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# Actress, teacher, publicist turns her talents to directing

By Loraine McClish  
staff writer

Dolores Shevlin, who wears many hats for the variety of activities she pursues, has recently turned her talents to directing.

After directing the successful production of "The Best Laid Plans" staged by Farmington Players last fall, Shevlin took on the same job for Nancy Gurwin Production Company's "Lunch Hour."

"It's going beautifully," Shevlin said of Jean Kerr's comedy that is playing now, to dinner theater audiences in Mama Mia's Restaurant and Lounge.

Shevlin is no stranger to dinner theater; she's been closely affiliated with Nancy Gurwin Productions since its formation seven years ago. And she is no stranger to the cast, many of whom are also familiar faces to Farmington Players ticket buyers.

"Lunch Hour" is the seventh appearance in a Nancy Gurwin Production for Joe Lannen, a Farmington Hills resident who teaches high school English and drama.

Sandra Sutherland is an instructor at Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in the English and Philosophy Department, now serving her second term as president for Farmington Players.

Dick Coe, an attorney and insurance agency owner in Livonia, is currently the Farmington Players' secretary.

Debbie DeCoco Sekerak is a professional dancer and choreographer who has taught many aspiring young dancers throughout the Detroit suburbs.

Tom Christopher, employed with Chevrolet Division of General Motors, has been seen numerous times on St.

Dunstan's stage, at Oakland University and in dinner theater.

"THE TIE that binds all the diversity of a high school teacher, a practicing attorney, a college instructor, a dancer and an automotive analyst together is summed up in one word: theater," Shevlin said.

Added to that is Shevlin's diverse background.

The mother of two teen-agers, Shevlin is employed by Farmington Public Schools as a substitute secretary, and is a teacher aide in special education classes.

She is a sixth-grade religious education teacher at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington. Her official title in Nancy Gurwin Production is that of publicist and public relations director.

And she has a wide background in theater which began at Rutgers University in New Jersey where she majored in English.

"I have never even tried to lose my New York accent. It's served me far too well in so many comedic character roles. There was a time on Broadway when a long stream of comedies were written expressly for New York characters set in typically New York situations," she said.

Examples of these plays are "The Odd Couple," "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" and "Any Wednesday."

She's taken leads in all of those shows, as well as working both on and off stage for Farmington Players since 1983.

"LUNCH HOUR" made its first appearance in 1980 starring Gilda Radner and the Gurwin produc-

tion is the first local Detroit presentation.

Lannen plays the role of Oliver Devreck, a psychiatrist turned marriage counselor and author of a best selling book, who discovers his own marriage floundering.

Lannen has directed a number of musicals for Livonia Public Schools. He is often seen in automotive commercials on television and appeared on both Mercy College and Macomb Theatre-at-the-Barn stages.

Sutherland plays the marriage counselor's wife, who after seven years of marriage seeks her own counseling in the hands of somebody else's husband. While handling this role she is simultaneously directing "Bedroom Farce" which will be presented this spring in Orchard Ridge Campus's new Theatre Arts Building.

Coe's role in "Lunch Hour" is that of a married millionaire whose one fear is that he might become a conservative like his father.

Coe both sang and narrated for the Max Davey Singers for many years and has been on stage as both an actor and a singer in four Farmington Players productions.

Sekerak takes the role of a charmingly naive woman, who in seeking to confront the other woman in her husband's life, finds herself in turn attracted to the other woman's husband.

Her long list of credits include appearances with Greenfield Village Players, Bonstelle Theatre, Dearborn Summer Repertory, and the traveling shows of Crossroads Productions.

While playing the role of Carrie Sachs in "Lunch Hour," Sekerak is also currently appearing in the Gurwin dinner theater production of "Fantas-

sticks" in Botsford Inn Coach House.

Christopher takes the role of a New York actor in "Lunch Hour," who is everybody's friend, but whose main concern is the care of his house plants.

His last appearance in dinner theater was in "Absence of a Cello."

Dinner is served at 7 p.m. and show time for "Lunch Hour" is 8:30 p.m. every Saturday in Mama Mia, 9361 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

Reservations at \$12.95 each may be made by calling 363-1535.



Dolores Shevlin, a long-time member of Farmington Players, directs the Jean Kerr comedy "Lunch Hour" now playing to dinner theater audiences in Mama Mia's Restaurant and Lounge.



Joe Lannen, a Farmington Hills resident, heads up the cast of "Lunch Hour" with co-stars Debbie DeCoco Sekerak (left) and Sandra Sutherland. Sek-

erak is also appearing now in "The Fantasticks" in Botsford Inn Coach House. Sutherland is president of Farmington Players.

# FYA enters its 25th year of community service

Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA), now in its 25th year of community service, continues to work on behalf of young people and their families.

Comprised of local citizen volunteers, a professional caseworker and a secretary, FYA works with schools, police, Oakland County courts, parents, youth and community organizations in pursuing its objectives of prevention of delinquency, abuse, neglect and promotion of family well being.

It is funded by four sponsors, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, the Farmington School District and the Juvenile Division of the Oakland County Probate Court.

When FYA was established in 1958, under the name of General Citizens Youth Guidance Committee of Greater Farmington, the group concerned itself with investigation and research into the causes of delinquency, and assisting the court appointed staff worker through discussion, evaluation, and when appropriate, visits with the fami-

lies of case referrals.

While there have been many changes in the past 25 years, the central idea remains that delinquency and neglect need not necessitate police or court action and can be prevented by making personal, confidential assistance available to parents and youth.

It also advocates that true delinquency prevention can be accomplished by planning and sponsoring positive and enriching activities for young people and their families.

IN DEALING with the problems that children and their families experience it is hoped that larger or more difficult problems can be avoided in the future.

Over the years, the organization has responded to the changing needs of the community. During the 1960's, the first step was taken to develop a Parent Education Program. A teen employment service was established and after-school recreation programs were initiated at GHI and Woodale Schools.

Case referrals increased from two in 1958 to more than 100 by the late 1960s.

By 1975 new volunteers brought about new ideas and programming. A re-evaluation of community needs was undertaken, resulting in the name change to Farmington Youth Assistance.

It was at this time that FYA's current caseworker, John Pinkerman, was assigned to the Farmington area. Pinkerman, who holds a master's degree in psychology from Eastern Michigan University, acts as a counselor for juvenile referrals and advises the group's General Citizens Committee on matters of community service and programming in the Farmington School District.

The counseling service is available free of charge to students and their families in the Farmington School District.

The Membership and Public Relations Committee began to take a more active role in developing community awareness of FYA and as a result, membership and local support increased.

For several years FYA was active in co-sponsoring, with the YMCA, a summer camp scholarship program for area children. F.Y.A. a Big Brother-Big Sister type program, was attempted but had to be disbanded because of a lack of adult volunteer participation.

A Youth Involvement Committee which encouraged area teens to become active in the FYA organization sponsored walkathons and kite-flying events geared to draw attention to FYA.

IN RECENT years, the Parent Education Committee, (now called Family Education of Farmington) expanded its function to offer parenting classes based on the book "Children: The Challenge." Workshops and lectures for parents and professionals are also offered throughout the year.

The Pre-School, Health Education, Teen and Summer Activities Center committees have also been active in presenting programming designed to improve the welfare and environment of young people and their families.

Because of the increase in referrals and programming, the need for more office space became necessary. In January, 1983, the FYA office was moved from the lower level of the Farmington City Hall on Liberty Street in Farmington to new facilities in the Shlawassee School Center, 30415 Shlawassee, Farmington Hills.

The fact that FYA has grown with the size of the community which it serves is a reflection on the dedication of those people who have served on its professional and volunteer staff since it was established.

# Cook turns leftovers into gourmet meals

Judy Antishin, who is now juggling her time between catering to private parties and giving workshops and classes both in Schoolcraft College and Farmington Community Center, will be in the center this week for a lecture-demonstration.

The Farmington Hills culinary artist will show and tell how to make a gourmet meal from leftovers at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

She calls the session "getting down to the basics in cooking with accent on giving new life to leftovers with sauces, gravies, wines and liqueurs."

The dishes that Antishin will prepare, and guests will taste during the after-lecture brunch, have all been critiqued by her husband and six children whom she calls her "greatest critics."

She has prepared the session she said, "Because food is so costly, I don't throw anything away. Yet, today's leftovers can still be tomorrow's favorite new dish."

During the lecture she will stress the nutritional value of food and how to maintain it when preparing leftovers.



Judy Antishin

Fee for the two-hour session, which includes brunch and take-home recipes is \$10. Reservations can be made by calling the center, 477-8404.

"Participants should come prepared to eat heartily," Antishin said.

# Police officer honored

Livonia Police Officer John Hoyer, selected by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #3941 as "Officer of the Year," will be guest of honor at the post's annual dinner dance.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday at the VFW hall, 29155 Seven Mile. Tickets, at \$30 each, can be purchased at the door. The cost includes dinner, dancing and drinks.

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