

A public thank you

Community center depends on its volunteers

By LORAIN McCLISH

A corps of hard-working volunteers contribute much to the Farmington Community Center's success in providing much of its own support.

Although popular, well-attended activities add to the center's success, such events would hardly be possible without the volunteers who help with class registration, clerical work and most special events.

The center is now in the midst of its spring fund drive. The goal is \$35,000, the amount necessary to keep the doors open for the estimated 90,000 persons who visit the center every year.

"While we are soliciting for funds, I think it is appropriate that we give a public thanks to our many volunteers," said Alberta Taylor, executive director for the center.

A volunteer board of directors organizes fundraising activities that involve hundreds of other volunteers. The largest and best known of these events is the Spring Festival, during which several hundred adults and young people arrange everything from

entertainment and parking cars to cleaning tables.

VOLUNTEER chairmen and helpers run the Antique Show, the Arts and Crafts Show, the Fall Fashion Show, and Irene MacKinnon's annual fashion show.

Mrs. MacKinnon is a long-time volunteer for the center. She is known for her sewing classes and the shows she organizes in which her students model their creations. She sets her own goal of raising \$1,000 for the center every year.

Two very popular programs in the center, the Bridge Club and the Saturday Night S.N. Ous, owe their continuance entirely to the volunteers.

For the last eight years, Mr. and Mrs. Will Schwehr have spent two Friday evenings of each month hosting the Bridge Club. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Binroth and Mr. and Mrs. Manfred Hagdorn chaperone the ski buses ten Saturdays a year, and they have been doing this for four years.

Two garden clubs, the Farmington Garden Club, and Hill and Dale, plant

and tend the summer gardens on the center grounds, decorate the house every Christmas season and provide financial support.

Cub Scout Pack 45 cleans the grounds every spring and fall. Candidates for the Boy Scout Eagle rank often choose the center for their community service project.

Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls and their leaders work together for the center's "Festival of the Trees" when every room in the center is adorned with a Christmas tree decorated in the tradition of many nations.

ORGANIZATIONS such as the Jaycees and Jaycee Auxiliary offer days of service painting, repairing and cleaning. In addition, the groups offer gifts of money. Each year the center benefits from the Jaycee-sponsored "Walk for Farmington."

Other organizations give benefit affairs.

The Farmington Neighbors and Welcome Wagon newcomers Club each give a fashion show-luncheon. The Farmington Village Town Club stages

an art auction and donates the proceeds to the center.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) gives generously from its book sale. That group donated the center's lighted sign and supplied the house with new storm windows.

The Rotary Club gave the center its microphone and sound system.

"Many organizations give to the center. The list is really too long to itemize," Mrs. Taylor said, "but these are the groups who gave just in 1978-79: William R. Angell Foundation, Blue Star Mothers, Botsford Garden Club, Exchange Club, Farmington Bowling Association and the City of Farmington."

"More are Farmington Education Association, Farmington Area Lions, Farmington Musicians, Farmington Parish Credit Union, Kiwanis of North Farmington, Old Homestead Subdivision, Quakerstown Quarters, St. Fabian Church Women, the Vivians, the VFW, Weight Watchers of Eastern Michigan and Women of North Farmington."

FRANKLIN KNOLLS Improvement Association honors the center by sending contributions in memory of residents who lived in the subdivision.

Many individuals have contributed their expertise to the center.

John Allen has given many hours drawing architectural plans for improvements the center hopes to make if foundation funds can be procured.

Bob Grinager and Hollis Johnson have dedicated time this past fall and winter organizing new office and book-keeping procedures.

Frank Smith spends weeks rebuilding the receptionist's office.

Last summer, George Nahstoll, the center's president, spent a weekend at the Farmington Festival helping young volunteers man game booths, where all proceeds benefitted the center.

"The list could go on and on," Mrs. Taylor said, "but the point is that the center could not be what it is without community backing in the form of volunteering as well as dollars."

"Most of the volunteers give both."



ALBERTA TAYLOR

New work will be premiered as composer takes degree

By LORAIN McCLISH

The composition of Charlene Slabey, the first woman to receive a master's degree in music theory and composition from Eastern Michigan University, will be performed by Madrigal Club of Detroit.

"Earth Psalms," which Mrs. Slabey wrote for her thesis, will be premiered in April at Southfield North Congregational Church. It will be repeated in May at Eastern's Pease Auditorium.

Lyrics for Earth Psalms come from Mrs. Slabey's long-time friend and partner in creative endeavors, June Rado.

The two have teamed up as composer and lyricist for numerous works through their affiliation with Farmington Musicales. Their major works, prior to "Earth Psalms," are "Mackinaw," "Psalms for Living," and "The Power of It All."

Mrs. Slabey pursued her master's degree at Eastern because of the reputation of Anthony Immaccone, professor of composition.

He helped secure a grant, through Eastern's Office of Campus Life and in turn, through the Michigan Council for the Arts, which will pay for the instrumentalists' performance of "Earth Psalms."

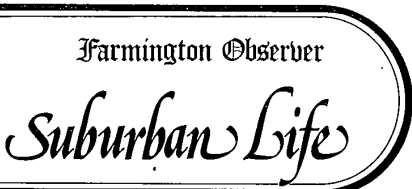
MRS. SLABEY composed the music for "Earth Psalms" using the same format that she and Mrs. Rado have found successful previously. Mrs. Rado writes the lyrics and Mrs. Slabey carries out the mood in her music.

The four movements of the work are called Creation, Humanity, War and Space, based, Mrs. Slabey says, "On the result of many conversations between author and composer about philosophy, religion, the state of man and his relation to the creator."

She calls the finished work, "Super for women's voices." And, after views, she is rehearsing this week with Madrigal director, Charles Gleason, she said it was "more thrilling and exciting than I had expected."



Thursday, March 23, 1978



(F)18

Obtaining her degree, however, was rife with frustrations.

THE SLABEY family had been promised they could move into their new house at 34800 Bunker Hill, Farmington Hills, on a date that was two months off the mark. So for that time, the family of five was scattered between motels and friends' homes. And because most motels don't give guests access to a piano, Mrs. Slabey carried her work every day to an office in St. John Lutheran Church.

Meanwhile, youngest daughter Mindy had to be driven and picked up from school every day at Duncel Junior High School. In the midst of it all, Mrs. Slabey was hospitalized for a short time.

"The best thing that happened all during that time," she said, "was the snow. We were snowed in for four days and all I could do was work. When it was over I felt like I had completed 10,000 hours worth of work."

Then, while working on tiny graph paper to complete the orchestration of "Earth Psalms," another emergency arose with a mixup involving the ordering of new glasses.

Farmington Musicales members and friends, Helen Anderson and Lois

Swanson, both offered help with some of the copying and re-copying demanded by Immaccone.

Through it all, she says her husband Ted, an organist, gave her her greatest compliment when the couple heard the rehearsal, by stating, "It sounds like a polished you."

NOW THAT she is seeing the completion of "Earth Psalms," she said she will get back to working on a half-completed mass that was interrupted

when she read Mrs. Rado's lyrics for the new work.

Mrs. Slabey has taught piano in her home since 1950. She said of all she has done in the music world, some of her proudest moments have come with students who became scholarship winners.

Her son Ted, a pianist and oboist, plans to make a career in music. Her daughter Marcy is a dancer. Daughter Mindy is first chair clarinetist at Duncel.



Charlene Slabey is in the final throes of completing the orchestration for "Earth Psalms" that will be premiered in Southfield this spring. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

OCC troupe

Everybody gets into the act

it to nursery schools.

THE TROUPE answers requests for performances without charge, though something recent has been passing a box for donations to The Jill Robinson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Jill was a young victim of the Oak-

land County child murderer. The fund was established by her father, an OCC professor at the Southeast campus.

At the end of last term, the troupe was able to give more than \$300 to the fund, and Smith expects it will be more this term because of the

increased number of performances the troupe has given.

The troupe will continue to perform throughout the summer.

Smith will take inquiries and requests for performances, by calling him at 476-9100, ext. 461.

Women's legal rights seminar is April 8

"Women—Know Your Legal Rights," is the seminar set for Saturday, April 8, in the Community House in Birmingham, sponsored by the Oakland County Women's Bar Association. The seminar will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., planned intentionally so that working women can participate.

Some of the topics to be discussed are credit, cards, mortgages, loans, wife, and, or child abuse; employment discrimination; social security; estate planning; the ramifications of married versus single legal rights for women.

Under the co-chairmanship of Berl Ander, president of the women's bar association, and JoAnn Russu, vice-president, the seminar will also offer women an opportunity to discuss legal aspects that pertain to females in a variety of areas.

INCLUDED among the lawyers who will be at the seminar are Lynn Shecter, who will discuss employment discrimination and Ms. Russu, who will talk about divorce. Maxine Basso's subject is real estate and Beryl Ander's is marriage contracts and pre-nuptial agreements.

Justicia Cooper will talk about juveniles, and Mary Lou Bennethum,

credit, and Chris Kotsis, battered children and spouses.

Other subjects on the agenda include rape laws, wills, trusts, the new sexual misconduct laws, traffic offenses, Social Security, and women, courts and attorneys.

The sponsoring group encourages women of all ages to participate, whether they are married or single, widowed, engaged or divorced, to become more aware of the legal implications that will touch them, sooner or later.

The Community House joins in the sponsorship of the seminar to bring the thinking woman a special opportunity to obtain professional information, and a legal awareness, in a field not usually open to the public.

THE SEMINAR will break for lunch at noon, followed by more topics for discussion. Luncheon will be served in the Community House and is included in the \$16 registration fee.

Ample time will be allowed for all questions and answers.

Interested persons can register at the Community House, Bates and Townsend.

Inquiries will be taken by calling 644-5822.

There are about 12 skits in the troupe's repertoire, and almost all of them are written for audience participation.

Most are stories told by a narrator with actor's lines interjected, or overlapping the storyteller's lines, and most contain a message or a moral.

ONE SKIT conveyed that what was inside a person, or thing, was more important than its size. Another told about the town of "Good Feeling" which lost its good feeling when the townspeople forgot how to share. Another had to do with comic and entertaining guests.

Some of the skits were all done in rhyme. Some had music, or background music.

All of the players are volunteer. Some are working for credit, but all are, or have been, dramatic students, who enjoy entertaining children.

Smith's troupe and his philosophy of getting youngsters to join in the story-plays has been so successful, he is holding workshops now. Some are in high schools so that the teens can bring this type of entertainment into the elementary schools.

One will be given to seniors in The Gathering Place so that they can pass



Members of Oakland Community College's players had no trouble getting volunteers from the young audience who eagerly took and played out their roles

In an afternoon of drama. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)