





































April 18, 2002

## Pointers and Shorians relay to embrace life

By Jennie Miller  
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointers and St. Clair Shorians are coming together to celebrate life, grieve for loss and rally to fight cancer.



Individuals from the area will gather at Blossom Heath Park in St. Clair Shores from noon on Friday, May 31 until noon on Saturday, June 1.

They will be doing as others from across Southeastern Michigan will be doing: Participating in Relay for Life, an event that has raised over half a billion dollars since its inception seven years ago.

Grosse Pointe and St. Clair Shores are two of 3,000 other communities across the country and in seven foreign countries participating in the event.

As a function of the American Cancer Society, which has been in operation for more than 80 years, Relay

for Life is the most successful not-for-profit event in the United States.

Last year, the Relay for Life at Blossom Heath raised over \$107,000 and involved over 1,200 residents. Overall, some 30,000 metro Detroiters helped to raise over \$1.3 million at last year's events.

"The community of St. Clair Shores and Grosse Pointe often refers to Relay for Life as a 'miracle in progress' because of the power this event has on so many of us," said Amy Motyka, community development director of the American Cancer Society.

"Teams of families, friends, co-workers, civic groups, religious organizations and schools are just a few of the community teams that are participating in this event. Relay for Life is truly about a community coming together to work miracles," she said.

During the 24-hour event, team members will take turns walking around the track while others are free to socialize, play games, dance or participate in other activities.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, the event will welcome cancer survivors to participate in the Victory Lap.

"It is inspiring to truly see how many cancer survivors there are here in our community," Motyka said. "By walking in the Victory Lap, these survivors become living reminders to the community of the recent miracles made in the fight against cancer and provide hope for those who may be diagnosed with the disease in the future."

At sunset, those involved will pay tribute to the individuals who have lost their lives to cancer. The Luminaria Ceremony will be held in memory of those who are gone and in celebration of the 8.9 million cancer survivors today in the United States alone.

Contributions made during the Relay for Life will go directly toward

research programs and services in Southeastern Michigan.

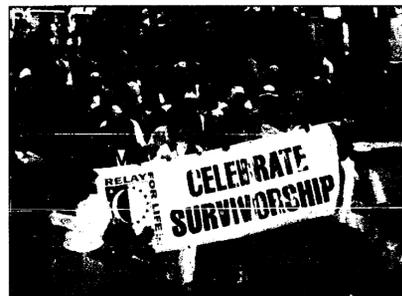
Since 1947, the American Cancer Society has provided over \$2 billion toward cancer research, \$5.6 million of which is currently at work in Michigan research facilities.

Thirty-two researchers funded by the society have been

awarded the Nobel Prize.

A parking shuttle will be running from the St. Clair Shores Civic Arena throughout the day on Friday, beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 11 p.m.

For more information, contact the American Cancer Society at (586) 263-8000.



Photos courtesy of Kevin Mulkowski



Cancer survivors participate in the Victory Lap at last year's event at Blossom Heath Park.

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## Tribute

An evening of music and tributes to the late Eugene C. Strobel, Ph.D., Harper Woods educator, was held April 6. The event was sponsored by the German American Heritage Foundation International (GAHFI). The sixth annual dinner and cabaret was dedicated to Strobel, its founder and president, who died last November. The GAHFI presented a posthumous award, "Treuester Freund."

Accepting the award were members of Strobel's family, from left, children Karla Strobel, Eugene Strobel Jr. and Laura McDonald and Mrs. Germaine Strobel.

Representatives from the Prechter Endowment, DaimlerChrysler Corp. and Wayne State University announced they would institute Eugene C. Strobel Memorial Scholarships through WSU's Junior Year in Munich program.



Photo by Suzy Berschback

## Kerby Carnival committee

The theme for this year's Kerby Carnival is "There's No Place Like Kerby." The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at the school, 285 Kerby in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Members of the committee, standing, from left, are: Lisa Kelch, Ann Marie Aliotta, Debbie Caputo, Ann Kay, Margo Henel, Kelly Machesky, Andrea Sullivan, Polly Tech, Martha Mothershead, Patti Bickstaff, Kevin Reitzloff and Mary Anne Burke.

Seated, from left, are: Alison Colosi, Patty Moran, Hala Besmar, Co-chairmen Deann Newman and Kathy Marowske, and Susan Bamford.

Not shown are Cheryl Reitzloff, Debra Jakub, Eddie Geha, Scott Lattimore, Anne Jones, Marty Vorhees and Peggy Fitzgerald.

## Meetings

### Federated Garden Clubs East Area

District 1 of The Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan will hold its annual spring meeting on Tuesday, April 30, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore.

District 1 is a member of the National Garden Clubs Inc. Hosts for the event are the Garden Club of Michigan and the Junior League Gardeners. Eleanor Mecke is the registrar.

The East Area Questers will present its annual luncheon at noon Wednesday, May 1, at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club. The speaker will be Dr. Dennis Zembala, director of the Detroit Historical Museums. His topic will be "The History of Detroit and the Decorative Arts Museum Expansion for a New Millennium."

The cost is \$25 and reservations may be made by mailing a check payable to Cathy Harris, chairman of the East Area Questers, to 410 Belanger, Grosse Pointe Farms, 48236, by Wednesday, April 24.

Questers is an international organization that stresses restoration and preservation of historic places, history and the study of antiques. The East Area includes the following chapters: Fox Creek, Grand Marais, Grosse Pointe, Pear Tree, Pettipointe and Windmill Pointe. For information about membership, call Cathy Harris at (313) 885-1051.

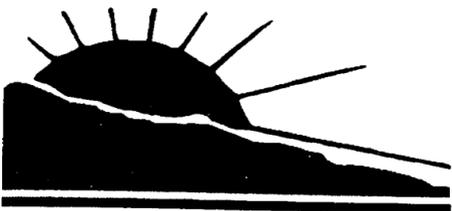
### Women's Connection

The Women's Connection of Grosse Pointe will meet on Thursday, April 25, for dinner and a meeting at a private local club.

Mildred Anthony will discuss "How Does your Garden Grow." For information or reservations, call Nancy Neat at (313) 882-1855 or Marcia Pikielak at (313) 884-4201.

### Camera Club

The Grosse Pointe Camera Club will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, in Room C-11 of Brownell Middle School, 260 Chalfonte in Grosse Pointe Farms. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (313) 822-7080 or (586) 774-9471.



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## Italian Heritage Society

A tribute and farewell to Dr. Gianluca Alberini, consul general of Italy, will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, April 26. The Italian Heritage Society of Wayne State University will sponsor the evening which also includes a special screening of the Italian film "Pane e Tulipani," directed by Silvio Soldini. The event will be held in the Italian Heritage Room Theater in the General Lectures Building at WSU. A reception follows.

Seated, from left, are Elena Alberini, wife of the consul general, and Marianne Endicott. Standing, from left, are Marta DeCarolis, Patricia Cardello, chairman Marian Impastato, Giulia Cervone and Ann Harnett. Not shown are Marlene Baker and Maria DeLuca.

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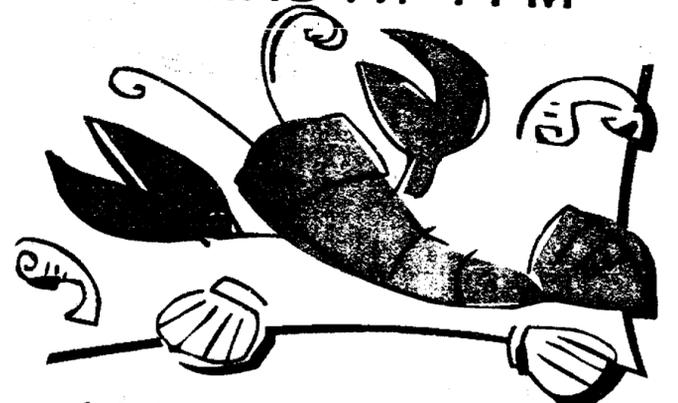
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April 18, 2002

# Wood's retirement will mark the end of an era at ULS

**By Chuck Klönke**  
 Sports Editor

An era will end this spring when University Liggett School closes its doors on the 2001-2002 school year.

That's when Bob Wood's 52-year association with the school will be over.

Wood, who has been on the ULS faculty since 1955 and has been its athletic director since 1968, is retiring at the end of the school year.

"I believe the time is right for me to retire," said Wood, who will move to Jackson, Tenn., where his wife, Kathy, has accepted a position on the faculty of the University School of Jackson. She will teach for a year and then move into an administrative post at the school.

"Being athletic director and coaching has been a little tougher the last few years, so I know the time is right for me," Wood said. "I'm leaving on my own terms and under my conditions, not because a group of parents wants me to leave."

"It's time for the school, too. It's time for somebody with new ideas and enthusiasm to take University Liggett School athletics into the 21st century."

Wood is looking forward to his new life, which will include plenty of golf and fishing. He'll be volunteering as a ranger at one of the top public golf courses in Tennessee, which is midway between Memphis and Nashville in the western part of the state.

"When I told them all I

wanted in terms of pay was the right to play golf," Wood said with a smile. "I'm going to get to know my neighbors, whose homes are on a lake. Maybe they'll let me fish from their back yards."

"And I'm going to be the No. 1 fan of boys and girls sports at the University School of Jackson."

Wood's association with ULS began when he enrolled in preschool as a 3-year-old. The only time that association was interrupted was during Wood's college days and four years as a faculty member, coach and assistant athletic director at the Harrisburg (Pa.) Academy. He began his coaching career at Harrisburg when he was a student at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College.

"It's been a great run with many more positives than negatives," Wood said, while reflecting on his days at ULS.

He recalled that ULS had 13 sports — seven for boys and six for girls — when he became athletic director. Under Wood's administration the sports have increased to 22, with 11 each for boys and girls.

"That's a lot of sports for a school with 267 students," Wood said. "Still, we've managed to be very competitive in most of our sports. We've provided many interscholastic opportunities for kids that they wouldn't have had at another school."

Wood has coached boys tennis all 37 years at ULS and has coached the girls

team for 13 seasons. In the last 36 years, the Knights boys teams have won 26 state championships and have been state runners-up eight times. He also won 12 state titles as the girls coach, including 1990 when ULS became the first high school in Michigan to jump two classes from Class C to A) and win a state championship.

ULS set a national record — since broken — of 13 consecutive boys state tennis titles from 1972 through 1984. When Wood's 2000 team won the state title, it was the school's 33rd boys tennis crown — another national record.

"I've been blessed with outstanding talent," Wood said. "We've been fortunate to have good tournament players at first and second singles and the rest of the team we've filled with good athletes, who had played some tennis when they were younger."

At the top of the list of ULS tennis alumni are Aaron Krickstein, who made it into the top five in the ATP rankings, and Susan Mascarin, who was ranked 23rd in the Women's Tennis Association world rankings.

"I've tried to make our players feel that our tennis program is very important," Wood said. "As a coach I've never shied away from the commitment that from the spring trip to the state tournament we've seldom had a free weekend."

"When the players see that we're willing to sacrifice and make the six-day-a-

week commitment, they're willing to do it, too. And they feel a responsibility to the players who have come before them to keep the tradition going."

Wood has coached second-generation tennis players at ULS on both the boys and girls teams.

Wood is also part of that tradition that has passed on from generation to generation. His father won a state championship in 1933. Twenty-five years later, Bob Wood teamed with George Haggerty to win a state doubles title and in 1983 — 25 years later — Wood's son Rob teamed with Haggarty's son to win another state

title.

"It's like a Ripley's Believe It or Not," Wood said.

Wood has taken his boys tennis team on a spring trip each year since 1967, and play one of the toughest schedules in the state.

"We call our schedule the AP (advanced placement) of tennis," he said. "By playing as an independent, we're able to schedule the best teams and play in the toughest tournaments. We want to win, but the won-lost record isn't our main focus. It's to prepare for the regional and state competition."

Wood has taught his ten-

nis players more than just how to win. Before each session, he holds a 10-minute session on how to shake hands.

"Shaking hands is so important for job interviews and other facets of life," he said.

In 1968, Wood and Art May, who was then the athletic director at Hamtramck, founded the Metro Conference. It exists to this day as one of the oldest prep leagues in southeastern Michigan.

Wood played basketball and football at ULS and his coaching resume includes



Bob Wood certainly continued a tradition of excellence during his 52-year association with University Liggett School as a student, faculty member and coach and athletic director.

See WOOD, page 2C

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