

## Libraries line up youth programs

Farmington and Farmington Hills Community Library staffs are taking registrations for a series of activities for young people this spring. Programs are offered for preschoolers to those in sixth grade.

Dates and times vary between the two branches. Some programs are offered free and for others there is a small charge. Full rosters are available at both libraries where registrations are being taken.

For preschoolers, "A Pocketful of Fun" is a 30-minute program of songs, stories, dramatics and puppets.

Each week the activity will be developed around a theme related to objects found in the storyteller's pocket.

Three- and four-year-olds are invited to bring a parent for another six-week class for dabbling in art, music and cooking.

"Creating through Literature," for preschoolers is for four and five-year-olds. Art projects will be introduced by stories or films, and cutting, pasting, painting and clay modeling will be experienced.

"AROUND THE World Adventure"

is offered to first and second graders in Farmington Hills branch to introduce games, songs, crafts and foods of other cultures.

First and second graders in the Farmington branch program can join the Nature Crafts program.

Third and fourth graders are offered "Grow It Green" to learn about plant care in the Farmington Hills branch. Or, they attend "Stone Soup" at the Farmington branch—a beginners cooking lesson.

Fifth and sixth graders get a chance at "Experiments in Theatre

Arts" in Farmington Hills branch, and "Crazy Concoctions" in Farmington Branch.

The theatre arts experiments will be in pantomime, monologs, stage make-up, interpretive reading and puppet theater, and will wind up with a performance.

"Crazy Concoctions" are meant to satisfy the crazy chemist instinct with experiments of secret, common, colorful, food and playful solutions.

All programs have limited enrollment.

## Theobald-Rock

Kenneth Theobald of Dearborn, and Marlene Theobald of Brighton, announce the engagement of their daughter, Debbi Marlene, to Robert Gregory Rock.

The future Mrs. Rock is a graduate of Delta College School of Nursing and is employed with Botsford Hospital. Her fiancé is a graduate of Wayne State University and is employed as funeral director with Thayer Funeral Home. Both are graduates of Farmington High School.

A July wedding is planned.



## Dealing with death discussed by panel

By CHERYL CHODUN  
"Teach me to die," sang an anonymous composer.

"Stay with me, with me, there's so much I want to talk about," pleaded a terminally ill student nurse. Sister Ruth Glaser read these excerpts at a panel discussion which probed "Dealing with Death and Dying," at St. Ives Church in Southfield recently.

Dr. Blaise Audet and a couple who have experienced the death of their young child joined Sr. Glaser in the presentation.

A retired physician, Dr. M.V. Reiff, and parish member at St. Ives, moderated the discussion. He said most people are ill-equipped in handling the drama of the dying process and the inevitable climax, death itself.

"Death," he said, "is one thing that

families never get used to. There are so many hurdles along the way—and they are very difficult to withstand gracefully."

Bernard and Ann McKenna lost their 13 year-old daughter to cystic fibrosis more than two years ago. Six other children, including another daughter who has disease offered their feelings.

"GUILT AT not having done enough, relief that suffering had ended and tremendous personal loss were our families' main reactions after our daughter's death," said McKenna.

"These reactions return often, but we must learn to deal with them."

Children often handle death much better than adults, Sr. Glaser said.

"They are too young to deeply understand what is really happening, and often really haven't set goals that they can never see achieved as might be the case with a young adult."

She stressed that most importantly, terminally ill patients do not want to be alone, ostracized, or avoided. They need their families and friends to be with them, talk with them and listen to them.

"Let the afflicted person know that they're important and always will be," she explained.

Dr. Audet, a neurosurgeon at Providence Hospital and associate professor at Wayne State University, talked about the medical definition of death. He pointed out in medical terms that a person is legally dead when there is no heartbeat, respiration or brain waves.

"Doctors and clergy often work together with families to decide when life supporting units should be unplugged in case where the patient is only being kept alive by machines and no brainwaves are present," said Dr. Audet.

AN AUDIENCE of all ages participated in a question and answer period at the close of the panel's deliberations.

Some suggested reading materials on dealing with death included "On Death and Dying" by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, "Helping a Child Understand" by Linda Jane Vogel, "Talking about Death—A Dialogue Between Parent and Child" by Earl A. Grollman and "To Love Forever, Thoughts on Death and Life," edited by Robert Rotering.

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## Literary contest is on

Soroptimist International, of Farmington-Novi, is sponsoring the third annual Literary Awards contest for students in grades 9-12 in all area high schools and junior high schools.

Applications for the contest have been distributed to the English departments of all public and parochial schools in Farmington and Novi, and may be obtained from English teachers or department heads.

Students may enter in any of four categories: short story, feature-length article, poetry, and dramatic script.

Judging the entries will be Clyde Crame, professor at University of Detroit; Sophia Koss, teacher at Detroit's Emerson School; and Barry Levine, principal of Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills.

All three judges have previously judged the Detroit News Writing Contest.

All entries will be coded before being sent to the judges. This is so there will be no way for judges to determine name, sex or school once the codes are assigned. There will be a notation, however, stating whether the entry comes from a student in junior or senior high school.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented on March 10, in the Farmington Community Library on Twelve Mile Road.

Chairing the contest for the Soroptimists is Marlene Belanger, chairman of the Farmington Area Arts Commission and chairman of the newly-created Oakland County Cultural

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