



Top girls: Alicia Orihel (left), Hayley Weiss and Kellie Schwagle finished one-two-three in the Optimist Club speaking contest.



Best boys: Raji Bedi (second from left) won first-place in the Optimist boys group. Erik Peterson (left) was second, Charlie Stamboulia third and Ryan Lewis (second from right) fourth.

## Students speak out in oratorical contest

"Now Is The Time" was the topic for this year's oratorical contest sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Breakfast Optimist Club.

Thirteen students were on hand March 6 and 13 to share their oration on this theme. Students from O.E. Dunckel, Power and Warner Middle Schools, as well as Mercy High School competed.

The topic gave students the opportunity to speak about any issue that they felt needed to be addressed by society. The issues they selected included abortion, teenage driving, disease, humanity and peace.

Students were judged on originality, poise, content, delivery and presentation, and overall effectiveness.

## Historical Society sponsors research writing contest

Anyone interested in Farmington-area history take note: the Farmington Historical Society is sponsoring the 13th-annual Lee S. Peel Historical Research Writing Contest.

Anyone, except those judging the contest, may enter, and there are four categories: I. Elementary schoolers, grades 1-6; II. Middle schoolers, grades 6-8; III. High schoolers, grades 9-12; and IV. college students and adults.

Submissions should be original work and must be submitted before Friday, April 6. Audio and video tapes, slides, photographs, and neatly written or printed texts are acceptable.

Sources may include personal recollections, interviews, family diaries or letters, old photographs, paintings and sketches.

First prize — the Lee S. Peel Writing Award — will be \$100, and second prize will be \$50. Four best-in-category prizes of \$25 each will be awarded. Winners will be announced at a ceremony in late May or early June at the Farmington Historical Museum.

The contest is named after Lee S. Peel, a prominent local educator, historian and author. For more information, call John Villani at 661-8916.

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This year's judges were Tom Baer, editor of the Farmington Observer; Peter DuHaan, from Hitachi Corporation; and Caren Collins, from the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission.

The remaining students were: Samantha Cohen, Sheela Rajdev, Marina Mednik, Nissan Ben-Gal, Charlie Stamboulia, Ryan Lewis, Kellie Schwagle, Nicole D'Avanzo and Melissa Moteinger.

**Proud prose**

**Student poet:** Kenbrook Elementary fifth grader Alexa Feldman's poem was selected as the first place winner in the 1995-96 Michigan PTA Reflections Contest Grade 3-5 category. Her poem, "Watch . . . and See the Seasons Turn," will be entered in the National PTA Reflections contest. State winners will be honored at the PTA state convention May 4.

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