

At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN • DIY • GARDENING

Giving

Woman gives her time to Hospice of Michigan.

Observer Life, C5

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Collectible dolls' clothing reflected the popular styles of that particular era.

Dolls help collectors reminisce

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Sharon Napier loves to collect dolls. For her, it brings back childhood memories.

"Every little girl had a doll or doll substitute that they could hold and rock to sleep and hug," Napier said.

For young girls a doll was a child to raise, a face to hug, a connection to family for them, Napier said.

"Each doll has a story," Napier said. Soon Napier will join other members in the Renaissance Doll Club as it will celebrate its 35th anniversary with a special luncheon in Livonia. (See related chart).

Napier started collecting in 1977 when she adopted her daughter. She's collected 408 dolls since then.

Napier owns Joyce's Doll House and Parts, formerly The Little Doll Shoppe, in Shelby Township. Napier ships dolls to a variety of countries, including places as far away as Australia, Finland and Norway.

Women collecting dolls has the same nostalgic feel for them that men have for

PLEASE SEE DOLLS, C4

DOLL CLUB LUNCHEON

What: Renaissance Doll Club's 35th anniversary luncheon

When: Noon-3 p.m., Sunday, June 1

Where: Sandtraps Banquet Hall, 35780 Five Mile Road (just east of Levon), Livonia
Tickets: \$40 adults, \$35 for teens, and \$30 for children ages 6-12

For information, call Pat Smith at (734) 464-4814 or Lorrie Cross at (586) 792-5713.

DOLL SHOW AND SALE

What: Dolls and Friends of Royal Oak Eight Annual Doll Show and Sale. Thousands of antique, vintage and modern collectible dolls and bears, doll clothes, books and accessories. Doll appraisals available for \$3 per doll, limit three dolls.

When: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, June 8

Where: American-Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane (north of 14 Mile Road between Schoenherr and Van Dyke), In Sterling Heights

Tickets: \$4, children under 12 are admitted free.
For information, call (248) 399-4345 or (586) 731-3072.

Accents

Pests are back

It won't be long before mosquitoes become a daily annoyance in our lives.

You can enjoy your backyard or garden by following a combination of a few simple steps, courtesy of English Gardens, to control mosquitoes.

Natural or biological controls, such as mosquito sticks, citronella and repelling plants, use odors that keep mosquitoes away. Mosquito Barrier and Repellex are repellents that use natural ingredients.



Netting over a patio umbrella can keep mosquitoes away, or a bat house in your yard can bring bats, which eat mosquitoes, to your yard.

Mosquito Magnets also can attract, trap and destroy the insects, while bug zappers can kill the bugs. Personal repellents with DEET are the most effective, but users should follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Homeowners can eliminate standing water without getting rid of birdbaths, small ponds, flowerpot saucers and fountains by keeping water moving in those items. Birdbath drippers break the water's surface tension, while mosquito dunks release a mosquito larvacide before the bugs hatch. An enzyme solution also can be purchased to break the water tension, causing the mosquitoes to sink and drown.

Information on mosquito control is available at all five English Gardens locations in metro Detroit, including 4901 Coolidge in Royal Oak, 6370 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield and 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights.

For the finicky pet

The OurPet's Company has introduced OurPet's Gourmet Spray for Cats and Dogs, a convenient and healthy product that transforms any ordinary dry food into a tasty treat.

According to Dr. Steve Tsengas, president of OurPet's Company, OurPet's Gourmet Spray works on two levels.

First, the wonderful aroma will please a pet's sense of smell to attract its attention. Then, the taste will keep the four-footed companion's concentration on the meal until it is finished.

"Just like human beings, both cats and dogs prefer a variety of palatable flavors over bland food," Tsengas said.

OurPet's Gourmet Spray for Cats and Dogs has only 170 calories per "serving" (a single spray), so any weight that a "poor eater" gains will be from the nutritious food itself. The spray also is absorbed quickly by dry food, so it leaves no residue in a pet's bowl.

OurPet's Gourmet Spray for Cats and Dogs is especially useful for getting older pets with weaker senses of smell and less receptive taste buds to get excited about mealtime.

Available at leading retailers for a suggested price of \$2.49 to \$3.99, each 2-ounce bottle of OurPet's Gourmet Spray for Cats and Dogs provides 400 aromatic appetizing spray applications.

For more information, call OurPet's at (800) 565-2695, or visit www.ourpets.com.



Julie Weller holds up a chiffon dress with gold lamé inset and beadwork, one of the items of Ellen Scripps Booth's clothing she displayed during a presentation to the Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary at Cranbrook House. Pieces from the clothing collection that Weller researched and cataloged will be on public view at Cranbrook House.

PHOTOS BY STEVE CANTRELL, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In fashion

Cranbrook garments show history as well as style

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Articles of clothing or outfits can show more than style. They can reveal fascinating history lessons as well.

Julie Weller, a recent Michigan State University graduate, gave examples in an antique clothing seminar she presented to members of Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary last Wednesday at Cranbrook House in Bloomfield Hills.

Weller studied apparel and textile design. She researched and cataloged a clothing collection at Cranbrook that includes 80 garments, 20 to 30 hats, scarves, parasols, miscellaneous items (such as ostrich plumes that were apparently for hats), servants' uniforms, Asian clothing and accessories, and theater costumes (among which is a pair of angel wings). Most of the clothes are from the 1870s to 1950s.

Her presentation was about garments worn by Ellen Scripps Booth (1863-1948), and featured photos and actual articles of clothing. Ellen and George Booth founded Cranbrook.

Pieces of the apparel collection will be displayed at Cranbrook House, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year.

INTRIGUING

"Her family was what she focused on," Weller said of Ellen Booth. "Because she was very much in the upper echelon (of society) ... she would have dressed very nicely."



Above, this cream and taupe capelet features a cutout design and pleating at the collar. At left, long chenille fringe adorns this shrug.



PLEASE SEE FASHION, C2

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it!

Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.



You go, girl!

Be on the go in style with cooza totes, train cases and zip-top cosmetic bags from Escapades, 32744 Franklin Road in Franklin.

Colors are cream and black. Available mollis feature Coll, Tennis, Exercise, Glamour and Spa Girls. The train cases - which include traveling items - and cosmetic bags have plastic covering. Prices are \$38 for the tote and \$36 for the train case.

A different type of "go girl" is this whimsical soft doll that carries a bag of golf clubs, also from Escapades. Price is \$35.

Call (248) 855-3956.