

Past North Farmington choir director won high honor

BY DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

This is another entry in a series of stories about the Farmington Area Arts Commission Artists in Residence winners. The features are in celebration of the program's 20th anniversary in 1996.

year was 1979.

Among his many accomplishments, Farmington area residents remember him best as choir director at North Farmington High School for about five years beginning in 1969.

"He was an excellent musician and he's missed," according to Paul Barber, who co-founded the

Farmington Civic Band with his wife, Fern Barber.

In 1976 Still and Barber directed the Musical Youth International group, the first youth chapter of People to People, which was sponsored by the U.S. government. Still and Barber travelled to the British Isles.

Still continued with that group for another couple of years in an

extensive tour through Europe.

He received his bachelor of music degree at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and earned his doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California.

Still went on to Ithaca College to earn a masters of music degree. He was the assistant conductor, under Robert Fountain, during

the Oberlin choir's tour of the Soviet Union. Still also worked as director of Keuka College choir for two years before coming to North Farmington in 1969.

He was also chosen as the conductor of the Michigan Allstate Honors Choir in 1976.

"He was a highly respected and outstanding vocal music teacher," Fern Barber said. "He's often re-

membered with a musical tribute by local musical organizations."

Still was a baritone singer with the Kenneth Jewell Choral and was formerly a soloist with the Third Church of Christ Scientist in Detroit. He also played piano and string bass as a hobby.

Still suffered a stroke when he was in his late 40s.

Clarenceville plans search for top school officials

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

By late April, Clarenceville expects to name the replacement for its popular superintendent, David Kamiah, who plans to retire June 30, 1996 after spending four years in Clarenceville's top job.

One of the first tasks the new superintendent will face when he or she comes on board July 1 will be to name a replacement for Ralph Skrocki, Clarenceville's finance director, who also plans to retire June 30 of next year.

Before advertising Kamiah's vacancy in late January, the Clarenceville Board of Education will first hold a forum to hear advice on the qualifications the new superintendent should have.

The trustees also have made up a questionnaire which will be put in each school and the board of trustees in Clarenceville Junior High, 20210 Middlebelt.

Staff, parents and community members are asked to answer the four questions on the survey and return them by Jan. 8.

Advice and answers given at the forum and on the questionnaire will be used to guide the trustees as they search for a new superintendent, said trustee Vernice Dunklee.

Kamiah, who lives in Novi, spent two years in the U.S. Army and 35 years in education. He returned to Clarenceville in 1966 to become principal of Edgewood Elementary. When it closed in 1980,

he was named principal of Grandview Elementary. In 1991, he was named superintendent after former superintendent Jerry Montecillo resigned.

In his letter of resignation, Kamiah wrote: "I can never repay Clarenceville for what it afforded me and my family. The good people of Clarenceville helped me overcome the down times."

Kamiah and his wife, Beth, will stay in the area to be near their four children.

Skrocki spent 25 years in education, the last eight at Clarenceville as finance director.

"He served the district very well for a number of years and we wish him every good thing," Dunklee said.

"We suspected retirement was coming. I know David thought about it last year, but decided to give it another year to get through the bond proposals. He felt Clarenceville needed him. Clarenceville is truly his family. This is his home."

Trustee Vernice Dunklee

Skrocki and wife, Mary, will move to their new home in Suttons Bay, where they will once again take up one of their loves, sailing.

Both Kamiah and Skrocki worked closely together earlier this year in their successful effort to get approval of two tax increases to remodel the district's school buildings.

"We suspected retirement was coming," Dunklee said. "I know David thought about it last year, but decided to give it another year to get through the bond proposals. He felt Clarenceville needed him. Clarenceville is truly his family. This is his home. He's been here his whole adult life. I don't think the community will be the same without him. He has made many lifetime friendships here. He not

only served this community, but took it to heart.

"I can define David in one word — integrity."

The questionnaire asks the following four questions:

■ What do you feel are the most important duties and responsibilities of the superintendent?

■ What are the key personal and professional qualifications of a superintendent?

■ What are the major issues facing the board and the superintendent?

■ Is there any additional information you feel is important to the selection process?

"We will use this input when we advertise," Dunklee said.

Dunklee said the trustees will look both inside and outside the district in its search. Montecillo, an outsider, came from Taylor Public Schools in 1989. His tenure lasted less than two years. The trustees said then it was not a good match.

The board renegotiated Montecillo's four-year contract and agreed to pay him as a consultant for the 1991-92 school year at a fee of \$50,000, his yearly salary at the time.

The trustees hired Kamiah, an insider, at a salary of \$82,250. His salary for 1995-96 is \$90,704.

Kamiah has been working under an agreement signed Oct. 24, 1991. Since then, the contract has been amended three times, the last coming Dec. 8, 1994. His amended contract expires on his retirement date, June 30, 1996.

The board will hold the open forum from 5:30-8:15 p.m. Jan. 8 at its board office. The following schedule has been set: support personnel, 5:30-6:10 p.m.; union leadership, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; staff, 7-7:40 p.m.; community and community groups, 7:45-8:30 p.m.; and administration and central office, 8:45-9:15 p.m.

"This gives us two opportunities to get input," Dunklee said.

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open, Wednesday 30 and over and Sunday open leagues or \$290 per team for Thursday resident league. Games will begin in January at the Activities Center gym and Oakland Community College. Call 473-9570 for additional information.

■ **HOLIDAY BREAK DAY CAMP**
A day camp for children ages 5-7 and 8-11 will be offered Dec. 28-29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Heritage Park Day Camp Center.

Campers will enjoy winter activities. A \$70 per child fee is required at the Recreation office.

■ **SWIM LESSONS**
Beginning Jan. 3, there will be a five-session swim lesson program at the Activities Center Pool, 28500 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Classes from pre-school beginners through youth advanced at various times Monday through Saturday are available. A pre-registration fee of \$25 per person is

now being accepted at the recreation office.

■ **PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**
A variety of activities for pre-school children will be offered at the Day Camp Building at Heritage Park beginning the week of Jan. 3. Activities include dance, art, music, tumbling and creative play. Please refer to the recently distributed program brochure or contact our office at 473-9570 for more information.

Lunch charity program is in the bag

Many Detroit area employees gave up eating out during their lunch hour during the past few days, but they didn't go hungry.

As part of a charity fundraiser recently, Weight Watchers encouraged employees at various companies to donate the money they would normally spend eating lunch out and, instead, brown-bag it for a day.

So far, Weight Watchers has raised approximately \$4,000 to help the Salvation Army.

Weight Watchers and Keebler provided each participant with a reusable vinyl lunch bag filled with helpful brown bag tips and nutritious snacks and coupons.

"First and foremost, it gives us the opportunity to reach out and help those less fortunate than ourselves," according to Florine Mark, The Weight Watchers Group, Inc.

"Secondly, we can help educate the fundraiser participants on

ways of maintaining a healthier lifestyle."

This time of year, everyone thinks they're too busy to eat nutritiously, whether it be on the job, in a social situation, or at home.

Weight Watchers and Keebler have teamed up with employees at Comerica Banks, Gale Research, The Build Company, Masco Tech Corporation, The Farm Bureau Group and Hospice of Southeast Michigan.



When Jim wanted better care—his friends suggested a move to The Arnold Home.

It's a common story. A loved one goes to an assisted living or nursing home, expecting good care. Then the realization sets in that the care is not what was expected. When that disillusionment hit Jim, his friends suggested he move to The Arnold Home. Residents have a choice of beautifully appointed and affordable one bedroom apartments or deluxe private rooms. A supportive staff gives Arnold Home residents the assistance and encouragement to remain active, involved and independent. Is Jim happy?

Ask him. "These people give you personal attention. I like the fact that health care service is individually developed for each of us. There's just a lot of peace of mind here." If you'd like peace of mind, call the Arnold Home at 313-531-4001 and ask for Mary Cobello. The Arnold Home guarantees your satisfaction.

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