

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010

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GROSSE

POINTE MAGAZINE

Holiday Pops

**Grosse Pointe Symphony
annual concert at Parcels!**

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**You won't want to miss this
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Living Nativity

**Christ the King planning
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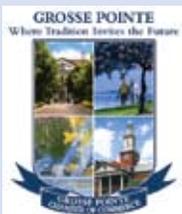
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On the Cover

“Christmas Splendor” by James Lady, www.StillwaterStudio.us Should you wish to contact James Lady, refer to the Stillwater Studio advertisement in this edition. James Lady is the father of two beautiful daughters and has considered Grosse Pointe his home for nearly 30 years. He currently lives in the Woods. In “Christmas Splendor,” this edition’s cover image, James Lady has captured and combined the welcoming warmth of home with the wondrous natural splendor of Grosse Pointe’s holiday season. With the greatest of hope, he wishes you the best of both.

Letter of thanks

To the Editor:

We at The Family Center continue to be so grateful for the support and generosity of this community. It is with sincere appreciation that we would like to recognize the many supporters and volunteers who helped to make Caledon, Scotland’s Tenors, an incredible sold out event! In addition to being an amazing performance, that showcased the many talents of our own Grosse Pointe North and South Choirs, it was also a wonderful way to celebrate a decade of commitment to community families!

Special thank you to Gary Wilson and Randal Cain, Wilson & Cain, PA, who had the vision to bring the Tenors to our community. Thank you to Ellen Bowen, Ben Henri and the Grosse Pointe North and South Choirs for a fabulous performance and such a memorable evening. There were many volunteers who were hard at work behind the scenes, but we are especially grateful to Rebecca Fannon and Lisa Domas who coordinated The Family Center volunteer effort and all the wonderful volunteer bakers who treated guests after the performance.

We are also appreciative of the wonderful exposure we received from Grosse Pointe Magazine. We welcome the partnership opportunities we have had since the launch of your magazine and we are grateful for

your ongoing support of The Family Center, particularly your help in publicizing the many events and family enrichment programs we offer to our community.

Finally, our gratitude to Dr. Suzanne Klein, and the staff of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools for all of their help in supporting and promoting the Tenor event. Dr. Klein has been an enthusiastic advocate for The Family Center and we thank her for her thoughtful celebratory introduction and her continued commitment to helping us link families and professionals with the resources needed to promote growth

As we usher in our next decade of service, our vision remains the same: raising healthy, resilient and successful children. We are grateful for your dedication and thank all of you who were involved in making this such a celebratory event, raising awareness and advancing our mission. Not only was the Tenors event a memorable night, it was yet another example of the wonderful optimism, creativity, passion and commitment of our supporters.

With warm regards and much appreciation,

Mary Beth Garvey
 Board President
Debbie Liedel
 Executive Director

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Cover Features



34 **RUDOLPH TO GUIDE SANTA'S SLEIGH**
Grosse Pointe's Santa Claus Parade has a new member



42 **GROSSE POINTE SYMPHONY**
58th season starts with the Holiday Pops concert



57 **LIVING NATIVITY**
Tradition alive and well at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

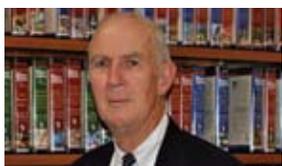
Pointe Personalities



12 **JACK**
Jack Bodien, student at St. Paul on the Lake.



20 **RICK**
Rick Gokenbach has no regrets



50 **HENRY**
Dr. Henry Sprague, 2010 President of the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation



58 **GINNY**
Dr. Ginny Lezotte, loves her job

Pointes on Cuisine

- 15** Pointe Magazine Restaurant Guide
- 23** Recipes by Beaumont's Chef Dan
- 59** Restaurant Review by Chef Frank

Pointe Extras

- 10** Great Books
- 18** Library of Congress...on Wheels
- 22** Friends and Neighbors Club
- 24** Village Food / Shortbread Recipe
- 26** DIA Celebrates 125 years
- 28** Grosse Pointe Mayors give thanks
- 30** Set the Stage
- 32** Parade - a 35 year tradition
- 38** Shop The Pointes
- 40** Holly Fest / White Christmas Ball
- 44** Steve Rybicki and the Ovation
- 46** Now Playing...
- 48** A Gem in Our Community
- 49** Shop the Grosse Pointe Art Center
- 51** Field of Dreams

In Every Issue

- 08** On Pointe from the Publisher
- 17** Pointe of Law
- 27** Great Lakes Log
- 37** Health Pointes
- 47** Pastor's Pointe
- 52** Pointe Gardener
- 53** Pointe Paparazzi
- 60** Pointe Pets
- 62** Calendar
- 66** Pete's Pointe

Featuring the best of Grosse Pointe life.

GROSSE POINTE MAGAZINE



John Minnis
Editor and Publisher

home for the holidays!

Welcome home for the holidays! I know a lot of people flock south to Disney World or west for skiing during the week between Christmas and New Years, but there is no place like Grosse Pointe during the holidays.

Of course, the fun begins on Thanksgiving, one of the best and most uniquely American holidays there is. The best part after recovering from overconsumption

of a Thanksgiving meal, is the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade to look forward to on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

As you will read in this issue of Grosse Pointe Magazine, the annual Santa Claus Parade was founded by the Grosse Pointe Village merchants 35 years ago and has been a crowd pleaser ever since.

New to the parade this year is Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, who will lead eight veteran reindeer and Santa Claus himself from The Hill to The Village down Kercheval. Don't miss the fun beginning at 10 a.m.!

Of course, before and after the parade, be sure to check out our local Grosse Pointe merchants. They have some great prices on some one-of-a-kind items you can't find elsewhere. We found some for entertainment in this issue of Pointe Magazine, but the rest is up to you!

Grosse Pointe Symphony will be making music at its popular Holiday Pops concert at Parcels again this year. And just down the street, Christ the King Lutheran Church will be holding its annual Living Nativity

with kids playing the roles of Mary, Joseph, the Three Wisemen and the Shepherds. Of course, the camels and farm animals will play themselves!

For the formal crowd, the annual St. John Fontbonne White Christmas Ball will once again be held at The Henry Hotel, and don't forget The Family Center's annual HOLLY FEST gala at "the Little Club," the Grosse Pointe Club. (Get tickets for both these events early as they sellout quick!)

Of course, the schools will be holding their own holiday concerts, which are always first class.

Yup, there's plenty to do "at home for the holidays" in Grosse Pointe. I look forward to seeing many of you at the parade, the gala parties or the concerts — and, of course, holiday shopping right here in Grosse Pointe!

Happy holidays and a better New Year to all readers, advertisers and supporters! 2011 promises to be a banner year!

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Great Books!

By Margie Reins Smith



Rita McBride



Facilitator Peggy Kitchel



Photos by Margie Reins Smith

Seven Grosse Pointers gathered in the basement of the Woods branch of the Grosse Pointe Public Library on a sunny September afternoon. They settled around a large table. They greeted each other and library facilitator Peggy Kitchel.

The Great Books group was ready to talk about a D.H. Lawrence short story, “The Man Who Loved Islands.” Most had attended the book discussion group before. All brought an anthology, *Great Conversations 5*, and many had marked certain pages of the Lawrence story with colorful sticky notes. The library supplied bottled water and a basket of packaged snacks.

Lawrence’s 21-page story was about a man who tried to create a closed community by buying an island, surrounding himself with books and a few chosen people. He failed; moved to another island; failed again; moved to yet another island.

“His world was always shrinking,” Rita McBride says. “His islands got smaller each time.”

“Was he looking to create a utopia?” Frank Romano asks.

Someone brings up the role of the narrator. Another points out the author’s vivid images of sounds and noises.

“The tragedy was that he couldn’t escape the real world,” says Vivien McDonald. “D.H. Lawrence must have experienced this loneliness at some point in his life.”

Kitchel urges the group to look even more closely at the protagonist. “He chose to live on these islands,” she says. “He took people who didn’t demand anything from him. Was he mean to these people? Was he nice?”

The discussion intensifies. More than an hour passes.

“What he needed was a book group,” says Frank Markey. “He had all those books and nobody to discuss them with.” All agree “The Man Who Loved Islands” was beautifully written, with intense, detailed descriptions.

Kitchel mentions Lawrence’s other novels, including the once-scandalous *Lady Chatterly’s Lover*. “Has anybody read it?” she asks. Some confess they had.

Kitchel has been facilitating Great Books discussions for 14 years.

“People want to explore ideas,” she says. “We’ve had some passionate discussions, but nobody ever came to blows. Nobody ever left a meeting angry.”

The Great Books Foundation is a national nonprofit educational organization that encourages thoughtful exploration of ideas through reading. It publishes an anthology each year with selections for groups to discuss. *Great Conversations 5* includes works by Euripides, Keats, Russell, Sartre, Murdoch and more. Open-ended questions and ideas for discussion follow each selection.

Grosse Pointe Public Library’s Great Books group meets again in November, then in February, March and April. The group decided to read “To Room Nineteen,” by Doris Lessing for the October meeting.

Romano, a former teacher, has been attending Great Books sessions for about five years. “You read things you wouldn’t normally read,” he says.

The next meeting of the Great Books discussion group is Wednesday, Nov. 17. For more information, call Kitchel at (313) 343-2072. ☎



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Meet Jack

Name	Jack Bodien
Age	13
City	Grosse Pointe Park
School	St. Paul on the Lake
Parents	Patricia and David Bodien



Jack's Picks

Facebook or Twitter?

Facebook

Talk or Text?

Talk

PC or Mac?

Mac

Rap or Rock?

Rock

Pizza, Salad or Burger?

Burger

Sports, Computers or Books?

Sports

U-M or MSU?

Notre Dame

Truck, SUV or Sports Car?

SUV

Movies or Video Games?

Movies

American Idol or Dancing With The Stars?

American Idol

Proudest moment? Winning the 2008 state championships for baseball.
(Grosse Pointe Park Little League)

Ambitions? To become closer to God and strengthen my faith.

Most embarrassing moment? I fell into a red ants' nest in Disney World and got thrown in the pool to get them off.

Who is your hero — why? Padre Pio - He was so inspirational, faithful, loving and caring. He created many miracles and is a saint.

Favorite teacher ever? Mr. John Addis (retired St. Paul English teacher). He was so awesome at teaching about books like *Lord of the Flies*.

About Jack:

Jack's hobbies include baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis and track. He enjoys reading, skiing, drawing, wakeboarding, kneeboarding and being with friends and family (he has six siblings!).

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Photo by Lisa Cervone



Bucci Ristorante

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Bucci Ristorante (originally named Maxine's) has been serving guests quality food at reasonable prices from its open-kitchen concept for 11 years. Owner Bujar Mamuslari named the restaurant after his childhood nickname – Bucci. The menu is full of delicious, classic Italian specialties as well as steak and seafood options. All entrees are served with soup or salad along with a bread basket. Bucci has an extensive wine list as well as a full bar. Now accepting private party holiday reservations. (40 person max in large dining room; 20 in smaller dining room.) Off-site catering is available for parties and a carry out specials can be found on the restaurant website. Reservations are recommended for Friday and Saturday.

Hours: Tues-Fri, 5-10 pm, Sat, Noon-10 pm, Sun, Noon-9 pm. Closed Monday.
Web: www.ristorantebucci.com.



City Kitchen

(313) 882-6667 • 16844 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe

Located in the heart of The Village, City Kitchen prides itself as being a unique neighborhood eatery that serves quality fare in an upscale, yet relaxed and casual setting, as well as carry-out and on- and off-site catering. The restaurant offers fresh seafood from Foley Fish Co., Boston's famous fish house, as well as Great Lakes perch, pickerel and Lake Superior whitefish delivered daily. From the grill, try "Certified Angus Beef" New York strip or tenderloin steaks and some of the best burgers in town. Also enjoy seasonal salads, desserts, appetizers and wood-fired pizza. City Kitchen recently announced the addition of Executive Chef Chris Thompson, previously head chef at Joe Muer's, and unveiled a new menu that includes salad and bread with all entrees, light-portion selections and fresh fish and seafood selections prepared your way.

Happy Hour: Mon.-Fri., 4:30-6:30 pm. Lunch: Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-3:30 pm; Dinner: Mon.-Thurs., 4:30-10:30 pm, Fri.: 4:30-11:30pm, Sat.: 5-11:30pm, Sun., 4-9 pm. Prime Rib every Sun. Late-Night menu available Mon.-Sat.

Web: www.city-kitchen.com



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Lunch Hours: Tues — Sat, 11:30 am — 2:30 pm. Dinner Hours: Fri — Sat, 5 — 8 pm. Sunday Brunch: 10 am — 2:30 pm. Closed Mondays. Web: www.fordhouse.org for more information.



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Dylan's Raw Bar & Grille

(313) 884-6030 • 15402 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park

This Grosse Pointe eatery has a warm, tavern-like feel and a lively bar crowd. The menu has something for everyone: small plates — known as “bites” — include such offerings as Oyster Rockefeller, crab cakes, mini-sliders, tempura popcorn shrimp with plum sauce, and veggie quesadilla; full entrees include lamb chops, chicken and shrimp curry, and a variety of fresh fish; salads and sandwiches are also available; the sushi menu offers traditional items as well as chef's specials. Beer and Food specials during Red Wings games. 12-oz. bottle domestic beer \$2.25; with food, \$2. “Kid Rock's” American lager, Dylan's Pale Ale, \$3; with food, \$2.25. Party and sushi trays and holiday gift certificates available. Private party rooms available for the holidays!

Hours: Mon.-Thurs.: kitchen 4-11pm, bar 4pm-close. Fri.-Sat.: kitchen 4-midnight, bar 4pm-2am. Sunday: kitchen 5-10pm, bar 5pm-close. Web: www.dylansrawbar.com.



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(313) 886-8101 • (313) 886-9653 • 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

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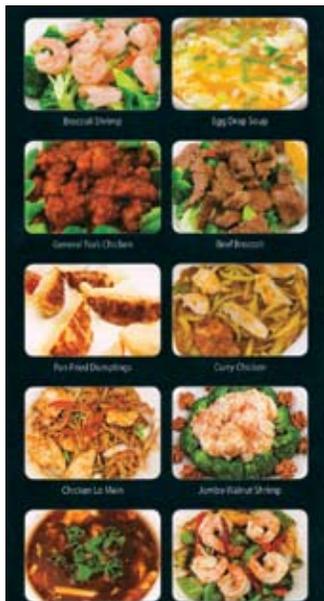
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Automobiles vs. bicycles

By Randall D. Cain

Perhaps you're wondering where the idea for this article came from. Well, I'll tell you. We live on a corner with a four-way stop, and this past weekend was interesting regarding auto and bicycle interaction at the intersection. Kind of like roadway TV.

The three occurrences I witnessed were actually quite scary. The first involved an auto which had stopped at the stop sign and then began to proceed through the intersection. A bicyclist proceeded through the stop sign on the cross street without even an attempt at slowing down or paying any attention to the motorist. The driver of the auto had to slam on his brakes to avoid striking the bicycle.

The second occurrence was similar only it led to a not too kindly verbal exchange between bicyclist and driver, which included some swear words even I had not heard before.

Number three involved what appeared to be a bicycle club of maybe 30 or so riders who, to a man (or woman), failed to stop for the stop sign and (which I couldn't believe) posted one of their members to halt all cross direction vehicle traffic so the entire entourage could proceed through the intersection.

Which brings us to the law. Are bicyclist supposed to obey traffic control devices? Absolutely. Michigan law provides that a bicyclist "upon a roadway has all the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle..." This means stopping for stop signs, traffic lights and all other traffic laws.

Randall D. Cain is a partner at Wilson & Cain, P.A., Attorneys and Counsellors, in Grosse Pointe Farms.



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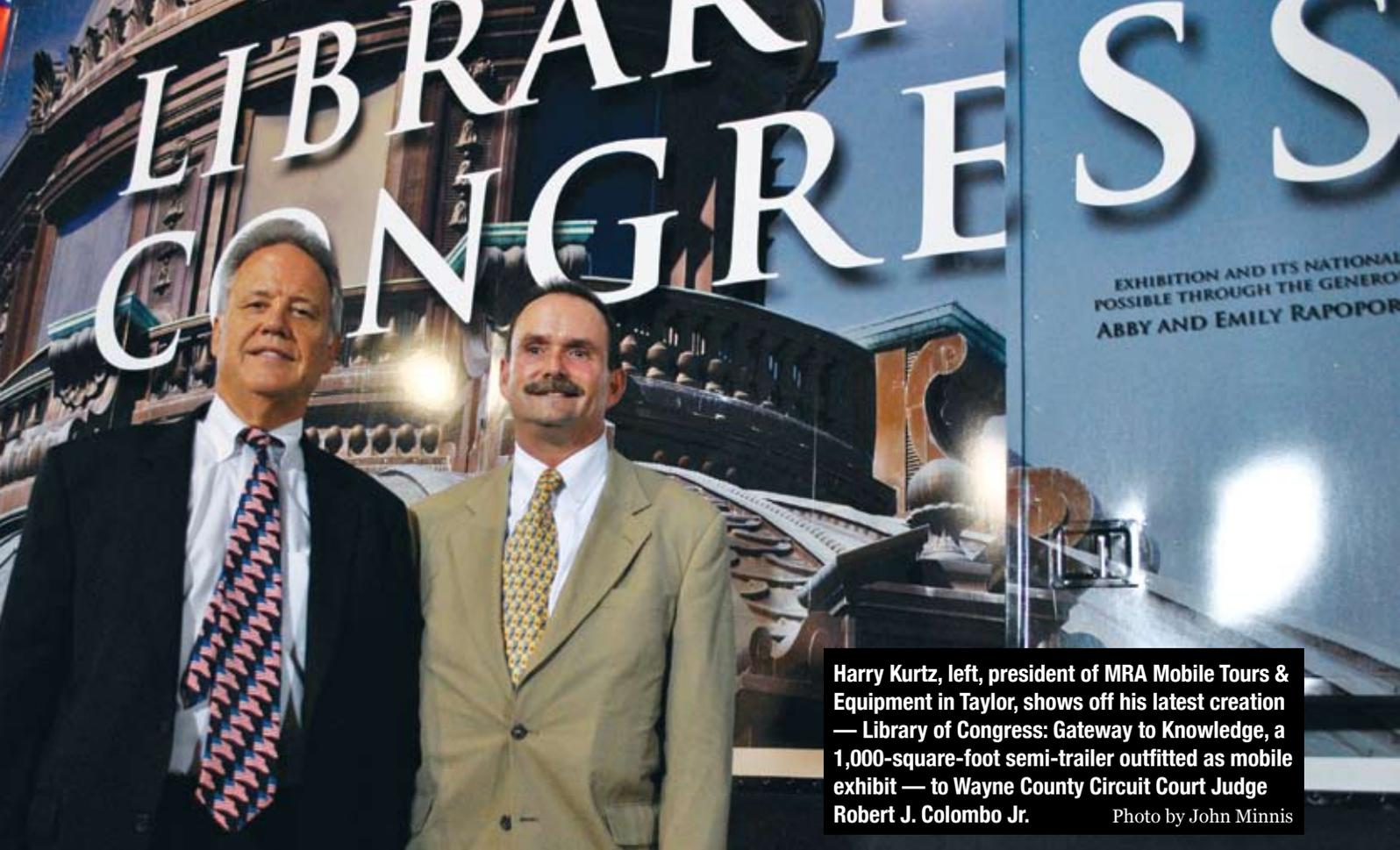
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Harry Kurtz, left, president of MRA Mobile Tours & Equipment in Taylor, shows off his latest creation — Library of Congress: Gateway to Knowledge, a 1,000-square-foot semi-trailer outfitted as mobile exhibit — to Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Robert J. Colombo Jr. Photo by John Minnis

GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE

Shores entrepreneur puts national library on wheels

By John Minnis

The Library of Congress has gone mobile — thanks to Harry Kurtz of Grosse Pointe Shores. His company, MRA Mobile Tours & Equipment, recently rolled out a new rolling exhibit — Library of Congress: Gateway to Knowledge, a 1,000-square-foot, double-bump-out semi-tractor trailer that expands to twice its road width.

Inside are facsimiles of some of the national library’s many treasures among its 145 million-item collection. Such treasures include the 1507 Waldseemüller Map (the first document to use the word “America”); the 1455 Gutenberg Bible; the rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, in Thomas Jefferson’s hand with

edits by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams; Walt Whitman’s poem “Leaves of Grass”; and the original 1962 drawings for the comic book that introduced Spider-Man to the world.

The exhibition was the idea of philanthropists Abby and Emily Rapoport, granddaughters of Audre and Bernie Rapoport, founding members of the library’s private-sector support organization, The James Madison Council. The young Rapoports donated \$1 million to the library to make the Gateway to Knowledge exhibition possible and bring the library’s riches to areas of the nation — particularly rural areas — that may not be aware of their access to the wealth of information in this publicly funded institution.

MRA underwent an “aggressive” bid process that included responding to a detailed RFP (request for proposal), said Kurtz, president of the company.

It probably helped that MRA was already GSA (U.S. General Services Administration) approved and had already built several what it calls “Museums in Motion,” including Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, America I Am, Reflections: An American Funeral and Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. The company has also built many commercial brand trailers, including those for Rocawear, Motorola and Joe Fresh.

“The vast majority of people don’t know about the Library of Congress,” Kurtz said. “They want people to know this resource exists.”

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Meet Rick

Name	Rick Gokenbach
Age	33
City	Grosse Pointe Shores
Occupation	Director, Retail Pricing, Ally Financial



Rick's Picks

Little White Lie or Harsh Truth?

Little White Lie

Ice Cream or Chocolate?

Chocolate

Winter or Summer?

Summer

Big City or Countryside?

Big City

The Hill, The Village or Mack?

The Village

Golf, Tennis or Boat?

Golf

Walk or Jog?

Jog

White or Red Wine or Beer?

Red Wine

Best thing about living in Grosse Pointe?

Definitely the parks, and there is always something going on for kids.

Favorite restaurant?

BLT Steak (in New York)

Item you cannot leave home without?

Blackberry

Favorite store?

Does Amazon.com count? I do not seem to go to many stores anymore.

Biggest accomplishment?

Professionally, building a corporate economics team from

scratch. Personally, having two wonderfully happy and easy going children.

Biggest regret?

None. I believe you have to trust that you always make decisions that are true to yourself with the best information available at that time. If you can do that, it is hard to truly regret anything.

Last book you read?

1453 by Roger Crowley.
Great book about the fall of Constantinople.

Best vacation ever?

Italy with some of our best friends (and fellow Grosse Pointers)

About Rick

Rick and his wife Casey Lunsford have two children (pictured above), Abigail and Zachary.

His hobbies include exercising, reading and gardening. The Grosse Pointe Shores resident loves to spend his free time doing anything that includes his family.



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James Lady

Looking for 'Me' Time?

By Susan Bollinger



Look to Grosse Pointe Friends and Neighbors Club

Their different ages, backgrounds, challenges and interests make the women of the Grosse Pointe Friends and Neighbors Club a diverse group. Their outlook on club membership, however, binds them. “It’s the only thing I do that’s just for me,” says past

president and active member Kelley Vreeken, a sentiment that resounds throughout the membership.

The club began as Welcome Wagon in the 1970s and has since grown to embrace women from their 30s to their 80s with quality programming and unique breakout groups.

“Five times a year, we have a luncheon speaker at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial,” says Club President Laura Sullivan. “We’ve had everything from a Detroit Symphony Orchestra flautist who garnered audience participation, to a financial advisor, to an aroma therapist. Three additional luncheon meetings give us a chance to meet at local yacht and golf clubs.”

Four breakout groups host gourmet luncheons

in their homes, and creative salad luncheons mean everyone brings a surprise ingredient for an unexpected result. The Discover Detroit group travels to a different location four times annually, while two book clubs give members a chance to discuss their chosen “reads.”

“Members can be involved as much or as little as they like,” affirms Sullivan.

According to member Nancy Pilorget, “The club is a time when you don’t have to be someone’s mom or employee. Just kick back, be whoever you are and retrieve a little of your own being.”

Members need not be new to Grosse Pointe, but simply have an interest in learning and connecting with an outgoing, intergenerational group of supportive women. For more information about the Grosse Pointe Friends and Neighbors Club or to become a member, log on to www.gpfnc.com. 



BEAUMONT'S CHEF DAN SHARES HIS HEALTHIER VERSION

Thanksgiving Favorites



Whipped Squash

Yield: 12 - 4 oz servings

Ingredients:

3 lbs. Hubbard squash
1 oz. Brown sugar
1 tbl. Butter
¼ tsp. Salt
⅛ tsp. Ground cinnamon

Directions:

1. Pre-heat oven to 300 degrees.
2. Cut squash in half and scoop out the seeds.
3. Bake squash for 3 hours.
4. Scoop squash into large bowl.
5. Add remaining ingredients, whip and serve at 160 degrees.

Serving size: 1/2 cup
Fat: 1.5 gm
Chol: less than 5 mg
Sodium: 65 mg
Fiber: 3 gm
Protein: 2 gm
Calories: 50 per/serving

Bread Dressing

Yield: 16 - 3 oz servings

Try this healthy, moist version of an old-time favorite.

Ingredients:

5 oz.	Applesauce
6 oz.	Celery, sliced thin
6 oz.	Onion, sliced thin
5/8 tsp.	Black pepper
1 ¼ tsp.	Rubbed sage
1 tbl.	Fresh thyme
1 qt. & 1 cup	Low sodium chicken broth
8 oz.	Egg beaters
2.5 lbs.	Day old bread, torn

Directions:

1. Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Tear bread into 2" pieces.
3. Place thinly sliced onion and celery in a large bowl.
4. Add bread to the bowl.
5. Add all liquid, spices and apple sauce to the bowl. Mix well with spoon or hands.
6. Spray 9" x 13" pan with non-stick cooking spray; add mixture to the pan.
7. Bake 45 minutes or until internal temperature is 160 degrees.

Fat: 5 gm
Carb: 37 gm
Protein: 15 gm
Fiber: 3.6 gm
Sodium: 508 mg
Calories: 267



Dan Kellogg is Executive Chef, Nutrition Services, Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe



Photo by Michael Goodell

Longtime Village Market customer Jack Colbeth shows off his new shopping bag.

Village Food owner thinks, acts green

By Michael Goodell

Climate change is like the weather. Everybody talks about it, but nobody does anything. Nobody, except Village Food Market owner Mark Garmo, who recently started distributing reusable shopping bags. Although many stores offer branded shopping bags these days, what makes Village Market unique is their bags are free.

“I like to give back to the community,” Garmo says, “and this is one way to do it. I have kids, and I want to make sure I’m leaving them a better world.” Adds store Manager Frank Hermes, “We’re doing our part to keep the planet clean.”

Does it cost money? Sure, but “it also saves us the expense of buying paper bags,” notes Garmo. “Plus, our customers love getting something for free, and it is good advertising.”

Garmo, who has owned the Grosse Pointe Farms grocery store since 2003, considers the free bags a potential conversation piece. “Maybe they take it to the lake for a picnic, and people are going to talk about it. That puts our name on everybody’s lips.”

Both Garmo and Hermes like to think of their customers as family, and they try to give them what they need. Hermes says as long as there is room he’ll keep adding stock. Although the modest sized store is already pretty full, “there’s always the ceiling,” Hermes jokes.

With its butcher shop, deli, fresh produce and gourmet food and wine selection, Village Market is a big part of the good life in Grosse Pointe. ♻️

Christmas Scottish Shortbread

Every Christmas, my grandmother, Jeanie Patterson, wife of former Grosse Pointe Park mayor Matthew C. Patterson, would make shortbread.

My grandmother an immigrant of Scotland, would bake several batches from a family recipe brought from her homeland. I’m sure we could have enjoyed this special treat anytime during the year but as tradition goes it is only prepared at Christmas. My grandmother would soften the butter overnight and then create this wonderful cookie the next day, tantalizing smells always filling the house.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day a plate of Shortbread would be put out on a silver tray along with cherry cake and sugar tarts, two other traditional Scottish Christmas delights. What a wonderful Christmas memory!

Ingredients:

1 pound of butter (softened)
1 cup of sugar
4 cups of flour

Directions:

Knead together all ingredients, pat into a jelly roll pan, prick with a fork.
Bake at 325 degrees for 45 to 60 minutes or until golden brown.
Cut immediately into finger-sized pieces.

**Deborah Leslie
Grosse Pointe Farms**



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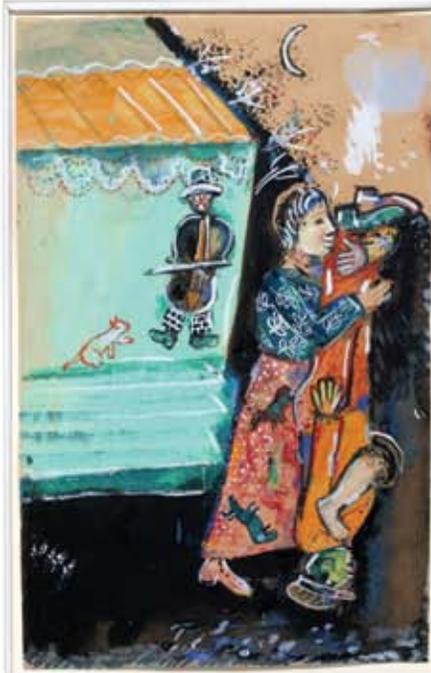
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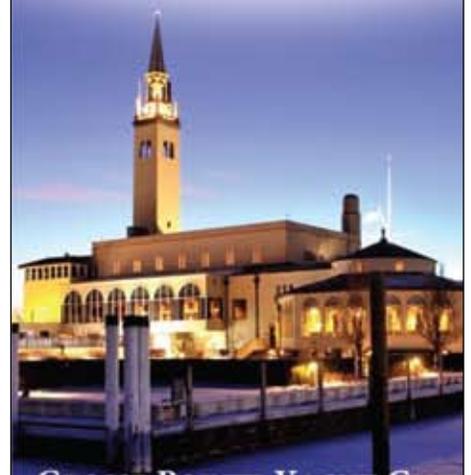


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DIA, Grosse Pointe share 125-year history

By Margie Reins Smith

The Detroit Institute of Arts is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, but how many Pointers know the DIA had an “annex” in Grosse Pointe for more than a decade?

The museum’s first home was built in the mid-1880s on Jefferson near

today’s Chrysler Freeway interchange. Its collection of art and sculpture increased rapidly, and the board of directors soon began talking about a newer, bigger building. By 1927, the Beaux-Arts design museum by Paul Phillippe Cret was completed in Detroit’s Cultural Center.

After his death, the family of Grosse Pointer Russell A. Alger donated their home, The Moorings, to the City of Detroit. The lakeside Italian villa (now known as the Grosse Pointe War Memorial) became a DIA “branch” museum. From 1936 to 1948, the Alger House was used for small decorative arts exhibitions.

Detroit eventually decided it wanted its art museum totally within the city limits, so the property reverted to the Alger family and was then given to the City of Grosse Pointe Farms. The Grosse Pointe War Memorial is a popular community center now used by residents in all five Pointes.

Since the beginning, Grosse Pointers have been heavily involved as museum patrons, donors and volunteers.

“The DIA has been a major tourism draw for the entire region, especially since the November 2007 grand re-opening,” says Shores resident Gene Gargaro, chairman of the museum’s board of directors. “It’s also a tremendous educational resource. It enhances the quality of life in our area. We all need art in our lives. The museum also serves an important business function by retaining businesses and encouraging new businesses to locate here.”

As part of its 125th anniversary and in keeping with its new visitor-friendly focus, the museum has placed 40 framed life-size digital reproductions from its collection outside, around the metropolitan Detroit area.

Two reproductions are in Grosse Pointe. Gerrit van Honthorst’s “Sophie, Princess of Palatine” hangs above an outdoor table on the sidewalk in front of The Hill restaurant at 123 Kercheval. The “Marquise de Vintimille as Aurora,” by Jean Marc Nattier, is displayed beside the Kercheval entrance to Borders Books in the Village.

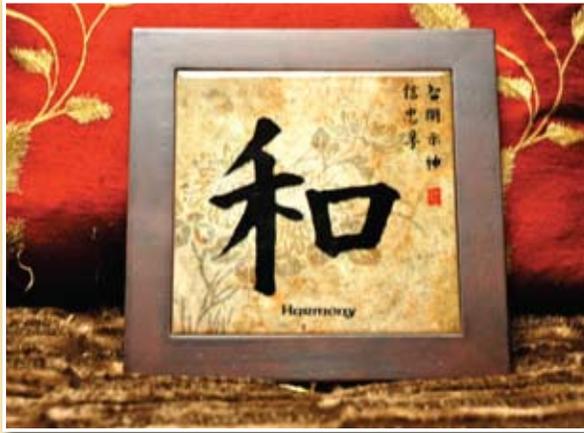
Gargaro emphasized the regional appeal of the DIA. “I live in Grosse Pointe,” he says, “but I’m a Detroiter. We’re 20 minutes from the DIA.”



Shores resident Gene Gargaro, chairman of the DIA board of directors, outside The Hill restaurant beside a reproduction of Gerrit van Honthorst’s “Sophie, Princess of Palatine.”

Photo by John Minnis

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Great Lakes Log

A holiday wish list

By Ted Everingham

With the boats pretty much tucked in for the winter, I sat by a blazing hearth on a recent crisp autumn evening and compiled my Great Lakes Log holiday wish list. Here it is:

Asian Carp. May the politicians and the scientists agree on a plan that will save our Great Lakes from



the very real threat posed by this frighteningly invasive species.

Great Lakes Boating Festival. Continued success for this traditional rite of Spring at Grosse Pointe Yacht Club in May.

Dossin Great Lakes Museum. A trip — or several trips — to this sometimes overlooked jewel on Belle Isle.

Windfarms. Please, no windfarms in Lake St. Clair.

Boating & Outdoor Recreation Festival. A reprise in 2011 of the new, in-the-water boat and recreation show at Metro Beach in September.

Happy Retirement. To Van Snider, Jr., who is retiring as President of the Michigan Boating Industries Association after 20 years of exemplary service.

Your ideas. Many Great Lakes Log shows result from ideas supplied by viewers, and those ideas always are welcome. After all, it is your show, not mine.

Finally, may you have a holiday season filled with warm memories of happy times with the people who are most special to you.

Ted Everingham's Great Lakes Log can be seen daily at 1:30 & 4:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 10:30 p.m. on WMTV, a service of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, on Comcast channels 5 & 915 in the Pointes and Harper Woods.

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MAYORS GIVE THANKS



Mayor Dale Scrace

I am very thankful for the confidence the citizens of our city have placed in me to serve as their councilman and mayor for over 20 years. I am thankful to work with a dedicated council who spend many hours working for the greater good of our residents. I am thankful for a talented staff led by Peter Dame our City Manager and a dedicated Public Safety Department led by Chief Jim Fox. Our city is part of a Grosse Pointe Community that Mary and I have been blessed to raise our two sons within.



Mayor James Farquhar

I'm thankful for a healthy and happy family, great friends, a successful business and to live in a wonderful community.

As Thanksgiving and the holidays approach, we asked the five Grosse Pointe mayors, What are you most thankful for this holiday season?



Mayor Dr. James Cooper

As the Mayor of Grosse Pointe Shores, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve my community, the ability to volunteer my time and talents in church, professional, and service organizations, and the support of family, friends, Shores residents and employees.



Mayor Palmer T. Heenan

I am thankful that I was born in the U.S.A., the land of opportunity. I'm thankful to all the employees, residents and volunteers who contribute so much to this community. These past 27 years have been the happiest in my life being mayor. I wish everyone a healthy, enjoyable and safe holiday.



Mayor Robert Novitke

I am most thankful for family and friends - their health and prosperity. However, there are many things that I am grateful for, not the least of which is the ability of Grosse Pointe Woods to continue to remain one of the most desirable communities in which to reside, raise a family, and to conduct a business, despite challenging economic times.

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Some staging and room redesign have never been more popular. HGTV devotes hours of its valuable program time to this home improvement technique. The concept is simple and inexpensive, which is probably why it has grown in popularity.

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Linda Jennings and Shelley Wagner of Grosse Pointe Park are pro's at "Setting the Stage." The two are co-owners of Set the Stage, a home staging and redesign company that can help you repurpose a little-used



Shelley Wagner and Linda Jennings

room, freshen up an over-used room, turn a room into a multi-functional area or help you prepare for an open house.

"The first step" says Jennings, "is to identify the function of the room. Once you know how you want to use the space, go on a shopping spree – but don't leave the house." "Visit each room in your home looking for furniture, accessories and other accents that you can use but don't have to buy," adds Wagner. One thing they both agree on is that the room should not only be functional, but also reflect your personality.

"Remove everything from the room if you can," says Jennings. "Start with a clean slate, select your focal point and let the fun begin." If you find you still need something extra to complete the job, the two recommend a quick shopping trip to your favorite stores for lamps, artwork, mirrors and, of course, the unexpected.

"Don't be afraid to mix patterns, as long as the colors are in the same family," says Wagner. Make sure any



Before staging

furniture brought in is proportionate to the room. Open-concept rooms can be some of the most difficult to work with. "Define the space well and work around your focal point," says Jennings.

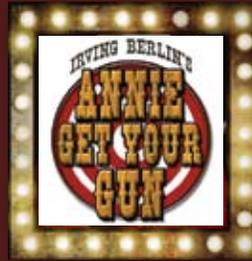
The photos here show a room that needed seating and a conversation area as well as a little of the owner's personality and a pop of color.

Jennings and Wagner completed this room redesign in less than a day on a budget of less than \$250. If you're not a do-it-yourselfer, call Linda at (313) 570-7367 or Shelley at (313) 405-2677 or visit their website at www.setthestagenow.com for more information. ♻️

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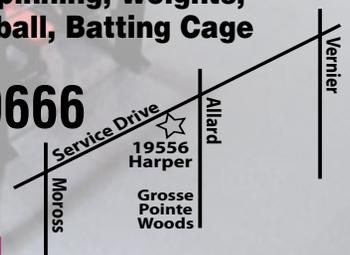
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Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade

— a 35-year tradition!

By Gwenn Samuel

Almost unbelievably, the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade is 35 years old this year!

Moving from the frantic birthing of a new phenomenon to scurrying to continue a wonderful tradition are The Village merchants of Grosse Pointe. Some of them were there at the beginning, in 1975, and some, including the merchants on The Hill, have joined to make the parade the phenomenon we have today.

But it was a group of Village merchants (and their families and friends) who wanted a new way to bring Santa to Grosse Pointe — and Grosse Pointers to the Village for the all-important shopping day after Thanksgiving. The prior year, Bill Williams of Charterhouse had brought Santa in on a helicopter, but in 1975 the Village Association tried a new venture.

Without the late Clarence Wascher and the complete support of Jacobson's, the parade would never have left the drawing board. Jake's

supplied the sleigh and fabulous personnel, including Fannie Gough who worked in Jake's display department, Judy Symonds, Jake's public relations person, and many other workers who participated in one form or another.

Without Beverly Leinweber, the parade would have been impossible. Without the legions from Grosse Pointe Theatre, the parade would have been without character and characters!

The first year, the North and South marching bands preceded Santa in the procession. It was decided that this would be a hometown procession, so school and service groups were asked to participate as marchers.

The marvelously talented Ginny Bowen of GPT designed and built over a dozen giant Disney heads, which the members wore to amaze the crowds. The theater's participation over the first 20 years of the event was of prime importance, as they came up with "horses" (kept from the production of "Camelot") and "The Worm" designed and put together by Tom Gallagher.

"The Worm" was actually a caterpillar of approximately 20 segments, under each of which was a person helping the caterpillar wend its way through the parade route.

It rained the first year of the parade, but thousands of Pointers braved the weather, lining the streets, collecting balloons, applauding everyone and everything involved. And it has been ever thus. ♡



Above, Tim Reinan in 1995 dons a horse costume from "Camelot" while a parade worker cleans up after him. Below is everyone's favorite, "The Worm."





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Rudolph to guide Santa's sleigh

By John Minnis

Photos by John Minnis

“It’s going to be a very exciting event, and we’re happy to be part of it.”

Marita S. Grobbel
Managing Director
Northern Trust Bank-Grosse Pointe

*T*ncreased threat of fog due to global warming will not hamper this year’s or any future year’s Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade. That’s because Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer has been added to the Jolly Old Elf’s team.

For the 2010 parade, Rudolph will join Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen down Kercheval from The Hill to The Village on the day after Thanksgiving.

When asked why Rudolph has been added to the team, Dick Ruzzin, a retired automotive design engineer who helped design the sleigh when its made its debut in 2005, says the youngster is being added due to popular demand. “People kept asking, ‘Where is Rudolph?’” Ruzzin says.

Like the his fellow reindeer, Rudolph was created from foam by Mike Stapleton, of Grosse Pointe Woods, and his craftsmen at Pop Art, the same company that built the Octopus that hangs around Joe Louis Arena during Detroit Red Wings games. Showing his youth, Rudolph is slightly

smaller and less stocky than his older yoke mates.

Grosse Pointe Councilman John Stevens got the idea of the Grosse Pointe Santa having his own wheels, er, runners, from his granddaughter, Sera, who thought it odd that in 2004, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on horse-drawn carriage. Sera’s grandmother, Betty, suggested she talk to “Councilman Grandpa” about it. From that request was born a design-and-build team and a vehicle worthy of the name “extreme machine.”

Santa’s reindeer “fly” over Grosse Pointe, represented by to-scale replicas of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, The Grosse Pointe Academy, the War Memorial, North and South High Schools and all the city halls. Some suggested that a Christmas train be added, but everyone knows there are no train tracks in Grosse Pointe!

Businessman and former defense contractor Bruce Burton, of the Farms, built the chassis and drivetrain of the sleigh. Stapleton came up with a way of yoking Rudolph on a hinge so that he can be swung up for stowage during transport.

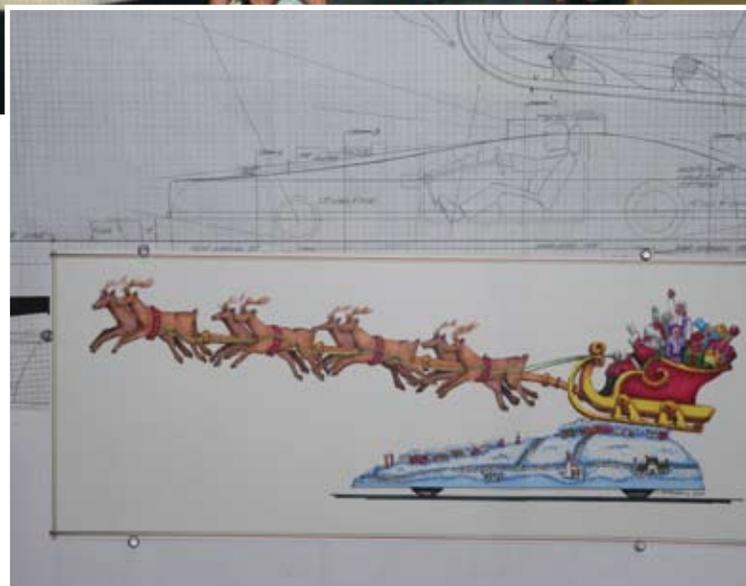
To Stevens, Rudolph is more than a foam reindeer. “He’s our newest member of Grosse Pointe,” he says. “He is now part of the community.”

To help Santa build and maintain his first-class ride, The Friends of the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Sleigh, a 501(c)



Photos Courtesy The Friends of the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Sleigh

While many individuals make the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Sleigh a reality, the big guy's top three helpers are, from left, Dick Ruzzin, John Stevens and Bruce Burton. At right, is an early drawing by Ruzzin in 2005.



(3), organization was formed. To give Rudolph a warm Grosse Pointe welcome, the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Sleigh are hosting a fundraiser reception sponsored by Northern Trust Bank on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Tompkins Center.

“It’s going to be a very exciting event,” says Marita S. Grobbel, managing director of Northern Trust Bank-Grosse Pointe, “and we’re happy to be part of it.” As an old bank that has taken care of the financial needs of generations

of families, Northern Trust jumped at the opportunity to become involved in something as family-oriented as the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Sleigh and parade.

Other sponsors of the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Sleigh include Robert Liggett, Grosse Pointe News, City of Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, Park Mayor Palmer Heenan, Beaumont Foundation and Pointe Magazine.

For more information, go to the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Sleigh’s page on Facebook. [P](#)

'Tis the (flu) season...

By Dr. Saima A. Khan

*T*is the season ... for sore throats and runny noses. So stock up on hand sanitizer and let's review some facts about "the flu."

Seasonal influenza (the "flu") is caused by one of many influenza viruses. H1N1 is a type of influenza virus. The common cold is caused primarily by the rhinovirus. Oftentimes it is difficult to differentiate between the two because they share many of the same symptoms: chills, fever, sore throat, muscle pains, severe headache, coughing and weakness. One clue is the severity of the infection: a cold gradually worsens, peaks at around day 3, and lasts 7-10 days, whereas the flu is relentless from day 1, lasts 1-2 weeks and can even turn into pneumonia or require hospitalization.

Diagnosing the flu is mainly by history and examination, but your doctor may choose to do a nasal or throat swab. Antiviral medications are available for especially vulnerable patients and should be started within 3 days of becoming ill. Otherwise, treatment for both cold and flu is largely symptomatic: fever and pain reducers such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen, combined with rest, and cough suppressants. Antibiotics do not work on viruses.

Prevention is key and occurs primarily by frequent hand washing.

Dr Saima A. Khan, MD, MPH grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms and presently lives in the Woods with her husband and three daughters. She practices Internal Medicine in Warren.



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Shop *The Pointes* for Unique Holiday Gifts!

By Susan Bollinger

After taking in the Grosse Pointe Santa Parade on the day after Thanksgiving, begin your holiday shopping right here in Grosse Pointe. Shopping in Grosse Pointe not only supports the local economy, it's a convenient and enjoyable way to find unique holiday gifts that make everyone on your list feel special. A day of shopping on Mack Avenue, The Hill, and The Village comes complete with competitive prices and personalized service.

Following are a few of the treasures to be found in Grosse Pointe, just to whet your shopping appetite. So just don't sit there, get shopping!

Mack Avenue

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The Village

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Dress up for holiday parties or surprise the special ladies in your life with attire that truly sets them apart from the crowd. This festive vest by Ryu, \$82, is paired with a Desert Necklace by What's in Store on Main, \$85.



Cavanaugh's

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This zip ID case from Vera Bradley comes in a variety of colors and patterns, and features a window for a driver's license or student ID, a key ring, and a zippered pouch for money or credit cards. At \$12, it is part of Cavanaugh's complete selection of Vera Bradley items.



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HOLLY FEST

Continuing a Grosse Pointe tradition, HOLLY FEST, an annual fundraiser for The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods, will kick off the holiday season.



**Gary and Lauren Wilson,
honorary chairs**

The eighth annual event will again be held at the elegant and intimate Grosse Pointe Club — “The Little Club” — on Dec. 9.

Gary and Lauren Wilson, of Grosse Pointe Park, have agreed to be this year’s honorary chairs of the benefit dinner and auction. Gary also serves as a board member for the organization and is a partner in Wilson & Cain, Attorneys at Law. HOLLY FEST Co-chairs are Lois Warden and Beth Moran.

“Lauren and I are proud to mark our fourth year as sponsors of HOLLY FEST,” Gary says. “As we celebrate The Family Center’s 10th year, we are especially honored to serve as honorary event chairs.”

Co-chair Beth Moran adds, “HOLLY FEST is special because it includes all the schools in our community. They are given suggestions as to the theme, then they can take the idea from there. The Grosse Pointe community and retailers are also instrumental in supporting this worthwhile event, and that allows us support families in our community.”

HOLLY FEST is typically a sold-out event, so order tickets early! General admission tickets are \$80. Friends of HOLLY FEST tickets are \$175 each and include prominent listing in the benefit program. Sponsorships, including HOLLY FEST admittance and/or listing in the evening’s program, run from \$100 for Supporters, \$500 for Sponsors (includes two tickets), \$1,000 for Partners (includes four tickets), \$2,500 for Benefactors (includes six tickets), and \$5,000 for Title Sponsor (includes eight tickets).

The Family Center welcomes donated auction items, including decorated and themed trees and wreaths and other appropriate items.

For more information, visit www.familycenterweb.org or by telephone at 313-432-3832.

Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. A silent auction will run from 6 to 8 p.m., followed by a live auction from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. ♻️

Fontbonne Auxiliary White Christmas Ball

The creation of a pediatric burn/tub room at St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit will be the focus for St. John’s Fontbonne Auxiliary and their White Christmas Ball, which will be held in Dearborn in December.

The project was chosen by JoAnn Miller, a past president of the Fontbonne and the event chair for this year’s White Christmas Ball. Now in its 57th year, the ball is both the Fontbonne’s signature event and its major fundraising activity.

The selection of Mrs. Gehrke as honorary chair was particularly inspired. A stalwart in Detroit philanthropic circles, she has been involved in volunteer work for St. John Hospital for over 30 years. Most recently she oversaw a 30 million dollar capital campaign in her position as chair of the St. John Hospital Foundation.

The White Christmas Ball will be held Friday, December 10, at The Henry Hotel in Dearborn (formerly the Ritz Carlton.) The theme will be “A Michigan Winter Wonderland”. Tickets will be \$300 per person and will be available for purchase in October, 2010. For more information, contact the Fontbonne office at (313) 343-3675 or visit the Fontbonne website at www.stjohnfontbonne.org.



Kicking off the Fontbonne Auxiliary White Christmas Ball at the home of Victoria Liggett were, from left, bottom row, Patricia Cosgrove, Kelly Oliver, Sharon Burke, Lauren Clune, Christine Drummy, Mary Ellen Dakmak, Lisa Vallee-Smith, Linda Trevillian; second row, Elaine Malcoun, Nawal Zayat; third row, Jo Ann Miller, honorary chair Joan Gehrke; back row, Patricia Stumb, Cindy Merry, Mary Lamparter, Georgianna Simon, SSJ, Terry Tenaglia, Peggy Davis, Aspa Raptis, Victoria Liggett, Patricia Ostosh, Debra McCarty, Barbara Glass, Mado Lie, Diane Sedan, Patricia Connelly. Not Pictured: Wendy Relich, Debra Condino, Victoria Young, Carolyn Wagner, Patricia Giftos, Marie De Luca, Bettejean Ahee, Mary Ghanem, Amy Danna, Paula Schreck, Jenna Young, Bonnie Jobe, Phyllis Howard, Gloria Clark, Mary Ann VanElslander, Jean Azar, Adel Amerman.



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Grosse Pointe Symphony



Gregg Staples, above, violin soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, will appear this year with his mother, Beatriz Budinszki, who is also with the DSO, in the Mozart Symphonie Concertante for Violin and Viola. Below, conductor Joe Striplin leads the Grosse Pointe Symphony.



By John Minnis

The Grosse Pointe Symphony is preparing for its 58th season with its ever-popular Holiday Pops concert on Sunday Dec. 21, at 3 p.m. in Parcels Middle School Auditorium.

Conductor Joe Striplin will once again lead the 60-piece orchestra. Tickets for the event are only \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and are available at the door. Students 18 and under are welcome at no charge.

William Hulsker, president of Grosse Pointe Symphony board, says getting students involved in music is important to the symphony and the musicians.

“Not only is important to the players,” he says, “but it is also important for the future of music — not just players but the audience, the consumers.”

The Grosse Pointe Symphony is made up of a mixture of professionals and nonprofessionals.

“Many of them trained as

musicians,” Hulsker says, “but went into other professions. They have families to support and so on. For some, people, it’s like Monday night bowling. It’s a social outlet.”

This year, the symphony has scheduled three Sunday concerts at Parcels, including the Holiday Pops program. The Winds of Spring will be performed March 6, featuring soloist Sharon Sparrow. At the third concert on May 1, mother and son soloists Beatrice Bodzinksky and Greg Staples, both with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, will perform.

Subscriptions are available for all three concerts for \$40, \$30 for seniors.

For those who would like to support the Grosse Pointe Symphony, Platinum (\$1,000+), Gold (\$500+), Silver (\$100+) and Friend (\$99 or less) memberships are available. For more information, go to www.gpsymphony.org. 

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Grosse Pointe North alumnus Steve Rybicki, vice president and general manager of Infinity and Ovation Yacht Charters

GIVE THIS MAN AN OVATION ...AND AN INFINITY, TOO!

By Susan Bollinger

Navigating success aboard Infinity and Ovation Steve Rybicki, vice president and general manager of Infinity and Ovation Yacht Charters, took the first fledgling step on his career path at age 15. “I started off as a dishwasher, and was given greater responsibility every year,” he says. After 18 years and working nearly every position, from prep cook, bartender, and crew member to first mate, he landed in a role he loves. “I literally wake up every day and I’m thankful for the position I have,” he says.

While thoughts of the 117-foot Infinity and 138-foot Ovation, anchored in St. Clair Shores, conjure up images of moonlit deck strolls, champagne toasts and dancing ‘til dawn, for Rybicki, it’s an all-encompassing lifestyle. Working seven days a week, “I’m always ‘on,’” he says. “I never punch out.”

Even in a slow economy, the Infinity and Ovation are doing a brisk business. They put on 46 weddings in 2009. This year, there are already 83 on the books. Business growth may be due to a sterling reputation and accolades from WDIV, who

bestowed the yachts with #1 Wedding Venue in Michigan status. HOUR Detroit magazine awarded the yachts their Best Special Event Venue award, and fundraisers this year have doubled.

“In this economy, there is even greater need to solidify relationships between corporate clients and employees,” says Rybicki. “On the boats, we can bring 20 to 300 people together for a truly unique shared experience.”

With a route that stretches along the Grosse Pointe shoreline, Rybicki said guests find the scenery “impressive. People from outside Grosse Pointe feel like they’ve entered another era when they see the historic estates lining the shore.”

For this 1994 Grosse Pointe North graduate, his upbringing had a decided influence on his career choice. “I grew up surrounded by boating,” he says. “But I was also surrounded by ambition and the ability to recognize possibilities and opportunity.”

Find out more by visiting www.infinityandovation.com. 

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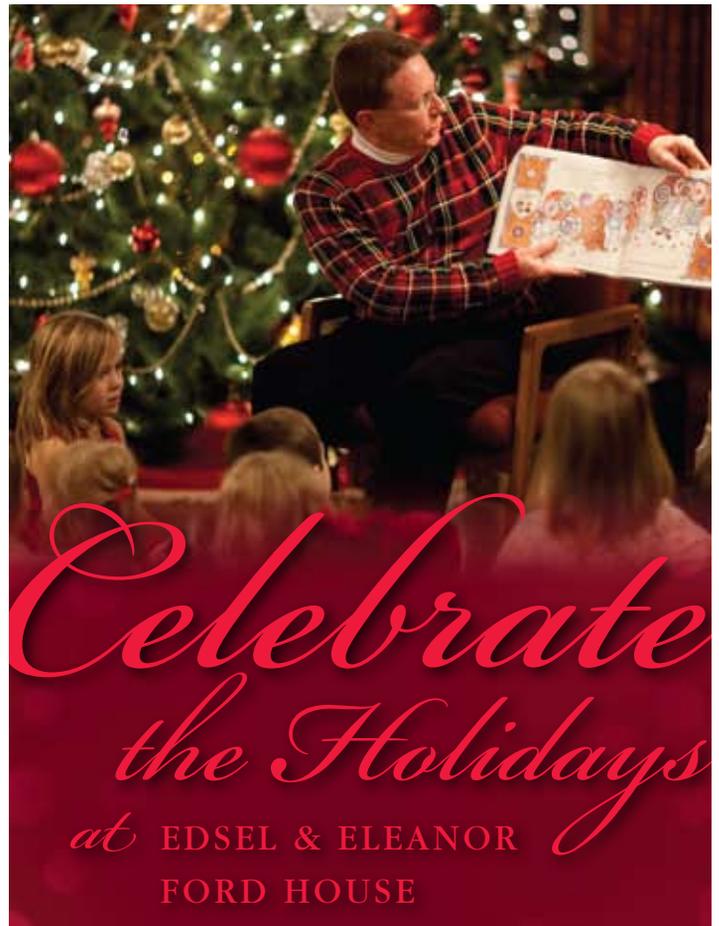
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Playing in “Annie Get Your Gun” are, from left, Terry Turpin-Amata, Dennis Martell, Debbie Dworkin and Jerry Nehra.

Now playing at Grosse Pointe Theatre

Annie Get Your Gun

By Lauren Beaver

*M*ark your calendars for Grosse Pointe Theatre’s commemoration of the 150th anniversary of American legend and sharpshooter Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun*! Aside from the legendary Annie Oakley, this musical production stars characters such as Frank Butler, Buffalo Bill Cody and Big Chief Sitting Bull.

Producer Christine Kaiser says, “The cast and crew members are very excited about this Grosse Pointe Theatre production of *Annie Get Your Gun*. The director and set designer, Jacqueline Di Sante, set the show in a contemporary Texas dance hall. All of the scenes will be played in that same set using lighting and dance hall furniture as set pieces to suggest a train car, a swanky hotel, and the big top of Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show.”

An important aspect of this musical performance is the complex and varied dance numbers. Kaiser says, “The dances designed for the show by Joy Raya and Donna Miller include line dancing, the Texas Two Step, tap, and Broadway showstoppers. They are as exciting to watch as they are challenging to do. But the biggest draw for *Annie Get Your Gun* is Irving Berlin’s timeless score.”

Included in this “timeless score” are “I’ve Got the Sun in the Morning and the Moon at Night,” “Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better,” “You Can’t Get a Man With a Gun” and “There’s No Business Like Show Business.”

Annie Get Your Gun runs from Nov. 7-20. Tickets are \$24 each and are available for purchase at gpt.org or by calling (313) 881-4004. Kaiser concludes, “It’s a rollicking good time for actors and audiences alike.” 

Tips for coping during holidays

By the Rev. Gerald A. Spice

God bless the folks at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., who make the following suggestions for avoiding the end-of-the-year crunch and associated holiday stress. They suggest that the key is planning ahead, and they offer these strategies.



Organize.

Make a list of what you want to accomplish during the holiday season and get a head start. Prioritize your list and focus on one project at a time.

Sleep. Get enough rest so that you have the energy you need to handle those year-end activities.

Simplify. Give yourself permission to cut back on holiday traditions such as baking cookies or sending cards.

Avoid overscheduling. Be frugal when adding plans to your holiday calendar. Only commit to events you truly want to attend. Save non urgent appointments for after the holidays.

Shop. Avoid the last-minute shopping craze by starting your holiday shopping now.

Request time off. If you want extra time off at the holidays, talk to your supervisor now.

Exercise. Don't neglect your exercise program. Exercising gives your energy.

Write a budget. Many holiday stresses have to do with finances. Decide ahead of time how much you can spend at the holidays and stick to it.

(Thanks to the Mayo Clinic newsletter Embody Health for permission to reprint the holiday strategies.)

Rev. Gerald A. Spice is the Pastor of St. James Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.

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A GEM IN OUR COMMUNITY

St. Paul Catholic School completes 3-year renovation project

By Patti Theros

The first day of school always means new beginnings. But for more than 500 St. Paul Catholic school children, the first day of school in September meant seeing for the first-time, a completely renovated school: new windows, ceilings, lighting, flooring, storage, heating and ventilation, painting and Smart Boards in each of the school's 31 classrooms and two laboratories.

The latest renovations were part of a three-year project to update the 1927 neo-Tudor education building and enhance the learning environment for students. The building, houses a large, evening religious education program, parish-wide social activities and the school's Catholic Youth Organization athletic program.

According to Monsignor Halfpenny, pastor of the St. Paul Catholic parish for seven years, the concept for the renovation project began in 2007 when a feasibility study indicated that

the two-story, Michigan historic site was in need of improved electrical, heating and plumbing systems, technological capabilities and more energy efficient-lighting and windows.

With this information, a Parish Building Committee was formed. Input was gathered from staff, teachers and students about the proposed renovation and "wants" vs. "needs" were clearly defined.

And so, with much thought and prayer, the St. Paul parish embarked on the "Led By the Spirit of God" capital campaign to raise \$4.5 million for the renovations.

The St. Paul Parish, which celebrated its 175-year anniversary in 2009, has had a long history of meeting challenges to help their faith flourish. In 2000, the parish did a church restoration project, which was completed in 2002. Renovation of the school was next.

The Building Committee worked diligently on the project, setting guiding principles: educational impact, good stewardship of resources,

safety and security, integrity of infrastructure, operating efficiency, and aesthetic appeal.

In the summer of 2008, the Canfield Center, located within the school, was updated and in the library an office was transformed into a classroom. The rest of the school renovation would then be implemented in two phases during the summers of 2009 and 2010.

During the first phase, school offices, hallways, bathrooms, the cafeteria, the library and the 1927 heating and ventilation system were renovated. A new elevator, lockers, conference room, and offices/reception/welcome center were added. The entire electrical service to the campus was replaced, and portions of the water service was either repaired or replaced.

And as the finishing touches of the renovation are completed, Monsignor says there is much to celebrate. "The Parish looks at this as a journey as we move forward to the future," said Monsignor. We are thankful for this beautiful, updated building." ☩



Monsignor Patrick Halfpenny stands with school children during an afternoon recess. The playscape was relocated on the playfield in the renovation to make room for a new soccer field at the school.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING

at the Grosse Pointe Art Center!

By Lauren Beaver

From ceramics to jewelry to paintings and more, Grosse Pointe Art Center's Holiday Shop has every artistic holiday gift imaginable. Transformed for the season, the entire Grosse Pointe Art Center becomes the Holiday Shop from Nov. 19 — Jan. 7.

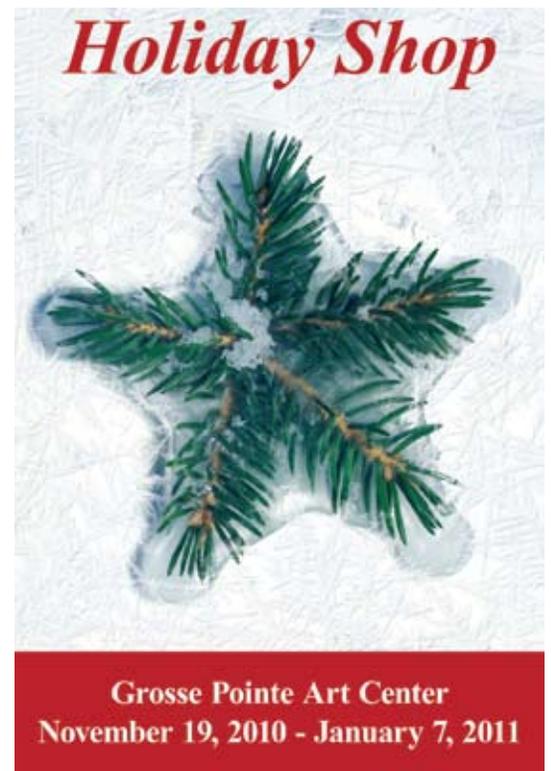
Art Center Director Amy DeBrunner of Grosse Pointe Park says the Holiday Shop, "is low priced for the holiday shopping season and is one way in which we are able to promote and sell Michigan artists. Each year we get bigger and better with new participating artists we have recruited throughout the year."

The vast array of art for sale includes paintings, fiber, glass,

ceramics, sculptures, jewelry and bags, to name a few. While the Art Center holds events and exhibits throughout the year for particular mediums of art, the Holiday Shop is an event for virtually every type of artist.

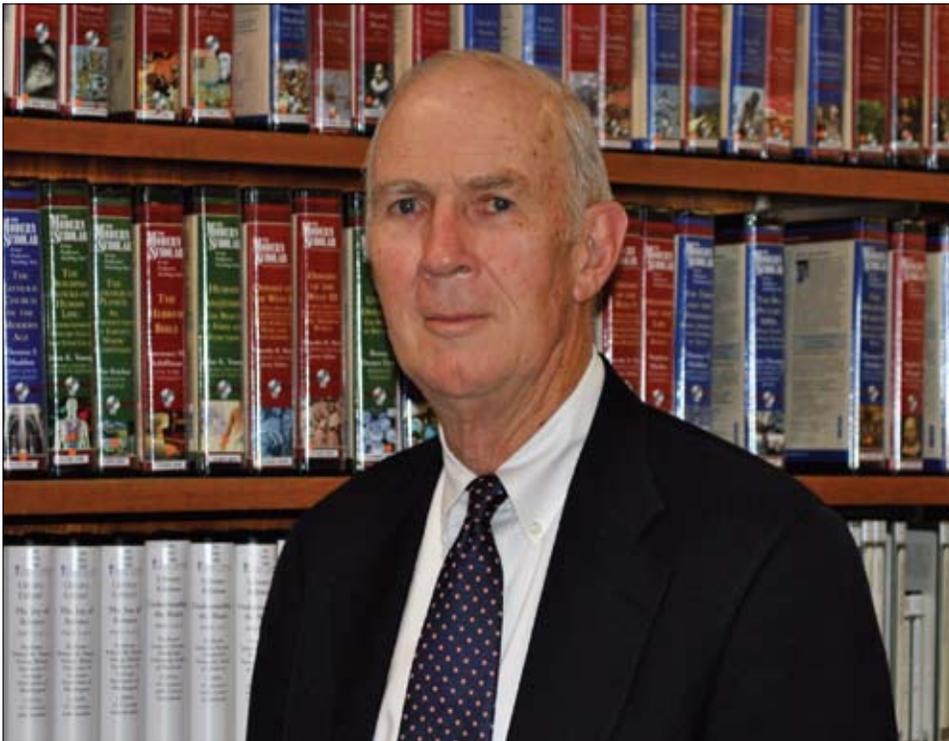
DeBrunner says, "Part of our mission is to promote Michigan artists, so this offers a different type of exhibit affording artists the opportunity to sell whatever they produce."

Grosse Pointe Art Center will be extending their hours during the holidays, so if you'd like to support local artists, enjoy an afternoon in the Village and find truly unique gifts, head to the Grosse Pointe Art Center for your holiday shopping! ☺



Meet Henry

Name	Dr. Henry Sprague
Age	79
City	Grosse Pointe Farms
Occupation	Retired Orthopaedic Surgeon



Henry's Picks

Newspaper or Television?

Newspaper

Bridge or Casino?

Bridge

Winter or Summer?

Summer

Dogs or Cats?

Dogs

Dine In or Dine Out?

Dine In

Golf, Tennis or Boat?

Tennis

E-mail or Snail Mail?

Snail Mail

What is your guiding principle or words to live by?

Help others whenever possible

Favorite book of all time?

Truman, by David McCullough

Do you have a winter retreat — where?

Rochester, Vermont

Favorite movie?

To Kill a Mockingbird

Favorite restaurant?

Jumps

Biggest accomplishment?

Teaching young orthopaedic surgeons

Biggest regret?

Being too busy to spend enough time with children growing up

Most historical day in your lifetime?

The day I married Sue

About Henry:

Dr. Henry Sprague and his wife, Suzanne, live in Grosse Pointe Farms. He is the father of two children, Hal and Julian.

Now retired, Dr. Sprague is the 2010 President of the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation. He enjoys golf, tennis, bridge, current events, history and politics in his spare time.



Alexis and Kailey with sponsor Dallas Kitchen of the Grosse Pointe Lions Club

Field of Dreams for Kids on the Go!

By Kim North Shine

Grosse Pointe Park may be the summer playground for the Detroit Tigers, but come Nov. 20 it becomes the venue for a fundraiser hosted by a local charity that provides summertime therapy to special needs kids.

The therapy offered for free by Kids on the Go, a nonprofit founded by Grosse Pointe Woods resident Kristy Schena, teaches kids all sorts of skills, from throwing a ball and catching it, to saying Go Team and writing their names.

The Nov. 20 fundraiser, Field of Dreams, starts at 7 p.m. at the Tigers Club and generates funding to pay for physical, occupational, speech and other forms of therapy for children

from Grosse Pointe, St. Clair Shores and other parts of metro Detroit. The therapy fills the gap that opens when summer starts and school-provided therapy ended.

While the kids are the focus of the event, it's mostly an all-adult event with wine tastings, an auction led by former Tigers pitcher Dave Rozema and roaming appetizer stations. The band JTX, which broke out with its "Party Like a Rock Star," will play. Band frontman, J.T. Harding, wrote the hit "Smile" for fellow metro Detroit native Uncle Kracker.

Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by calling (586) 899-1825, by emailing kristyschena@comcast.net or visiting DeSERRANO Wealth

Planning in Grosse Pointe Farms or Grosse Pointe Audiology in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Schena, a speech therapist, started Kids on the Go 11 years ago after seeing children lose precious milestones during the summer break. More than 550 children have attended Kids on the Go's free summer camps since then.

"I couldn't do it on my own. It's something I love to do," she says. "It does take time away from my family. But there are so many other families to think about."

For more, go to www.kidsonthegocamp.com or look it up on Facebook. 

DECK THE HALLS

...beyond the holidays

By Beth Quinn



Topiary Ivy

While poinsettias are a popular Yuletide plant, most end up in the trash bin sometime after the New Year. Here are some charming alternatives that will not only be enjoyed during the holidays but all year round:

Christmas cactus. While the red-flowering form of this cascading succulent has long been a Christmas favorite, newer varieties come in salmon, pink, fuchsia, yellow or white to match updated holiday decor. It is an easy plant to care for and can be grown indoors throughout the year. The blooms last two to four weeks, but the plant alone is attractive.

Cyclamen. Its delicate, shooting star-like soft white or vibrant red flowers set off against silvery variegated leaves makes it a great tabletop decoration. Blooms for four to six weeks or longer if placed in indirect light with a southern exposure.

Topiary ivy. Since ivy can be woven around different shaped

frames, it has become popular in recent years as a holiday decoration. Cone-shaped plants can be adorned with mini bulbs to make a perfect tabletop Christmas tree. When grown around a hoop it resembles a wreath that can be decorated with ribbons and bows. If placed in a 9-inch pot or larger, a 4-inch poinsettia can be placed at the base of the wreath.

Frosty Winter Fern. Its spreading lace-like green foliage whose tips take on a frosty white appearance make it is a perfect wintertime plant. It grows best in bright, indirect light and evenly moist soil. While it likes an occasional misting, it does well in normal house daytime and cooler nighttime temperatures.

Christmas Kalanchoe. This holiday staple has petite red blooms clustered among glossy succulent. While the flowers can last for months, it can be a challenge to get new buds to grow. It requires 14-hour of darkness for two months in the fall to generate fresh blooms. ☺



Christmas Kalanchoe



Cyclamen



Christmas cactus

Assumption GreekFest August 19-21

Photos by John Minnis



Alina Grace Thompson and Al Tibaudo, Grosse Pointe Woods.



Sophia Martell, Grosse Pointe Park, and Demetri Borrego, Grosse Pointe Park



Danny, Isabel and Larry Webber

Grosse Pointe's Greatest Block Party September 11 & 12

Photos by John Minnis



Michelle and Gwyneth Tiderington of Grosse Pointe Farms



Vina Nouhan of Skye Salon with Meredith Tiderington



Marissa and Maya White of St. Clair Shores



Dylan's Chef Derrick Collins and daughter



Gretta and Emerson Reterstorf, 10 months, Grosse Pointe Farms

Assumption GreekFest August 19-21

Photos by John Minnis



Grosse Pointe South Choir



Choir Director Ellen Bowen



Dr. and Penny Voudoukis and Father Michael Varlamos

Grosse Pointe's Greatest Block Party September 11 & 12

Photos by John Minnis



Liesa and Hailey McDonald of Grosse Pointe Park with Skye Salon owner Jackie Lentine



Christine Allen with Skye Salon nail technician Anita Taylor



Beaumont EMTs Matt McCoy and Michael Gorman



Grosse Pointe Theatre cast, "Annie Get Your Gun"



Josephine Shea and Danielle Leone of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House



Darrell Finken of Blue Bay Fish & Seafood and folks from the Blue Pointe Restaurant

Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Annual Fleet Review Dinner

Photos by Thomas P. Kliber



Front row: Former Commodore Dennis Andrus, Marita Grobbel, Liz Rader, Vice Commodore Bob Rader. Back row: Commodore Mary Treder Lang and Paul Lang.



Howard Smith, Rear Commodore Ronald Schaupter, Diana Smith, Priscilla Schaupter and Past Commodore Jim Daoust.



Front row: Former Commodore Bob Kay, Clara Mariona and Federico Mariona. Back row: Susan Kay, Gail Fleury, Bill Fleury, Bill Frost and Susan Frost.

Anna Fionda Fundraiser - Edwin Paul Salon September 24

The staff at Edwin Paul Salon and many friends and family of Anna Fionda held a fundraiser on her behalf at the Assumption Cultural Center in St. Clair Shores. The hair stylist was stricken with septic shock after a bout of pneumonia and suffered radical amputations to both hands and feet. More information can be found at www.iamafriendofanna.com.



Lynn Pellerito, Allison Naughton, Gina Held and Alisa Kanka.



Janie, Ryan, Tom and Cassie Thompson.



Wendy Maltby, John Coontz and Liz Chamberlin.



Edwin Framalino and Anna Fionda.



Ginny Van, Dr. Michelle DeYoung and Vicki Lynn Siewert.

GPYC Ladies Nite Out at Ahee Jewelers

Photos by John Minnis



Commodore Mary Treder Lang, Lulu Treder, Bette Jean Ahee and Pamela Thomas.



Carol Klenow, Beline Obeid, and Priscilla Schaupter



Pellayia Roustemis and Rania Routsis



Melissa Schervish, Susan Anderson and Beline Obeid



Julie Ahee and Linda Jennings

Festival of Tables Publicity Photo

Photo by John Minnis



At a publicity photo at Lazare's Furs for the Grosse Pointe Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope's annual Festival of Tables were, back row from left, Iris Graves, Penny Khorraminia, Elena Kerasiotis, Dori Daskas, Sandy Moisodes, Kathy Papapanos, and Olga Tecos; front row, Bernadette Milligan and Jennah Cichocki. Festival of Tables benefited the Liggett Breast Center at the Van Elslander Cancer Center at St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

Taking part in Christ the King's Living Nativity scene last year were, from left, two unknown "Wise Men" from the neighborhood who joined in, Sarah Westrick, Michael Barber (Joseph), Stephanie Westrick (Mary), Cameron Veitengruber and, standing, Joseph Barber



'Living Nativity' a long tradition at Christ the King

Christ the King Lutheran's Living Nativity has been in existence for either 23 or 25 years, depending on whether you're counting actual years it was

performed or the date when it began. But no matter how you count it, it's been over two decades' worth of adorable children, live animals and best-loved carols woven together in a Christmas story presentation unique to the Grosse Pointe community.

Held in Advent, the Living Nativity was the brainstorm of a former member, says the Rev. Randy Boelter, "It's our response to the increasingly Christ-less message people hear in December," he says. In its first year, 1985, the Living Nativity's performers were adults. By year two Christ the King had decided to make kids the focus of the show.

Christ the King's 2010 Living Nativity will be held from noon to 3:30 on Sunday, December 12, with performances taking place every 45 minutes. Neighborhood children are invited to sign up to play a part in the tableau; all guests are welcome to join the church for pizza and hot beverages afterwards. There is no charge, but a free will offering would be gratefully received.

For more information, contact the church at (313) 884-5090 or the chairman of Christ the King's board of missions and evangelism, Jenna Young, at (313) 822-2773. ☎



Greg Westrick of Grosse Pointe Woods with daughter Sarah.

Meet Ginny



Name	Dr. Ginny Lezotte
Age	38
City	Grosse Pointe City
Occupation	Doctor of Audiology

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Something about you that most people don't know:? When I was eight, I did 881 cartwheels in one hour and won a contest to raise money for the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

What was your first job? Retail sales at The Gap (while in high school)

Your most often used phrase? Red wine or white?

Best advice you have received? Cherish every minute with your children, they grow up fast.

If you weren't an Audiologist what would you be? I wouldn't do anything else, I love Audiology.

What is your next goal? Get my kids to (age) 18.

Favorite thing to do outside of work? Spend time with friends and family

Words to live by?

May soft be the grass you walk on

May fair be the skies above you

May pure be the joys that surround you

May dear be the hearts that love you

— Old Irish Blessing

About Ginny:

Dr. Ginny Lezotte lives in Grosse Pointe with husband Dan and their three children, Aidan, Brooke and Dane.

She enjoys golf and walking and in fact just completed the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure, a 60-mile walk in three days.

Dr. Lezotte is co-chair of the 2010 Kids on the Go Charity Auction, "Field of Dreams" to be held at Comerica Park, Nov. 20.

CHEF FRANK

ON TOP OF THE HILL



Frank Cherro is Head Chef at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club

Located in Grosse Pointe Farms, The Hill restaurant has long been viewed as one of Grosse Pointe's finest restaurants. Situated off Kercheval, atop the Hill, the restaurant's bustling outdoor patio scene offers a welcoming initial impression. Aesthetically, the large vaulted ceilings, coupled with the glass facade radiate an inviting sense of calm, while the interior walls are adorned with a multitude of unique prints that reflect the restaurant's Grosse Pointe roots. Upon entry, patrons are promptly greeted by a courteous and knowledgeable host.

With the restaurant celebrating its 10th anniversary as The Hill, I had a chance to speak with general manager Gretchen Meeuws. "We're excited--this building has a great history starting from the Bronze Door and 123 days. That said, we're really wishing to focus on Michigan products, while looking at food with fresh eyes and giving the classics a makeover." Meal wise, I was pleased with the rhythm of the service. Nothing here was rushed--and in so, it created a natural at home feel. I found the fresh baked bread to be a huge hit with its soft pillow interior, while the smoked beef brisket slider was a perfect blend of spicy sauce and meticulously cooked beef. I felt as though the main courses

The Hill

Grosse Pointe Farms



Chef Frank's rating

did indeed fulfill their "must-try" community reputations. Overall, the dishes were well thought out and cleanly presented. For the bar scene, The Hill's happy hours occur Monday through Thursday from 5-7 pm. I've been assured that it is the place to be seen.

For chefs, our lives unfold within the high tension confines of kitchen walls. With that said, I found The Hill's laid back, sophisticated atmosphere as a more than welcomed change of pace. Executive Chef Matthew Kouri explained that a renovated menu would soon be arriving, a more health-centric approach coupled with locally grown products that would still retain the essence that brought the restaurant to prominence. The Hill's quality of ingredients, refreshing atmosphere, and passionate staff rightfully place it amongst Grosse Pointe's best restaurants. Congratulations on 10 years of fine dining. 

pets



Lorie Johnson welcomes your hi-res Pointe Pets pictures at P.O. Box 36429, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236 or e-mail lorieleejohnson@sbcglobal.net

Kirby



Kirby rules the roost at the home of Pete and Marilyn Waldmeir in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Poppy and Lily



Maltese Poppy and Maltese Poodle Lily are seven years old and live with Kurt and Carole Tech in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Kalli



Mary and Ron Lamparter of Grosse Pointe Shores live with one-year-old Kalli, a Havanese who visits patients at St. John Hospital.

In Memory Simone



Adopted from the Poodle Rescue Simone spent 17 good years with Joe and Lou Sucher in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Brandy



Brandy crews for Phil and Judy Leo from Grosse Pointe Woods.

Peanut



Peanut, a Corgie-Golden Retriever mix and therapy dog, lives with Jim Gerardi of Grosse Pointe Farms.

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Jake



African Grey Parrot Jake is eight-years-old and loves to talk. Mike and Linda Mackool of Grosse Pointe Woods are his parents.

The Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society (GPAAS) pets will return in January. Go to gpaas.org for pet availability.

POINTE

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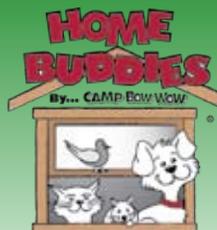
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November

Calendar

01 MONDAY

- Grosse Pointe War Memorial presents “Authentic Mexican Cooking – Tamales,” 7 – 9 pm

02 TUESDAY - ELECTION DAY

- Edsel & Eleanor Ford House: Staff Life Tour, Explore the spaces where staff lived and worked, \$12 per person, reservations required, 11 am – 12:15 pm

03 WEDNESDAY

- Grosse Pointe Public Library Family Movie, The Secret Garden, in the Ewald Program Room, 7 – 8:45 pm

04 THURSDAY

- Grosse Pointe War Memorial presents “Remembering Downtown Detroit’s Magnificent Movie Palaces,” 7 – 8:30 pm
- Grosse Pointe Public Library: A Musical Tribute to Jane Austen with Tea and Cookies, 7 – 8:45 pm
- Grosse Pointe Library: Ann Arbor Film Festival Traveling Tour, 7 – 9 pm

05 FRIDAY

- Grosse Pointe Public Library: A Jane Austen Marathon, enjoy Jane Austen inspired films from 10 am – 4:45 pm
- Grosse Pointe Art Center: Lecture by Robert Stewart, 7 pm
- Grosse Pointe South Choir Fall Follies Performance at Grosse Pointe North PAC 8:00 pm

06 SATURDAY

- Grosse Pointe War Memorial Mom to Mom Sale, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- Grosse Pointe Public Library: A Jane Austen Marathon, enjoy Jane Austen inspired films from 10 am – 4:20 pm
- Grosse Pointe South Choir Fall Follies Performance at Grosse Pointe North PAC 8:00 pm
- Grosse Pointe North Pop & Pastries Concert, North Gym 7:30 pm

07 SUNDAY

- Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am - set clocks back one hour.
- Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Annie Get Your Gun in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial’s Fries Auditorium

- Grosse Pointe South Choir Fall Follies Performance at Grosse Pointe North PAC 3:00 pm

11 THURSDAY - VETERANS DAY

- Grosse Pointe War Memorial Honors America’s Men and Women in Uniform Veteran’s Day Breakfast, 8 am
- Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Annie Get Your Gun in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial’s Fries Auditorium

12 FRIDAY

- Grosse Pointe Public Library: Potter Fest, come celebrate with costumes, entertainment, contests, snacks, and Magic Secrets of Hogwarts Revealed, teens only, 7 – 10 pm
- Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Annie Get Your Gun in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial’s Fries Auditorium

13 SATURDAY

- GPSIF Casino Night at Lochmoor Club, 7 – 11 pm
- Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Annie Get Your Gun in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial’s Fries Auditorium

14 SUNDAY

- Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Annie Get Your Gun in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial’s Fries Auditorium

17 WEDNESDAY

- Great Books discussion group, Grosse Pointe Library Woods Branch
- Grosse Pointe Historical Society presents Bicknell Lecture – Summer Dreams: The Story of Bob-lo, 7:30 pm
- Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Annie Get Your Gun in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial’s Fries Auditorium

19 FRIDAY

- Grosse Pointe Art Center Holiday Shop begins and runs through Jan. 7

20 SATURDAY

- Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Annie Get Your Gun in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial’s Fries Auditorium
- Edsel & Eleanor Ford House: Staff Life Tour, Explore the spaces where staff lived and worked, \$12 per person,

reservations required, 11 am – 12:15 pm

- Edsel & Eleanor Ford House: Bird Walk, for novice and experienced birdwatchers, \$7 per person, reservations required, 8 – 10:30 am
- Field of Dreams Auction for Kids on the Go at Comerica Park 7 pm

21 SUNDAY

- Grosse Pointe Chamber Music Concert at Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 2:30 pm

22 MONDAY

- Grosse Pointe Public Library: Crafts from Around the World, Celebrating Diwali, 4 – 5 pm

23 TUESDAY

- Grosse Pointe Woods “Woods Aglow” Tree Lighting Ceremony, 7 pm

25 THURSDAY - THANKSGIVING

- Happy Thanksgiving!

26 FRIDAY

- Grosse Pointe Lions Club 13th annual Happy Holiday Jingle Bell Walk / Run 9 am
- 35th Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade in the Village, 10 am
- Pointe Singers Select Choir in concert at Kercheval & St. Clair 4:30 pm
- Village Aglow tree lighting ceremony in the Village, 5 pm

29 MONDAY

- Grosse Pointe Public Library: Family Storytime at the Woods: Celebrating Cultures Around the World, registration required, 7 pm

30 TUESDAY

- Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce 5th Annual Business EXPO with keynote speaker Mary Kramer, publisher of Crain’s Detroit Business, 5-8 pm

December

Calendar

04 SATURDAY

- Grosse Pointe War Memorial presents “Breakfast with Santa,” 10:30 am – 12 pm
- Grosse Pointe Social and Newcomers Club presents “Christmas Gala,” call (313) 355-2640 or e-mail membership@gpsnc.org for more information
- Parcell’s 35th Annual Holiday Bazaar, \$5 per person, 9 am – 4 pm

05 SUNDAY

- Grosse Pointe South Choir Holiday Concert at Grosse Pointe North PAC. Time TBD.

06 MONDAY

- Grosse Pointe War Memorial presents “All About Wine with the Holidays.” Bring your gift lists! You will have the personal assistance of Master Sommelier Cladia Tyagi to help with your holiday needs. The event will focus on all your holiday wine questions while we taste five different festive wines, 7 – 8:30 pm

07 TUESDAY

- Grosse Pointe War Memorial presents “Bedtime Stories with Santa,” Children 4+ are welcome to wear pajamas, bring a blanket and stuffed animal, and gather around the Christmas tree. Listen to Santa’s 30 minute reading and enjoy milk and cookies after! 7 – 7:45 pm

08 WEDNESDAY

- Grosse Pointe War Memorial presents “Holiday Tea,” Tea and conversation in the grand formal rooms of the historic Alger House to be followed by an entertaining mix of lecture and music presented by Penny Masouris that gives a glimpse into the life of George Gershwin, 12:30 – 2 pm
- Grosse Pointe Public Library: Crafts from Around the World, Buon Natale!, 4 – 5 pm

09 THURSDAY

- Chamber Mixer at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, 5:30 – 7 pm
- Grosse Pointe War Memorial presents “Bedtime Stories with Santa,” 7 – 7:45 pm
- Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods 8th Annual HOLLY FEST at the Grosse Pointe Club, \$80

per person, includes cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, dinner, silent auction, and a live auction, 6 – 9:30 pm

10 FRIDAY

- Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Holiday Social, 12 – 4 pm
- Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods: Detroit Waldorf Community Chorus Concert, 7:30 pm
- St. John Fontbonne White Christmas Ball at The Henry Hotel, Dearborn.

11 SATURDAY

- Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods: Detroit Waldorf Community Chorus Concert, 3:00 pm

12 SUNDAY

- Grosse Pointe War Memorial presents “Breakfast with Santa,” tickets must be purchased in advance, 10:30 am – 12 pm
- Grosse Pointe Social and Newcomers Club presents “Breakfast with Santa,” 12:30 pm
- Christ the King Lutheran Living Nativity, begins at 3:30 pm with performances every 45 minutes.

14 TUESDAY

- Grosse Pointe South Choir Holiday Concert at Grosse Pointe North PAC. Time TBD.

18 SATURDAY

- Grosse Pointe Woods Polar Express

19 SUNDAY

- Grosse Pointe Woods Polar Express

20 MONDAY

- Grosse Pointe Public Schools Winter Break Begins
- Grosse Pointe Woods Polar Express

21 TUESDAY

- Grosse Pointe Woods Polar Express
- Grosse Pointe Symphony, Holiday Pops at Parcells, 3 pm

22 WEDNESDAY

- Grosse Pointe Woods Polar Express

25 SATURDAY - CHRISTMAS

- Merry Christmas

28 TUESDAY

- Grosse Pointe Public Library Family Movie, *Mulan*, in the Ewald Program Room, 2 – 4:30 pm

31 FRIDAY - New Year’s Eve

- Happy New Year!

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GOODFELLOWS

THIS KIDDIE NEVER FORGOT WHAT CHRISTMAS WAS ABOUT



*Pete Waldmeir,
long-time columnist,
lives in Grosse Pointe
Woods.*

“

Here we are, three-quarters of a century later and there still are thousands of kids who rely on the Goodfellows to provide Christmas cheer.

”

As a kid growing up in the Depression-era 1930s, few of us knew that we were poor. Everybody was in the same boat. You had one pair of socks and shoes, some knickers or a dress, a couple of shirts and a tattered warm coat. If you were lucky, you had a hat and gloves without holes in the fingers.

I know it sounds kinda like a bad ripoff of a Charles Dickens holiday tear-jerker, but my father left us when I was about 5 and Mom raised three kids by herself in a third floor walk-up near what is now the Wayne State U. campus. Christmas was a small scrawny tree with no lights and a few handmade ornaments. The stockings were heavily darned at the heels and, if you were lucky, they might hold a special gift from Santa — like an orange or an apple, some walnuts or a piece of chocolate.

Needless to say, few of us could find the Grosse Pointes on a map in those days, let alone live here. But, luckily, a small group of generous Detroiters and nearby residents knew where we were and opened their hearts and

their wallets.

I can't rightly recall how many Christmas Eves our Goodfellows packages were delivered by Detroit Police officers, but I'll always cherish the memory of the way these strangers warmed an otherwise bleak and dreary, but very special, night. Like hundreds of other Depression-era kids, I buried most of those bitter memories for years. But as I grew older, I figured that perhaps it was time to see if I couldn't give something back.

So I joined the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit, a small group of men and women of many races and creeds whose goal it is to make sure that there is "No kiddie without a Christmas." This year more than 36,000 needy children will receive gift packages with warm clothing, books, toys, candy and other trinkets. Our 2010 fundraising goal: \$1.3 million.

Ironic, isn't it? Here we are, three-quarters of a century later and there still are thousands of kids who rely on the Goodfellows to provide Christmas cheer. 



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