

"DYC DOSSIER"

GIGI HOMMEL



Mary Massaron Ross and Larry Ross

Around the same year that the DYC was founded, the lyrical poet Yeats was publishing one of his most enduring poems, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree". The poem contrasts images of the city and nature as Yeats celebrates the refuge of the quiet life

versus the city life. Mary Massaron Ross and her husband, Larry, have found a similar refuge by being long-time Detroit Yacht Club members and owners of their Hunter 33 Sailboat aptly named Innisfree.

Other than the time that Mary Massaron Ross was a law clerk to Justice Patricia J. Boyle, she has spent her entire law career with Plunkett Cooney. She has been a partner there since 1998. If you can carve out an hour, you might be able to read through all of her many accomplishments listed on her firm's website. One case that caught my attention was County of Wayne v Hathcock. Mary represented property owners in the Michigan Supreme Court and successfully persuaded the Court to reverse Poletown v Detroit. She obtained a rule of law limiting use of eminent domain to condemn non-blighted property and transfer it to a private developer.

Mary says the passion for her work was partly instilled by her father who felt it was every citizen's duty to be active in the community and to be knowledgeable about the issues of the day. Her mother was an English teacher and raised nine children. Perhaps that is where Mary gets some of her drive and her love of language.

As accomplished as Mary is, it is not easy to get her to talk about herself. She loves writing and thinking about the law but does not like to talk about herself a lot. She did acknowledge it was an honor to be chosen by her peers to serve as second vice

president and soon president of the DRI-the Voice of the Defense Bar. DRI is an international organization of attorneys defending the interests of business and individuals in civil litigation. Mary is the only lawyer from Michigan to serve in this capacity and only the second woman ever to have held the office.

Mary Massaron was at work when I interviewed her (on a Sunday, by the way) but she did not seem inclined to discuss her career related achievements. Instead, she turned the conversation to Yeats and a line in his poem,... **"I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore"**. This line was the inspiration for she and Larry naming their boat Innisfree. When Mary gets done with work and joins Larry on their sailboat, they love to turn the engine off and just enjoy silence. There may be sounds from the wind or sounds from the water but these are peaceful sounds. They appreciate being members of Lagoon Dock because the slip runs right up to the shoreline. They can have friends to the Club and dine at a picnic table right at the end of their slip. Mary and Larry have 4 children, John Ross, Mary Curby, David Massaron, and Andrea Ross, and 4 grandchildren, Ben and Kate, and Ian and Evan, who occasionally share the Club with them as well. That makes for a pretty full picnic table!

Because Mary is such an advocate to all of us.... protecting and upholding the laws that allow us to enjoy our wonderful lives.... I'd prefer she never turn her engine off. However, I am glad that when she does, she enjoys the peaceful and beautiful surroundings of the Detroit Yacht Club along with the rest of us. The last line of Yeats poem is **"I hear it in the deep heart's core."** I think about right now all of us hear our boats and the Club calling us back for another great summer. When the time finally comes, make sure to visit Mary and Larry on Innisfree over in the Lagoon.

BINNACLE ROOM

ANNE DUFFEY LEO

It's time to whip the kids Binnacle Room back in shape! We have great things in the works to make this space the best yet! We will be upgrading the comfort and usability for our children and families. We are incorporating new comfy furniture, a table and chairs, classic video games, fixed up train table, and more. Our goal is to have two TVs, one for gaming and another for movies. We are asking for donations (which can be chitted to your DYC account), or if you have an extra flat screen just sitting around.... Perhaps a shelving unit (for toys, books, etc...) The Binnacle Committee will also continue to evaluate activity needs and wants throughout the summer.

A reminder to you and your parents: this room is created and kept for YOU, and kids of ALL AGES. When you leave your garbage around, when you destroy and mistreat the furniture and equipment, and when your behavior and conduct is unkind and inappropriate for ANYONE, OF ANY AGE to have to

witness, you hurt the future of this space for YOUR USE. (KEEP THIS SPACE FOR OTHERS, THE WAY YOU WOULD LIKE OTHERS TO KEEP IT FOR YOU!)

WISH LIST ITEMS:

- X-Box games
- DVD Movies
- Good Books (Teens thru Toddler)
- Wooden Trains and Tracks

Give us a call if you can help out with giving donations or items. You may also chit any donations great or small.

Thanks for helping make DYC a great place for kids and families to spend their time at!

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