

# U-U church reaches out with Concert in the Hills

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

Concert in the Hills, an event initiated as a let's-try-it-and-see-how-it-goes outreach by Universalist-Unitarian (U-U) Church of Farmington is now drawing

audiences that number up to 200 for the Sunday afternoon performances.

"Maybe it's because of the woody setting or the historical building, or the acoustics that the musicians repeatedly keep saying is so good. I don't know what to attribute this success," said Ed Weidenbach.

"What I do know is that the concerts are more than just people playing music. Each is a little gem. And now that we've changed the concert time from 7:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. we're watching spring come to us while we're hearing this incredible music in a very natural setting."

Concert in the Hills is given in conjunction with Renaissance Concerts headed by violinist Misha Rachlevsky.

The group is made up of about 25 musicians, most of them members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, who play chamber music throughout the metropolitan area.

RACHLEVSKY uses every outlet he can to encourage interest in chamber music. Groups of anywhere from three to eight play one-time concerts or a series at churches, halls, restaurants, night clubs or apartment club houses, but Rachlevsky is fussy about the setting.

"Chamber music was written to be

played in a chamber. It is meant to be an intimate experience," Rachlevsky said.

"It is also a casual experience." He explained this by saying that as three bridge players in the United States today might look for a fourth for a spontaneous game, so may have three musicians looked for a fourth to play chamber music spontaneously several centuries ago.

Where concerts might be thought of as a special event, something to get dressed up for, plan for, order tickets for weeks in advance, Rachlevsky hopes to make it rather "as common as taking vitamins and jogging," he said.

"Our audiences come in all kinds of

dress. Newcomers (to chamber concerts) are generally one-time ticket buyers who come probably out of curiosity," Weidenbach said commenting on the casualness of Concert in the Hills.

As for the intimacy, "Many of the musicians will talk about this piece of music or that piece of music's history and this seems to be done spontaneously which somehow gets us all involved. That gets pretty obvious during the wine and cheese intermissions," he said.

THE REV. JOAN Kahn-Schneider is minister for the U-U church that is a historic meeting house, moved from its original downtown Farmington location to a rustic setting at 25301 Halsted.

Under her auspices, Concert in the Hills was the first major outreach to get under way.

A second outreach is a series of acrobatics classes given on Monday and Wednesday evenings headed by Nada Feldman who has worked for Michigan Heart Association in this field.

"She started with five people and now has 50 in her classes," Weidenbach said. "She gave it a little twist from others offered by encouraging the entire family to join in one class for a pared down fee."

Weidenbach estimated that about 50 percent of those in the physical fitness

class are members of the church and 50 percent are not.

"That's about the same percentage our Concert in the Hills audience is made up of so our outreach seems to be doing its job," he said.

Individual series tickets for Concert in the Hills are \$5.50 or \$4 for students and seniors and can be purchased at the door.

Rachlevsky will team up with pianist Michelle Cooker for the next concert set for March 27. Others to follow are scheduled for April 17 and May 8.

Concert in the Hills is funded in part by a grant from Michigan Council for the Arts. Information available by calling the church office, 474-7272.



Misha Rachlevsky

## Art auction to benefit Renaissance Concerts

Art and music highlight the first concert and fine art auction to benefit Renaissance Concerts starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 25, at Park West Galleries, Southfield.

The event opens with a wine and cheese reception and a preview of art to be auctioned.

At 7:30 p.m. Misha Rachlevsky, violinist, founder and artistic director of Renaissance Concerts, and Chris Blug, guitarist, will give a recital featuring the works of Vivaldi and Paganini, followed at 8 p.m. by the auction.

Carl Grapentine of WQRS radio is honorary chairman of the event which will include the awarding of prizes to those in the audience — a duplication of the evening's concert performed at the winner's choice of location, original signed and numbered graphics, record albums and concert tickets.

Among the graphics to be auctioned will be works by Miro, Dalí, Picasso, and Friedlaender.

Tickets, \$7, may be ordered by calling 62-MUSIC. Park West Galleries is at Park West Plaza on Northwestern, north of 12 Mile, Southfield.

## Komedy Players extend 'Same Time, Next Year'

After a successful eight week run, Komedy Players Dinner Theatre will extend the run of the comedy, "Same Time, Next Year," through April 30.

"Same Time, Next Year" tells the story of a love affair between Doris and George who meet secretly once a year, for 25 years.

The show's two member cast is made up of Jan Salisbury and Ralph Roselli, both residents of Farmington Hills and

is produced by the actress's husband Bill.

"Same Time, Next Year" is the second production for Komedy Players in the new theater room of Allen Park Motor Lodge, on Southfield Road between I-94 and I-75 in Allen Park.

The show is preceded by a three course dinner served directly to each table at 7 p.m. Show time is 8:30 p.m. Package price is \$14.95. Reservations can be made by calling 661-1393.

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

Older Women's League (OWL) is making its first systematic, nationwide effort to make Social Security a better retirement vehicle for women with the formation of a commission which addresses the problems women face in retirement.

Locally, the Farmington Area Chapter has released a formal statement that it will join its sister chapters in the campaign. The first priority is to bring about equity in the laws that will give women the same retirement income as men.

"When we win this one, we'll start worrying about the others," said Gertrude Kirkwood, speaking for the local chapter.

The one she refers to has been dubbed "Motherhood and Apple Pie" by the national OWLs which asks for a restructuring of Social Security so that credits can either be inherited or split for women in the case of death or divorce.

Other main targets for OWL are inequities in pension rights and access to health care insurance.

In spite of its name the Farmington Area Chapter draws members from throughout the northwest suburbs. It was formed by Janet Good, a Farmington Hills resident who initiated the chapter here and has since taken on the job of chapter-developer in Michigan for the national organization.

"FOR WOMEN Social Security is a lifeline," Kirkwood said.

"In contrast with older men, most of whom are married and living with a spouse even after 75, the majority of older women are widowed, live alone and depend on Social Security as their

only source of income."

Farmington OWLs number about 20 now and meet in one another's homes.

"If we all do our jobs there'll be enough of us so that we'll have to hire a hall for the meeting," Kirkwood said.

Lobbying, spreading the word and putting the pressure on the President's Commission on Social Security are the tactics OWL will use. A first physical step was setting up a national OWL office in Washington, D.C. early this month.

Spreading the word will not be easy for some.

"I'm speaking only for myself now, but I belong to a very conservative church that will be a tough nut to crack. Most of the women — all of the women (there) — have enough financial security so they probably wouldn't know what I was talking about if I told them that women are contributing to Social Security, that they support the system, but never draw anything from it, except as a widow, the way things stand now," Kirkwood said.

"There are several of us (in the Farmington chapter) that are just going to have to learn to speak out as long as we've decided to take this stand," she said.

LOCAL OWLs will speak out by mailing books in several conventions that are scheduled in Detroit this spring, recruit new members, raise funds when asked and be "ready to be a spokesperson for OWL and the Social Security reform that is really very much a woman's issue," Kirkwood said.

Currently, the campaign aims to combat what Kirkwood calls the "compromise" package the National Commission on Social Security has proposed in general and the postponement

Gertrude Kirkwood joins the grassroots movement to work for major legislative changes in the Social Security system that will affect women's lives for years to come in the nationwide campaign initiated by Older Women's League.



RANDY BORST/Staff photographer

of COLA (Cost of Living Adjustments) in particular.

The compromise package rejected proposals to make Social Security voluntary or to calculate benefits solely on contributions.

"Either of those proposals passed would have been disastrous for women, but delaying COLA, even for six months, can be disastrous for a great many of them," she said.

While the OWL campaign will be facing these interim issues, its focus will be on long-range changes to make a

more adequate retirement system, on all fronts, for women.

What OWL proposes, overall, is the recognition of marriage as an economic partnership.

This has been called "earnings sharing" and proposed for many years by many women's organizations.

It is OWL's contention that the idea does not give advantage to one group at the expense of another.

For information about OWLs, call Good at 477-1823.

# Divorce: Go through it or grow through it

By Kathy Parrish  
staff writer

Divorce is never easy. But the breakdown of a marriage

doesn't have to spell disaster. With some work, it can even become a positive experience for both parties.

That's the opinion of Timm Jackson, whose Divorce Recovery Workshops

have helped 1,600 area people through the difficult process.

"I'm not a promoter of divorce. I believe the Lord intends us to be married — but for many people that's not an option," explained Jackson, 37, who ministers to single adults at Ward Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

"You can go through it or grow through it. It's really up to you." During a recent workshop in First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, Jackson gave practical pointers to 60 people "struggling through the hurricane of divorce."

The mini-version of his eight-week Divorce Recovery Workshop dealt with topics like identity, getting the ex-spouse in focus, forgiveness, dating and remarriage and children in a divorce.

Each of Jackson's lectures was followed by small group discussion, during which participants shared their experiences and hopes for the future.

"I'm not going to give you any answers, but things to help you make decisions," said the lecturer, who will offer eight-week workshops beginning April 21 at Ward Presbyterian Church. The cost is \$10.

"This weekend I want you to set some goals."

JACKSON, MARRIED and the father of two daughters, said he's not an authority on divorce.

"I've read as many books as you

**'Remember in a divorce you always get custody of yourself.'**

— Timm Jackson  
minister to single adults

have, but never met anyone who is really an authority on it," said the Wesleyan pastor whose wife Karen works with him. They reside in Garden City.

Their Single Point ministry — which draws 600-800 singles to the evangelical church weekly for "Talk It Over" and other programs — made Jackson aware of the spiritual needs of separating couples.

Convinced that churches need to offer more help to members with both successful and failing marriages, he started his Divorce Recovery Workshops three years ago. As many as 200 people have attended at one time.

"One of the big struggles the church in the last 20 years has not taken seriously is marriage," said Jackson, a graduate of Bartlesville Wesleyan College. He said he thinks "a lot of people get divorced for unfounded reasons."

While he believes there has to be more re-enforcement for the institution of marriage, he acknowledges many

unions just can't be saved.

BOTH PARTIES must be committed to improving a troubled relationship, he emphasizes. And they usually must enlist the aid of a "competent emotionally neutral third person" to help them — possibly for as long as the marriage was breaking down.

"Of course, there's always the possibility that God wants to do a miracle," said Jackson.

"But I've discovered that God does miracles only when two people are open to it. He never forces his will on us."

While urging those divorcing to accept blame for some of the breakup — at least 50 percent responsibility — he emphasizes the importance of rebuilding their lives. And not making the same mistakes again in a relationship.

"I believe divorced people have not achieved good marriages, but are not willing to settle for bad ones," said Jackson, debunking myths that di-

vorced people are poor lovers or lousy parents.

"It's hard to put divorced people in a category. Find out who you are. Lots of people never make that discovery; they just don't know who they are."

Participants take home a notebook full of advice:

• "The only difference between death and divorce is that the corpse doesn't lie down. It keeps popping up in the strangest places."

• "Remember in a divorce you always get custody of yourself."

• "Over 50 percent of marriages fail. That's a statistic, but you're not a statistic."

• "Don't get trapped in a childhood state yourself. Learn to handle your emotions with dignity and maturity."

• "It's going to take time. We all want it to happen overnight."

Jackson asks participants to open up in the group discussions, sharing experiences which he thinks are the most valuable part of the workshops. But he urges that they not turn into "Friday night pity parties."

"Be thankful for this experience you're going through. Why not? What have you got to lose?" he said.

"It's painful to grow. But when we begin to grow, great things happen."



ART EMANUELE/Staff photographer

Tim Jackson confers with a divorcee, one of 1600 people he has helped get through the difficult process in his Divorce Recovery workshops.

## Daffodil sale begins Cancer Control Month

The sale of daffodils, a major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, runs from the weekend of April 1-3.

The flower was chosen by the society as it symbolizes hope with the begin-

nings of spring, and the same message of hope is communicated in the fight against cancer.

Daffodils will be sold individually, in bouquets of 10 and in buckets of 100 at

area businesses.

Funds raised from Daffodil Days are used to support American Cancer Society programs of research, education and service. Less than 10 percent of all

dollars raised are used to support administrative costs, which is made possible because of the large number of people who volunteer for American Cancer Society.