

For helping retarded citizens

Citizen group honors activists

The Ninth Annual Awards Dinner of the Oakland County Association for Retarded Citizens (OCARC) will be held Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

Suzanne Geba, news reporter for WXYZ-TV and recipient of the National ARC 1978 Media Excellence Award for her series entitled, "Homes for the Retarded," will present the service awards during the ceremony.

The awards selection committee, consisting of chairman Tom Scheurman of Bloomfield Hills, Carol Jenkins of Farmington, Mary Lou Herrold of Birmingham, and Mrs. Hugh Graham of Rochester, met on Feb. 5 to review the nomination forms and determine the winners in each of eight categories.

Former State Rep. Mel Larsen of Oxford will be presented with the friend of the retarded award for his work in securing rights for retarded persons through legislative action. He also helped the OCARC staff seek appropriate avenues to continue their citizen advocacy program and to establish the legal advocacy program. Larsen was recently elected the state's Republican Party chairman.

Thomas Hoad of Berkley will receive the distinguished service award in thanks for the many hours he spends with retarded students at the Oak Park Developmental Center in Roseville School. Three hours a day, five days a week, Hoad donates his time to helping wherever he is needed, usually around the pool or gym. Last year, he went on two week-long camping trips with

the students and also coached special olympians and visited sick students in the hospital.

THE RECIPIENT OF the volunteer of the year award is Louis Benavidez of Pontiac, who established Boy Scout Troop No. 1, for retarded boys, 16 years ago. Benavidez has been the scoutmaster ever since its founding, accompanying the troop on all outings, which include camping trips and scout jamborees.

The special olympics volunteer award winner is Joan Ostrowski of Royal Oak. Ostrowski, a teacher at the Oakland Training Institute-Lamphere, has been volunteering her time for the past four years and has been instrumental in increasing the number of volunteers available for the events.

Marion Kile of Warren will be honored with the teacher of the year award for his work in a vocational educational program he directs in the Jardon School in Ferndale. Kile, who also serves as principal of the school, has 20 years of teaching experience and is responsible for helping educable students through the school and to successful job placement.

Gemco Electric Co. of Clawson will be presented the contractor of the year award, for contracting through the Oakland Training Institute-Lamphere the assembly of 1,500 cam units per week. The job has greatly contributed to the feeling of self-worth of the clients at the center.

Charles Guillani, former manager of the Meijer Thrifty Acres store in Royal Oak, is the recipient of the employer of the year award. Guillani, who was recently promoted to the company's Lansing outlet, actively recruited mentally impaired students to work in the building services department, and supervised each employee, offering support and encouragement.

THE HUGH GRAHAM inspiration award, presented to the retarded individual who has made some accomplishment or achievement appropriate to their level of development, will be presented to Chris Hunt of Berkley. Since the age of five, Hunt has been in a program of the for the mentally impaired. He was employed as a bus washer for Sedra-Car of Michigan on a part-time basis, has worked as a mechanic's assistant, and now has a position as a janitor for the Berkley School District, working on an as-needed basis.

Hunt's own description of himself best relates the meaning of the award: "I used to be retarded, but I'm not anymore."
The dinner will begin at 4 p.m. with a champagne punch, followed by dinner and the awards presentation. Tickets are \$12.50 a person or \$25 per couple. Reservations can be made by phoning the OCARC office at 646-4522.



Saxophonist featured

Internationally renowned saxophonist Donald Sinta will be guest soloist with the Farmington Community Band tonight at 8 p.m. in the Harrison High School auditorium. The concert is free but a ticket is required. Tickets can be obtained at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, 31555 Eleven Mile Rd. For more information, call Paul Barber at 477-3382.

Obituaries

EHTEL CHEETHAM LOONEY

Mrs. Looney, 86, of Farmington Hills died Feb. 7.

She was born in England on May 16, 1890.

Survivors are: son, James; daughter, Mrs. Ruth Resnick and nine grandchildren.

Services were conducted by Father Joseph A. Drogowski at St. Clare of Assisi Roman Catholic Church.

Burial was in Monson, Mass. on Feb. 10.

EDITH MARION NELSON

Mrs. Nelson, 44, of Farmington Hills died Feb. 16 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

She was employed by the Magnetics Video Corp.

Survivors are: husband, Earl, son, Stanley D., Duane W., daughter, Mrs. Debra Meter; sisters, Mrs. Winifred Marion, Mrs. Sandra Quinton and four grandchildren.

Services were conducted on Feb. 20 by Rev. Paul D. Borsche of the North-West Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. Burial was at Oakland Hills Memorial Park Cemetery in Novi.

NOBLE (PETE) BURGNER

Mr. Burgner, 84, of Farmington Hills died on Feb. 11 in Botsford General Hospital.

Born in Indiana on Oct. 3, 1894, Mr. Burgner was an area resident for 30 years. He was a paint supervisor for the Checker Cab Co. A veteran of World War I, he belonged to Orient Lodge 272 of F & AM of Detroit.

Survivors are daughters, Mrs. Betty Currie, Mrs. Jean Freeland; sister Mrs. Pearl Kaley, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Services were conducted by Rev. William Wager of Altersgate United Methodist Church of Detroit on Feb. 14. Burial was at Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Alma selects musician

Ann Simanek of Farmington Hills was one of 12 Alma College Kiltie Band musicians selected to participate in the 1979 Michigan Small Colleges Honors Band Concert at Albion College on Feb. 3.

The honors band, composed of 85 students from several Michigan cities, was conducted by Pulitzer Prize winning composer Karel Husa, a faculty member at Cornell University. The band performed four works. Two of them were compositions by Husa.

A sophomore at Alma, Ann plays the flute in the Alma College Kiltie Band. She is the daughter of Mrs. and Mr. Robert C. Simanek of 25194 Westmoreland, Farmington Hills. She's a 1977 graduate of Harrison High School.

The honors band participants from Alma were selected on the recommendation of Kiltie Band director Todd Snyder.

Farmington Observer

USPS 187-940
Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Economic News-Service, 3825 Greenleaf Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class Postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3529) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 591-0200.
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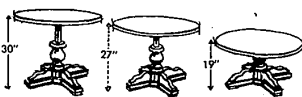


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