

# PEOPLE

## Octoberfest at Woman's Club

Meg Loncharic



Handmade dirndl aprons traditionally worn in Austria and Bavaria will be all the rage at Octoberfest, set for Oct. 21, at the Woman's Club of Erie, 259 W. Sixth St. The celebration begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour followed by a special ethnic dinner.

"Combining the celebration of German heritage with raising funds to preserve our beloved Woman's Club mansion is deeply motivating as we approach our annual Octoberfest," said co-chairwoman Nancy Rusnak.

She made all of the Bavarian-style aprons by hand, and each committee member will wear one at the event. A specially designed apron will be raffled off that evening.

Catered by Erie Maennerchor chef George Ferguson, the heritage cuisine is sure to please. Think Beef Roulade, Hot Potato Salad, Red Cabbage, Green Beans with Bacon, Black Forest Cake and beer and wine.

Entertainment will be provided by the German Cultural Society Dancers, and there will be a sing-around-the-piano session. Tickets are priced at \$25 per person.

"The members are passionate about the mansion's upkeep and restoration," said dinner co-chairwoman Dina Reale. She added that funds raised by various events will go toward the mansion's upkeep, particularly the roof repair which will ensure its place on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today's club includes a membership of 82.

"Our Woman's Club is one of only two clubs in Pennsylvania that owns a mansion," said preservation chairwoman Marianne Heck. "We work tirelessly to make sure future generations will get to see its beauty."

The Octoberfest committee includes Kathy Costello, Barbara Hourigan, Joyce Navecky, Maggie Dupre, Marj Inderlied, Trudy Sallach, Naomi Foust, Joann Kaufer, Marilyn Walker and Mary Jo Matheis.

Make your reservations for the benefit by Wednesday. Call Reale at 474-1585 or Rusnak at 864-3427.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Woman's Club planning committee members, from left, Dina Reale, Trudy Sallach, Kathy Costello, Marilyn Walker, Mary Jo Matheis, Nancy Rusnak and Joann Kaufer will don Bavarian-style dirndl aprons at their Octoberfest fundraiser.

### Cultural extravaganza

Lourdes Romano-Jana will emcee the Filipino-American Heritage Day — a celebration of dance, song and instrumental performances — on Saturday. The free event will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. on the third floor of Gannon University's Palumbo Center. Gannon's Chris Magno, Ph.D., president of the Filipino-American Association of Northwest Pennsylvania, will welcome the crowd.

Krystina Presnede Corpuz, vice consul of the Philippine Consulate General in New York City, will also speak. Beginning with the Filipino-American symphony orchestra overture, festivities will include a parade of members in native dress, and performances will depict three popular festivals: Christmas, Flowers of May and Santacruzian.

### Names in the news

Niken Astari-Carpenter was recently awarded a Career Development Grant from the American Association of University Women. She is pursuing a master of project management degree from Penn State Behrend.

Astari-Carpenter, formerly a district court judge in Indonesia, came to this country four years ago to join her husband, Erie radio announcer Allan Carpenter. She currently works for the Erie County Library System in Millcreek Township.

■ Congratulations Ensign Nathan Lorei, USN, a recent graduate of the United

States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. He is a first-year medical student at the F. Edward Herbert School at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md. He's the son of Maureen and Christopher Lorei, of Frederick, Md., formerly of Erie, and grandson of Marge and Joe Lorei, of Greene Township.

■ Former Erieite Sandra Domeracki, R.N., of Larkspur, Calif., was a keynote speaker in Asada, Japan, at a daylong meeting of the Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare.

Domeracki, who is regional manager of employee Health Services at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, is the daughter of Joanne Domeracki, Erie, a former nurse practitioner, and the late Edward Domeracki.

### Cancer fundraiser

The StringsforaCure Pickin' On Cancer fundraiser, on Oct. 4 at the Brewerrie at Union Station, drew a standing-room-only crowd. A highlight of the evening came when cancer survivors in attendance sang "I Will Survive," led by Robin Burick. She's a local singer and songwriter, who is celebrating her first release, "Almost Forever."

The event started with a VIP cocktail hour, which included hors d'oeuvres and featured acoustical guitar music by Sam Hyman. More than 40 beautiful gift baskets were raffled off.

Striking StringsforaCure jewelry — handcrafted by

Elisa Guida from guitar strings donated by famous musicians — were available.

A preview of the Faces of Strings project, featuring a photo gallery of 12 breast cancer patients, was unveiled at the event.

Sally Leubin won the door prize, a Willie Nelson guitar string pendant.

There was dancing and music by Silverlight, whose band members are Bill Arnold, Rik Cass, Derf Hopsecger and Chuck Leone.

The committee led by Nicole Brugger included Carol Hirsch, Ed Saloum, Guida, Beth Dubik, Jan Minzenberger, Lisa Jenkins, Robin Fox and Patti Larson.

All proceeds benefit programs of the StringsforaCure Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides gas, grocery and pharmacy gift cards, comfort baskets and medical grants to help ease patients' emotional and financial burdens as they cope with cancer.

The focus this year was on breast cancer patients who have been helped by the StringsforaCure Foundation.

POSTSCRIPT: Ideally, couples need three lives; one for him, one for her, and one for them together. — Jacqueline Bisset (b. 1946), English actress.

MEG LONCHARIC's column appears in the Sunday Living section. Send e-mail to [newsmeg@aol.com](mailto:newsmeg@aol.com) or write to her in care of the Erie Times-News, 205 W. 12th St., Erie, PA. 16534.

Carolyn Hax



## Worst could lie ahead

Dear Carolyn — I've got a problem with my fiance and partner of 4½ years. He's brilliant, resourceful, outgoing, easy to talk to, wonderful at supporting me with my health issues and aligns with me on so many of the goals that matter. Kids, money, sex, family, etc. But, he's stubborn, opinionated yet influenced by the opinions of others and sometimes unable to empathize. I'm no doctor, but we both think he may have a touch of narcissism.

The problem is about my name. I'm not sure I'm comfortable assuming his name, I don't like hyphenation, and I don't want to lose my middle name (which holds a ton of family history) by putting my maiden name there. I'm also a feminist and don't think I like the tradition I'd be supporting. Last week we had our biggest fight yet about it. His demeanor was the embodiment of every unattractive quality he has. He told me that I would take his name one way or another, and that he wouldn't discuss it further. I don't know if we should cancel this whole thing. Your thoughts? — What's in a Name?

Dear Name — I keep starting answers that break this down to its component parts, like this false start: "His good traits seem to make him entertaining to know while the bad ones make him hell to live with." Or just, "Cancel or postpone every distraction — caterers, photographers, even the name argument — so you can bring a clear mind to the question of whether you're making a mistake." But each time I start one of these answers, this thought overtakes it: You have your hand on the doorknob, poised to exit a relationship with someone who behaves badly enough for the word "narcissist" to be in play. Can I, in good conscience, suggest anything that might keep you there? If you've been fair in your depiction — that your fiance is either unwilling or unable to put anyone's interests above his own — then you know exactly what you're signing up for with this marriage. So is this what you want? You need to come to that answer on your own.

Write to Carolyn at [tellme@washpost.com](mailto:tellme@washpost.com).

## To battle any addiction takes work, perseverance

Dear Abby: I had my last cigarette and drink of alcohol 50 years ago. Back then, excessive drinking, smoking, overeating or nail-biting were signs of weak will, sinfulness, bad upbringing and who knows what else.

Fortunately, over the years the pendulum swung, making it possible for literally millions of people to get into recovery for what we now know is a disease — addiction.

Unfortunately, the pendulum is now swinging

Dear Abby

Jeanne Phillips



back again. Now everyone has a "disease" over which they have no control. Therefore, they have an excuse to drink too much, overeat, eat sugar while taking their insulin — the

list goes on and on.

Sadly, this business of taking no responsibility for one's own health and — worse yet — often blaming someone or something else for the problem, takes away from those who are taking responsibility for themselves.

Addiction is a disease, and there are many avenues of recovery: mental, spiritual, medical, intellectual and philosophical. What they all have in common is they

require a commitment to getting well and, more importantly, a determination to recover.

Abby, I want to reinforce your dedication to promoting personal responsibility. It is desperately needed. — Roberta Meyer, former president, National Council On Alcohol And Drug Dependence - California

Dear Roberta: Your letter contains many important truths, and thank you for taking the time to write.

The first step in solving a problem is admitting there is one and deciding to do something about it. The same is true for addiction. That's why 12-step programs are so effective. In these programs, people gain emotional support from others who are traveling the same path to recovery.

Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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