

# Community Corner

This week's question:  
Do you vote like your spouse does?

We asked this question Tuesday at Procinets 5 and 13 in Farmington Hills.



"I'm widowed. On some people, we'd change. But basically we'd vote the same."  
— Kay Briggs  
Farmington Hills



"We vote exactly alike. After 59 years, today, living with the same man."  
— Leah Pokko  
Farmington Hills



"Yes. Because we have the same mind."  
— Walter Pokko  
Farmington Hills



"Not this time. We usually do, though. I'm voting for Bush. She's voting for Buchanan."  
— Howard Legg  
Farmington Hills



"I'm not married. The last time my girlfriend and I voted, we voted the same."  
— Jim Miotke  
Farmington Hills



"No way. We're completely opposite. We have some good debates. She doesn't try to influence my vote."  
— Murray Davis  
Farmington Hills

# She finds musical serenity performing as a violinist

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... bass, her grandfather, the trumpet, her grandmother, the organ and piano, her uncle, the jazz saxophone, her brother, the classical string bass, her niece, the violin, and a sister sings. "My mom just listens and tells us how good we are."

Spratt's musical life began with piano lessons, which she hated. And she was afraid of her teacher. When demonstrations of instruments were given at school, she picked the violin and took private lessons.

Spratt dove into her music. She spent summers at Interlochen Musical Camp and quit her first year in college to play in the Kansas City Philharmonic. For awhile she went back and forth between college and playing as a full-time violinist. She also did a stint with the Omaha Symphony.

But in her heart, her interest in psychology continued to bud. She went back to college again and took two psychology courses "just to see if the interest was really still there."

It was. She got bachelor's degrees in psychology and sociology, and a master's degree in clinical social work. Music remained her ally throughout her college studies. "I'd be in the pit with my books, reading during the breaks," she said.

Spratt arrived at Sarah Fisher five years ago as a therapist in the treatment foster care program. But

**"It's a relief for me to go and play after problems with children and child welfare. This is a high burnout job for everyone."**  
— Kathie Spratt

her music is still with her. You may not know this, but most of the well-known shows that travel to the Fisher Theater or Masonic Temple don't bring their own orchestras. Contractors hire local musicians. "You get known in the city after awhile," Spratt said.

ALSO ON HER resume of shows are stints with the Michigan Opera Theater, ballet companies and as backup for Aretha Franklin. In addition to doing a few shows each year, Spratt also gives private lessons to 10 students every Saturday. "I teach kids from seven years to 75."

It's a lot of work doing everything. But Spratt says she really couldn't give up one for the other. "Music is gratifying when you do it well for an audience response. But this field (psychology/social work) is a totally different kind of gratification. It's so

rewarding in so many different ways."

Yet she tries to encourage the children to whom she gives music lessons to decide what they want to do — violin or ballet or soccer or skating. "You don't want to be mediocre at one thing. Pick one thing and do it well."

Spratt admits she hasn't given a thought to learning another instrument. She doesn't want to. She loves her violin. "It's so intense to become proficient at one instrument."

And the violin isn't exactly an easy instrument. Spratt says playing a violin — with it under your chin and your fingers sliding up and down the instrument's neck with a bow in your other hand — is like "rubbing your head and putting your stomach at the same time."

But she's not alone. Two other Sarah Fisher employees — Susan Feldman, who is in licensing home development for foster parents, and Anne Cannel, a residential therapist — also play the violin. "We're trying to figure if there's a link here."  
No doubt though, Spratt says playing the violin is a relief. "It's a relief for me to go and play after problems with children and child welfare. This is a high burnout job for everyone."  
That doesn't mean she goes home and practices the violin every night. "I have a 15-pound tomato. If I just put my hand on the (violin) case, he ruses."

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