

Farmington Players

Budding thespians invited to 8-part workshop

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Family Players begins its new year with a series of eight workshops running from 7-10 p.m. each night, Mondays through Thursdays, Jan. 7-10 and 14-17 in Farmington Community Center.

Participation in the workshops is open to persons of all ages interested in theater.

The first six workshops are compulsory for those who are interested in acting or newcomers who wish to become members of Family Players.

"We start out with an overview of theater for the first workshop, and go into individual facets of theater with all those that follow," said Sally Sawyer, founder of the unique group with a membership that consists of entire families.

"If a father wanted to join us just to do set construction, that would be the only workshop he would have to attend. But if his son (for example) wanted to be on-stage, he would be required to attend the first six."

"This just helps the new actors to better help themselves while they are on stage," Mrs. Sawyer said.

Workshop participants will be schooled in mime and how it relates to theater, make-up, special effects, light, sound, costume design, props and set construction.

THE FIRST optional workshop on the agenda will bring Carol Madalin from Michigan Opera Theater for a session on music for theater. The second optional workshop will be devoted to those who want to learn about sewing for the stage.

"It's a special kind of sewing," Mrs. Sawyer said. "Costumes must look good to the audience, but fine hand-stitching is certainly not necessary."

Any one over 16 years of age may sign up for any or all workshops alone, but those under 16 must be a member of a family with a family membership for participation.

"This is very necessary," Mrs. Sawyer said, "because it takes about 20 persons backstage to put one up front."

The concept of bringing families together working toward the next production has worked well for Mrs. Sawyer, who wrote, directed and produced her first play here six years ago to complete requirements for a fine arts degree.

From those days, starting with a membership of six families, though members have come and gone, the group is now made up of 20 families who come from many of the metropolitan area's northwest suburbs.

"We have a following now and we have a reputation for doing the unusual, so we'll have to come up with something unusual for the spring play. It hasn't been decided yet, but we're thinking of doing something from 'The Hobbit'."

SO FAR AS Mrs. Sawyer is aware, the Family Players were the first in this area to do an English pantomime.

"Cinders," a comedic form of the fairy tale Cinderella, played to full houses during its fall run in Farmington Hills' Warner Junior High School.

Family Players was also the first to bring "Charlie in the Chocolate Factory" to local show-goers.

The Family Players have rehearsed and appeared in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Franklin, West Bloomfield, Birmingham, "and we are still looking for a permanent home," Mrs. Sawyer said.

"Right now we have no idea where the next play will be. We had rehearsals planned in a school cafeteria once and had to work around a food compactor that was left in the middle of the stage."

"I tell my cast and crew that if you are going to be in theater you have to be a mover, but I never expected we'd be moving a food compactor," she said.

EVEN SO, Mrs. Sawyer and her



At left is Sally Sawyer, founder and director of Family Players. At right is Sally Sawyer, actress. The players, which draw members



from all of the metropolitan area's northwest suburbs, schedule a series of workshops to begin the new year.

company have racked up a couple of awards along the way.

In 1977 she won a first prize from the Community Theater Association of Michigan for her original play, "How the Penguin Got His Tuxedo."

The same association gave her a

third prize in 1978 for the Production of "Shirley and the Marshmallow Dragons."

Next March she and her company have been invited to participate in "The Parade of Theaters" in Detroit.

Her husband Jerry and the couple's two children, Teery and Dan, have been

members of the players since its onset.

Mike Bisiorek Sr., Mike Bisiorek Jr. and Yvonne Dixon and her two daughters, Denise and Maureen, all of Farmington Hills, are charter members of the group.

"And they will be back with me next season," Mrs. Sawyer said.

Registration for the Family Players January workshops will be taken by calling Farmington Community Center, 477-8404.

All inquiries about membership in Family Players will be taken by calling Mrs. Sawyer at 626-1693.



BARB DERMODY

JUDY ANTISHIN

New 'Fabulous Fridays' line-up begins Jan. 25

"Fabulous Fridays" return to Farmington Community Center for the winter with an every week line-up that promises a something for every one.

The nine-part series runs from Jan. 25 through March 21. Early registrations are suggested, and registration begins, in person, in the center on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 3-4.

Though registration is necessary for all "Fabulous Fridays" events, all sessions which pertain to food and or cooking must be made five days prior to the event.

"Stress Management" leads off the series on Jan. 25 when Alice Belfie tells how to cope with stressful situations that are part of daily living.

Participants will learn the physiology of stress and learn a few breathing and relaxation techniques.

Mrs. Belfie is the founder and co-director of Creative Dynamics, Inc. and affiliated with Greater Detroit Yoga Association.

Her sessions runs from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for a cost of \$4.

Barbara Dermody says that "Everyone is entitled to their just desserts and guests will have an opportunity to sample two on Feb. 1."

The culinary artist heads up "Just Desserts" from 10 a.m. to noon demonstrating how to make Sachertorte, a chocolate cake named after Hotel Sacher in Vienna, and a dessert for Valentine's Day, a strawberry cream roll.

Guests will take home recipes. Admission is \$5.

DIANE SOLOMON, president of Fashion Institute of America, takes the podium Feb. 8 with a session called "Achieving Fashion Success for Less."

From 9:30-11:30 a.m., guests will learn about wardrobe planning, fashion budgeting, how to buy fabrics, and what, when and where to buy sensibly and economically. Admission is \$4.

"The Cuisine of Greece" is scheduled for Feb. 15, with Tzoula Patsulis, owner of Kitchen Glamour, which runs from 1-3 p.m.

The menu calls for spinach pie, pastitsio (a casserole of ground beef, noodles and soufflé) with baklava for dessert.

Guests will sample foods and take home recipes for admission of \$5.

Patsy Price shows "How to Design With Sheets," from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Feb. 22.

She will use bed sheets to show how to turn out tablecloths, napkins, shower curtains, bedspreads, dust ruffles, comforter covers and crib quilts. Admission is \$4.

"TENDERLY YOURS" runs from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Feb. 29. Dan Violante, owner of Holiday Market in Royal Oak offers tips in distinguishing cuts of meat and how to determine tenderness, plus economical ways of buying and cutting meats.

Violante is vice president of Michigan Independent Food Association and a regular guest on Channel 7's Kelly & Company.

Coffee is included in the \$4 admission price.

A two-hour lesson in cake decorating runs from 12:30-2:30 p.m. March 7 with Nancy Wise and Sandy Rossini. After the basics are demonstration, there will be cake and coffee and recipes to take home included in the \$5 admission price.

With plenty of time allowed for practicing for Easter, the March 14 session gives a lesson in "Chocolate Molding."

From 1-3 p.m. Diana Fowler will show how to make chocolate covered cherries, caramel turtles, peanut butter cups and bunnies.

The Greenfield Village instructor will also show guests how to color and flavor white chocolate to form a candy Easter basket. Admission is \$5.

"Fabulous Fridays" wind up on March 21 with "Easter Brunch With Barb and Judy."

The two talented cooks, Barbara Dermody and Judy Antishin, bring appetizers, luncheon menus and handy tips and hints for planning an Easter brunch.

Food samples and printed recipe cards are offered in the 10 a.m. to noon session for admission of \$5.

After the formal in-person registration in the center on Jan. 3-4, registration continues by phone and mail until all tickets are sold.

The center is located on Farmington Road, one half block north of Ten Mile Road.



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Farmington Observer

Suburban Life

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