

Farmington librarian wins national citation

By LORAIN McCLISH

Farmington librarian Jill Locke has been cited by "Outstanding Young Women of America," a group based in Montgomery, Ala., which recognizes the contributions of women between the ages of 25-35 to their jobs and their communities.

Her citation was given in receipt of nominations from the alumni of Brigham Young University and patrons at the Farmington Community Library. It follows on the heels of another recent award, "Young Librarian for Michigan," again in recognition of outstanding contributions.

Ms. Locke grew up in Farmington and thinks of the library that once stood on Farmington Road as "my little home library." She was involved in some of the planning that opened the way for the present libraries. She thinks of her job as children's programming coordinator as "my specialty" and says the innovativeness

that is now going on in those departments would not be possible without the space the two new libraries afford. Youngsters in the two communities are offered a range that runs from photography and cooking to music and making Halloween costumes, all using the built-in expertise of the staff.

"WE WOULDN'T have to walk out of the building for just about any kind of a program we wanted to put on," she said. "We think that reading readiness is part of our jobs and we find activities that will help develop these skills on purpose rather than by accident."

The libraries big collection of books, she explained, is backed up by everything from film strips to bug collections "because the touch, see, handle, feel aspects are important aids to learning."

Another part of the librarian's job is keeping alert to today's children. "If you think kids are static, you're wrong," she said. "We have six-year-

olds who can use a film projector as though it is his second nature. Some time its a matter of keeping one step ahead of them."

MS. LOCKE HANDLES most of the music programs herself. She is stake organist for Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Bloomfield Hills and says when she is invited to do a school or library program, "they expect me to turn up with my guitar."

A music program she particularly likes to give is one for those with learning disabilities, or in the Farmington Training Center.

In these she concentrates on folk songs or camp songs where hand gestures are an important part of the songfest.

"We all have fun," she said, "while most of them don't have the slightest idea of how hard they are working to concentrate and how much they are learning to do it."

In summation she says, "Whatever works, use it."



"The children's area is my specialty," says Jill Locke, who chats with Tom Gregg, outfitted as Superman for a holiday party. (Photo by Jim Hug)



Nancy Modloff, a teacher of pen and ink drawings in Farmington Community Center and a member of Spectrum Gallery in Farmington Hills, takes on the chairmanship of Farmington Artists Club's fall exhibit in Mercy Center. Her assistant chairwoman is Rachel Resnick.



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(F)1B

Farmington artists rev up for fall exhibit at Mercy

By LRAINE McCLISH

Farmington Artists Club's fall exhibit will have a new location when it opens the doors on Nov. 17 for the three-day show. The exhibit has moved to larger quarters in Mercy Center to accommodate the growing number of exhibitors and the growing number of guests.

Show-goers are asked to use Gate 4 on Eleven Mile, east of Middlebelt. Admission is without charge. Show

hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Nancy Modloff takes on the chairmanship of the fall exhibit, assisted by Rachel Resnick.

Ms. Modloff has been an active member of Farmington Artists Club since 1975. A graduate of Western Michigan University, she is taking a new teaching position with classes in pen and ink in Farmington Community Center, and exhibits her own works of

art in Spectrum Gallery in Farmington Hills and Old Village Gallery in Plymouth. She shows watercolors as well as pen and ink drawings.

THE FALL EXHIBIT will consist of two separate galleries—open and juried.

In the open gallery, all the work submitted is hung and the only awards given are by a vote of the artists themselves on the Thursday before the opening, at a reception for the artists,

their families and friends.

In the juried show, all the work submitted is either accepted or rejected by a professional juror and only those accepted are hung. Awards for the juried gallery are given by the juror alone, who for this exhibit will be Marilyn Derwenskus.

Ms. Derwenskus has taught at the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association since 1974 and has also taught

(Continued on page 2B)

Musical relates school day events in dance

By SUSAN TAUBER



"I don't think dance has been given its fair shake in education," said Carol Halsted.

"I don't think dance has been given its fair shake in education, it's always presented to children as something far off that they can't relate to, like 'Swan Lake'."

—Carol Halsted, director Oakland University dance program

Do you remember how you used to daydream while riding on the school bus in the mornings? Do you recall the first time you met the elementary school principal and how hard it was to remember all the rules? Was the teacher's lounge a place to fantasize about when you were young?

These aren't things adults dwell on when remembering the past, but for children between the ages of five and 12, these things, and other occurrences in elementary school, are important.

Carol Halsted, director of Oakland University Dance Program and the student-professional OU company, and Other Things and Company, have a dance musical that focuses on the day in the life of an elementary school child. Many of the events incorporated into the dance are from the memories of the whole company, including the musicians.

"Yellow Bus 'n' Stuff," written by Darian Martus and directed by Ms. Halsted, will be presented in Verner Rectory Hall at OU at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21.

There is a fee for the dance musical but it's one most children won't mind paying. When a child presents his or her dollar at the door, she'll get a lollipop. The lollipop wrapper will be exchanged for a ticket.

While most adults wouldn't like hordes of youngsters eating lollipops while they were performing, that Ms. Halsted and her troupe don't mind is a good example of their sense of humor and ability to relate to children.

"THE FUN THING will be sending all the lollipop wrappers to the OU auditor," said Ms. Halsted.

As the dance director, Ms. Halsted always stays in the background. She lets the members of Other Things and Company shine on stage.

"I direct the performance during rehearsals. If something doesn't work, I say no. I choreographed the first part of the dance and let the dancers take it from there. Then they do things that are more comfortable for their bodies," she explained.

"Yellow Bus 'n' Stuff," a 50-minute program, is different from the children's performances OU Dance Program has sponsored.

This has more dance in it than other programs, according to Ms. Halsted,

The program consists of a series of incidents, beginning with getting up in the morning and rushing to find socks that match.

Johnson, Beth Taylor and Gary Ed Mach.

"This is like a flashback to school," said Martus, who went to school in Roseville. "I tried to be honest. Some things are an exaggeration and are outrageous enough so as not to be offensive."

For instance, in the song and dance about the teacher's lounge, Martus includes a child's fantasies about what it's like in that room where students aren't allowed.

"The song is about a child who's making up what she thinks is in there. She talks about a shoe shine man and a mailman. We know these people aren't in the teacher's lounge," Martus is dance accompanist for OU Dance Program.

The idea behind the program, according to Ms. Halsted, is that everyday people are learning. They don't have to be in school reading books and working with pencil and paper to learn things. Students can learn from experiences on the playground and with other people.

There's even a song about the theme, with words "every single moment I'm learning," a particularly favorite song of Ms. Halsted.

The program consists of a series of incidents, beginning with getting up in the morning and rushing to find socks that match. The dancers use dancing exercises to stretch out their bodies as they try to wake up.

WEARING T-SHIRTS with buses on them, the dancers get on the yellow bus made out of foam. The fantasy bus is designed to let your imagination run free.

Singing the song about the bus taking them on a fantasy, they enact different day dreams. A really clever one is about a boxing match between "an all-around nice person" and "a messer than a junk yard dog" person.

Mach, a member of the OU Mime Ensemble, introduces the boxers. He tells them to come out boxing. Just like a 5-year-old might do, the two female dancers, both OU students, come out dancing to some rock 'n' roll music. Mach tries again, telling the "flyweights" to come out boxing. It doesn't work. They come into the make-believe ring and shape a box with their hands.



The first day at school and the principal starts spouting the rules. Any student's fantasies would include what these dancers are doing.

It isn't until he says "Come out fighting" that the fight begins.

"It's hard to tell how the children will relate to all of this. We as adults don't know if it's corny or not," Ms.

Halsted mentioned. For information about how to bring "Yellow Bus 'n' Stuff" to a school for a performance, contact OU Dance Program at 377-4460.