are grateful for. For some this may be done through a time of prayer at a meal.

Or have your family and guests, if present, share what they are grateful for.

When there is a crisis or some difficult time look carefully; you will find something good in it and through it. It may be the caring of others or the help you receive, but there is something about which gratitude can be expressed.

Remember that our happiness is not tied to possessions. We don't need the most to feel grateful.

Don't forget birthdays, the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, Christmas, or other special celebrations as opportunities to share important times with special people.

Finally as Dr. Osborne sums this up, "Aside from these specific suggestions, parents can help cultivate gratitude in children by modeling an attitude of enthusiasm and appreciation for life - its constant opportunities for growth and service, as well as its beauty and simple pleasures - through their daily words and actions."

Dr. Paul Melrose is director of Clinical Services at the Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan. He can be reached through www.paulmelrose.com or at 248-474-4701.

Musicale presents holiday event

The Farmington Musicale will present, "Tis The Season," on Dec. 4, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at North Congregational Church on 12 Mile, west of Drake, Farmington Hills.

It will be a Christmas

program of choral music, holiday selections performed by a French horn trio and a Christmas medley duet with piano and organ.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

KID STUFF

Breakfast With Santa
Kids can have breakfast with Santa 8-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 in Fellowship Hall at Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. Tickets will be available at the door. Everyone is welcome. Call (248) 626-3620.

Junior Gardeners

Hill & Dale Garden Club will hold a Junior Gardeners Workshop at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the downtown Farmington Library. Call (248) 474-7770

Little Me

Stories and hands-on fun for children ages 16 months to 2 years (with adult) 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays, through Nov. 25, at the downtown Farmington Library.

Learning Activities

The downtown Farmington Library offers learning activity centers 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, through Nov. 26, for children ages 3-5 and 10:30 a.m. to noon Wednesdays, through Nov. 27, for children ages 2-3.

SALES/SHOWS

Holiday Greens Sale

The Hill & Dale Garden Club will hold its 15th annual Holiday Greens and Poinsettia sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Vagazzoli Visitors Center in Heritage Park.

Used Instruments

Farmington Public Schools will hold a used instrument sale 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3 at Warner Middle School, 30303 W. Fourteen Mile in Farmington Hills. The sale is open to anyone wishing to buy or sell band or orchestra instruments, metronomes, music stands and other music items. Call (248) 459-3412.

Holiday Market Place

Antioch Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills will hold a Holiday Market Place 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. The Church is located at 13 Mile and Farmington Road.

Mercy Arts & Crafts

Mercy High School will host its annual arts and crafts show 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30. Admission is \$3 on Friday and \$2 on Saturday.

Christmas is Coming at 29300 W. 11 Mile in Farmington Hills.

CLUBS

Hill & Dale

Hill & Dale Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12 at the Vagazzoli Visitor's Center in Heritage Park. Members will create a nature wreath and enjoy special guest day featuring holiday potluck treats.

Embroiderers

The Farmington Hills Embroiderers Guild will meet for a Christmas luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 at Marco's in downtown Farmington.

Farmington Garden

The Farmington Garden Club will meet at noon, Monday, Dec. 2 at the

Longacre House in Farmington Hills for Creative Wreath Designs Holiday Luncheon. Call (248) 553-9986.

Musicale

The Farmington Musicale presents *Tis the Season* at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 at North Congregational Church in Farmington Hills.

POTPOURRI

Massage-A-Thon

Healthy Touch Massage will host an eight-hour massage-a-thon noon-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at 32995 Grand River, between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads. All proceeds will be donated to the Farmington Area Goodfellow. Suggested minimum donations are \$25 for a half-hour massage and \$45 for a one hour massage. Donations will be accepted in the form of cash or check made out to the Farmington Area Goodfellow. No credit cards, coupons or discounts can be accepted for this event.

Twelfth Night

Farmington High School will perform *Twelfth Night* at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21-23 in the school auditorium.

Lend Me A Tenor

North Farmington High School presents *Lend Me A Tenor* at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21-23 in the school auditorium.

Holiday Brass

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings present *Holiday Brass* at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. Call (248) 473-1857.

International Classics

Farmington Community Band will perform International Classics at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.

Celebrate Singing

North Farmington High School presents *Celebrate Singing* at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 3-5 in the school auditorium.

Sabrina Fair

Harrison High School presents *Sabrina Fair* at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7 in the school auditorium.

Novi Choralaires

The Novi Choralaires will perform *Christmas is Coming* at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 at First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33102 Grand River. Call (248) 474-8277.

A Tuna Christmas

The Farmington Players will perform *A Tuna Christmas* Nov. 29-Dec. 14 at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore Theater in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 219-0800

Velveteen Rabbit

The Marquis Theatre in Northville presents *Velveteen Rabbit* now playing through mid January. For times and reservation information call (248) 349-8110. Special group rates available.

Artist Exhibit

Watercolor artist Jim Patterson will display his artwork now through Dec. 20 at the Farmington and Farmington Hills City Halls.

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