

Preparing for the "Messiah"

Once again, the sounds of Handel's "Messiah" will fill the sanctuary of Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 West 11 Mile, west of Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

The evening begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 with seasonal music performed on the organ by Elizabeth Spry. It ends with a reception in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Tickets for the program, the second in Nardin Park's 1991-92 music series, are \$7. They are available by calling the church office, 476-8860.

The 90-voice combined chancel and sanctuary choir will be joined by professional soloists and an orchestra. Soloists include Mary Sue Ewing, Barbara Youngerman, Paul Wiltse and Carl Clendenning.

Ewing, a soprano from Farmington Hills, sang in Nardin Park's "Messiah" three years ago. She has worked with the Michigan Opera Theatre, the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit, Marygrove Chamber Singers and other symphony and civic organizations. She will sing in Italy in the spring.

Youngerman, a mezzo soprano has appeared with the Michigan Opera Theatre, Toledo Opera Theatre and symphonies throughout the state. She was a finalist in the MacAllister International Operatic Awards of 1990 and the winner of the Todd Duncan prize of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artists Awards of 1990. She was an apprentice artist with the Dea Moines, Iowa Metro Opera this summer. Youngerman sang the role of the mother in

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"Amahl" in Nardin Park's sanctuary three years ago.

Wiltse, a tenor, also makes another appearance in Nardin Park's musical series. In 1988, he performed in the "Messiah." He studied music at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the University of Michigan and performed a variety of operatic roles. His credits include Don Ottavio in "Don Giovanni," Ferrando in "Così fan Tutti" and Fenton in "Falstaff."

Clendenning, a bass, is a frequent soloist in Messiah performances. In 1988, he performed in the church's "Messiah" and in 1989, he sang the role of one of the three kings in "Amahl." He has performed major roles in opera and oratorio work. He's well known for his work with Marygrove Chamber Singers. A resident of Detroit, he serves as music director for Gesù Catholic Church.

Orchestra accompaniment for soloists and chorus will be provided by strings, oboe, trumpet, organ and harpsichord. The performance is under the direction of Melvin Rookus, Nardin Park minister of music.



SHARON LAMUEUX/staff photographer

For the second time in its 64 years, the Nardin Park United Methodist Church chancel and sanctuary choir and orchestra present George Frederick Handel's oratorio. Barbara Youngerman (left) an alto, Paul Wiltse, a tenor and Mary Sue Ewing, a

soprano are set to appear in the production. "The Messiah," under the direction of Melvin Rookus, is set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 in the church, 29887 West 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Necessity the mother of her recession-proof biz

You couldn't pay some people to organize a high school reunion. But Lisa Muscio's turning that task into a money making operation.

After planning two reunions for her North Farmington High School graduating class, Muscio, 28, decided to turn it into a business, Reunions Made Easy. Although the economy makes it tougher to start a business, she's hoping reunions can ride out a

recession.

"I've been dreaming about doing this for a long time. Finally I came to the point where I had the opportunity to do this. I've had the support of my husband, friends and family," she said. The daughter of Bill and Janice Salisbury of Farmington Hills, Muscio runs the fledgling business out of her Novi home. Next year's schedule so far includes eight

reunions beginning with one in March.

So far most of her clients ask her to organize 10-year reunions. Younger alumni especially seem too busy to organize their own reunions.

"Everyone wants to have a reunion but only one or two say 'OK, I'll plan it,'" she says. "Older classes have committees who've worked on every reunion and they just love it."

She brings to Reunions Made Easy, expertise gained through six years of working in advertising and promotions for National Cinema Network and an enthusiasm for planning parties.

"Locating people is the biggest part of the whole thing," she said. Muscio starts out by sending notices to the last known addresses. In many cases, that means sending letters and change of address forms to alumni's family homes.

"I'm amazed at how many parents are living in the same houses," she says. "I'm amazed at the involvement. Parents are writing in for their kids. People are very, very into making it happen."

In some cases the people most active in high school aren't the ones pushing for a reunion. "People who weren't in the active group are the ones who are really concerned about the reunion," she says.

Muscio presents reunion committees with package plans tailored for different styles and pocketbooks. Reunions range from more formal sit down dinners to casual buffets. Rental deposits for the reception room are handled by Reunions Made

Easy. Muscio will arrange for a photographer to take a group portrait at the reunion. Service costs such as these are built into the ticket price which usually ranges from \$35-\$45 per person.

Entertainment such as a band or a disc jockey can be arranged by Muscio. She provides a centerpiece for each table done, of course, in the

school colors.

On the night of the reunion, while she's running the show, reunion committee members are asked to stand at the door and greet classmates. That, combined with carefully insuring that committee members names are featured on the invitation, makes sure that the committee gets that credit.

Chef to share holiday ideas

Renowned local gourmet cook Judy Antishin has been chosen as one of six metropolitan-area chefs and caterers whose recipes will appear in an upcoming feature in the Detroit Free Press' food section.

"Judy's Surprise Sherried Meatballs" will be included among the group of holiday appetizers. Antishin's creation includes sherry in the meat base and the sauce. A blend of meats is wrapped around a watercheestnut.

"Want a taste? Come to Antishin's 'Easy and Elegant Appetizers' class, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. The price is \$15.

For ticket information, call 477-8404.

Antishin's November class was a sell out. This session will feature six new appetizers and two beverages.

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Gardeners eye issues

Local garden club members joined other Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, Inc. members gathered recently at the Ralph A. MacMillan Conference Center in North Higgins Lake for the 52nd annual conservation conference.

Participants included: Nancy Goulette, Elaine Gunderson and Nancy Pasfield of Hill and Dale Garden Club; Ellen Abbott and Kay Briggs of Farmington Garden Club and Dan Abbott.

Open to the public, the conference was sponsored by the FGCM, Inc., National Council of State Garden

Clubs West, with aid from Shell Oil Western E&P Co.

As in the past, the conference provided educational programs dealing with specific environmental concerns. Speakers were drawn from Michigan State Cooperative Extension Service, environmental groups, specialists and business. Topics included solid waste management, hazardous household waste, water resource protection, organic agriculture, quality drinking water and pesticide information. During the three-day conference, the group took a field trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes Na-

tional Lakeshore.

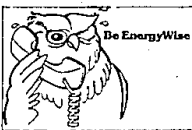
For information on local federated garden clubs, call Farmington Garden Club president Pamela Correll, 478-7322, or North Farmington Garden Club president Jan Tiberio, 553-2446, for daytime clubs. For an evening group, call Hill and Dale Garden Club president Sandra Donlon at 661-1684.

For information about next year's conservation conference, Sept. 14-16 at North Higgins Lake, write FGCM environmental education chairwoman Linda Mason, 301 Maple Knoll Lane, Caro, Mich., 48721.

Go a caroling

An old fashioned Christmas caroling party will be given by the Farmington branch library at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12.

Bring a flashlight if you have one as well as some cookies to share. The library is at 23500 Liberty. To register for the free program call 474-7770.



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