A gift to the city of Farmington Hills from Dr. Allen Zieger, this bronze statue was created by Harriey Whitney Frishmuth. It will be dedicated at a reception at the Twelve Mile Library, Sunday, March 7, 2:30 p.m. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

How hospital chief combines his loves for art and medicine

By CORINNE ABATT

"Humoresque," the lovely, bronze lady, has left her owner after an affectionate 35 years. But he isn't angry, he still loves her.

In reality she didn't just leave. Dr. Allen Zieger gave her away—to the City of Farmington Hills. To make her look particularly beautiful, the city commissioned architect Bennert McCallum to design and build a proper base for the lady.

On Sunday afternoon, March 7, at 2:30, "Humoresque" will be officially recognized as a resident of Farmington Hills, residing on a gentle step in front of the Farmington Library on 12 Mile with a panoramic view of the countryside.

THE PUBLIC IS invited to be part of the officially welcoming committee headed by Mayor Earl Oppertshauser.

Dr. Zieger, still on crutches from a bad leg break, says it isn't as though the lady is gone forever.

"I've driven by the library and I think she looks very good there. Maybe, even better than before. I loved her when I bought her in 1950. I still love her in front of the library."

Zieger has long had two great loves in his life: medicine and art, and he enjoys talking at length about either or both.

A Southfield resident, he founded Zieger Osteopathic Hospital of Detroit in 1964. It was expanded from an original 18-bed hospital to its present 165 beds. Because as the founder explains, it was landlocked, further expansion had to be at another location.

After a recommendation from a University of Michigan study, a site in Farmington Hills was chosen.

"The study indicated there was a need for a hospital in this area," he says. "But-chard is really a unit of Zieger Hospital."

Zieger gave up a lucrative private practice as an osteopathic physician to become executive director of the non-profit corporation which operates both hospitals.

"I am not the owner of the hospitals," he says. "I am an employee responsible to the board."

He recalls when Zieger Hospital was first built.

"It was a beautiful building, but it looked sterile, like sort of a nobed thing."

He decided it needed a piece of sculpture and held a competition through the Michigan Sculpture Society. An unknown, second-year student at Cranbrook, Morris Broze, won first prize.

Broze later went on to become an internationally-known sculptor. One of his works is the bronze sculpture by the entrance of Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in Southfield.

When vandalism forced him to replace the Broze sculpture with another heavier one, Zieger took the Broze home. It is in good company. The doctor loves to collect art although he mountains that his collection is neither large nor carefully organized.

"I just love beautiful things. I don't have a large collection, just things I happen to spot that I like."

The word Strohen can bring a light to his eyes.

He recalls his first piece of Strohen glass, "Cathedral."

"Such warmth, it immediately stimulated my interest. I love the purity of the thing."

HE SPEAKS OF another favorite, "Harvest Morning," created as a part of the series inspired by poetry.

Hardly stopping a breath he can go right back to his conversation about hospitals. Containing hospital costs, "no way can we reduce them," is one of his major concerns.

Blue Cross, he says, controls costs and allows a two per cent profit. HEW will allow only a seven per cent increase in costs, although all home costs have increased much more than that.

"Sure, we could go to the community for aid, but I don't think it's fair—the hospital industry has to learn to stand on its own feet. We are beset by this problem—we can't compromise our standards—and quality health service happens to be a passion with me."

He foresees some kind of a merger among the osteopathic hospitals in the met ropolitan area and hopes that another can be opened in the inner city.

"We feel we have to direct our doctors to the inner city."

He speaks of the research on breast cancer now being conducted at Botsford General. "Hopefully something really good will come from it."

Before going back to the world of art, Dr. Zieger lets several other opinions on the medical world fly.

"I remember the days when the doctor was regarded as a holy man. Today society doesn't accept that and shouldn't. Patients are asking questions—what is this medication you are giving me?" There are much fewer doctors today than when we came out."

He has some strong words about malpractice lawsuits.

"The public is really raping itself. When it costs a doctor friend of mine $24,000 a year for malpractice insurance in Florida, he can't afford to practice."

While in England to study health services last year, he saw flaws in the national health insurance system. The incentive is gone for some of the doctors, the hospitals are half empty, the doctors are on vacation and patients may wait up to two years for elective procedures.

With almost as much fervor he speaks of his three adult children and his five-year old son, Ari.

Separately and in combination Dr. Zieger's interests in art and medicine have had a major impact on the community.

Shortly after "Humoresque" is welcomed to Farmington Hills in March work could begin on a new professional building adjacent to the hospital. The 30,000-square foot building will house out-patient services and the offices of medical specialists. Zieger predicts it will be under way this spring.

He says with a smile, Louis Redstone is the architect. He did the hospitals for us. He is a a great architect and artist as well."

Elementary career education

Community involvement is interns' goal

By RON GARBINSKI

Fifteen Oakland University graduate students are getting local parents more involved in Farmington schools.

One of their major accomplishments as part of the Cycle IX Teacher Corps Project in the Farmington School District has been the development of career education in elementary schools.

They have compiled a reference book containing the careers or talents of parents in the community and field trips available to students.

"The product of the combined efforts of the interns, team teachers and staff at Gill and Shiawassee schools has been these career education books," says Mrs. Virginia Schuldenberg, an Oakland University instructor and associate director of the Teacher Corps program at the university.

It was a cooperative effort that has personalized career education around the individual schools by organizing community resources, such as speeches, parents and local employers can present to elementary students about careers and opportunities in those professions.

"THIS MAJOR product can be used especially by the elementary schools and is a tool by which staffs can make more effective use of all the community resources available to them," she continues.

The interns have incorporated state, local and national guidelines in compiling the reference books. It is quite impressive and will be a great benefit to the elementary schools.

The Cycle IX project is a federally funded program in which both students and teachers help elementary students cope with learning disabilities.

It is a two-part program where students work on their masters degree in learning disabilities and offer guidance and counseling for the students.

At the end of the program, the graduate student interns will receive elementary certification by the state in the area of learning disabilities.

The program began in the Farmington School district at the beginning of the 1974 school year as a joint project of Farmington and Oakland University.

Oakland teachers began applying for the federal grant three years ago. They approached the district and asked if it would be interested in working with the university to conduct the project.

Administrators believed the program would benefit the district and immediately started developing the proposal to have the grant approved for 1974.

"IT DEFINITELY is one of the finest programs we have had in the district in many years," says Larry Freedman, assistant superintendent of elementary schools.

It has not only helped retrain our classroom teachers, but it also has brought the district a lot of valuable experience.

At only a minimal cost to the district ($10-15,000), it has provided our schools with about $1 million in services. It is something you cannot put a dollar value on because of all the teacher training and experience that has been gained," Freedman says.

The 15 interns from Oakland working with university and Farmington staffs have been developing projects and helping elementary students in the district for almost two years.

A lot has happened with the program during this last year and a half. Last year we worked at three sites: Gill, William Grace and Shiawassee Elementary Schools as well as Sarah Fisher and the Boys' Republic," explains Richard Rutter, local coordinator of the Cycle IX project.

Many interested students and teachers have taken advantage of the program and have introduced many exciting and innovative projects now in use in the district," he says.

The aspect of the program that Rutter is most pleased with is the community involvement of the interns.

THEY HAVE worked with parent workshops, developed resource materials for Farmington residents, helped with the methadone program, rap lines, adult education, the Farmington Area Advisory Council and area recreation programs.

The list of their involvement and commitment with the community is exhaustive," Rutter continues.

Each intern rotated among the communities of the three Cycle IX schools. At each school were five interns, a team leader, team teachers and other interested school staffers.

Another major aspect of the program is the in-service training that was available for Farmington teachers," Rutter explains.

Since Oakland's teaching staff was continually out at the schools working with the program, the interns and Farmington teachers had the opportunity to update old and learn new methods of working with learning disabled students.

The interns have worked individually with students at the elementary level. Several of them are now working with junior high school counselors making follow up checks on students they worked with the year before.

The Cycle IX Teacher Corps Project in the Farmington District will conclude at the end of this school year.

Oakland and Farmington teachers are working on a new proposal to see if the schools can be allocated more money to continue the federally funded program next year.

The staff has sent in its request for Cycle XI back in January, but we will not know until April or later what the government will decide," says Rutter. Cycle XI is a different program and we have not received any word yet about funding.

If we receive additional funding for the project, it will be on a limited basis because of federal cutbacks," he concludes.

We probably would have only four interns instead of 15 and our programs would be limited. But with additional funds at least we hope to set up all the same kinds of programs the district has had for the past two years.

Districts support need for more school money

Funds for federal programs important to local school districts have increased slightly during the past three years, says Gary Lichtman, Farmington school board trustee.

Lichtman, area federal legislative representative of the Michigan Association of School Boards, recently attended a Federal Relations Network Meeting in Washington.

While at the conference, he talked with several Congressmen and school board members about federal funding and other programs concerning local school districts.

"For the federal programs identified as being important to local school districts, budget authority has increased from $4.224 billion to $4.275 billion over the past three years, for an approximate increase of one per cent," Lichtman said in a report to the Farmington school board.

"AT THE same time, total federal outlays have increased from $250 billion to $395 billion or about 40 per cent."

In the area of supplemental appropriations, Lichtman said most local school boards support additional funding for 1976 which would bring federal school aid up to the budget ceiling approved by Congress in its second budget resolution.

"So local schools are looking for an additional $280 million for Title I programs, $80 million for handicapped education, $10 million for adult education, $60 million for vocational programs, $30 million for bilingual educations and $130 million for impact aid reform projects, Lichtman reported.

"Education dominates state and local government spending, yet school districts totally are excluded from direct receipt of general revenue sharing funds," the school board trustee pointed out.

"Further, virtually none of the current allotment to the local level (counties, cities), is shared with school districts.

"One reason is that in most parts of the country, like Michigan, local school districts are politically and fiscally independent of the local government unit receiving the funds," Lichtman said.

LICHTMAN TOLD the board that only about eight per cent of total revenue sharing dollars are allocated to education.

He said this is because states have a tendency to use revenue sharing funds to reduce taxes or prevent tax increases, instead of increasing their commitment to

GARY LICHTMAN

elementary and secondary schools.

"Congress must renew the revenue sharing legislation this year. We should seek changes in the basic law which would provide direct funding or at least percentage funding to local school districts," he said.

A provision of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) says that school districts only can receive funds if the county, city or state government distributes a portion of its share.

"In terms of unemployment and educational services, school districts should be equal with other public services in applying for CETA money in order to fund our public service jobs," he continued.

"Presently, school districts cannot afford to employ needed staff and many must lay off personnel. Educational quality shouldn't suffer the effects of decreased manpower on a disproportionate basis with other public service jobs.

"CETA SHOULD be amended to include school districts as direct eligible recipients of federal funds," he said.

Lichtman said most congressmen the school board representatives talked with agreed with positions and solutions to problems that the members pointed out.

"There were, however, admonitions on their part relative to the practicality of our suggestions. Specifically, it was indicated that both general revenue sharing and CETA wouldn't include school districts as direct recipients," Lichtman explained in his report.

"The reason for this is that local governmental units would have to give up some of those dollars they presently receive. The legislators admit that this would create a great deal of local political turmoil. Most local governmental units have used these dollars as replacement in order to not ask for increased tax levies," Lichtman said the Congressmen told him.

Concerning appropriations for the 1977-78 school year, there seems to be a great deal of controversy surrounding the Department of Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations bills totaling nearly $58 billion.

"Given the nearly flat appropriations level for education over the past few years, the education division of these bills should continue to be considered as a separate funding bill.

"If this isn't done, funding levels and timetables could be jeopardized. Since the school year begins in September, early appropriations enactments are vital for planning purposes," Lichtman concluded.

Library offers sitting service

Moms who want to spend some solitary time at the library now have a chance.

The Farmington Community Library's Friends Group is sponsoring a cooperative babysitting service for mothers of preschool children.

The program allows mothers 1½ hours each Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to use the library facilities without having their children by their sides.

The only stipulations are that the mothers must remain in the library for the extent of the sitting time. Also, each mother must volunteer to do a minimal amount of the sitting themselves.

Interested mothers are asked to contact the organizer of the program, Mrs. Helen Bonner, at 474-1944 or contact the library.

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