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EVENT PHOTOS



Opening Reception for The Henry Ford's "Good Design: Stories fro



Solanus Casey Center Wine and Food Event



An Evening Out with Work It Out

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SOCIALLIGHTS

By Sally Gerak



social lights ▶

Week of 3.1.10

By Sally Gerak

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"Annabelle & Bear" premiere benefitting Starfish Family Services

Hail to the victors! That would be everybody connected to "Annabelle & Bear". The all-Michigan film produced, directed and co-written by Birmingham's **Amy Weber** and her Radish Creative Group premiered Feb. 20 to a sold out crowd (1,300) at Detroit's Music Hall Center. The evening was a benefit for Starfish Family Services, a good call considering the story. It's about how an adorable two-year-old (Annabelle played by **Olivia Walby**) snuggled into the heart of her burly, biker birth father (Bear played by **Curt Massoff**) after her crack-addicted mother dumped her on him. Disturbing and distressing describe the scenes shot in actual Detroit crack houses, but Bear's journey to real fatherhood and the hope-filled ending, including his reunion with his alienated mother, left few dry eyes in the house. Here's hoping the wide distribution this film deserves is not long in coming.

AHEAD ON THE SOCIAL LIGHTS LIST

Newcomers note: unlike some other metropolitan areas, around here all who can afford to buy a ticket are welcome to attend even the most exclusive events. Look over the following list and pick a non-profit you'd like to support. If you get to the party and don't know anyone, find me. I've been covering the charity scene for more than 30 years and can probably introduce you to some really nice people. Heck, if you can't afford a ticket, call and see if they need volunteers. Sally G

- **Leslie Pilling** is hosting an Open House Thursday, 6–8 p.m., March 4 at **Judy Frankel's** Antiques Centre of Troy to preview her 1930s-inspired antique vignette design **The Salon, The Bar, The Boudoirs**. Donations to honor Forgotten Harvest and St. Dunstan's Theater Guild of Cranbrook are optional. Call her at (248) 723-9770.

- **Matt Prentice** is the honorary chair of **Detroit's Top Chefs** Friday, March 5 at the Radisson Kingsley. The benefit for Variety, The Children's Charity will include great food and wine pairings prepared by 20 of Detroit's Top Chefs. Each table of 10 will feature the

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culinary talent of a distinguished chef and wines selected by **Madeline Triffon** and **Mark Jonna**. For tickets (\$150), call (248) 258-551. The proceeds of this event will benefit Variety's programs, including the Variety Produce Rescue Mission which last year distributed approximately 2 million pounds of recovered produce to hungry families across Southeastern Michigan.

• **Grace Centers of Hope's Boogie Bowl Disco Fundraiser** is Friday evening, March 12 at Troy's Thunderbird Lanes. Go to www.gracecentersofhope.org or call Adrian Laux at (248) 334-2187, ext. 31 for details about this 'groovin' event benefiting the homeless.

• **Brookside School Cranbrook's 29th annual auction - Kaleidoscope Saves the Day! A Tribute to Heroes** - will dominate the school beginning with the Family Preview Open House Friday, March 12 and continue with the main event Saturday, March 13. For reservations, call Suzanne Cormier at (248) 645-7500.

• At last year's inaugural **Trade Secrets** benefiting **JVS's Women to Work Program**, honoree **Linda Dresner** set the attention-getting bar very high but here's betting this year's honoree, photographer **Linda Solomon**, is up to the challenge. **Hadas Bernard, Elaine Fieldman** and **Gwen Weiner** are chairing the event 6 p.m., Thursday March 18 at the Townsend Hotel. Because "every picture tells a story" guests are encouraged to bring a favorite photo to share over food and conversation. Call Sharon Snyder at (248) 233-4290 for tickets (\$125-\$360) and or sponsorships.

• **Janet Morelli** and **Kelly Petrocella** are chairing the **Junior League of Birmingham's American Girl Fashion Shows** at the Townsend 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20 and 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p., Sunday, March 21. Auditions have already been held for models, but Guest Model (\$20) options are still available. For tickets (\$36, \$45-premium seating), call the JLB office at (248) 203-9841 or go to www.jlweb.org/birmingham.

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