

## Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450

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## Sing and Celebrate

First-time published songwriter links new world with the old

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

**E**LAINA SERLING will be listed as both author and performer in the line-up of celebrated writers and educators that will be taking part in 1987's Jewish Book Fair next month in the Jewish Community Center.

It will be the debut for the singer and songwriter as a first-time published author who will use her long-time know-how as a performer to introduce "Sing and Celebrate."

The book is a compilation of 22 original pieces of music and lyrics, some in English, some in Hebrew, for holidays, for activities in the

classroom or the home.

Some songs are joyful and humorous. Others deal with serious topics that she hopes will lead to discussion in the class or in the home. Some of the tunes lead to spontaneous dancing, clapping or free-spirited instrumental interpretations.

In her three scheduled performances during the Jewish Book Fair the Farmington Hills resident will be playing old traditional Jewish music interspersed with the new from "Sing and Celebrate."

"Joining the old and the new makes us participants in the historical link with our ancestors," she said. "We celebrate as they did, and add our own touch along the way."

SERLING SAID she has very little competition as an author of new Jewish music.

"There are only about five names across the country who are attempting new music with Jewish context," she said. "And each of those work differently from one another."

Serling has been a Sunday School teacher and, or, a teacher of Jewish music in Adat Shalom Synagogue, Birmingham Temple and United Hebrew Schools in Farmington Hills and Oak Park. She realized early on in those teaching years that there was a need for new material to come into the Jewish Educational System.

"I had a curriculum I had to follow. I had to pass whatever I wrote through the educators as to its content. But one by one I was introducing something new into the classrooms," she said.

"I started with one song for one holiday and just kept on through the Jewish calendar. I had lived for a year in Israel - I had gotten pretty proficient in Hebrew - and I'm sure that was the impetus for the writing. I wanted to create something for the children to realize their modern-day connection with their Jewish heritage."

Writing songs was not something new for Serling. She has written many of them. But many times when she got back her rejected demonstration tape, it would come with a comment from the music publisher about that little bit of Middle East accent she had in her voice.

"That was the clue. They were telling me something. But it took a

long while for me to realize it. When I put that together with the feelings I had about connecting our contemporary life with our Jewish heritage I knew I should be writing Jewish music," she said.

SERLING is a registered nurse, dances with the Jewish Community Center's performing dance company, The Festival Dancers, and teaches her own exercise fitness classes called "Fun Fitness With Elaine."

She began her study of voice at the age of 10 and has performed professionally for 25 years for both Jewish and secular audiences of both children and adults.

As for writing music, she is self-taught.

"I hear it. I sing it into a tape, then have a professional transcribe it for me," she said.

She cites her father, the late Phil Stone of Southfield, as one of her biggest supporters.

"He died a few months ago, but he did know that my book was accepted for publication. He did know it was on his way and that was important to me," she said.

"Sing and Celebrate" was published by Danza publications and is available now at local book stores which specialize in Jewish literature.

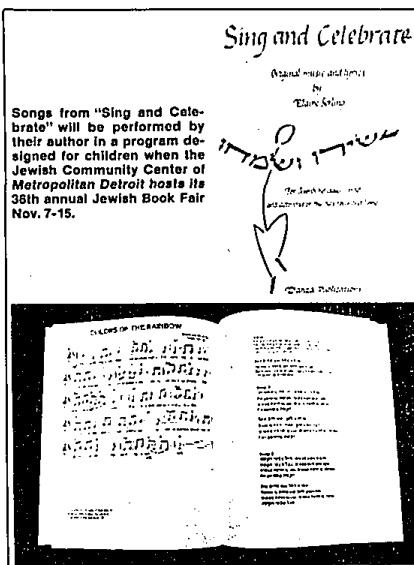
It will also be available during the Jewish Book Fair which runs from Nov. 8-15 in the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

Serling's performances, designed for children, but open to all comers begin at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15.



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— Elaine Serling



## The joys and problems of aging

Two theatrical performances that tell of the joys and problems of aging will be staged after a 6:30 p.m. dinner Sunday, Nov. 7, in North Farmington Baptist Church, 32500 13 Mile. Dorothy Beach (above at left), Betty Houghton, Bill Devlin and Bill Holmes appear in "Strangers," a one-act drama that raises some questions about Judgment Day and personal accountability. The cast for "The Time of Our Lives," at left, consists of Jim Morphew (kneeling) and clockwise Fran Brown, Kay Schmutz, Betty Houghton, Dorothy Hearn, Rita Pelter, Cindy Morphew, Bill Holmes and Marj Wood. They are surrounded by Fran Hundley and Dorothy Beach. "The Time of Our Lives" is a light-hearted musical that treats the process of growing older as a time for enjoying life at its fullest.



## Set your sights on the Setting Sail collection by Lizsport

All the pieces are pure cotton, the all-year-round fabric. And the casual good looks get your wardrobe off to a great start... sporty yet sophisticated. And oh so very Liz Claiborne. In navy with cream accents. Winduppane dobby shirt, \$48. Alover cable cardigan, \$68. Cotton sateen trousers, \$62. Check out the rest of the Lizsport collection of slacks, sweaters, pants, clothes to live in, \$48-\$76. In our Liz Claiborne Department at all stores except Grand River.



## Liz Claiborne Fashion Show

Saturday, October 31, 12:30 p.m. Crowley's Lakeside Mall store at the Performing Arts Stage

Come and meet Debra Pickrel, Liz Claiborne fashion consultant. She'll be narrating the fashion show featuring Liz Claiborne's latest designs, including the new men's sportswear line, available at Crowley's. Let Liz Claiborne turn your wardrobe from so-so to sensational!

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