

CHAT ROOM



JILL VANDORNICK

Flying flags show U.S. pride

I've seen more flags these last two weeks than I've ever seen in my life. Flags hanging on houses, planted in garden pots, draped on office buildings, flying on car antennas, hood ornaments on construction trucks, printed on T-shirts, and hanging like a necklace from Webster's tree.

Yes, even Webster's tree. If you don't know about Webster and his tree, you need to visit the Farmington Library downtown in the children's department. Webster is the library's owl that came to nest after the renovation two years ago. He's a very pleasant fellow. He hoots and flaps his mechanical wings, but otherwise he sits very quietly watching the young readers pass by. All summer his tree branch was empty, but the librarians were kind enough to update us on his world travels. Postcards hung from his perch showing us where he had been - Alaska, England, Honolulu, just to name a few. By August, I was becoming jealous and wondered if perhaps Webster was given a little too much vacation time.

Webster the owl

I doubt Webster's vacation postcards were down more than a few days before they were replaced with an American flag. Webster has returned, although who knows if he'll be off to help with the recovery work in New York. I imagine Webster is a kind-hearted owl and may be working on some plans. It surprised me to see the flag hanging there. It reminded me of how even our children are surrounded with the reality of Sept. 11.

I didn't wish the facts from my six-year old son and three-year old daughter - although I would have liked to. I knew there would be too many conversations that they might over hear or pictures they might see. I explained it in very basic terms. Three planes were stolen and hit some buildings. The buildings fell down. I didn't explain the number of people missing. My son can't count to 6,000, so the number would be an imaginary figure to him. My daughter summed it up by saying "bad people do bad things." She could have saved Tom Brokaw a lot of words.

My son was more bothered by the attacks and wondered why. Sometimes one of the toughest jobs of a parent is telling the truth without adding new insecurities. I tried to explain about different values, beliefs, religions. That didn't go over well. I always know when an answer isn't satisfying to my son. He'll keep asking the same question over and over. It took me a day to finally come up with a good answer. The next time he asked, I said I could not understand why anyone would do such a horrible thing. It was beyond my understanding. He accepted that answer.

Flags at half-mast, a canceled baseball game and a flag on Webster's branch; they're small reminders in my children's small world that something happened. I feel fortunate that's it for them. There are no funeral or memorial services to attend. Their world has not changed all that much - at least as far as they know. Hopefully, by the time they are able to understand the significance of Sept. 11, terrorism will no longer be a threat. Just as I studied the Cuban missile crisis in a college political science class, they will likely study this event. If the books don't include a chapter about the emotional response of the country, I'll be sure to tell them. Our cities did not erupt in angry protests with crowds burning foreign flags.

Instead, Congressional leaders gathered on the steps of Capitol Hill and sang "God Bless America," and President Bush called for a day of prayer and remembrance. People stood in long lines to donate blood.

When we see the flags flying as hood ornaments on construction trucks and my 3-year-old asks me again why, I'll give the same answer as I have for the past two weeks "Flying the flag is our way of saying 'We're proud to be Americans.'" Our country's response makes that pride grow even stronger.

Jill VanDornick is a Farmington Hills resident.

The Sinai Guild

At 49, group finds a new home, rekindled fervor

BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER
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The Sinai Guild, closing in on its 50th anniversary, has a new home in the Weisberg Cancer Treatment Center of Farmington Hills and a new and improved mission.

"The reason the Sinai Guild has survived and begun to blossom is the dedication of its volunteers," said Sandra Jaffa, the guild's executive director. "It's survived the (Sinai) hospital closing and two moves because of the dedication of its presidents, past and present, and the executive board. Their heart is in this guild. Without them, it wouldn't have survived."

The Sinai Guild was formed when Sinai Hospital opened in Detroit 49 years ago.

"A number of women put an auxiliary together to help with medical causes," said Jaffa, who lives in West Bloomfield. "It allocated volunteers in the hospital nursery, in the gift shop. Times changed. Politics changed. Fund-raising became a bigger mission."

In 1997, the Detroit Medical Center bought and closed Sinai Hospital. Uprooted from its base within the west side Detroit hospital, the guild moved to Sinai-Grace Hospital.

"But they (Grace) already had a guild," explained Jaffa. "So the Sinai Guild had to reformat itself. It moved to a building at 13 Mile and Telegraph and there it stayed until just a couple of weeks ago."

The Sinai Guild was the first office to open in the brand new Weisberg Cancer Center on Northwestern Highway, which will include medical suites for cancer treatment. Over the past 10 years, the guild donated \$500,000 to the

center, operated by the Karmanos Cancer Institute and Detroit Medical Center.

"The guild began to reinvent itself, re-examining bylaws, creating a new mission statement," said Jaffa, who is also fairly new to the guild. She became executive director last January after working seven years in a similar position with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

The guild's mission is "to support and promote medical and scientific activities that benefit both the Jewish and metro Detroit communities through the Detroit Medical Center and the agencies of the Jewish community."

Growing guild

Since Jaffa came on board, the guild has almost doubled its membership - to 2,000 members and many affiliates. Its focus is two-fold: to provide grants and to give volunteers opportunities in various Detroit Medical Center facilities.

"I think the more choices we offer, the more volunteers can appreciate them," Jaffa said.

Some of the volunteer opportunities include:

- Working in the Dorothy and Peter Brown Community Adult Day Care programs for adults with dementia and Alzheimer's on the Jewish Community Center's West Bloomfield campus.

- Helping at Lahser Surgical Center, which does outpatient surgery and mammography and women's health care.

- Assisting in the Maisel Women's Health Center, also mammography and women's health care.

- Volunteering at Weisberg Cancer Treatment Center, where cancer patients receive radiation and



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKID

chemotherapy treatment. ■ Opportunities for Community Outreach Programming within the Russian community.

- Guild committee and board memberships.

Over the past year, the Sinai Guild has raised money for projects including \$15,000 for orthopedic power equipment for Huron Valley Hospital; \$47,000 for the Detroit Medical Center's stroke program for a video teleconferencing system; \$7,000 for infant and toddler seats and bike helmets;

- \$15,000 for a prescription program for senior adults administered by Jewish Apartments and Services; \$30,000 to Children's Research Center of Michigan for research and clinical trials in the study of sickle cell disease; and money to help buy a digital mammography machine for the Maisel Women's Health

Center.

Breast cancer benefit

The Sinai Guild is sponsoring a major breast cancer benefit on Tuesday, Oct. 23. Betty Rollin, breast cancer survivor and author of *First You Cry*, will speak on "Breast Cancer: The Bright Side." The lunch program will be at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield. Tickets are \$50. Call (248) 538-6501.

It's the fourth annual Women in Philanthropy benefit originally developed by Sinai Hospital's development department. This is the first year the Sinai Guild is sponsoring the event solo. The Guild hopes to sell up to 700 tickets.

Proceeds will help pay for a digital mammography system for Maisel Center and a linear accelerator for Weisberg Center's radiation oncology wing.

Weisberg Center ... a soothing place

Cancer patients now have a convenient place to receive cancer treatments in Oakland County, thanks to the generosity of West Bloomfield residents Lawrence and Idell Weisberg.

Detroit's Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and the Detroit Medical Center opened the new Lawrence and Idell Weisberg Cancer Treatment Center, at 31995 Northwestern Highway, on Sept. 13.

The 18,000 square-foot treatment center will offer chemotherapy, radiation oncology and other sophisticated treatments in an atmosphere designed

to provide comfort and healing. The home-like environment offers patient amenities including a fireplace, cozy waiting rooms, individually changing rooms, kitchenettes, views of gardens from treatment areas, arts and crafts furniture and soothing artwork. On-site cancer and nutritional counseling services, access to national and local clinical trials and massage therapy are also available.

"There's nothing more frightening than hearing that you have cancer," said Lawrence Weisberg. "Everything has been designed to help remove some of that fear. It is a very soothing place."

Victorian farmhouse gets historic nod

BY RUTH MOCHLMAN
SPECIAL WRITER

A charming Victorian farmhouse built by Myron Crawford was almost lost to neglect in the late 1930s.

Restoration by the current owner has revived the house as a beautiful Farmington Hills Historic District home.

Myron Crawford was born in New York in 1832. His parents, Robert and Polly Crawford, moved to Farmington some time before 1841. There were

eventually five sons and three daughters in the Crawford family.

Myron married Melinda Jane Putnam, the daughter of a neighboring farmer, Edward Putnam. Melinda Jane was born in 1846. She was 13 years younger than her husband.

Six daughters

The couple had six daughters. Their only son died at age 7 in 1878.

Myron had 40 acres of land in his

original homestead. Eventually, another 20 acres across the road were added.

In 1919, Emma Jane McCullough and her husband, Charles, became owners of the 40 acre farm and house.

Emma Jane was one of Myron Crawford's daughters, probably the oldest. Charles McCullough was a graduate of Harvard, according to the neighbors who remembered him. He was a salesman of paint and insurance.

There were probably some additions

and

restora-

tion to

the

house

between

1919 and

1935.

The

McCul-

lough's

didn't have

any children.

Emma died in

1935. She had

lived all her

life in

Farmington.

Many owners after 1938

Charles sold

the house in

1938. There

were a number

of owners after

that. In 1945,

Jack and

Eugenie (Jean)

Mahoney bought

the house.

There Jack

Mahoney enjoyed

his garden in

his leisure time.

Jean Mahoney

taught school in

Southfield and

raised Chow dogs

for a hobby.

Jean Mahoney

grew up in

Farmington

in the historic

Eric Prince house

on Howard Road.

She attended the

West Farmington

School and then

Farmington High

School. She gradu-

ated in 1933.

She continued her

education and

came back to teach,

first in Farmington

and then in South-

field.

She taught school

for 42 years, retir-

ing soon after she

lost her husband

in the 1970s. They

had no children.

The house fell into

disrepair. At the

time there were

numerous build-

ings on the prop-

erty, including a

garage, a chicken

coop and a barn.

Now the out-

buildings are gone

except for the barn

which has been

reconstructed as

a garage. The house

has been restored

and enlarged.

Myron and Melinda

Jane Crawford

would be proud of

the house Myron

built that has sur-

vived almost 160

years. It is a land-

mark along 13 Mile

Road where the

past meets the

future and subdivi-

sions replace farms.

Ruth Mochlman

is a local historian

and author of "Heri-

tage Homes of

Farmington."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKID

Charming Victorian: This restored farmhouse was saved from neglect.