

Group applauds leading area artist

The Farmington Area Arts Commission recently named Kegham Tazian the 1995 Artist-in-Residence.

The award, given to an artist living in Farmington or Farmington Hills, recognizes candidates from the fields of art, drama, dance, literature and music.

"As an artist and educator he is a tireless achiever," said George Keith, president of Oakland Community College.

"Kegham consistently offers his services and talents to bring the richness of art to our campus and to the community," Keith said in a letter nominating Tazian for the award.

Tazian said the most exciting aspect of his work is the anticipation of beginning.

"To me there is almost a mystical quality about materials," Tazian said. "They have an inherent quality and a characteristic about them. The nature of the artwork to be discovered within the natural materials — that is the excitement of discovery I find in my work. This is especially true when I begin, the anticipation, the wonder in my mind as to what exists in an old tree stump, a hunk of stone, a pile of clay or a blank canvas and pigments."

Tazian has taught at Oakland Community College since 1967 and is the art department chairman and director of the Smith Theatre Art Gallery.

He earned his degree in education from St. Francis College in Fort Wayne and his master of fine arts degree from Wayne State University in Detroit. Tazian's work has been represented in more than 30 one man exhibitions and 60 group exhibitions in the



Kegham Tazian

United States and Europe.

Other distinguished awards Tazian has received include the Michigan Educational Association Purchase Award, International Artists in Watercolor Award and the Award of the Michigan Academy of Arts and Letters.

One of his recent commissions includes the 125th Anniversary Sculpture for the City of Farmington last year. Other significant works have been commissioned by Wayne State University, as well as area businesses and churches.

Tazian has juried local art shows, conducted lectures and workshops around Michigan and appeared in "Art News" and "American Artist and Art in America." He has also served as chairman of the Michigan State Fair for eight years.

Another Farmington Area Arts Commission award was given to Rose Marie Gregor. The Farmington resident received the Disting-



Rose Marie Gregor

guished Service to the Arts Award.

She began her teaching career in 1943 in Detroit and in 1963 she established the Ballet and Jazz school at the Birmingham Community House.

Gregor has volunteered countless hours to developing and staging productions for senior citizens, church social events, fraternal lodges and elementary, middle and high schools.

"The goal of Rose Marie's teaching has always been progressive achievement through a carefully graded curriculum where the students work with discipline, and dance is taught as an art," said Mary Hazy Spaulding, who nominated Gregor for the award.

"Whether or not students pursue a professional career in dance, the discipline they learn from dance will be applicable throughout their life and the art will enhance it. She is a hero to so many of the people whose lives she's touched."

Friends included Battle of the Books, a literary quiz-bowl, which is an annual event that attracts many local sixth through eighth graders.

This year 520 Farmington-area students read books and were questioned regarding their reading selections. Teams were dressed in theme costumes. The Dunckel Middle School team won for the fourth year in a row.

The Annual Volunteers Luncheon was held last month. At that time volunteers were honored and awarded sun visors for their dedication and continued commitment to the library. Yearly more than 8,000 volunteer hours are donated.

"The Friends have supplied much-needed materials and services, items that the library would otherwise have gone without," said Rosalyn Greenberg, president of Friends.

"We hope contributions for these goods and services will continue to increase at the rate we have been experiencing so that future library-users will benefit from them."

To become a member of Friends call 553-0300 for more information.

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Library volunteers finish chapter

It's too late to attend the ninth annual Friends of the Farmington Library Gala, but there's still time to become a member of Friends and contribute to sustaining the quality and service of the Farmington Community Library.

A gift also will ensure a spot at the 10th annual gala next spring.

Last month more than 230 contributors were entertained at this year's gala by a musical performance of "The Detroit Sounds," with five local musicians. Al Tedrick on trombone, Joe Papai on bass guitar, Dave Hackett on percussion, Jim Geoffrey on saxophone and Al Winters on keyboard.

Ron Asmar of the Vineyards Cafe and Catering on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills served wines and appetizers. Pastries from Bakers Loft also were served.

"This has been a banner year for the Friends," said John Carlson, Friends treasurer.

"We have gone from approximately \$12,000 a year total contributions in 1987, the first gala year, to over \$37,000 this year, more than a threefold increase."

Friends is a nonprofit organization, which supports the library

with money for programs, services and materials not provided for by the regular library budget. More than 1,200 Farmington families are included on the Friends' membership rolls.

The Friends income is derived from member contributions, from a used book sale and from interest on an endowment bequeathed to the Friends by Mary Deland, a former Farmington resident.

This year more than \$8,000 was earmarked for several children's and adult programs. Designated for support were the Summer Reading Club, Battle of the Books, the annual volunteers luncheon, a visiting author, National Library Week events and the Winter Dinner Theater.

The Friends also supported full-text magazines that are now available on the Internet terminals in the library and on home computers. A projection screen was bought, as well as a Mosaic Internet Terminal for the Farmington Branch.

Residents are informed of current library events through the newsletter sent to every household in Farmington and Farmington Hills, another project supported by Friends.

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