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Because of various population moves, the center of Farmington social life moved to the Village of Farmington. A new Baptist congregation had been established in 1857 in the Village of Farmington. A church was built on Shinwassee Road in 1861.

The church on 12 Mile was dissolved in 1868. The old church building was only used for funerals. It fell into disrepair. The land was donated to the West Farmington Burial Ground Society in 1882.

The church building was sold to Alonzo Sprague who moved it and used it as a barn. The former church turned barn was hit by lightning and it burned in 1938. It was replaced by a new barn on the same spot on the farm then owned by Ed Palasky. The Farmington Burial Society dissolved and was reincorporated again in 1926 and once more in 1961.

In the early twentieth century the cemetery was maintained by

a sort of charitable social club called the Willing Workers. They held a party every month and the proceeds were used for the cemetery.

Their pot luck dinners were an event. Diners cost 10 cents. The ladies of the Willing Workers were outstanding cooks, according to the local farmers who reported that they would eat all they wanted.

In later years donations kept up the cemetery.

As fewer and fewer pioneer families stayed in Farmington or simply died out, the care of the cemetery was taken over by Farmington Hills in 1975.

(*Ruth Mockman is a Farmington Historical Society member who writes for the Farmington Observer about local history.*)



Adele Staller

Group honors Southfield resident

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan will honor Adele Staller as the recipient of the 2002 Leonard N. Simons History Award. The award will be presented at the annual meeting 10:45 a.m. Sunday, June 2 at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, followed by a luncheon.

Staller, a native Detroit and a Southfield resident, is a past president as well as a current co-

president of the Historical Society. For nearly 20 years she has been instrumental in coordinating and leading bus tours of historic Jewish Detroit not only for the JHSM but for numerous community groups and synagogues.

She serves on the board of directors of Adat Shalom and its Shalom, is a past president of the former Beth Achim board of directors, and is an officer of the

Michigan Branch of the Women's League of Conservative Judaism. Staller also volunteers at the Jewish Family Service tutoring Russian students for their citizenship tests. She is now retired after teaching elementary school in Detroit for 36 years.

There is a charge of \$25 for the luncheon. For reservations or further information call co-chairs Rob Kaplow at (248) 827-1868 or Jim Grey at (248) 540-9070.

United Way commends Hills volunteer

United Way Community Services recently honored Micki Grossman of Farmington Hills during National Volunteer week, for her caring commitment to the metro Detroit community.

Grossman has been volunteering with Jewish Family Service for the past six years. Her activities include housing the home-

less, feeding the hungry, educating the illiterate, helping Holocaust survivors and visiting homebound adults. She has served as a docent with the Holocaust Memorial Center for the last 15 years and is responsible for helping many who come to the agency looking for restitution from the German government.

In March 2001, she organized one-day workshop where 72 Holocaust survivors were assisted in filling out applications to receive compensation for slave labor and assets lost during the

Holocaust. Grossman, a former elementary school teacher, helped create the Detroit Jewish Coalition for Literacy, devoting more than 100 hours annually to tutoring first grade children in reading and comprehension, both in the Southfield and Detroit Public Schools.

She also developed the Fall Fix Up, an annual volunteer program that assists homebound adults in preparing their homes for winter.

In her congregation, Adat Shalom, Grossman shares her

leadership skills as chair of the Social Action Committee, organizing food drives and providing shelter to the homeless. Despite the tragic loss of her father from an act of violence, and the loss of her husband from a car accident, Grossman continues to be an inspiration to all those who know her, giving herself to serve others. As Grossman reflects, "You don't think about making a difference, you just do it." Grossman was nominated by Michelle Greenstein of Jewish Family Service.

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State Board of Education. Beardmore says that the criteria in 1995 wasn't that different from the system approved last month. She is concerned that the method of reporting parental involvement and teacher training be documented carefully.

Beardmore said, "The method of reporting each school's progress is good because there are many good schools in districts where there have been problems. Some districts in good

areas don't do as well as expected. This will shine the light on good schools."

As a teacher myself, I am thrilled that the MEAP test will count for 67 percent and other factors will be looked at to give the school a letter grade by December.

MEAP should be looked at but one test, during the school year, but not be the determining factor as to whether a school and its faculty rate an "A" or uncredit-

ed.

Tom Watkins, State Superintendent and Bill Bushaw, Chief Academic Officer, have worked long and hard on a new set of criteria for evaluating schools. They have received a lot of input and I believe this plan will give a truer picture of each Michigan school.

Eleanor Blum is a school teacher in Detroit and a resident of Farmington Hills.

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Moss. "It was a very innovative and forward thinking approach."

In addition to serving more children with greater needs, the Center has an outreach program that encompasses teen moms and dads. The Marilac Outreach evolved from the first efforts to help unwed mothers and is named after St. Louise de Marillac, the patron saint of social workers and founder of the Daughters of Charity.

The Center's first home for teen moms was called the Maril-

lac Center; the outreach program that bears its name was created to touch the lives of more mothers and their babies.

And the Center does touch lives.

"I get calls all the time from people who were adopted out of here," Moss said. "Adoptive parents would come and the baby was given to them."

She got a call once from a woman who put her son up for adoption and reunited with him later in life.

"All she wanted to do was visit the chapel, because that was where she said good-bye to her baby," Moss said of the touching memory. "That's all she wanted to see."

"If these walls could talk," she added, "I'm sure there would be stories..."

* To learn more about the anniversary celebration or the reunion, call the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, (248) 626-7627, ext. 3116.

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and desserts from establishments such as 220, Bacchus Bar at Little Italy, Cuisine, Fiona's Forte, The Golden Mushroom, McCormick & Schmick's, Mon Jin Lau, The Palm, Ristorante Café Corina, Sweet Lorraine's Café & Bar, The Whitney and many more.

Once again the live auction will be the highlight of the event, organizers said. In addition to fabulous wines, including the red and white medal winners from the Detroit Wine Experience, guests will have the opportunity to bid on fabulous Epicurean packages from Detroit's premier restaurants, fantasy items and vacation getaways.

Items like property on the

Garland Golf Course, a six-day trip for two to Paris, sporting event packages, and jewelry, are just a few of those available at this year's auction.

Ticket packages may be purchased at a Guardian, Benefactor, Mentor or Patron level and include admission to The Garden Party, an exclusive VIP reception and complimentary valet parking. The VIP reception, an extravagant gathering beginning at noon, will feature rare wines and cheeses compliments of Merchant's Fine Wine.

Guardian Ticket Packages are \$1,500 and include eight (8) tickets to the VIP Reception, Garden Party with reserved table seating and valet parking; Benefac-

tor Ticket Packages are \$1,000 and include six (6) tickets to the VIP Reception, Garden Party and valet parking; Mentor Ticket Packages are \$750 and include four (4) tickets to the VIP Reception, Garden Party and valet parking; Patron Ticket Packages are \$500 and include two (2) tickets to the VIP Reception, Garden Party and valet parking.

Individual tickets may be purchased for \$150 each.

To purchase tickets for Garden Party or to obtain more information regarding the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, contact the Center's Agency Relations Department at (248) 626-7627 ext. 3900.

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