

Retiring senior program director feted by colleagues



Loretta Conway

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

From humble beginnings - a \$50 budget and four tablecloths - Loretta Conway built a thriving senior citizens program over the past 24 years, now budgeted at \$500,000 annually and serving thousands of Farmington and Farmington Hills residents.

On Tuesday, Conway who is retiring at years end, was feted by her colleagues in a moving tribute during the senior citizen Christmas luncheon at the William Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

Dan Potter, department of special services director for the city of Farmington Hills, unveiled a plaque and announced that the Killarney room where senior

events are staged inside the center will be renamed the Conway room in her honor.

Staff recalled how Conway, hired parttime in 1974 by then Farmington City Manager Bob Deadman, had to transport chairs and coffeepots to the old American Legion Hall twice a week to service the 50 to 70 seniors per session who would attend with brown bag lunch to play cards and socialize.

Today the vital senior program offers health and fitness classes, meals on wheels to homebound seniors, meals served daily at the senior center and many other programs. There is currently 45,000 participating in a year. Some 500 volunteers are now involved with senior pro-

■ 'Loretta Conway is the glue, the shepherd, the advocate, the heart. Her legacy will continue.'

Paul Sowerby
—volunteer

jects.

Conway has received national, state and local awards for her programming. She has been named Employee of the Year by the city of Farmington Hills.

Terry Sever, a Farmington Hills city councilman, recalled how in 1978, as president of the Jaycees, he teamed with Conway to be able to provide more services for her clientele.

"This lady has stood every need for seniors. My hats off to you," he said.

Farmington Mayor Mary Bush summed it up in a verse she read: "Who may become sum up what you do for others along the way."

Farmington Hills City Manager Dan Hobbs said Conway "has kept involved with seniors not only in the center but with other facets of life and with a true sense of compassion."

Farmington City Manager Frank Laubhoff noted that Conway's "compassion and sensitivity are what comes through. She

has touched all of us."

Jan Dolan, retired state representative and former Farmington Hills city councilwoman, reminded Conway that "retirement won't get you any more time. There is still only 24 hours in a day, seven days in a week." Speaking for the hundreds of volunteers, local attorney Paul Sowerby said "Loretta is the glue, the shepherd, the advocate, the heart. Her legacy will continue."

From commercials to sitcoms, young actor has a full plate

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Campbell Soup Boy has come a long way.

Jacob Stein was only 3 when he was chosen as a winner of a national contest to pick the boy and girl who most resembled the cherubic-looking child sketched for the soup company's ads.

He's all of 8 years old now and has been showing up in Hollywood movies and in TV sitcoms. On Friday night, he will appear on television in an episode of "Step by Step" starring Suzanne Somers and Patrick Duffy. "He plays a computer nerd," said his mother, Lisa Fisco Stein.

"I'm also cast to play his mother (her acting debut). You'll see me for one second. Jacob is on much longer." In the

show, she rescues him from Santa.

Lisa, her husband, former Farmington Hills dentist Jeff Stein, and their family still own a home in West Bloomfield but they moved to Los Angeles a year ago.

"The aim goal was for me," said Lisa, who worked as a producer for Channel 7 in Southfield for 14 years.

Since coming to L.A., she has done freelancing as a producer, including a couple of shows for "Loosey Gibbons."

She is now co-producing a feature film "Granny DJ." Actor Jeff Goldblum will be one of the stars in the comedy about "an older woman who becomes the town's DJ."

In his metro-Detroit years, Jacob completed 36 jobs. TV

commercials and print. He attended first grade at Detroit Country Day School.

Last year, in the first week of the move to L.A., "He got the movie 'Liar, Liar.' He plays Jim Carey's son's friend," Lisa said. "It was his first major film. He worked on that two weeks."

Since he has been selected as one of the Oscar Meyer kids, for TV commercials that have not aired yet. You can look for him "playing a saxophone in a huge lifeguard chair on the beach. He sings and plays the Oscar Meyer song," his mother said.

The curly-haired youngster is pictured on the cover of packaging for Polaroid film and cameras.

Last month, Jacob filmed "Family Matters," with Jaleel White for an episode that has

already run. He played a junior woodman in a secret troop.

He will be entertaining live audiences in L.A. when he appears as Mike, with a professional children's troupe, in an all-kid cast of the musical "Oklahoma," opening in January.

"He goes to a private school, similar to Country Day, in North Hollywood," Lisa said.

Jacob is in the third grade at Campbell Hall. Lisa is also the mother of sons Jared, 3, and Jeremy, 2. Like Jacob, "They're both SAG (Screen Actors Guild) members and both have done TV commercials," she said.

Lisa describes Jacob as very outgoing. "He makes friends easily, he's incredibly smart and is very easy-going. That's what makes him so successful with his work."

Asked how Jacob's earnings will help him in the future, she replied, "A certain amount goes into a trust fund. Jacob knows Charles Schwab very well. He's very fortunate."

When Jacob was still 3, on a visit to L.A. he filmed a commercial for the brokerage firm Dean Witter.

"It's still running, and now is in triple residuals," Lisa declared.

The move to L.A. came at the right time, she believes.

"The children are young enough now, we can be mobile enough to make this transition."

Last month, husband Jeff sold his dental practice in Farmington Hills. "He is looking to purchase a practice in L.A.," she said.



Jacob Stein

NEW VOICES



PRESS BABY

Thomas Michael Press was born Nov. 3, 1997, to Stephen and Lorri Press of Farmington Hills.

He weighed 8 lbs., 7 ounces, was 21 inches long and joins his brothers, Stephen and Richie.

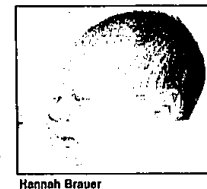
Grandparents are Richard and Lois Press of Wayne and Thomas and Theresa of Westland.

Thomas, the 17th grandchild, was named after his grandfather, Thomas Lally and uncle, Terry Michael Watts.

BRAYER BABY

Hannah Holland Brayer was born Oct. 26, 1997 at 1:47 p.m. to Matthew and Amy Brayer of Farmington Hills.

She weighed 7 lbs., 13 ounces. Grandparents are Judy Brayer of Farmington, Arthur



Hannah Brayer

Brayer of Farmington, Carol Holland of Northville and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Holland of Northville.

Tasty substitutions are healthier

Bakers and those preparing a big holiday feast for family and friends can keep these tips from Weight Watchers in mind to ensure a thinner celebration.

When making breads, muffins or cakes, instead of oil or shortening, substitute applesauce, equal parts for all or a portion of what the recipe calls for.

For chocolate Christmas cookies or brownies, instead of oil or shortening, use pureed prunes for a portion of oil. For pie crusts, instead of flour and butter, use graham crackers and either apple, white grape or orange juice to moisten.

For pie filling, instead of rich chocolate, use sugar free pudding and skim milk. For drinks with alcohol, instead of wine or champagne, mix a half cup of seltzer or juice with a half cup of wine and lemon juice to taste.

Instead of cheese sauce over vegetables, substitute low fat Hollandaise sauce; egg substitute,

margarine, lemon juice, Dijon mustard and ground red pepper. For salads, instead of oily dressing, use a balsamic vinegar and spice mix. Instead of spreading butter on breads or rolls, use a roasted garlic spread.

Instead of cream cheese dips for vegetables or crackers, strain yogurt over cheesecloth overnight. Yogurt will have the consistency of cream cheese; or use fat free sour cream. When making cheese-cake, instead of cream cheese, mix low fat ricotta cheese and low fat cottage cheese or yogurt. If using fat-free cream cheese for baking, you must use block, not tub, cream cheese.

Baste the turkey with low sodium chicken broth instead of butter. Instead of pan drippings for gravy for the turkey, make orange sauce: chicken broth, orange zest, bell peppers, leeks and seasonings. Instead of adding butter and cream to mashed potatoes, use roasted garlic, chives, skim milk and herbs.

ENGAGEMENTS



CECCHINI-CARLSON

Angelo and Patricia Cecchini of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea, to Keith Carlson.

He is the son of Ernest Carlson of Minonk, Ill. and Donna Onnen of Bloomington, Ill.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in human resources.

She is employed as a college recruiter for Bank of America in Chicago, Ill.

The groom is a graduate of Illinois State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Finance.

An August wedding is planned in Farmington Hills.

The couple will make their new home in Chicago, Ill.

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