

'It's just like walking into a fantasy world..'

By DIANE HUBEL

It wasn't the usual Saturday barbecue. While the gentlemen jostled with swords and pillows and held archery contests, the ladies, dressed in medieval costumes, watched stained glass window making demonstrations and had their fortune told.

The activities were all part of the second annual Renaissance festival sponsored by the Unitarian Church in Farmington Hills.

The festival was held in a wooded area behind the church. Banners and pennants were hung to add to the atmosphere.

"We wanted to have it in a wooded area so we would be far away from modern-day buildings," festival committee chairman Jim Easterly said. "These festivals are really great, it is just like walking into a fantasy world. We are able to have the best of two worlds."

The jousting and tournament part of the festival which was held out of doors featured, a rope pulling contest, archery contest, and a flipping ladder game.

There were also craft demonstrations. The artisans who were organized by Deanne Bedner included a stain glass window maker.

Following the games a feast was held. Organized by Ms. Dianne Ruokolanen, it included, lamb, beef and turkey, as well as ale, wine and home-made bread.

The Society for Creative Anachronisms, an organization which re-creates medieval events, gave a jousting demonstration.

Madrigal singers and plays similar to those produced in renaissance days were presented after the feast.

"We are trying to build up a repertoire of events," Easterly said. "This year's was better than last year's and we hope next year's will be even better."

photos by Fran Evert

