

Artistic expressions



Muse of choice: At left, Brendan Carroll, fourth grader at Gill Elementary, paints on a 2-by-4 inch wooden canvas. At top, Tim Mitchell and Corey Hague point out Corey's neighbor who is in the Farmington High Madrigal Choir that performed during the Festival of the Arts at the William Costick Center April 29. Erin Bailey, above, a fourth grader at Gill, looks through a magnifying glass to see the miniature artwork of Pat Langner.

Hills man cheated death to enrich those near him

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER



Robert Richman

Robert "Bundy" Richman found life and its people precious. A prisoner number tattooed on his arm reminded him why.

The Farmington Hills resident was a Holocaust survivor, his life spared twice in separate incidents while others were killed in the notorious Auschwitz death camp. Other quirky facts would see him through a rich and fulfilling life.

Mr. Richman died at his home April 28. He was 71.

My father died from heart failure, which is ironic because he had so many people in his heart . . . and he touched so many different hearts," said Audrey Klayman of Commerce Township, his youngest daughter.

A German soldier saw him crying while in line for the gas chamber and took pity on him and moved him into a line for shower instead.

Another time, another German soldier asked him his name. Before changing his name after the war, the native of Hungary went by Adolf.

When the boy told him, the German soldier — who had a son named Adolf — brought him food everyday for 10 months.

When the Russians liberated Auschwitz, Mr. Richman was going to be sent to Siberia until a Russian army soldier intervened. The soldier was Jewish and asked the teen if he could speak Yiddish. When he did, the soldier took him to Krakow, Poland.

He emigrated to the U.S. with Iwazie and Warren Johnson, and took a job as a stock boy at National Dry Goods on Trumbull Avenue in Detroit, vowing someday to earn enough money to buy the business. He did.

Mr. Richman opened a meat

packing business, Parker Hoise, in Detroit, making enough money from the venture to acquire National Dry Goods. He also owned real estate in the Detroit area.

One day, with the employe payroll from the meat packing company in his pocket, he was confronted by gunmen.

The robbers openly debated whether to kill Mr. Richman or rough him up. The bandits chose the latter before fleeing.

"He always felt someone upstairs was always looking out for him because of those situations," said Gary Lichtman, a cousin.

As a result, Mr. Richman looked out for others near and dear to him. He was particularly close to his sister, Martha, who survived Auschwitz along with his mother.

Mr. Richman was known for his generosity, donating money through his synagogue and Shalom and Jewish charities to help Russian immigrants. He wasn't above stopping by a relative's home on a Sunday morning, leaving a bag of beignets and cream cheese before he rang the doorbell and left.

"He gave \$20 to my daughter a month ago," Lichtman said. "He said, 'Here now. Take this.' He kind of epitomized the Jewish grandfather."

Mr. Richman worked countless hours running two businesses. His youngest daughter recalls not seeing him much when she was a child.

"He really, really worked hard because he didn't want us to suffer for the way he did," Audrey said. "He was not with us all the time, but we knew he loved us. He loved his grandchildren."

He is survived by wife of 39 years, Katharine; two daughters, Judy (and Gregory Epstein) of West Bloomfield and Audrey (and Bryan Klayman) and three grandchildren.

Burial was Wednesday at Hebrew Benevolent Chapel in Southfield.

CAMPUS PIPELINE

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, 33441 Grand River, Farmington 48335.

FRESHMAN HONOR

Meghan Gage has been elected to membership in the Ohio Wesleyan University chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, the national freshman honor society. Students are selected based on outstanding academic achievement in their first year of college study.

Gage is a Dean's List Scholar in the Freshman Honors Program majoring in premedical studies. She is a graduate of Detroit Country Day School and is the daughter of Lawrence and Kathleen Gage of Farmington Hills.

SOLAR CAR

Mote Nadir and Randy Castro are part of the team working on Wolverine, a new solar-powered car designed and built by University of Michigan students to compete in a national cross-country race this summer.

Both are enrolled in the engineering program at U of M and from Farmington Hills.

NATIONAL HONOR

Wendy Michalski has been inducted into Sigma Phi Iota, a national honor society recognizing student leaders in on-campus extracurricular activities.

Michalski is the daughter of Lawrence and Patricia Michalski

of Farmington.

GRADUATE

Barab Kutschke of Farmington Hills has graduated from Spring Arbor College with a degree in Management and Organizational Development.

DEAN'S LIST

Marie Blaty Barnes made the Dean's List, the Honor Roll and earned a Certificate of Merit in Civil Procedure I at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing.

She is the daughter of Don and Lorraine Blaty of Farmington Hills.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Michael Dagnanne of Farmington Hills, received the University of Detroit Mercy Scholarship Certificate Award presented in recognition of distinguished academic achievement in the College of Engineering and Science.

MSU GRADS

The following Farmington area students have earned degrees from Michigan State University spring semester 1997:

Mikaela Adams, Katherine Gundlach, Stephanie Moore, Stephanie Shier, Tamara Allen, Amanda Amos, Adrienne Anton, Jennifer Bahns, Tricia Barnes, Bradley Barter, Anne Beemer, Meryl Bender, Jodi Berger, Amie Berry, Nicole Blank, Steven Booknoek, Diane Bruckner, Christopher Buntli, Sharon Caglewski, Erik Dillard, Erik Eslinger, Jeffrey Falcon,

Christopher Ferry, JoAnn Gaydek, Derrick George, Susan Glowacki, Julie Godwin, Jennifer Greening, Emily Grey, Marsha Harris, Susan Hartwig, Hope Hoffman, Scott Holliday, Nick Iwazie and Warren Johnson.

Lauren Kaplan, Timothy Kemp, Wendy Leland, Mark Lichtman, Matthew Link, Elise Lubaway, Lisa Madalena, Christine McGowan, Kenneth Melder, Mark Passerman, Russell Patel, Christoph Patterson, Stephen Rao, Stephanie Rossi, Jennie Sadtler, Steven Sampson, Heather Schammel, Linda Schrier, Jonathan Siskosky, Tracy Smith, Ellen Sobieski, Amy Sonae, Diane Toth, Michael Tueros, Steven Vandenbosche, Thomas Weesses, Kim Winder, Todd Wood and Diana Wright.

SCIENCE GRAD

Nicole Aratari will graduate from the University of Michigan with a bachelor of science in chemistry on May 3.

She is the daughter of John and Marie Aratari of Farmington Hills and will continue her education in the medical field.

BUSINESS LIST

The following Farmington area residents have made the Dean's List for the winter quarter at the Detroit College of Business:

Patricia Kaunelis, Justin Lawlor, Kristen Derrindinger, Leesa Hanaknecht, Veronica Schwoppe, Troy Strong and Wiescianski.

AGENDAS

Farmington City Council City Hall, 23600 Liberty St. Regular meeting 8 p.m. Monday, May 5

Agenda items include:

- Request for sign variance: Avlon Films, 33300 Thomas St.
- Letter from Herman Smith recreation programmer, city of Farmington Hills, re: Kid's Day Celebration.
- Approval of public hearing notice for proposed 1997-98 budget and property tax rate.
- Consider request for new SDM license.

Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals City Hall 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 6

Agenda items include:

- Request for setback variance at 22555 Inkster, to relocate existing wooden shed and construct detached garage.
- Request for variance in order to construct garage at 32700 Cadillac.
- Permit for temporary structure (tent) for company picnic at 34700 Grand River.
- Request for variance to replace antenna at 32823 W. 12 Mile Road.
- Request to erect tent for tent sale at Auntie Bug Outlet and Farmington Downtown Development Authority Farmington City Hall 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 6
- Approval of payments; financial report.

- Business recruitment report.
- Executive director's report.

Farmington/Farmington Hills City Councils joint meeting

8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13

Farmington Hills City Hall

Agenda items include:

- Budgets of joint-funded agencies: 47th District Court, Farmington Area Arts Commission, Farmington Youth Assistance, Farmington Area Commission on Aging, Farmington Area Counseling Center and Farmington Community Library.

Farmington Hills Planning Commission City Hall

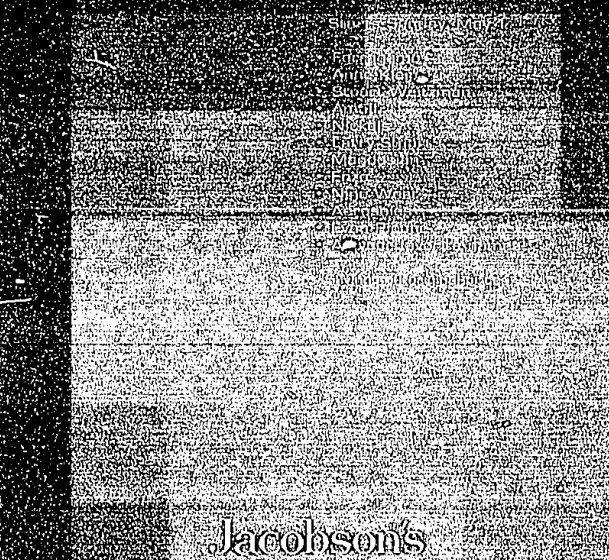
7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8

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