

Waldorf Kinder House comes to the suburbs

By LORAIN McCLISH

The Waldorf Institute Troubadours, a group of teachers from Waldorf Institute of Mercy College, come to Oakland County for six visits in May and June to introduce the opening of Waldorf Kinder House. The school will be located at 1945 Fourteen Mile, in Beverly Hills.

The troubadours bring puppet shows, story telling, song games, music and clowns from their Detroit-based school on Burns Avenue in Indian Village. Their two-hour long show illustrates the educational principles of the school devised by the Austrian philosopher-educator Rudolf Steiner.

Their first appearance will be at 2 p.m. May 14 in Birmingham's Common Ground, 1090 South Adams.

The troubadours will be part of the Earth Day Festival, out-of-doors at 2120 Fourteen Mile, Birmingham, at 11 a.m. May 21. And they will come to Farmington's University Hills Center, 27000 Farmington Road, at 10 a.m. June 4.

THE IMMEDIATE goal of the newly formed Oakland Waldorf Association, headed by Lora Valsi, is to establish an early childhood center in the county.

Applications are being taken now for nursery and kindergarten youngsters next fall.

The school will offer a wide range of cultural and social experiences in a protective environment.

"The artistic experience permeates every aspect of the Waldorf curriculum and it is interwoven with practical activities as well," said Mrs. Valsi.

The curriculum will include language arts, music, creative movement, watercolor painting, and crafts, where only natural materials are used. Toys and play equipment are all handcrafted, and all the dolls and soft toys are especially designed for the Waldorf preschool.

"It is the task of art, in a Waldorf School to keep the creative powers of childhood alive, so that they change into the ability to give form to work undertaken in adulthood," Mrs. Valsi said. "Singing and recorder playing, painting and drawing, modeling and eurythmy (graceful movement) are not practiced for their own sake alone, but because they are so presented that they become disciplines which strengthen initiative, as well as

the ability to visualize a problem, or shape a given situation," she said.

While dormant capacities can be awakened through art, the right balance with intellectual work is essential.

"One kind of work strengthens the other," she said.

EXPANDING on the teaching of eurythmy, Mrs. Valsi explained, "It is a form of movement which expresses musical tone or the sounds of human speech. It uses the whole body as an instrument, strengthens coordination and the ability to listen."

"When children experience themselves like an orchestra, for example, and have to keep a clear relationship in space with each other, a social strengthening results. Eurythmy also cultivates a sense of balance and spatial orientation."

The first Waldorf School was founded in 1919. There are now 150 such schools throughout the world, many of which reach through the high school years.

The troubadours return to Birmingham with a mime and story telling session, and folk songs, at 2 p.m. June 11 in Common Ground. On June 18, the new Kinder House will be open from 2 to 4 p.m.

Serving with Ms. Valsi on the board of trustees for the Oakland association, are Janet Sheets and Bette Ann Hart, both Waldorf teachers; Werner Glas, a founder and director of the Waldorf Institute of Mercy College; Hans Gebert, an adjunct professor at Mercy College and director of the Waldorf Institute.



LORA VALSI

"Get involved" GOP worker tells youth

By LORAIN McCLISH

A long-time worker for the Republican party will be back in Mercy High School this spring, telling the senior girls how to have a hand in the way their government is run.

Della Wright, who has just taken a job on the Republican State Committee's executive committee, said, "I want to encourage young people to get involved. I want to tell them how important it is for them to get started now and have a say in running things. I want them to get their 15 names to be a precinct delegate and get their feet wet now. I wish I'd started at their age."

"Mrs. Wright, a first generation Irish Catholic who got her political feet wet on the Wayne County side of the 17th Congressional District by becoming a precinct delegate in a Democratic stronghold, will speak before Mercy government classes."

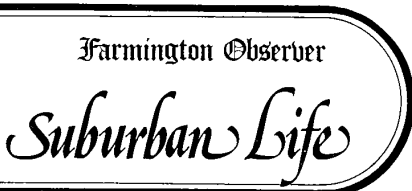
"I didn't know a soul and I didn't have to," she said, speaking of her start in politics. "I went to a state convention and told them who I was and why I was there and they put me to work." She said THAT WAS 12 years ago. Now a resident of Farmington, still in the 17th District, her work for the party ran the grass roots route through telephone campaigns and stuffing envelopes; waging a lost campaign for Wayne County commissioner; work on the state committee; and then serving as alternate delegate to the 1976 Republican convention in Kansas City.

She termed the Kansas City convention, "absolutely thrilling. Something everyone should do once in a lifetime."

Currently she's involved with a mailing of petitions that aims for 400,000



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names to put a proposal by Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson on the ballot.

The proposal asks that no parolee be released from prison before a minimum sentence is served.

"That has nothing to do with the Republican party or with my work on the committee," she said. "There have been 11 deaths in Oakland alone that are suspected to have been committed by parolees before they served their minimum time. As wife of a retired law enforcement officer, she said she'd collect petitions whether she was active in politics or not."

Her work on the issue, which she expects will be placed on the state ballot in August, is part of what she calls "what this system is all about."

"Isn't it all hard work? Standing in supermarkets with petitions? Making 'phone calls? Letting your voice be heard?"

"Oh, if people would only realize how much clout they'd have if they'd all band together on anything they wanted," she said.

THE EXECUTIVE committee is one of four committees within the state committee. The members' jobs are not much different this term than in the past: set policy, and at the same time, beef up the percentage of known Republicans in the state.

Mrs. Wright's feelings is that the job can be done by getting young people involved in the party, and getting the Republicans themselves to improve their own public relations.

She believes the Republicans have been remiss in "not hammering away at the positive things we've done. The party doesn't seem to want to do anything about getting rid of their rich-man image."

Her own Irish-Catholic background is not as maverick for a Republican as it sounds, she claims.

"We need a mixture and there is a mixture. With the youth being so knowledgeable now, I see many of them turning to independents and this is encouraging to us who are working for the Republicans to become the ma-

jority party," she said.

This was in evidence, she said, when she served as chairman for the recent Eisenhower dinner in Oakland County.

"It was the biggest fundraiser we've ever had in the county. It made us very optimistic," she said.

MRS. WRIGHT, a retired Wayne County Civil Service employee, and her husband, Harry, divide their time between their Farmington home and a cottage on Lake Huron.

"Between the cottage and running up to Lansing and meetings all over the state, my suitcase is never unpacked," she said. The couple has six children, one at home.

She sums up her work in politics by saying, "We only pass this way once. I hope I will leave a mark in some little way that's made a difference for the better."

She said she would be willing to talk to other school classes, or young people's groups about working for what they want in their world by calling her at 476-1328.



DELLA WRIGHT

Jaycette Week topped with gift to Botsford

By LORAIN McCLISH

Dee Tretinik gets ready to take over the presidency of the Farmington Area Jaycettes as the auxiliary goes into Jaycette Week, May 8-14.

The week will be capped with the presentation of a heart monitoring device, given for use in the pediatric ward of Botsford Hospital.

"That's the whole idea behind Jaycette Week," said Nancy Dittmar, chairman for the week's events, "to give money we've raised and donate it for use in the community."

The tree house that is now the focal point of the children's room in Farmington Community Library on Liberty was the Jaycette's gift to the community last spring.

Basically a service organization, the local group has combined service with fund-raising to promote a twice-a-year arts and crafts sale to provide local handicrafters with a market for their work.

Another similar project is BUBS. The acronym stands for Buckle Up, Babies Safety, a service in which infant car seats can be rented, rather than purchased, for the period of time needed.

THE GROUP also mans snack bars while they give of time and talent to the parent organization in its standing projects.

Members work regularly on the region, he'd every year in conjunction with Farmington Founders Day Festival, on the haunted house every October, the bike rodeo, jump clump competitions and "Walk for Mankind."

"The money in their treasury always goes back to the community. The Farmington Community Center gets a monetary donation every year, a gift of some needed item for the house, and untold manhours for maintenance and grounds upkeep. Vocational scholarships go to local youth every year, and food baskets go out regularly to needy families in the community."

Many adults at Northville State Hospital are treated to trips so they may attend special events throughout the year, and time is given to help out

where help is needed in Oakhill Nursing Home.

While these projects continue at a local level, the group delegates other members to be involved in Jaycette state-wide issues and projects.

MRS. TRETINIK will take over her new post as president for outgoing president Jana Sprys in the inaugural set for May 21 in Madonna College. Her vice president will be Chris Eliasen.

Other incoming officers are Debbie Damesworth, Jan Snyder, Harriet

Reed, Mary Bills, Claudia Heinrich and Connie Jones.

Their jobs will be to assist the parent club, but a new concept, introduced in 1974, called Jaycette Cooperation, puts the auxiliary participation on equal footing with equal responsibilities on the Jaycette projects.

About the same time, membership was expanded to include any woman, married or single, between the ages of 18-35. Formerly, members were wives of Jaycettes.



Jana Sprys leaves the presidency of the Farmington Jaycettes after 4 years of community service topped with a gift to Botsford Hospital. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)



Marjorie Chellstorp, top winner in the Farmington Artists Club's spring exhibit, is flanked by Marjorie Belanger (at left) representing the Farmington Community Arts Commission, and Alice Nichols, chairman of the exhibit.

Farmington Artist Club names exhibit winners

By LORAIN McCLISH

Marjorie Chellstorp walked away from the Farmington Artists Club's spring art exhibit with a first prize for her watercolor called "Orange-scape," and two honorable mentions.

Kay Kujawski took second place for her oil painting, "Daisies," and E. J. Joppich took third for mixed media, "String Fever."

Other honorable mentions went to Dorothy Clark, Jerine Halabau, Robert Reed, Barbara Turney, and Ms. Joppich.

Winners were juried by Guy Palazola, from the 101 works of art selected for the show. Ms. Joppich took yet another award, The Artists' Choice, which she tied for first place with Fran Bardi, Shirley Hulet and Ms. Kujawski tied

for second in this voting, and honorable mentions went to Norma Curran, Sara Fox, Frank Hibberd, Frank Lohan and Celia Surbrook.

All prize money this year came from the Farmington Community Arts Commission, the Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington, and the Art Alcove. NORMA JEANNE CURRAN took the first place award in the popular vote, after tallying thousands of votes that came from visitors who voted for their favorite in the spring exhibit.

Celia Surbrook's collage, "Born Blue," came in second in the popular vote, followed by Ms. Kujawski's oil, "Tug Boats." The fourth through ninth place awards were given to Ms. Curran's

"Tiger"; Ms. Curran's "German Shepherd"; Frank Lohan's "Lakeshore"; Ms. Kujawski's "Daisies"; Bill Dombrowski's "Lily Pond in Marshall"; and Margie Matovina's "Living Free."

Purchase Awards were made possible through contributions from Bob Saks, of Bob Saks Oldsmobile, M. Grunbacher Artists Material furnished the merchandise award and Permanent Pigment Artist Material came from Nelson's Livonia Custom Picture Framing Company.

The decorative origami paper flowers that decorated the downtown room of the Farmington Hills Community Library for the show, came from Jim Scott, of Chope Stevens' Paper Company.