

Valentine's day dance

Aragon ball a throwback to more gracious days

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Aragon Ballroom, 1106 Lawrence.

IN THE HAZE of an arc-blue spotlight, J. J. Jendrzejaz, 72, led his valentine sweetheart, Martha Loude, also 72, in a sweeping two-step while the orchestra played a waltz.

At a table at the dance floor's edge, Lawrence house residents Marjorie Carlin and Angeline Klaybor swapped whispered stories about valentines past.

Across the ballroom, Anna Dan, of 535 Barry, sampled heart-shaped confections and sipped hot coffee with friends.

They were but a few of the nearly 2,500 guests attending the 5th annual "From Uptown with Love" Valentine's Day Ball, Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the

THE DANCE, first held in 1975 as a senior citizens affair, has been opened to all residents of Edgewater and Uptown. This year's ball represented the efforts of over 30 organizations, businesses and churches.

"Everyone from the Girl Scouts to the Normandy Terrace Convalescent center pitched in," said Dotty Norton, a member of the ball's steering committee and chairman of the Uptown Girl Scouts of America.

The music, by the Revolutionary Swing Orchestra, a 17 piece band, was a mix of old favorites, big band jazz and disco. Hal Pearl piped out a medley of tunes on the old Aragon organ, and as the guests entered, Dossie "Life

Begins at 70" Seitz and Ed Homola set the mood with popular love ballads from the '20s and '30s on guitar and violin.

The Hubbard St. Dancers presented a showcase of dancing from the '20s to the present.

BUT THE MAIN attraction was the crowd itself. Many guests wore the traditional red attire for the day and others sported heart-shaped earrings, pins and doily bordered valentines over their hearts.

At many tables, talk of the Aragon's glory days could be heard: the days when Lawrence Welk and Wayne King waved the baton, when white flannel-suited bouncers would remind the

more rambunctious gentlemen to attend to their manners and when the men had to have their dates home by 7 p.m. on Sundays.

Heather Bilandic, wife of Mayor Michael Bilandic, received a loud "we love you" cheer from the crowd. She was honored along with the ball's eldest guests, Harry Backstrom, 93, of 5821 N. Broadway, and Jeannette Levinson, 92, of the Lawrence house hotel, 1020 Lawrence.

Other community leaders present were Deomocratic mayoral candidate Jane Byrne, State Rep. William Marovitz (12th), Ald. Marion Volini (48th) and Ald. Ralph Axelrod (46th).

YOUNGSTERS WERE also present, with most on hand to help out. Anthony Clark, 13, of the Robert McCormick Chicago Boy's club center, served refreshments at his second Valentine's Day Ball.

"I like it and I like missing school. I'm having a good time. The tips are good, too," he said while holding up a dollar bill.

The Boy's club, the Girl Scouts, the HAWK (Help Argyle-Winthrop-Kenmore) Block Club were among youth organizations manning the coat room, helping senior to and from the Aragon and making centerpieces and decorations for the event.

"Bringing 2,500 people together for an afternoon is not small task," said Kathy Osterman, a chief coordinator of the ball. "But Uptown residents believe in their community and are committed to showing how this community works together to benefit all residents."

Independence of Jews limits power, says Stone

"THE JEWISH community is missing the power of block voting," Ald. Bernard Stone (50th) said at a lecture at Congregation KINS on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

In speaking on "The Jew and Politics...Success or Failure?," Stone said, "It's unfortunate that the Jew, primarily due to his independence, which is due to the oppression he's been dealt, rebels against being in any group."

Stone said that this limits the effectiveness and power of Jews. Various minority groups have had success when acting as a political unit, he said. "We don't



ALD. BERNARD STONE

realize that we are a mi-

nority and that we must remember our own needs."

Stone also discussed the city's handling of snow removal in the wake of the blizzards.

"Only twice before has the city plowed side streets," he said. "And alleys have never been plowed before. Still, people just expected to be plowed out."

Stone said it was difficult to explain to constituents who wanted their streets plowed, that there were 370 blocks to be cleared.

"These are not the same people who went through the Depression. People have to help themselves. My street was never plowed," he said. "We did it ourselves."

Also raised was the subject of aldermanic raises. Stone said aldermen have earned their raises. "Who works 14 hours a day, seven days a week for \$21,000? And during the storm I worked 36 to 40 hours straight," he said.

• A chicken in every pot, it "ain't what it used to be." Back in the '30s, chicken cost more than prime rib, ham or fillet of sole. That was before the hybrid broil-

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