

Park fun

AT RIGHT: During a game of Hide and Seek June 12 in Farmington Hills Heritage Park, Farmington Hills resident Jenny Sommerville (right), who will be a sixth grader this fall at East Middle School, finds her 3-year-old sister, Christen Galang. AT LEFT: Marc Sommerville, who will be a third grader next fall at Larkshire Elementary, also takes part in the afternoon game.

Staff photos by Sharon LeMieux



Community Women honors its membership



Marianne Ellis (left) receives the Farmington Area Community Women "Woman of the Year" award from Diane Matous, president.

Library asks for volunteers

The Farmington Hills Branch Library will provide an opportunity for 15 young adult volunteers grades 6-12 to work at a variety of tasks in the library this summer. Register in person or by phone, 553-0300. The program will continue through Friday, August 3. For more information, call or come in to the library and ask for Gail Roberts.

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Farmington Area Community Women honored members at its recent banquet for their contributions to community projects in 1989-90. New officers were installed.

The group began 31 years ago as the Farmington Jaycee Auxiliary and adopted its new name in 1984. It's always concentrated on community service.

Its next meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 25 at the Farmington Community Center. Women interested in joining are invited. Upcoming projects include a fund-

raiser at Kids Day, part of the Farmington Founders Festival and a mum and kids social.

In the past year, the group's contributed to such causes as Farmington Community Center, Kids Day, FAAC, HAVEN, food baskets for four families, Farmington Nursing Home and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome foundation.

During its June banquet the group honored Marianne Ellis as woman of the year. Michelle Paul was given the Helping Hand award. Denis Albrecht won the Devotion Award.

Delilah Tretink was recognized for her 20 years of work as a member with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Shining Star Award for running a well-rounded yearly program was given to Sue Osandusky, Connie Jermov, Colleen Paehuta, Linda Lawrie, Teresa McAllister, Michele Paul, Diane Matous, Tretink and Albrecht.

Three efforts were given outstanding project awards. The external outstanding ways and means project was the annual arts and crafts sale

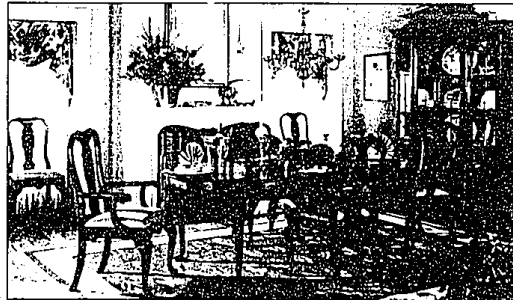
chaired by Tretink. Outstanding Community Service project, the Baby Beautiful contest was chaired by Albrecht and raised more than \$300 for the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Foundation. The outstanding internal project, the Christmas Dinner meeting was chaired by Osandusky.

The Board of Directors for 1990-91 include Diane Matous, president; Marianne Ellis, internal vice-president; Connie Jermov, external vice-president; Denise Albrecht, treasurer and Michele Paul, secretary.

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MYTHS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

THE MYTH OF THE MONTH

Jesus Christ was only a great moral teacher

What are we to make of this man? The joys and hardships of two thousand years of western history have been pinned on him. Controversy has constantly surrounded his claims. Religious life in the West has been dominated by attitudes to his teachings. No self-aware, intelligent person dare avoid this intriguing individual and his impact on society.

No one doubts any more that Jesus actually existed. Most people also believe that he was a great moral teacher. Religious and political leaders throughout the world, including many of the great opponents of Christianity, had the moral superiority of his life. Mahatma Gandhi aspired to the ideals of the Sermon on the Mount. The philosopher John Stuart Mill thought Jesus a genius and probably the greatest moral reformer who ever existed. Even Napoleon Bonaparte considered him a superior leader of men.

The New Testament documents record the radical servant-like attitude which lent power and credibility to Jesus' teachings. He has truly led humanity in the expression of compassion and humanity, as well as an anger against evil and hypocrisy. Jesus combined a realistic understanding of human nature with an optimism for what human beings could become. His words have tested and challenged the minds and hearts of millions for centuries.

Of course, this is not the whole story. When we begin to consider Jesus' claims about his identity, the controversy begins. This is where people (including the world's religious leaders) have problems. This is where the label "moral teacher" is put to the test. It begins to seem inadequate, if not naive.

A thirty year old peasant carpenter turned itinerant teacher, Jesus laid claim both by word and action to be more than a mere man. He operated on the assumption that he was God himself. How do we know that? From his explicit statements and the very way he lived. His self-disclosures are interwoven in the very fabric of the New Testament. He claimed equality with God. He said he had lived before Abraham. He assumed the right to forgive sins. He accepted worship. There seems to be no escaping it.

Jesus of Nazareth could not be simply a harmless moral teacher. He cuts too deep and shapes too far from the crowd of moral teachers and philosophers. We can call him a liar. We might even discuss his mental imbalance. But the tag of "only a great moral teacher" doesn't stick. It was never an option in his own day. Some of his contemporaries thought him mad, others loved him. He was regarded with disdain and sometimes even hatred, or alternately with amazement and adoration. But he never received mild approval.

There is it an option for today. We have to shut him up or hear him out. What are we to make of this man? What of his moral integrity? His fulfillment of centuries of aspirations? His prediction of death and resurrection? What are we to make of his claims to be the one and only God-man of history? What are we to do with this great moral teacher who makes such impossible claims?

For a free copy of the booklet
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