

Jaycees spotlight professional volunteer



Northern Lites members (from left) Libby Shaw, Stacy Sukockas, Debbie Dotler, Laurie McKinnon, Gretchen Kramp, Peter Day, Jan Rintamaki,

Kirk Armstrong and Dan Roselli entertain at the prayer breakfast.

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

BOTSFORD GENERAL Hospital volunteer Helen McEvilly was named recipient of the distinguished citizen award at the Farmington Area Jaycees' 19th annual community leadership prayer breakfast Jan. 21.

In introducing McEvilly, David Kenerson, a past Jaycees president, called her "a very loving and caring person — a truly deserving individual whose work is all done behind the scenes."

"I was completely shocked and very embarrassed by the award," McEvilly said. "There are so many people out there who do so much more than I do." Although recognition isn't what motivates her, McEvilly said the award "was beautiful and I greatly appreciate it."

McEvilly has been active in the Botsford General Hospital Guild since 1976 and is a former vice president of the



AT LEFT: WJBK-TV2 anchorman George Sells, an Oakland County resident, served as keynote speaker at the prayer breakfast.

volunteer auxiliary. She often visits patients and has chaired several hospital fund-raisers.

"She is always available to help those less fortunate, whether for a short period or for a 72-hour vigil," said Botsford volunteer services director Adele Emmer, who nominated McEvilly. "She successfully helps the poor as well as those physically or emotionally ill. Helen is truly a professional volunteer."

SINCE 1976, McEvilly has been part of the St. Alexander's Christian Service Commission — working on food programs for the needy, driving people to medical appointments and social service agencies, visiting the sick and lonely, visiting Williamsburg Nursing Home in Farmington Hills, sending "get well" cards to parishioners, bringing Holy Communion to Botsford patients.

Since 1980, McEvilly has reached out to terminally ill people through her work at Hospice Support Services in Garden City. In 1984, she began to work through St. Vincent de Paul to help the needy meet basic family needs. The same year, she began serving St. Alexander's Church in Farmington Hills as a resource person to the newly widowed.

Last year, McEvilly became active with the Closed Head Injury Alliance, which meets monthly at Botsford. The Novi resident and her husband, Patrick, have five children, one of whom suffered a closed head injury 11 years ago.

Having her hand in so many service projects is a labor of love for McEvilly. As she put it: "I'm just so happy to be able to do it. My husband supports me in my work as long as I don't over-extend myself and my family begins to suffer."

Don't be afraid to ask others to help, McEvilly said. "If people didn't ask me to get involved, I probably never would have," she said. "But because they asked me to get involved, I did. And I never hesitated. I've enjoyed everything I've been involved with. That's why it's so difficult to give up anything. Fortunately, I have the time."

THE PRAYER breakfast, patterned after the presidential version held each year in Washington, is intended to serve "as a rededication to God" and "as thanks to our community leaders," said Louise Coleman, vice president of the Farmington Area Jaycees, a 40-year-old community service organization.

Several service awards were presented during the breakfast, held at the Glen Oaks County Park clubhouse in Farmington Hills and attended by 310 business and civic leaders.

Service awards, honoring those who contributed to Jaycee programs during the past year, went to Sam Cheena, of the Farmington Hills Market, who donated use of a lot for the Jaycees to sell Christmas trees; Cynthia Kretschman of the Beunos Co., which donated use of a storefront for the Jaycees' Halloween Haunted House; and Ralph Delmotte of the Speedy Printing Centers, who assisted with the holiday tree lighting at the Farmington Historical Museum.

Keynote speaker George Sells, WJBK-TV2 anchorman, helped break the ice when he teased that Farmington Hills is Michigan's leader for "the most rapidly growing growth industry — original health spas."

ON A more serious note, Sells acknowledged that people often use money as a barometer of success.

"But sometimes, we work too darn hard for what we've got," the Bloomfield Hills resident said. "We don't take the time to enjoy what we have. We're always reaching out for more. It's never enough. Why can't we be happy with the present situation?"

"We're so busy reaching for gold," he added, "we can't smell the roses."

Breakfast highlights also included a choral performance by members of the North Farmington High School's Northern Lites, under Linda Comes' direction.

The Rev. Kean Cronin of Our Lady of the Sorrows Catholic Church of Farmington and the Rev. Arthur Spafford of the First United Methodist Church of Farmington read passages.

AT RIGHT: Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce executive director JoAnn Soronen (right) greets Helen Joyce McEvilly, a member of the Botsford General Hospital Guild and a longtime area volunteer. She has served many people over the years, including the needy and the infirm.



Staff photos by Bob Sklar

obituaries

HELEN AGNES GIBBONS

Mrs. Gibbons, 76, of Southfield died Jan. 14 in Providence Hospital, Southfield.

She was a homemaker. Survivors include her sons, Michael and Stephen; daughters, Mary Matzinske, Maureen, Bernadette, and Kathleen; brothers, the Rev. Sylvester Cichanski and Leo Cichanski; and eight grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 17 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was celebrated at St. Michael Catholic Church with the Rev. Bert Heise officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

PAULINE POLITZ

Mrs. Politz, 84, of Farmington died Jan. 16. Born in Sicily, Italy, Mrs. Politz was a homemaker.

Survivors include her daughter, Julia Stackhouse; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 18 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Kean Cronin officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

ELSA B. JOHANSEN

Mrs. Johansen, 81, of Brighton died Jan. 16. Born in Aalesund, Norway, Mrs. Johansen was a homemaker.

Survivors include her son, Arnold Sorensen; sister, Harriet Suhr; brother, Aksel Saether; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Services were Jan. 19 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with Robert McConnell officiating. Cremation followed.

MARY ELLEN FARRELL LANDEFELD

Mrs. Landefeld, 75, of Farmington died Jan. 17. Born in Reese, Mich., Mrs. Landefeld was a former partner of Lyle-McNichols Association. She was a graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Detroit. Mrs. Landefeld was a member of Independent Insurance Agents-Surety Association of Michigan.

Survivors include her sisters, Kathleen Knecht and Madge Allen.

Services were Jan. 21 at the O'Brien Chapel-Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi, and St. Gerald Catholic Church. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

GLADYS LOVINE HEARNDON

Mrs. Hearndon, 73, of Waterville, Ohio, formerly of Livonia, died Jan. 17.

Born in Tennessee, Mrs. Hearndon was a packager.

Survivors include her sons, Leon and Jerry; a daughter, Gloria Tedick; brothers, John and Lonnie Durham; sisters, Grace Brown and Ruby Baggett; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 22 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Willard

Nance of Evangelist Baptist Church of Melvindale officiating. Burial was in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Flat Rock.

ROBERT WILLIAM MURRAY

Mr. Murray, 61, of Farmington died Jan. 17 in University Hospital, Ann Arbor.

Mr. Murray was a manufacturing staff chief engineer in internal environmental engineering for Ford Motor Company. He joined Ford in 1953. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1948. Mr. Murray was a Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of the American Legion Post 346, Farmington.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley; daughter, Elaine Karle; stepdaughters, Susan Zelinko, and Donna Mynatt; sisters, Eileen Godbout and Margaret Dixon; four grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 20 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Arthur Jacobi officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Memorials may be made to: American Legion Post 346, Farmington.

LOYD W. BAILEY

Mr. Bailey, 82, of Farmington died Jan. 17 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in West Virginia, Mr. Bailey was a retired accountant.

Survivors include his step-daughter, Ann Prestman; seven step-grandchildren and one step-great-grandchild.

Services were Jan. 20 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Carl Schultz officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington.

WALLACE V. KARAZIM

Mr. Karazim, 62, of Cheboygan, formerly of Farmington Hills, died Jan. 18 in Community Memorial Hospital, Cheboygan.

Mr. Karazim worked for Ford Motor Co.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys; sons, Wallace and Jeffrey; daughters, Colette Delozier, Renee Lubig, Michele Mockus, Lorna Zalenski, Marise, and Cheryl Decker; 15 grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 22 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Kean Cronin officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

GERTRUDE A. HEWETT

Mrs. Hewett, 83, of Farmington died Jan. 17 in Oak Hill Care Center.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Mrs. Hewett was a homemaker. Survivors include her son, John; four grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 20 in Calvary Missionary Church with the Rev. Max Amstutz and the Rev. Steve Stump officiating. Burial was in Downing Cemetery, Deckerville, Mich.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

CALVIN KLEIN

INTRODUCING THE CALVIN KLEIN

COLLECTION. THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, IN THE NORTHLAND OVAL ROOM AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, IN THE EASTLAND OVAL ROOM. INFORMAL MODELING FROM 12 TO 6.

HUDSON'S
OVAL ROOM

