

CHAT ROOM



Kathie O'Donohue

Dad gets credit while poor old mom gets grief

I would simply like to know...how come?

Why is it when Dad does a job around the house it shows? Others see and appreciate it, for example, when the grass is cut or new moldings are hammered in place. But I can juggle impossible schedules, painstakingly prepare three meals a day, sort-wash-fold laundry that simply never diminishes in quantity, and no one notices or seems to care. That is until that favorite T-shirt can't be located. And then I'm only noticed as the target of the complainant.

How come I am forced to obsess about balanced nutrition all the while enduring a ceaseless litany of complaints, but YOU are the WORLD'S GREATEST DAD when you buy a bag of burgers or order pizza?

I don't understand why I can be awakened at any hour of the night to return a scared kid who's sleeping over to his parents' house or transport an acutely ill child to the emergency room, spend countless hours waiting in doctor's offices, or memorizing medical histories, intimately knowing any and all allergies...but you spend an hour fishing with a kid and you have their unwavering respect and adoration apparently for life.

Day to day drama

Why is it though we have spent numerous hours talking about sharing the tasks I still seem so frustrated dealing with the day-to-day squabbles, sibling rivalry times five, the fights, tears, the drama, the sense of doubt, guilt, and not knowing if what I'm doing is right? I'm in the trenches, you're at work.

I arrange play dates and accommodate their friends, even transport and feed them, and even though you don't even know who most of their friends are, you remain the recipient of their best secrets and untarnished admiration. How does that work?

Somehow I find myself appointed honorary typist and editor for a variety of elementary and middle school projects they grow and whine about. You play "Whiplash" racing obnoxious cars against the clock and you're instantly their hero.

How can it be that although I spend half a lifetime doing homework, quizzing math facts, spelling and reading...you read a smart aleck comic to them and the sun rises and sets on you?

Running on and on

I endure conversations that redefine the concept of run-on sentences; you frequently communicate in little more than grunts and one word utterances.

I have learned, against my will and with associated queasiness, to hook a worm for fishing, and it's simply expected. You hot-glue a toy and you would think you invented the wheel.

Even though it's not apparent that people notice what I do and it seems taken for granted, I find comfort in you having good meals, clean clothes and a loving relationship with your children. And actually, even though I complain amidst these incongruities, I would have it no other way.

Kathie O'Donohue is the mother of five children and a Farmington Hills resident.

Werther originals

Two Farmington Hills kids in MOT production



Castmates: Mary Malaney, 9, as Clara, Christopher Schaldbrand as Albert, and Matt Daigler, 13, as Hans as they appear in MOT's "Werther," now at the Detroit Opera House. The production is the North American debut for Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli.

■ Two Our Lady of Sorrows students play siblings in Michigan Opera Theatre's Production of "Werther" at the Detroit Opera House.



BY DIANE GALE ANDREASZ
SPECIAL WRITER

Mary Helen Malaney, a fourth grader at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Farmington, sighed deeply as she explained that she couldn't convince a boy on the bus that she really does have a part in "Werther," produced by the Michigan Opera Theatre.

"A lot of my friends are really impressed," Malaney said, wrinkling a nose accented by freckles that seem to dance with her mood. "A bunch of friends don't really care and one kid on the bus doesn't believe me and I can't prove it to him until I get the program."

Fellow Sorrows student, Matt Daigler, an eighth grader with cherubic, blond, curly hair, also performs in the opera that is attracting worldwide attention as the U.S. operatic debut of Italian superstar tenor, Andrea Bocelli. Daigler captured the part of Hans.

Special honor

While both youngsters are veterans at the Michigan Opera Theatre, singing with Bocelli and Denyce Graves is undeniably exciting for both — even if they may not entirely grasp the magnitude of the honor.

"I was kind of excited, because I knew I was going to be with Andrea Bocelli," said Daigler, 13, whose favorite musical group is the Bare Naked Ladies. "Andrea Bocelli was standing around once (during rehearsals) and a bunch of us were

talking to him. We didn't say much, but he was nice."

"We get paid only a little," said Daigler of the \$7 stipend for each performance. "But we can put it on our resumes."

While playing soccer is one of his favorite pastimes, the Farmington Hills resident said a music career might be in his future.

"It's really fun and it gives you a good feeling when you're done and you did well and everyone is clapping," Daigler explained.

Malaney, 9, said she started singing "when I was very little, about six."

Her mom, Amy Malaney, children's choir director at Sorrows, is a singer with the Michigan Opera Theatre community program traveling around the state in various performances throughout the year.

Prays for part

"I'd been praying I would get the part (Clara) and I was really excited when I heard," Mary Helen Malaney said, "It's a lot of fun."

Clutching her knees with both arms, she added: "I really like Denyce Graves' dog, Madison."

Last week, rehearsals at the Detroit Opera House went until midnight. Opening night was Friday, Oct. 29. Malaney said her usual bedtime is 9:30 p.m.

"It's not very pleasant when I have to go to school the next day," she said, adding that she learned of Bocelli for the first time through her part in the opera.

Malaney said she doesn't plan to be a professional singer, because she would prefer becoming an explorer.

"I want to try to get people to understand we don't have a lot of animal species left and we have to save them."

Please See MOT, B2

Piano Lady releases children's CD

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASZ
SPECIAL WRITER

A newly released CD of children's songs, written and produced by a Farmington Hills woman, is designed to ignite a lifetime joy of the sound of music.

The CD was born of Wendy Rollin's job as music director of Echo Park preschool and kindergarten in Bloomfield Hills and was released last August.

"I wanted to invent a very special curriculum for the children at the school and from time to time parents asked how they could sing these songs with their kids at home," said Rollin, also known as the Piano Lady performing at parties in the metro-Detroit area.

Music is My Friend

Rollin wrote and produced the collection of 18 songs in "Music is My Friend." She plays the piano and sings in most of the arrangements.

Pointing to the title and illustration of a drawing of a boy and girl on the cover, Rollin said, "When you instill the love of song in a child you've given that child a friend that never leaves."

The package also includes a 14-page booklet with lyrics and suggested movements to accompany the singing.

Parents can use this at home and teachers can use it to enhance and enliven their whole year's curriculum," she said pointing to the holiday songs commemorating Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and Valentine's Day.

"They're all crafted for the creative movement that's important when working with children, because the body movements engage the singing," Rollin said. "It engages restless parts



Wendy Rollin leads her class through a spooky Halloween song.

All together: Echo Park School music director Wendy Rollin leads her class through a spooky Halloween song.

and meandering attention."

"The music spans everything from show tunes to gospel sounds, march, calypso, love songs, lullabies, nursery rhymes, anthem and boogie-woogie with titles like "Doo Wah Doo!" and

"The Boogie Woogie Pumpkin Man."

"It's a great introduction to many genres of music," Rollin explained.

Many languages

She intended to offer a culturally

enriching experience too, with songs, like "My Forever Valentine" that includes phrases in French, Spanish, Hebrew and Swahili.

"It's an anthem for young voices

Please See PIANO LADY, B2

Artshare '99 to benefit Sarah Fisher Center Saturday

Leslie Reinhold, Miss Farmington/Oakland County, will be an official greeter and hostess for Artshare '99.

The eighth annual exhibit and auction to benefit the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center is scheduled at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6 at the Southfield Town Center's 2000 Tower.

Proceeds benefit the Farmington Hills center's programs for abused children and families in crisis.

Eight artists, whose work represents a variety of mediums, have been selected to showcase their art in a live auction. In addition, the work of artists

such as Tom Hale and John Glick will be featured in a silent auction.

Renowned photojournalist Linda Solomon will serve as honorary chair of the event, which is presented by the Ford Motor Company. The benefit brings together the fine art of outstanding Michigan artists.

Celebrity masters of ceremonies are Huei Perkins of WBK FOX 2 and Alexander Zonjic of Smooth Jazz 98.7 FM. Jazz musicians Charles and Gwen Benson will entertain live in concert as guests enjoy strolling hors d'oeuvres and desserts courtesy of the Westin Southfield/Detroit and wine

compliments of Outback Steakhouse of West Bloomfield. Graham Beal, director of the Detroit Institute of Arts, is the evening's honorary host.

Solomon and seven other arts will be featured in an exciting live auction. Participating also are Dominic Pangborn, internationally known tile designer of Detroit; sculptor Sergio DeQuisti of Redford; painter and wood sculptor Henry Hendrix of Lathrup Village; sculptor Jay Przepiorka of Grosse Pointe Park; sculptor Harlan Quinn of Birmingham; painter Grace Barra of Oak Park; and painter Howard Wingarden of Farmington Hills.

In addition to works from painter Tom Hale and

potter John Glick in the silent auction, there will be offerings from tilemaker Robert Dempster and others.

The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center has provided a safe, nurturing home to children in crisis for more than 148 years. Today the center's programs include residential treatment, foster care and adoption services for severely abused children and children with special needs and Marillac Outreach Services, Transitions and Jendayi House programs for high risk infants and their young

Please See ARTSHARE, B3