



Christine Hughes

2 celebrate 13th by giving gifts to others

Sometimes going from age 12 to 13 is a simple transition from kid to teenager — but sometimes it's a much bigger deal than that.

Consider Camille Smith-Winberry and Paige O'Shea, best friends at West Middle School who both turned 13 this month. These two young ladies — because that's what they became — determined the best way to celebrate this rite of passage was with, of course, a party. But a party with a twist. Instead of bringing gifts for the birthday girls, guests were instructed to bring a dollar gift for each other — and, most importantly, a teddy bear for someone they didn't even know.

Sometime next week the girls will deliver a car full of teddy bears to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, which in turn will use the bears to comfort children who are somehow in need — either by an accident, fire or a bad domestic situation.

"They said they needed them," said Kim O'Shea, Paige's mom, who urged her daughter and friend to collect the bears.

The girls readily agreed. "We talked about them having a party together and they both already have tons of stuff," said Mrs. O'Shea. Added Camille's mom Cheryl, "I think it is great and I am very happy the girls choose to have this kind of a party, it's a sign of growing up."

Indeed. Even though there were balloons and twinkling lights and party games and junk food galore, typical teenage fare — guests and honorees were proud to have done something for someone other than themselves. "At first I wanted to just do presents," said Paige, a fiery redhead bounding with enthusiasm, "but then when you think about it, you want to help other people."

"I thought this was a good idea," said Camille, who recounted how she was helped when she was in need once. "I was in an accident when I was little, and I got a bear."

That memory, parental urging and a general willingness to get involved — the seventh-graders are both on the cheer team, student council and generally in the thick of it — made it easy to pass on personal presents and opt for something more significant.

And the kids that came liked it too.

"It makes me feel good about myself," said party-goer Brandon Ritchie, 13.

"I thought it was really nice of them to do that," said Katie Cavanagh, 12.

"I like it a lot," added Emily Dzurka, 12. "My mom started crying when she read the invitation."

The depth and breadth of the teddy bear population was clear as the stuffed animals began filling the living room couch.

When all was said and done, 43 bears were collected — big ones, little ones, even teeny-weeny ones. "I picked him because he was so small and cute," said Kelsey Doucet, 12, of the bear she brought.

Among the bear-givers — all students at West — were Danielle Baljet, Amanda McFee, Kelsey Smith, Chris

PLEASE SEE HUGHES, C6

An evening studded with diamonds

Sparkle for Life raises money for the American Cancer Society

BY WAYNE PEAL
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Organizers hope everyone will have a glittering good time at Sparkle for Life, an American Cancer Society fund-raiser set for Feb. 21 in downtown Rochester.

But one person will walk away from the event with a glittering, \$18,500 Rolex watch.

Set for the local ACS Discovery Shop, the event will include special sales on jewelry and high-quality costume jewelry. Vintage items will be

featured alongside designer pieces created especially for the sale.

The Friday evening benefit will also feature hors d'oeuvres and entertainment.

Donated items are still being accepted.

"We're asking people to consider donating an item in memory of a loved one or friend," Rochester Discovery Shop Manager Lonna Updike said.

The 18-karat Rolex Presidential man's watch comes from an anonymous benefactor's private collection, Updike said.

It is currently on display at Rizzo Jewelers, 414 Main.

Drawing tickets are \$100 each, with only 200 to be sold. Tickets are available at the Rochester Discovery Shop and the new Discovery Shop at 685 S. Adams in Birmingham.

For event chairs Harry and Susan Terbruggen, the event is also a personal thank-you.

"Two years ago, my husband was diagnosed with a form of blood cancer, but he's made remarkable progress with a macrobiotic program," Susan Terbruggen said.

"We realize this isn't the course



Jay Rizzo holds the 18-karat Rolex Presidential man's watch, currently on display at Rizzo Jewelers, that can be won at the American Cancer Society's Discovery Shop fund-raiser.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lonna Updike from the Discovery Shop, 335 Main, holds a ring that will be for sale at the Sparkle for Life benefit next month.

everyone would take, but we want to show our gratitude to those who are fighting cancer on every front."

Susan and her daughter also serve as Discovery Shop volunteers.

The family lives in Clarkston, though Harry, a developer, is a former long-time Rochester-area resident.

The Discovery Shop, at 335 Main, is entering its fifth year in Rochester.

Jewelry is among the many items on sale at the

shop throughout the year.

"Many people think of us as a clothing shop, but we also feature shoes and accessories," Updike said.

In addition to serving as a fund-raiser, the event is designed to highlight the shop and its offerings.

"We provide vintage items, as well as things people might like but can't find in the stores anymore," Updike said. "Really, we see ourselves as an alternative to the mall."

This is the second year for the Sparkle for Life benefit.

Event tickets are \$35 each. A special two-person package, including tickets and a \$30 gift certificate, is available for \$90.

Advance tickets are available at the Rochester Discovery Shop. To make a donation, or for additional information, call (248) 656-5953.

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How a shark named Snoopy found freedom

When Snoopy the nurse shark was just a pup she was yanked from her ocean home.

The underlying intent of the nabbers was to deny this fish's inherent right to freedom for the rest of her life. Her years were intended to be spent in some cramped aquarium somewhere in the U.S. where she'd be gawked at by humans.

Snoopy's luck today is that was donated to 5th Avenue Billiards in Novi.

She lived there for three years in an 800-gallon tank that she quickly outgrew. She's obese from lack of exercise and is 4-feet long. Her days and nights spent swimming in a small circle, over and over and over again.

Here's her good luck: One evening one of Michigan's best animal activists, Jim McNellis, went to Fifth Avenue to watch a game. He saw the big shark. He told the bar management that he could free her into the ocean, if they'd release her.

The owners of Fifth Avenue wholeheartedly agreed. They too had sympathy for the shark and had also worried about her growing size in the tank. Good people.

Nurse sharks are very social creatures, which makes their solitary captive display particularly disturbing. In their native habitat, they congregate in schools and often pile on top of one another by the dozens when they sleep. In the ocean, they live nearly 40 years and



One World, Many Beings

Lana Mini

grow about 12 feet long.

ONE MAN'S DEDICATION

To repeat my past writings: One person can indeed change the world. How appropriate that I'm writing this on Martin Luther King Day. McNellis, of Canton, quickly organized with rescuers nationwide to change Snoopy's world.

He did so on his own time without seeking personal publicity. He sought neither personal glory nor money, just freedom for an enslaved creature.

And he found others who shared those ideals.

The all-volunteer, non-profit Marine Mammal Conservancy in Key Largo agreed to rehabilitate Snoopy in an enclosed ocean area — to teach her to fend for herself — and then free her. Snoopy would have to fly USAir to Key Largo from Detroit Metro.

Jim, who is my friend, told me about one quandary: He needed to lift the heavy shark into a holding tank. I contacted Lee Fiema, owner of Aquatic Discoveries store of Sterling Heights, to ask if he'd help move Snoopy.

Fiema specializes in aquari-



Snoopy the shark is pictured in her tank at 5th Avenue Billiards in Novi, before being transported to freedom in the ocean.

ums with salt and fresh water fish and live corals. He doesn't work with sharks — they belong in the ocean, he said. His strong job was to help lift Snoopy out of her tank and into the holding area.

THE RESCUE

Relaxavision Inc., of Livonia, the company who tends to 5th Avenue's fish tanks, was there to drain the tank and put most of the water in the holding area. They stayed at 5th Avenue for hours until the rescue was complete.

Then Wendy Rhodes, a remarkable Los Angeles shark rescuer, agreed to fly with the shark to Florida and spend a few days assisting in the rehabilitation.

Last Saturday she took the red-eye from L.A. to Detroit; spent a few hours at 5th Avenue to prepare Snoopy for the flight; flew with her to Key Largo; and by late Saturday night Snoopy and Rhodes were in the enclosed ocean area. Snoopy doesn't have to swim alone in small circles alone!

Does she remember the ocean waters from her years as

a pup? What did she think or feel upon realizing that she had hundreds of thousands of gallons of water to enjoy rather than just the 800 in the tank?

Jim McNellis cared enough about freedom to use his spare time to rescue Snoopy from a business compassionate enough to let her go.

I'll keep you posted on her progress.

Lana Mini is a staff writer at The Eccentric. She can be reached by phone at (248)901-2572, by mail at 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or by e-mail at lmini@oe.homecomm.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Funyak-Nolan
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Funyak of Rochester Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachel Marie, to Timothy David Campbell Nolan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Nolan of Wooster, Ohio.
The bride-to-be is attending the University of Pittsburgh. Her fiancé is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and is employed by the University of Pittsburgh in bioengineering research.
An August wedding is planned at St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish in Auburn Hills.



Cleveland-Savage
Mr. and Mrs. Don Cleveland of Rochester Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah, to Michael Savage, son of Dr. and Mrs. Peter Savage of Allegan.
The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University. She is employed by Almont Community Schools and attends Wayne State University.
Her fiancé is a graduate of Michigan State University and Wayne State University. He is employed by Almont Community Schools.
A June wedding is planned in East Lansing.

Hold-Up Suspender Co.

S'fld company wears the pants when it comes to keeping them up

BY MARY MCDONOUGH
STAFF WRITER

Suspenders weren't doing their job.
At least not the way Sal Herman thought they should.
After time, they weakened and snapped off the waistband and Herman decided to come up with a way to fix the problem.
And Hold-Up Suspenders were born.
Herman, along with his wife, Judee, started the Southfield-based Hold-Up Suspender Company with a simple concept: They added a tiny needle to the inside of the traditional suspender clip, which pierces the fabric to keep the suspenders in place.
"We made a better mouse-trap," said Herman. "We've been making them ever since and now we're in about 2,000 stores."
Business has been growing very slowly, because of the small market niche that Herman has to work with. "I just happen to be a person who wears suspenders every day. I need them to keep my pants

up. But it's not a fashion statement today. It was maybe 20 years ago. It's possible it will be again. Hollywood has a lot to do with it. They became very popular after the movie *Wall Street*."
Herman attended his first trade show in Pennsylvania in 1990. It took him six more years to patent his product and find a manufacturer in the U.S. to produce them.
"Everything is made overseas but it was really important to us to have our product made in the U.S. It took us a long time to find someone who would make it to our specifications," said Judee Herman. "Our goal is to make every man a suspender-wearer."
Countless hours of phone calls, networking and research went into the business in the beginning. So many, in fact, that Herman said only a self-employed businessman could make it work. "If I worked a regular 9-to-5 job, I would never have been able to do it. It took a few years, but now it's profitable."
To avoid the heavy marketing costs, they have taken a "grass-roots" approach to reach their small market, said Herman. Their marketing efforts include selling Hold-Ups through catalogs and the Internet and advertising in magazines geared toward sen-



Sal Herman shows off his patented suspenders, known as Hold-Ups.

iors, like *American Legion* and the *Elks*. Their newest product is a dress suspender called Double-Ups, and is marketed to a younger, professional crowd. The Hermans want their suspenders to not only be utilitarian but also fashionable.
"Smart fashion with the snap of a clip," is the new product's slogan, said Judee, who serves as advertising director and marketing advisor. The West Bloomfield couple has always worked together, and Judee said she calls her husband, "My Suspender King."
Sal's advice for an entrepreneur who thinks they have a good invention?
"Don't give up. If they have a feeling for it, and if there's enough time, they'll make it."

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PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Judee and Sal Herman look over some suspenders in their office at the Bridge Industrial Park.

HUGHES

FROM PAGE C5

Beier, Jenna Sattler, Nikki Gatti, Thomas Carbini, Laura Erikson, Charles Hotteling, Brittany Jamil, Stephanie Wang, Jordan Evanson and Nick Pagnani, among others. These were just the kids happy to share the fact that they had done a good deed that day — and indeed they had.

DINNER AND A MOVIE

RETURNS

Dinner and a movie: \$8 for the ticket, \$10 for a meal, \$8 more or less for popcorn and other assorted goodies. Total: \$26, and who knows the caliber of the movie you'll see.
For a buck less and a lot more ambience, you can see a guaranteed great flick and dine all night long as "Dinner and a Movie" makes a return engagement to Meadow Brook Hall.
Set up in the grand ballroom of that fabulous mansion, the movie program is back by popular demand and in February features nothing but, what else, romantic tales.
William Powell and Carole Lombard start out the month on Feb. 5 with *My Man Gotfried*.
The next week it's *Wife vs. Secretary* with Clark Gable, Jean Harlow and Jimmy Stewart; Next comes *The Awful Truth* with the wonderful Cary Grant followed by the final show, *Platinum Blonde*, from the woman who epitomized that: Jean Harlow.
The Hall first offered the "Dinner and a Movie" last fall and sold out, said Jennifer Rock, who handles the reservations.
Then as now, she said, the movies came from 1930s — promising over-the-top acting and magnificent-looking stars.
You can get in on it by calling (248) 370-3140. "Dinner and a Movie" is every Wednesday evening in February. The fun begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person.

Christine Walden-Hughes lives in Rochester Hills. You can leave a message for her at (248) 651-7575 or send an e-mail to wahughes1@aol.com.

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