

Gazebos are definitely an 'in' thing



Laurie McKinnon Caroline Semerjian

Budding composers capture top spots in state competition

Two Farmington area 12-year-olds took the first and second place prizes in the 1982 Michigan Junior Composers Contest.

They tied in the contest's junior division for 12-15-year-olds.

Laurie McKinnon, a student at Warner Middle School took the first place honors, and Caroline Semerjian, a student at Power Middle School came in second.

Both study music composition with Charlene Slabey, Farmington's 1981 artist-in-residence, who won that award for her work as a composer.

This is the second year in succession Laurie has won the top prize. In 1981 she took the first place honors in the juvenile division of the same contest for those under 11 with her piano piece called "Clowns."

This time around her winning composition, another piece for piano, was "American Adventure."

Caroline's win came for her piano piece called "The Fog."

Both of the young composers have studied piano for five years.

Caroline studies piano with Eleanor Skillman. Laurie studies piano as well as composition with Slabey.

The contest is a yearly event, sponsored by Michigan Federation of Music Clubs.

Laurie and Caroline were among the guests of honor, performing for the federation at its end-of-the-competition's "Junior Day," given this year at Albion College.

The two will perform their winning pieces again this week when they are guests of Royal Oak Arts Council.

One of the nicest things about springtime is "looking forward." There are those of us who feel the day can't begin without a walk around the garden and yard. This habit sort of takes care of those right and left turns in life.

Near your back door you might like to secure a few chimney pots and fill individually with herbs which have spreading root habits while at the ground level you could plant lettuce, onions and radishes. Marigolds planted as a border along the outside edge ought to scare the insects away.

If you have a plain wall near where you have some lounge chairs, you might like to attach a shelf and have some flower pots attached to the wall with posy clay. The choice of flowers would be dependent upon the light factor. Variegated vine is good, also two compatible colors of geraniums. Just make it have style with the plant choice.

Many of you live in condos where you have small intimate enclosed gardens. Secure a large, old fashioned washtub and fill with water. Irregular flat patio blocks are nice along the perimeter to give a natural effect. Place some rocks in the bottom the size of a fist for interest. Vase your wish to have some goldfish if you can keep the raccoons and cats out of the area.

If you have give hours of sun a day you can have waterlilies (Three Springs Fisheries, Lilypots, Md. 21717). You can buy a pump inexpensively and enjoy active water in your pool. For the best effect, don't overcrowd — so the sky can be reflected. Remember fish have to be fed.

A pool painted black or midnight blue has style. As a backdrop, if the location has space, you might like to have an upright plant, not too tall, but to give a sort of three foot curtain to the pool composition.

down to earth Alicie Burlingame

Gazebos are "in" folks. Not that we are following the trend of a civic gazebo like Franklin Village, but every flower show I've attended this year has pushed this artistic accent which offers a pleasant site for relaxing on lazy summer days. They can be bought in kits or made by a carpenter. Can't you see, we are getting back to Victorian accents in our gardens.

Some people have been inquiring about growing vegetables where full sun isn't available. Leafy vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, endive, etc and vegetables grown for their roots seem to do fine in partial shade. Guess we who have been in the country think there isn't anything like full sun, but Michigan State sanctions the above guide.

You have probably noticed that there's a new world in the use of colors in your garden. Here you have an annual which can give the colors of an oriental rug. These plants will grow horizontally in a massed collection or as a border in an intimate garden. They give an elegant effect if different patterned specimens are planted at the base of a large rock, just like a colorful rug — and they grow low.

Be sure to plan to attend the annual spring herb sale of the Herb Society of America, Franklin Community Church, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 15. There you can hobnob with the specialists who can give you guidance in herb use for fragrance, cooking, dyeing, landscaping as well as how to use in a wildflower garden.

Music school plans benefit

The 100-voice Rackham Symphony Choir and the Detroit Sinfonia Orchestra will play a benefit performance at 8:15 p.m. May 15 in Orchestra Hall. They will perform Haydn's "The Creation" for the Detroit Community Music School, a non-profit organization which has been giving music and dance lessons for 56 years.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$7.50. Large tickets which include a pre-concert dinner at 7 p.m. cost \$30. Reservations should be made by May 12 for the dinner.

Call the school at 831-2870.

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Ball to benefit Harper-Grace

The Grand Prix Ball, sponsored by Harper Hospital Auxiliary, is set for Friday, June 4 in the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. The event will benefit the Radiation Oncology Center in Detroit Medical Center, operated by Harper-Grace Hospitals.

The auxiliary has pledged to raise \$200,000 over a period of five years to aid the center, recognized by National Cancer Institute as one of the finest in the country.

Tickets for the ball are \$150 a couple. Ticket information is given by calling 494-8111.

Y offers 5-day a week program for youngsters

Parents making plans for their children summer activities are asked to consider the Northwest Branch YWCA "Summer Adventure" for 6-12-year-olds.

The program, held in the YWCA, 25940 Grand River, will meet five days a week 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 21 to Aug. 27. Parents who work will be interested in the fact that arrangements can be made to drop children off as early as 7 a.m. and pick up as late as 6 p.m.

The program includes cook-outs, swimming, sports, crafts, movies, reading enrichment and a variety of activities planned jointly by counselors and participants. There is also a three-day-a-week plan available for those who do not wish to participate in a daily plan.

Registrations may be made weekly which allows for flexibility around vacations and early registration is advised.

For further information on all YWCA programs for youth and adults, call 537-8500.

The YWCA is a Torch Drive Agency.

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