

# 'A Letter to a Soldier'

Is it true that  
The sand invades it all  
Not sparing the tanks or machine  
guns  
Grinding between the teeth  
Stinging under the eyelids

Is it true that  
When you squint your eyes  
The pulsating desert air  
Transforms the sanddrifts  
Into the ripe fields of grain  
A tear drops  
And you're the only one to know  
That the reason does not lie  
In the grain of sand

Is it true that  
The nights there are deeper  
And the stars cascade more often  
As you endlessly repeat your wish  
Of returning home  
Ever aware of the fact  
That duty comes first

Is it true that  
Everything is different  
Land, animals, birds, flowers  
And you, too, are not the same

Is it true that  
Love

## THE GULF WAR Hitting Home

Presented you with a new meaning  
Deeper  
You speak of love between one  
human being  
And another  
Love that breaks the walls  
That cuts through the barbed wire  
Love that opens clenched fists  
And squelches the hateful look

Is it true...?  
It is true that  
We're awaiting you  
That we'll be greeting you like the  
birds  
Which announce the upcoming  
spring  
It is true that  
Our prayers are with you  
Every day

Helena Domanska,  
Farmington Hills



SHARON LUMMEK/staff photographer

Helena Domanska: "Here, if you have two hands and energy and you want to work, you can do anything."

## Soldier's letter inspires poem for the troops

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One of her best friends in America, Kathy Barringer of Farmington Hills, said it took some time for Helena to allow herself to realize she could discuss her feelings. "The hardest thing for her was expressing emotions," Barringer said. "Then all of a sudden, she she got turned on to poetry."

With the help and encouragement of her mentor with whom she lives — high school teacher Helena Boguski — Domanska began to write poetry, she said. "It was like an explosion. One day I was blue, and she said 'try to write poems.'"

MANY OF HER Polish poems are written to rhyme, which is lost in the English translation. But Domanska said the meaning of her poems carry through the translation.

"I have to be attached with something to write," she explained, describing her feelings in writing the recent "A Letter to a Soldier."

"You can feel free here. Here, if you have two hands and energy and you want to work, you can do anything."

She now feels free to write her poetry, walk in the woods and collect flowers which she designs into beautiful arrangements.

While teaching elementary students in Poland, Domanska said she never had time to write poetry, but always encouraged students to be themselves. "I couldn't say anything straight, but I always tried to teach them to think," she said. "It was my goal."

"Maybe I didn't write then because teachers are always thinking about school all day long," she added. "When I came here, I was free to think."

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## on the agenda

To provide as much notice as possible to interested residents, the Farmington Hills City Council releases its preliminary agenda for the following week. Full agenda also will be published prior to the scheduled Monday meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council  
City Council chambers  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18

During its regular meeting, the council is expected to consider several public hearings, including the introduction of zoning map amendment from single-family to vehicular parking district, on property owned by 144 Properties, south of 14 Mile and east of Farmington Road.

Council is also expected to consider:

- Parks and Recreation Commission recommendations on the parks millage renewal including the ballot language and setting election date.
- A request for a new year tavern license to be local, Sago's Restaurant, 25938 Nottel Road, in the corporate name of Enterprises, Inc.
- The purchase of Cooper Creek Golf course.
- A review of the 13 Farmington Road improvement projects.
- Transmittal of Plan and community Development all report.
- Resolution to extend deadline for the Southend Park Pct.
- Confirmation of setting meeting date of March 26 to joint meeting with the Farmington Board of Education.
- Award of a bid for Saginaw golf course improvements.

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