

B'nai B'rith Women

A spot for any woman with something to contribute

By LORRAINE McCLISH

The accent is on new members "and there is always room for more," said Barbara Zonder, speaking for Metropolitan Detroit B'nai B'rith Women.

There is room for more volunteers within the multiple and varied programs the 5,000 members carry on throughout the metropolitan area and there is more room for the newcomers who will be guests of honor at the luncheon and fashion show on Wednesday, Sept. 12, in Glen Oaks Country Club.

"That's the day we say thank you for joining. Have a nice afternoon with all of us," Mrs. Zonder said, who is this season's membership chairwoman and a resident of Farmington Hills.

"We'll find a spot for any woman who has something she wants to contribute," said Emily Rogow, a Southfield resident who is the group's membership continuity chairwoman.

The two women explained that of all the chapters and units in the area that make up the council, some are comprised of young women, some mature women, some career women who prefer an evening meeting rather than one during the day.

"Women who had different interests just kind of gathered together in one group," Ms. Rogow said, "but now we



SYLVIA ROSS

are putting an emphasis on this so that if age, or career, or interest is of special concern, we'll steer newcomers accordingly."

B'NAI BRITH WOMEN is made up of Jewish women, but the council's new president, Sylvia Ross, of Huntington Woods, made it clear that the services rendered were non-sectarian across the board.



BARBARA ZONDER

She mentioned the group's work with "Healthy Baby Week" in cooperation with March of Dimes, and a Christmas party the women give in cooperation with League for the Handicapped, as examples of working with other agencies when called upon.

She cited another dozen examples of the kinds of work individual units choose to do because of their own spe-



EMILY ROGOW

cial interest.

One group works with Children's Village. Another brings "Dolls for Democracy" into schools, telling stories about the doll which resembles Martin Luther King, Eleanor Roosevelt, or Susan B. Anthony, in an effort to combat prejudice.

Another group works to brighten up the lives of those in veteran hospitals,



BLANCHE BAUMAN

and another group works toward child abuse prevention.

"All volunteers of today can be put to a worthwhile achievement," said Blanche Bauman, the group's membership vice president of Southfield. "We have offshoots (of volunteer service) on top of the offshoots."

In October, B'nai B'rith Women will double up on its services to the elderly,

when another new building will be ready for occupancy, built by the Jewish Federation.

THE THRIFT SHOP owned and operated by B'nai B'rith Women is staffed by the volunteers in its Oak Park location, continues as a fund-raiser for the resettlement of Soviet Jews, the women's contribution to the Book Fair in the Jewish Community Center every year, and the Anti Defamation League.

"But no matter what the project or the cause, we all have a very soft spot in our hearts for our children's home in Israel," Ms. Ross said.

The home houses 70 young victims of poverty and war from the ages of 7-14, and return to Israel the highest percentage of healthy young men than any other institution in the world.

On Sept. 13 members will turn models to show fashions from Sylvia's for the 60 newcomers and their sponsors who will join in the on-going programs, or maybe create some new ones," Mrs. Zonder said.

People wishing membership information or an invitation to the luncheon are invited to call the B'nai B'rith Women headquarters in Southfield, open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays, 355-0146, or they can call Mrs. Zonder at 661-4326.

St. Alexander Fall Festival

Parish works to hold its financial seams together

St. Alexander parish sponsors its fall festival this year from Friday through Sunday, Sept. 7-9, a festival that was scouted at in its beginnings and odds stacked against its success.

Yet it returns for the fifth fall with high hopes for an increasing number of visitors to the grounds and increased proceeds from an increasing number of parishioners who make the fair work.

If you walked around the grounds with your eyes closed, it might seem like any other fair with games tents and food and bingo and rides — but look again.

Instead of a stuffed animal for a prize, some of the games on the midway give bags or baskets of food to the winners.

Saturday afternoon's festivities are all geared to senior citizens, entertainment and prices alike.

And there is discount prices for kids during certain hours.

They all reflect the church's outreach of Christian service.

The festival began with a pastor that was skeptical, a good number of parishioners who lived outside the parish boundaries, more than half of the parishioners listed as "un-active" and the bulk of them earning incomes from low to moderate range.

Yet the fair's first income was \$18,000. Last year it was \$28,000.

"THE SINGLE MOST identifiable motive that drives the members is the fact that they have to have a festival to survive," said Larry Rospierski.

"The fall event isn't run to have fun, although that certainly is an obvious by-product, but instead to make money. When the festivals were initiated the parish was hopelessly in debt."

"Members were unable to retire the principal balance of the loan needed to construct the original church buildings

(now 15 years old) and the interest payments were seven years in arrears."

The situation compounded as major repairs chipped away at the cash flow. And the Christian ministry of this tiny church proportionately costs more in time and money to run than many of its larger community counterparts.

Rospierski stated that "the parish supports more charities in proportion to its size and resources than other comparable parishes."

Food collections are continuously made for the needy, usually distributed to St. Patrick and Holy Trinity parishes, and to Duns Scotus College, for distribution by the friars there.

Various church groups provide social services at Williamsburg Convalescent Center.

Parishioners provide religious needs at area hospitals.

Senior high school students serve Sunday dinners for the elderly.



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"THESE ACTS of community involvement are not unique that they are being done, because that's what the church is supposed to do," Rospierski said. "The situation is unique from the standpoint that they're being performed by a parish that's small to be-

gin with and being constantly drained by having to hold together at its financial seams."

Motivation for the push on all fronts was answered by Rev. James Wright,

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The four young men are the first Spanish speaking music students ever to receive a scholarship to Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp in Michigan's Manistee National Forest. During

their stay here Rene Ramirez (at left), Adalberto Lamdazder, Manlio Garay and Julio Granados were the guests of the John Hughes and Robert Zimmerman families.

Music removes language barrier for Latin guests

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Four young musicians from South America are back home now after a session at Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp and visits with two Farmington Hills families.

Rene Ramirez, Adalberto Lamdazder, Manlio Garay and Julio Granados made their journey to Michigan through arrangements with Frances Hughes, a name familiar in Farmington area's music circles.

Ms. Hughes, who spent many of her early summers in Blue Lake, was responsible for their trip and also the first scholarships ever given by the fine arts camp to young musicians from South America.

"Most of the international exchanges have been with Europeans," said Barbara Hughes, who housed two of the Latin guests her daughter brought to Michigan.

"The Europeans almost always speak some English so sitting in an English-speaking music lesson is not difficult. With those from Spanish-speaking countries, the language barrier can be so great as to make an exchange scholarship futile."

The language barrier did prove difficult for the guests as well as both the John Hughes family and the Robert Zimmerman family who housed the other two young men on their stay here.

THINGS CONTINUED "to be pretty bad on the first few days of class in Blue Lake," Mrs. Hughes said.

"Musical terms were very difficult for them, but only for the first few days. They caught up eventually."

"Maybe because they were such good musicians. Maybe because music is the common language," she mused.

Frances Hughes was a member of the Glockenspiels (the junior club of the Farmington Musicales) while she lives here.

"She played bassoon in Blue Lake's woodwind ensemble and the camp's International Jazz Band."

By the time she was 18, she was a Blue Lakes camp counselor, and then served as the camp's choir counselor for two years.

Most of the camp's counselors speak a foreign language, because of its international program, but Spanish was not one Frances Hughes had mastered before she became enamored with South America.

"During her first trip to El Salvador with the National Orchestra of Nicaragua, she knew she would be going back there," Mrs. Hughes said of her daughter.

Frances Hughes is now first bassoonist with Orquesta Sinfonica and teaching wind instruments at the National Music School in San Salvador, where she met the four young men she thought should get scholarships to Blue Lake.

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