

VISION

a sponsored group of

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

FUTURE PROGRAMS OFFER VARIETY by Kathy Rice

DECEMBER 13

Curtis Posuniak, Pianist and Glass Ornament Designer



Pianist and Glass Ornament Designer Curtis Posuniak combined his love of music and his love of beautiful Christmas ornaments into a very harmonious career. Graduating from the University of Michigan Dearborn in Piano Studies, he currently shares his musical talent with many metro Detroit parishes. His past playing venues have included the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and the Henry Ford Estate, both in Dearborn.

It was a chance meeting at which a prominent Christmas glass ornament designer encouraged Curtis to open his ornament business, which replicates bust models of the Great Music Masters. Klassics by Kurtis debuted in 1996 after a research trip to factories in Poland. The resulting ornaments were sold to the Detroit Opera House, Lincoln Center, Sydney Opera House and other international and national venues. By order of the Governor of the State of Michigan, Klassics by Kurtis supplied the custom keepsake ornament for the State Christmas parties from 1997 to 2000.

For the last several years, Curtis has been invited by WDIV-TV to display his ornaments, play the piano and sit for an interview during the holiday season.



JANUARY 10, 2012 NOTE TIME: 10:00 a.m. TCHSWC Annual Meeting

This is an important meeting for all members to attend. An important bylaws change will be proposed. This is YOUR club, and YOU should be present to cast your vote. A complete list of 2012 nominees appears in this *Vision* for your perusal. As always, you will enjoy the fellowship of your friends and have a delicious lunch.

JANUARY 24

Jodie Brzezinski, The Salvation Army



Jodie Brzezinski, a Planned Giving Specialist has been with the Salvation Army for six months. While servicing the Oakland County area with planned gifts, she is also working toward a degree in Public Relations and Marketing from Michigan State University as well as raising two beautiful boys.

Prior to joining TSA, Jodie held many supervisory positions at consumer retail outlets such as Home Depot and Costco Wholesale where she was marketing leader for eight years. Although she enjoyed the challenges of these positions, she soon found that she was ready to make a move into the non-profit world so she could contribute more to society and achieve meaningful results from her work efforts. She is excited and reenergized by working with TSA and the gift-planning team.

FEBRUARY 14

Big Band Memories (Bill Hart & Alan Tedrick)



Music veterans Bill Hart on the trumpet and Alan Tedrick on the keyboard will present Big Band Memories. During Bill's 50+ years experience as a musician, he has played backup for Dinah Shore, Eddie Fisher and the McGuire Sisters and other big band notables. Alan has been a fixture on the Detroit music scene at such venues as the London Chop House and Topinka's in the early 70's and has performed with

Tennessee Ernie Ford and Danny Thomas.

When Bill Hart is not performing, he is a mathematics professor at Macomb Community College where he was Professor of the Year 1989-1990. Please join the fun as Bill and Alan make merry music when they play requests without reading sheet music.

...continued on page 5

LUNCHEON MENUS

Members will continue to have the option of an entrée or the TCH salad of the day. Luncheons include bread/rolls, butter, regular or decaffeinated coffee and tea as well as iced tea.

December 13

Corn chowder

1-Sliced ham with sweet potato soufflé and fresh seasonal vegetables

2-Michigan chicken salad (*mixed greens topped with chicken, tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, dried cherries and white cheddar cheese—served with raspberry vinaigrette on the side—no nuts*)

Chef's special holiday dessert

January 10, 2012

Minestrone soup

1-Chicken marsala with rice pilaf and fresh seasonal vegetables

2-Chef's salad chopped (*iceberg lettuce with roast turkey, ham, Swiss cheese, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, onions, and cucumbers—dressing on the side—no nuts*)

Chocolate mousse

January 24

Cream of broccoli soup

1-Baked whitefish with tartar sauce, roasted redskin potatoes and julienne vegetables

2-Oriental chicken salad (*iceberg lettuce topped with Asian vegetables, mandarin oranges, and crispy chicken—sweet and sour dressing on the side*)

Cheesecake with berry sauce

February 14

Vegetable soup

1-Penne pasta marinara with meatballs and fresh seasonal vegetables

2-Maurice salad chopped (*julienne roast turkey, ham and Swiss cheese, sweet pickles, cucumbers, and tomatoes on a cushion of greens—served with Maurice dressing on the side—no olives*)

Chef's Valentine's dessert

February 28

Tomato basil bisque

1-Roast pork with chef's choice of sauce, mashed sweet potatoes and green beans

2-Grilled chicken Caesar salad (*whole, sliced chicken roast on romaine lettuce w/shredded parmesan cheese—Caesar dressing on the side*)

Apple crisp with ice cream

March 13

Mushroom bisque

1-Teriyaki chicken with mango orange salsa, rice pilaf and fresh seasonal vegetables

2-Turkey cobb salad chopped (*diced turkey, tomatoes, bacon, avocado, crumbled bleu cheese, red onions and cucumbers on mixed greens—house vinaigrette dressing on the side*)

Berry pie

March 27

Corn chowder

1-Grilled salmon with chilled cucumber dill sauce, parsley new potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables

2-Michigan chicken salad (*mixed greens topped with chicken, tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, dried cherries and white cheddar cheese—served with raspberry vinaigrette on the side—no nuts*)

Chocolate layer cake

LUNCHEON RESERVATION PROCEDURES

Luncheon reservations **MUST** be in the hands of the luncheon chair **NO LATER** than the Wednesday preceding the date you wish to attend.

Also, please be aware that after selecting your menu choice of #1 or #2, you may not make a change. Please adhere to the following procedures when making your reservations.

Regular luncheon programs are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, beginning at 10:30 a.m. and are followed by the luncheon.

Please make your check payable to TCHSWC. Write the date(s) of the luncheon(s) you wish to attend on your check with your menu choice of #1 or #2, in the amount of **\$17** per luncheon. Clearly print your name **ABOVE** the signature on the check as you wish it to appear on your nametag. **Members bringing a guest to the SWC luncheon/meeting should include the name and address of that guest with the check you send to the Luncheon Chairs. Thank you in advance for adhering to this request.**

Mail your check to TCHSWC, P.O. Box 124, Birmingham, MI 48012-0124.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS TO THE COMMUNITY HOUSE.

Cancellations: If a luncheon reservation is cancelled after the Wednesday before a luncheon, it will not be possible to switch the reservation to another date. Any questions regarding luncheon reservations may be directed to Beverly Crosthwaite at 248.557.9139 or Fran Shields at 586.619.9438.

SWC BOARD NOMINEES FOR 2012

President: Leona Gates was born in Detroit and attended Detroit Schools, graduating from Wayne University in 1953 with a BS Degree in Home Economics. She worked as a Lunch Room Manager for the Detroit Schools until early 1955. She married Charles Gates in April 1954. In 1958 they moved to Birmingham. They were blessed with four children—two daughters and two sons.

Leona enjoyed sewing, needlepoint, and cross-stitch before she started working on the computer, primarily in the position of Treasurer for The Plungers (a stock investment club) for 28 years. She has been a long-time member of AAUW, enjoys playing bridge and attending her book club. Leona and her husband are members of the Congregational Church of Birmingham. They enjoy traveling, especially to New York, Washington, Florida and Minnesota to visit their children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. This will be Leona's sixth year on TCHSWC Board.

1st Vice President, Programs: Phyllis Schueller was born and raised in Detroit. She moved to Bloomfield Hills in 2003. She is the mother of four children and grandmother of ten ranging in ages 5 to 22. They all live in the metro Detroit area. Phyllis worked for the IRS as a private secretary before starting her family and received an Associates Degree in Applied Science from Macomb Community College while raising her children. She tutored at the college while attending classes.

Phyllis enjoys volunteer work, golfing, cross-country skiing, reading and attending the theatre. She also loves walking and has walked the Mackinaw Bridge on two occasions. This will be Phyllis's eighth year on TCHSWC board.

2nd Vice President, Membership: Beverly Yocum was born in Wauseon, Ohio and attended MSU after high school. She received a degree in accounting and after graduation worked for Touche Ross & Company in Detroit for four years. She earned her CPA certification during that time. She later became a partner in a firm located in Troy, and after working 30 years with that company she retired in 2006.

Beverly lives in Bingham Farms and has two grown children. Both of her children are married, and she has two grandchildren. She is involved in extensive volunteer work, and her hobbies include sports, travel, theatre, and bridge. This will be Beverly's fourth year on the board.

Recording Secretary: Beckie Perry lives in Bloomfield Hills with her husband of 47 years, Spence. She received her degree from MSU and did graduate studies at Wayne State. After teaching elementary education in Birmingham Schools, she raised four children and devoted many years to PTA work and Scouts. She returned to the work force (when her children were older) as the Registrar at Seaholm High School.

After retiring, Beckie joined TCHSWC and AAUW and has enjoyed volunteering at various levels in these groups. When she is not volunteering, golfing, reading, or knitting, she enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren who live in the area. She and her husband travel to Long Island and California as frequently as possible to visit other family members. This will be Beckie's fourth year on the board.

Corresponding Secretary: Jane Lipa spent her early childhood years in Detroit and later years in Livonia. After high school, she and her high school sweetheart (Paul) attended Michigan State University where they earned their teaching degrees.

Jane was an elementary teacher in the Livonia Public Schools for 33 years where she taught grades one, three and four. She loved teaching and found it very rewarding. After retiring she did substitute teaching for another four years and still tutors occasionally.

Jane enjoys reading, gardening, attending concerts and an occasional trip to the casino. She and her husband, Paul, have been married 44 years and are avid golfers and enjoy traveling together. This will be Jane's second year on TCHSWC Board.

Treasurer: Jan Elvekrog was born in Minnesota and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a degree in elementary education. She is retired after 25 years at Oakland University where she served as assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and where she earned a Master's Degree. She served on the Birmingham Board of Education and on the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony Board.

Jan and Maury, her husband of 50 years, live in Birmingham where they raised four children. They have seven grandchildren whom they love to visit in Chicago and Boston. Jan enjoys gardening, quilting and reading. She and her husband enjoy traveling. This will be Jan's second year on TCHSWC Board.

Assistant Treasurer: Debra Ball grew up in Indiana and came to the Detroit area in 1978 after graduating from Indiana University with an MBA in Finance. She currently lives in Royal Oak and is an active member in many organizations

After working for 20 years in commercial bank lending at Comerica and venture capital, a Great Lakes BIDCO, Debra is currently Vice President at Daniel Investments, Inc., a privately held registered investment adviser. She is single and travels often to visit her ten nieces and nephews in Indiana, Illinois and Texas. She enjoys ringing hand bells and has rung at First Presbyterian, Birmingham, Christ Church Cranbrook, and St. David's Episcopal Church. This will be Debra's second year on TCHSWC Board.

...continued on page 4

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

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504 Hendrie Blvd.
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586.781.4360

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Small, The Honorable Kimberly
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248.643.7130

Watchowski, Merrie
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Birmingham, MI 48009
248.594.0442

DIRECTORY CHANGES

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248.325.9251
sclaye@ameritech.com

IN MEMORIAM

The members of The Community House Senior Women's Club wish to express their sincerest sympathy to family and friends on the recent deaths of Phyllis Lauer, Dorothy Snyder and Ann Upton. Phyllis and Dorothy were charter members of the club and served on our board more than once. Their SWC friends will miss them.

NOTE FROM JANE STURM—

I was pleased to have so many of you join our Color Tour. What a busload! I would like to express my personal thanks to my helpers Lois Holmes and Phyllis Schueller—they were great! Happy future trips!

...continued from page 3

Member-At-Large: Tea Co-Chair Donna Kelly was born in Columbus, Ohio. She grew up in Dayton, received her Bachelors in Art Education from the University of Dayton where she also met her husband, Mark Kelly. After graduation she taught elementary school art in Kettering, Ohio (a suburb of Dayton). She also taught art in Aurora, Illinois. When Donna moved to the Detroit area her field of interest changed. She became the Director of Salem Co-op Preschool and found that to be a demanding but delightful experience. At that time she became involved in volunteer work at her children's schools and in the community at large.

Donna enjoys her painting class, quilting, bridge, pinochle and attending TCHSWC luncheons. This will be Donna's seventh year on TCHSWC Board.

Member-At-Large: Tea Co-Chair Joan Smith is a native Detroit and attended Detroit Catholic Schools until middle school and then graduated from St. Alphonsus in Dearborn. She held three different secretarial positions while pursuing a Liberal Arts Degree intending to teach after graduating. However, she soon married and started her family of one daughter and one son. She currently has five grandchildren. After she married she worked for over 40 years for Arco Container Corporation as an office manager.

Volunteering has always been a big part of Joan's life. However, she now spends more time driving friends to their destinations. For leisure she enjoys walking, reading, crossword puzzles, scrabble, bridge and some travel. This will be Joan's fourth year on TCHSWC Board.

...continued from page 1

FEBRUARY 28

Greg Kowalski, Newspaper Editor



Greg Kowalski is the current editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*, a position he has held for seven of the 40 years he has been a professional journalist.

Greg graduated from St. Florian High School in Hamtramck. He attended and graduated from Wayne State University. Prior to his editorship at the *Birmingham Eccentric*, he was Editor of the *Southfield and West Bloomfield Eccentric Newspapers*.

Greg has written a series of seven books on Hamtramck, his hometown and current address, where he is Chairman of the Hamtramck Historical Commission.

MARCH 13

Paula Tutman, WDIV Reporter



Paula Tutman was born in Washington DC. Her father was a Peace Corps in-country director. She spent her formative years in Sierra Leone, West Africa, Tanzania, East Africa and traveling in Europe. She has never lost her lust for wander.

In the mid 80's Paula began her TV career as a reporter in Knoxville, TN, anchor and police reporter in

Louisville, KY, and police reporter and fill-in anchor in her family's home town of Baltimore, MD before coming to Detroit, MI. She has been a specialty assignment reporter for the NBC affiliate for 15 years and loves Detroit!

Paula is divorced with no children. She has varied interests—writing children's books, collecting gems, studying astrology, designing jewelry, and riding horseback. She also loves riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle. She is a crewmember on two sailboat-racing teams.

Paula is active in her community and a heavy advocate for the arts. She sits on many boards—too many to mention. She splits her residence between the suburbs of Detroit and a rural farming community on a bluff overlooking Lake Huron in Ontario, Canada.

MARCH 27

“Big Al” Muskavito, Voice Over Talent, Emcee, Freelance Writer, Speaker



“Big Al” Muskavito worked as a sidekick, writer, and impersonator for “Dick Purtan and Purtan’s People” for 19 years until Dick’s retirement on March 26, 2010. Over the years he became known for his unique, offbeat style of interviewing. He has interviewed many notable people throughout his career such as “Fergie” the Duchess of York, Regis Philbin, The Three Tenors, Hilary Clinton, and Mick Jagger.

Al says, “My main objective has always been to entertain in a respectful and lighthearted way, whether I’m talking to a movie star or a head of state. It’s all about fun. In the end, the celebrities I’ve had the privilege of talking with appreciate the break from the usual mundane questions.”

Since Dick Purtan’s retirement, Al is now happily sleeping in. When he’s awake, he can be found pursuing his new career as a voice over talent, emcee, freelance writer, and speaker.

ENHANCED HEARING

The induction loop system has been installed in TCH’s Wallace Ballroom for the convenience of those people wearing a hearing instrument with a Telecoil (T coil). This coil is typically accessed by a switch or push button located on the hearing instrument. For digital hearing instruments, the “T” coil may be programmed as one of the memories or programs. For analog instruments the user must set the switch to the “T” position. Once the hearing instrument is set to the “T” coil, the user will be able to enjoy clear, customized sound delivered right to their ears.

SWC BYLAW CHANGE

On Friday, November 11, 2011, TCHSWC passed a motion to increase the annual dues from \$35 to \$40 and increase the late fee (not mailing a check before December 31st) from \$45 to \$50. This will become effective with the January 2013 dues payable on or before December 31, 2012. This increase is deemed necessary to generate additional income for the operating expenses of the club.

SWC INTEREST GROUPS

CHAIR, Ava Wixted 248.644.0373. Contact people for each Interest Group must inform Ava of any changes, additions, or deletions in the information listed below prior to the publication of each *Vision* newsletter. **If you are interested in adding an Interest Group to those listed below, please contact Ava at the above phone number.**



This group meets on the second Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at a Birmingham restaurant. The book discussion is held at The Community House from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

December 9 – *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave—Lunch at Elie's on Pierce Street

January 13 – *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson—Lunch at Toast on Pierce Street

February 10 – *Unbroken* by Laura Hildenbrand—Lunch at 220 Merrill

March 9 – *Into the Wilderness* by Sara Donati—Lunch at Peabody's on Woodward

CONTACT: **Dolores Steimel at 248.646.6358.**



This group meets after TCHSWC luncheons from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at The Community House. Members who are interested in playing bridge after the luncheons must call the monthly coordinator to make their desire known, otherwise proper arrangements cannot

be made. If you cannot keep your commitment, you are expected to provide a substitute.

Dec. – Dottie McDermott at 248.647.4807

Jan. – Beverly Crosthwaite at 248.557.9139

Feb. – Sharon Wetherington at 248.435.9794

Mar. – Sharon Wetherington at 248.435.9794



The Golf Group will resume playing golf on Mondays at Springdale Park in Birmingham in May 2012. Contact Nancy if you would like to be invited to the January meeting she has scheduled.

CONTACT: **Nancy Tanke at 248.642.5925.**



A third singles group is being formed by Ava. Please call her if you are interested.

CONTACT: **Ava Wixted at 248.644.0373.**



This group meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at a Birmingham restaurant. During lunch a movie is selected to begin at approximately 1:00 p.m. Start times often change overnight.

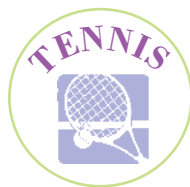
December 20 – Lunch at Cosi, corner of Maple and Woodward

January 17 – Lunch at Elie's on Pierce Street

February 21 – Lunch at Toast on Pierce Street

March 20 – Lunch at Max & Erma's on Merrill Street

CONTACT: **Shirley Haynes at 248.723.2167.**



Ava is hoping to generate enough interest to keep this group active. She is looking for women interested in playing tennis at the Birmingham Bubble on Eton Street. CONTACT: **Ava Wixted at 248.644.0373.**

NEW INTEREST GROUPS!

CANASTA GROUP

A Canasta Group is forming. Those interested in playing, please contact Ava.

GOURMET DINNER GROUP

A Gourmet Dinner Group is forming. Those interested in being a participant in this group must enjoy cooking and be willing to "host" one dinner a year. Please contact Judy Humphrey at 248.689.8070.

PINOCHLE GROUP

A Pinochle Group is forming. Those interested in playing, please contact Ava. This group will play at The Community House.

SCRABBLE

A Scrabble Group is forming. Those interested in playing, please contact Ava Wixted at 248.644.0373.

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Deadline for March issue:
February 10, 2012



**2012 Membership Renewal Form must be
POSTMARKED by DECEMBER 31, 2011**

if you are to avoid late payment fee and be included in the 2012 Membership Directory

Annual Dues

\$35.00 due by December 31, 2011

\$45.00 (includes \$10 late fee) if mailed after December 31, 2011

Please make your check payable to TCHSWC and have it postmarked by December 31, 2011
to the Membership Chair:

Beckie Perry, 1231 Manorwood Circle, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Detach and return with your renewal check



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would prefer to receive my *Vision* newsletter by email Yes No

I would be interested in serving on the TCHSWC Board in the future Yes No

Amount Enclosed \$35.00 \$45.00 (includes \$10 late fee)

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

Name _____

Phone _____

Suggestions _____

Contact (if known) _____

ON THE INSIDE

PAGE 1

Future Programs

PAGE 2

Luncheon Menus

PAGE 3

SWC Board Nominees

PAGE 4

Membership Directory

PAGE 5

Enhanced Hearing

PAGE 6

Interest Groups

PAGE 7

Membership Renewal Form

DECEMBER 2011

VISION

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I cannot believe my year as your president is coming to an end. It has been a wonderful, exciting and loving time for me. I thank all of you for the love and support you have given me—my heart is full! When I was a counselor at Brighton Hospital, I was called “the lady who hugged trees.” I explained that the power of touch is one of the most powerful contacts we can give to each other. A study many years ago found that a person who had received at least five hugs or touches a day lowered their blood pressure and felt better in many ways. A hug, a warm handshake, a touch on the back or even finding a nice breathing tree will give you a strong connection to the power of touch. I wish you all great happiness, joy and love as we continue our journey together. Remember to get your five hugs a day.

See you in 2012.

Ellen Ayers
 SWC President

