

CHAT ROOM



KATHIE O'DONOHUE

When doldrums hit, plan your escape route

You know you need a break when...

You view a bikini waxing or root canal surgery as time away and relative peace.

When you are out running errands and you don't mind being stuck in an hour-long bumper-to-bumper traffic jam.

When you congratulate yourself and consider it a momentous occasion upon finding an unmatched sock at the end of a laundry-folding session.

When you look in the mirror and discover you've aged at least five years since the last time you really looked. And - closely related - when you're accused of lying about your age though you've honestly forgotten the last two years.

When you can predict which clothes and in exactly what order they will be worn (then tossed just short of the hamper) by each and every member of the family.

When all the piles and messes look normal and it's been years since you've even attempted to find a place for everything and file

When one of the kids needs to go to the emergency room for stitches, you fight with hubby over who gets to take him.

all accordingly.

When you list "laundry stain removal" under the hobbies and interests section on a survey.

When you start to view even "bad" school conferences as pleasurable.

When you can't think of one place Calgon could take you away to.

Yes, you are in desperate need of an attitude adjustment...

When a pleasurable activity induces feelings of guilt or a sense that you should be doing something else.

When you seek the services of a hypnotist for your children to plant the post-hypnotic suggestion that each is an only child.

When one of the kids needs to be taken to the emergency room for stitches, you fight with hubby about who gets to take him, and you find yourself yelling at the same kid not to bleed on your clean floor (what are you thinking?)

Then, upon arriving at the emergency room, they all know both you and your child on a first-name basis. Yes, you definitely require a new perspective on things when you realize the only volume in your home is LOUD.

When you actually start looking forward to your third grader's weekly spelling words and find the list mentally stimulating.

When you begin to seriously entertain the possibility that your adolescent was switched at birth as the only logical explanation for his strange behaviors and attitudes that occurred sometime after his 12th birthday (someone else's genes).

When your sense of humor has gone from dry to wry to completely awry and you're not even certain it is a sense of humor anymore because you're the only one who seems to "get it."

When foods are not viewed as tasty or delectable or satisfying but merely regarded as adversarial little containers of fat grams.

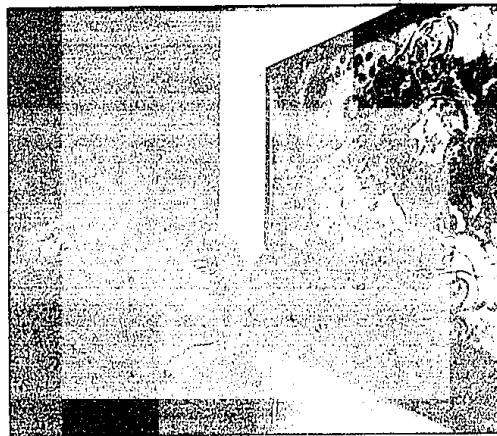
When a frown feels more at home on your face than a smile.

When your children seem more of a chore than a pleasure.

When your muscles hurt for days after a deep laugh - adjust that attitude, take a break, and smell that proverbial coffee. Life, however long, is truly just too short. Now, about that bikini waxing appointment....

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

Art patrons mull permanent gallery



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEEHIVE

Now artwork: Danguole Jurgutis shows Mayor Nancy Bates her work, "Essence of Nature" in Farmington Hills City Hall.

The local arts community is working toward the establishment of an art gallery to house works of Farmington artists.

By MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER
mrodrique@ee.homecomm.net

A permanent gallery to exhibit a collection of works of all artists honored as Farmington Artist in Residence over the years is a goal of many local art supporters. But roadblocks ranging from agreeing on a central location to finding a site suitable to accommodate the variety of mediums could slow down the process.

Abstract expressionist painter Danguole Jurgutis, who recently donated a painting to the city of Farmington Hills, would love to see a permanent gallery in city hall.

"There has been no provision to showcase them together, no one specific place," said the Farmington Hills painter who was Artist in Residence two years ago. "To me, that would be absolutely wonderful to have the works hung together."

Jurgutis' painting, "Essence of Nature," was hung in the lobby at Farmington Hills city hall at her request.

"Art should be shown," she added. "Not everyone goes to museums. This would be an opportunity to charm audiences, to bring their interest."

Longtime Farmington Area Arts Commission (FAAC) member Nan Reid would also like to make a permanent gallery a reality.

"We've discussed it at arts commission meetings," said Reid, who has been a FAAC member for 10 years. "I'm all for the idea. It's just easier said than done. We are working toward that. We need people like Danguole supporting this. It's not that easy."

Chartered in 1976, the FAAC is the governing body that keeps the Farmington Artist in Residence program in operation year after year. An annual celebration of the arts program occurs each April in the Costick Activities Center, with honored artists, displays by professionals and students, demonstrations and free concerts.

"The initial concept was to locate a piece of art in each public building to give it wide recognition. And there are several pieces showcased together in Farmington City Hall in the corridor

Please See ART GALLERY, B2

Art in the Corridor series debuts

The watercolors of artist Evanthis Samra are on display in Farmington Hills City Hall, launching the year 2000's first Art in the Corridor exhibit. The galleries will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and at all other times when the city hall is open for events.

There was a meet-the-artist reception before the Farmington Hills city council meeting Monday evening.

Designated Farmington Artist in Residence for 1992, Samra shares the award with other well-known artists. Her paintings are in private collections across the country.

Art in the Corridor exhibits are sponsored by the Farmington Area Arts Commission and facilitated by the Farmington Hills Special Services department as part of a joint effort to celebrate the quality artistic offerings available in the Farmington area.



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMLEY

Art: Evanthis Samra with a collection of her paintings now on display in city hall. At left, Poppies. See family photo on B5.

Senior gives sage advice to third graders



Robert Siegmund

By MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER
mrodrique@ee.homecomm.net

At 75, Robert Siegmund still firmly believes in contributing to society. He's a long-time Goodfellow supporter and volunteers in the history room at the Farmington library. But just talking about the Senior Adults Giving Education (SAGE) program he has worked with for ten years makes his face light up.

Although emphysema has slowed him considerably in the last year, the Farmington resident still spends a couple of hours every Thursday morning in a third grade classroom at Gill Elementary, where he's been a SAGE volunteer for a decade.

He learned about the program from a small announcement in the newspaper and called Linda Murphy, senior program coordinator at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

"It was a match made in heaven. It's the most gratifying thing," he said, eyes twinkling. "They're like



sponges, the third graders. The idea is to impart to kids the accumulated knowledge of seniors. I embraced it wholeheartedly because I like those kids."

And at three-fourths of a century's worth of living, Siegmund has lots of life experience and formal knowledge to impart. He's a graduate of Michigan State University (Class of 1950), and the University of Michigan where he earned a master's degree in geography in 1951. He taught high school in Dearborn for a couple of years before going into the insurance business, where he spent the next 40 years primarily working for New York Life. In fact, Siegmund still serves a few long-time clients and friends from the Farmington Insurance Agency, where he works part-time.

An Air Force veteran (1943-46) and father of two grown sons, he will cele-

brate his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife, Louise, this coming August.

"Thursday morning I usually walk into the classroom around 9:30. The teacher might have a recitation for me to listen to or papers to correct. I can interject questions or comments. We work well together. I'm the adjunct rather than the actual teaching guy."

"I can show them another view, help supplement their education," he said. He has worked with teacher Carol Greening for nine years and has praise for her teaching methods.

"She makes sure kids get things done," he said.

Siegmund would like to see the SAGE program expand.

"There's a lot of smart older guys wasting their talents," he said. He thinks SAGE works best in the elementary school setting, with kids in grades two through five.

"Older kids are too cool to react," said Siegmund, the former high school

Please See VOLUNTEER, B2