

'Music to be Thankful For' dedicated to area's senior adults

This spring's concert given by Farmington Concert Band dedicated to the area's senior adults and residents in local nursing homes is called "Music to be Thankful For."

"The title is somewhat unwieldy but it encompasses our thanks for so many things," said Katie Lipski speaking for the band. "The new growth of spring, our wonderful guests, our unique American freedom and composers such as Richard Rogers, whose music will be featured."

"Music to be Thankful For" gets underway at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 27 in Harrison High School's auditorium.

Tickets are free, but necessary.

They may be obtained in Farmington Hills Department of Parks and Recreation, 31555 11 Mile, either in person or by mail. Persons writing for tickets are asked to include a self-addressed envelope.

The concert is the sixth of its kind designed to bring seniors and the handicapped out and active in the community, initiated by Marlowe Belanger, founder of the former Farmington Arts Council and subsequent Farmington Arts Commission.

The annual event is a joint effort, sponsored by the arts commission in

cooperation with the Farmington Hills Department of Parks and Recreation, the Farmington Public School and Clarenceville Public Schools.

SCHOOL BUSES, both standardly equipped and those equipped with hydraulic lifts and platforms, are used to transport the guests of honor from local nursing homes to the afternoon of music.

Boy and Girl Scout Troops have been recruited as ushers.

A host of volunteers, many of them Farmington Community Concert Band patrons, will be serving punch and

cookies and handing out flowers to the honored guests.

The concert dedicated to the seniors and handicapped was the first of its kind in the state made possible by a grant from the Michigan Council of the Arts.

Former concerts brought seniors out of nursing homes who had been confined there for years before.

Guest artist for "Music to be Thankful For" is Dr. John Mohler, professor of clarinet at University of Michigan.

During his stay in the area he will lead a free clinic for all interested musicians at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22 in Harrison High School's band room.



Tradition of past concerts will be followed this spring with volunteers making sure the honored guests are distinguished with a blossom.



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Competition winners perform solo in Oakway's next concert

Sara Parkins, a violinist from Birmingham, is first-prize winner in the young artist contest sponsored by the Oakway Symphony Society.

Francesco DiBiasi, conductor and musical director, said Miss Parkins and three other winners will be soloists in a concert at 8 p.m. April 19, in Harrison High School, Farmington Hills.

Other winners are: second, Suzanne Leon, violin, \$750; third, Scott Woolweaver, viola, \$750; and tied for fourth, Cindy Keleto, oboe, and David Everson, French horn, \$250 each.

MISS PARKINS, winner of the \$1,000 prize awarded by the Michigan Foundation for the Arts, will be heard in a virtuoso piece made famous by Jascha Heifetz — Max Bruch's "Scottish Fantasia."

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SUZANNE LEON
Viola



SCOTT WOOLWEAVER
Viola



DAVID EVERSON
French horn



SARA PARKINS
Violin

14-18-year-olds most likely victims

Girl Scouts schooled in rape prevention

By GAIL DeGEORGE

Murmurs of conversation and puzzled faces greeted some of the quiz questions.

"Are we going to be graded?" a plaintive voice asked.

The quiz was part of a rape prevention workshop for girls in the sixth through 12th grades, sponsored by the Southern Oakland Girl Scout Council in cooperation with the Oakland Crisis Center for Rape and Sexual Abuse.

Almost 200 persons crowded into Southfield's Birney Middle School cafeteria last week to listen to Robin Kelly, part-time assistant coordinator of the crisis center, and Suzi Hansknecht, acting chairperson, talk about rape: the law, the facts, the myths and its prevention.

"I can't feel that the program is too adult for the youngsters when they too are victims," said Barbara Burch, older girls programs coordinator for the council. It was the first rape prevention workshop sponsored by the council, said Mrs. Burch, and "has been something that has been much needed."

The most likely age group to be rape victims are the 14- to 18-year-olds, according to statistics gathered by the crisis center, which operates a hot-line and offers counseling for rape victims. The second most vulnerable are 19- to 23-year-olds, with 9- to 13-year-olds being third.

Past Carey of Southfield helped organize the program, which was open to the public. She had arranged a similar presentation two years ago when she lived in Pennsylvania. "It was very well received," said Mrs. Carey.

THE TURNOUT SURPRISED even some of the organizers. Extra folding chairs were brought in and some of the girls sat on heaters and window ledges to make room for mothers and troop leaders. "I never expected this many people," said Mrs. Burch.

Despite the warmth of the room and the lack of a public address system, the presenters were able to keep the attention of most of the girls. Raised hands signaled quiet, and the conversations dwindled to murmurs, and then to silence.

The program included a discussion period, a film, a question and answer period — and the quiz — which was not graded, but simply a tool to assess the difference between popular myths and the facts about rape. Kate Royce, also a part-time assistant coordinator at the crisis center, aided the discussion and question periods.

Although some terms had to be explained, the workshop was not altered or the language edited for this program, said Ms. Kelly. Some nervous girls

escaped at certain points in the presentation, but there was minimal squirming or other signs of obvious embarrassment. That was apparently due to the matter-of-fact way in which the information was handled.

"It's okay, you can laugh," said Ms. Kelly, "I'm not saying any of this to embarrass anyone."

THE YOUNGSTERS got an explanation of Michigan's Criminal Sexual Conduct Code.

The law, enacted in 1975, outlines four degrees of rape, and provides for greater protection of minors with stiffer penalties against offenders who assault children.

This point was emphasized by Ms. Kelly, who noted that anyone in a position of authority over a child who engaged in criminal sexual conduct was liable for charges of first- or at least second-degree.

The film provided answers to the quiz, and dispelled many of the more common myths about rape, in addition to showing some preventative measures that women can take.

Contrary to popular belief, only about 25 percent of all rapists are total strangers to their victims. About 75 percent are acquaintances, friends, or relatives of the victim, according to statistics from the crisis center.

Questions about assaults by family members were asked by some of the girls. "Yes, it does happen," said Ms. Kelly, and the center does provide counseling for that type of sexual abuse. "I talked to someone today about incest who was 14 years old," she continued.

TEACHERS WHO "say things" or make you feel uncomfortable by entering your personal space should be reprimanded, said Ms. Kelly, after one of the girls raised the question.

Doctors fall into a similar category, she added. "You can always say 'I want a nurse in here,'" she said. "A male doctor should never see you alone."

Only one negative comment was voiced by a leader before the program; who felt that it was inappropriate for seventh-graders, said Mrs. Burch. "I heard no negative comments from adults at the program," she continued. "One leader came for her own information, and did not bring her troop, but that was about it."

The number of people present showed the level of interest, she said.

"I was watching faces, no one left there mad," she said in a later interview.

"Children who were there are going to be very sensitized to things most have probably never thought of before."



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