



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL ECKLER

In step: It's polka time for senior adults who turned out for the Seniors Celebrate the Arts event May 5 during which they were treated to a day of arts just for them. At right, students Liz Slatin and Alex Lesondak watch artist Julia McGrath show her painting technique during the hands-on demonstrations.

## A retrospective

### Week-long festival dishes up culture, arts

While the final numbers aren't in, organizers believe this year's Farmington Area Festival of the Arts shattered last year's attendance of 8,000.

The week-long celebration featured displays, demonstrations and special events focused around a variety of cultural arts.

Exhibits featured paintings and sculptures done by local artists, photography and information about area arts groups.

William B. Costick Activities Center Director Robb Clarkson said participating groups are still totaling their attendance sheets, but the kick-off gala and other events drew record crowds. The Artist's Club was especially

pleased, because this year's sales of framed and unframed art tripled last year's figures.

The Senior Dance, featuring the Harrison High Jazz Band, pulled in a standing-room-only

crowd on Friday afternoon, during "Seniors Celebrate the Arts" day.

The Festival concluded over the weekend, with a Detroit Ballet performance and concerts by

the Farmington Community Chorus, at Farmington High, and the Farmington Community Band's "Good Old Days" concert at the Costick Center.



How to: Kay Row demonstrates some watercolor techniques during a series of hands-on demonstrations at the Costick Center.



Helping: Farmington High School artists display bowls designed for the Empty Bowls program. Rory Fleck, Drew Mokris, Art Club president Heather Friedli, Pat Lockhart, Melody Dye and Ashley Lake designed and made some of the bowls.

## Empty bowls will replenish

BY HEATHER FRIEDLI

Did you know that we have 2,342 households with children living at or below the poverty level right here in Farmington/Farmington Hills? Most of us are so fortunate that it seems hard to believe that we are talking about our town.

Rich or poor, we all live in this community for the same reasons: excellent education and a safe place to live. Unfortunately, for the less well-off in our community, the high housing costs can eat up the lion's share of the monthly budget, leaving little for other basics such as food, utilities and clothing. That is why the Farmington High School Art Club decided to get involved. We want to make a difference in our community.

The FHHS Art Club is sponsoring Empty Bowls, an international project to help fight hunger. At 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, in the FHHS cafeteria a symbolic simple meal of soup and bread will be served by Farmington High School art students to attending guests.

The guests will choose a ceramic bowl, hand-made by an

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Nina Weis  
—Art teacher

FHHS student, to keep as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world. A \$10 suggested donation is requested. Everyone is welcome.

One hundred percent of the proceeds generated by this Empty Bowls event will be used to restock the food pantries of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Neighborhood House and the Farmington Hills Salvation Army Community Center.

Gail Piepenburg and Nina Weis, art teachers at FHHS, suggested the idea for the event. Piepenburg says, "Using art as a means of reaching out to others in this creative endeavor immediately grasped the minds and hearts of our students. This has been a wonderful opportunity for them to make a difference in the

local and global community and express their passion for both art and humanity."

"It's been great to watch the students move beyond their initial enthusiasm for creating the bowls to being even more excited about being involved in such a worthwhile project to help others," Weis said.

The Empty Bowls project was started in 1991 by two art teachers in Michigan who decided they wanted to "use art to effect positive social change." Nine years later, several thousand Empty Bowls events have been held throughout the country and several million dollars raised for hunger relief.

Heather Friedli is a Farmington High School student and president of the FHHS Art Club.

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