

Suburban Life

Loraine McClish editor/477-5450

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Farmington grass roots

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

The Farmington Historical Society has launched a spring contest to initiate and encourage original research in Farmington history.

"The society hopes to get entries from all age groups, from elementary schoolchildren on up to our oldest seniors," said John Willyard, the society's vice president.

"Our primary desire is to get people to dig into their attics, cellars and fam-

ily records to put together some interesting grass roots vignettes of life in former times in Farmington."

Seniors and students are especially urged to join the contest.

"Youngsters walking around the subdivisions here that used to be farms

might find it hard to imagine what it was like going to a Grange Hall meeting on that very spot 100 years ago," Willyard said. "With a little digging, with a little original research, through conversations with seniors, they can find out about their history."

Sources for the entries can be personal recollections, interviews, family diaries or letters, old photographs, paintings, or sketches.

"WE DON'T" want anything that can be looked up in the county records or anything like a high-level scholarly thesis. We want the day-to-day life things our contestants can find," Willyard said.

A big concern for the judges will be the source of the material entered. "The source has got to be pretty definite. If the source is through an interview we expect to have the name of the person interviewed," Willyard gave as an example. "But the source could also be a box someone found in an attic when they moved into a house last week."

Photographs, paintings, or sketches entered in the contest must be captioned.

Bibliographies of source material must accompany any entry that is written.

As for written entries, length will not be a consideration.

"If anybody wants to write a book, that's OK with us, but it must be legible," Willyard said.

TO GET contestants started on research, the society suggests entries concerning street and place names:

Contest encourages original research in local history

dairy and cheese industries; flour and lumber mills; merchants and town center development; or North Farmington.

"These are just ideas to get people thinking," Willyard said. "They do not represent contest categories. The judging will all be done based on historical interest, originality, and age category."

Cash prizes will be awarded in four age categories, and contestants do not have to live in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

"Anyone interested in Farmington history may enter except the judges," Willyard said.

There will be a first overall prize of \$100; second overall prize of \$50; and four best-in-age category prizes of \$25 each.

The age groups are from first to fifth grade; from sixth to eighth grade; all high school grades; from college to adult.

DEADLINE FOR entries is Tuesday, May 1.

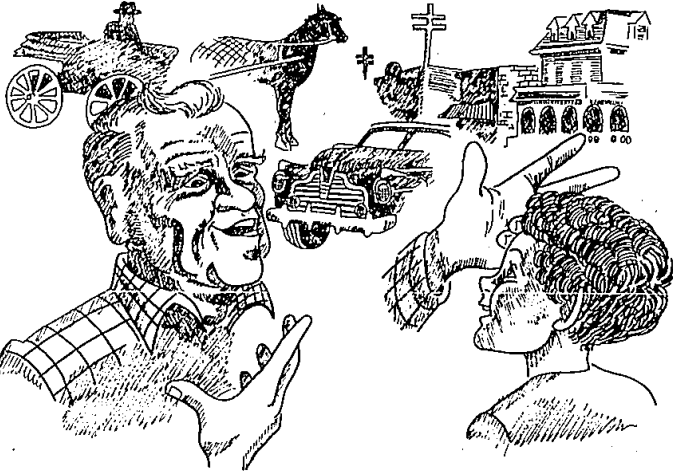
Entries are to be addressed to Farmington History Contest, 33309 Shawwassee, Farmington 48024.

Those entries which contain photographs or artifacts will be returned if requested after the contest winners are announced. Those announcements will be the highlight of Farmington Historical Society's annual dinner, set this year for Friday, May 18.

"We're hoping to stir up a lot of original material," Willyard said. "And if a sufficient collection of winning entries are obtained, we're thinking of publishing them in a booklet that will give us a good picture of what life was once like here."

"Contestants don't have to be concerned about any particular decade, whether it was 20 years ago or 120 years ago, just so long as it is Farmington grass roots."

Nancy Leonard, a member of the Farmington Historical Commission, will take any questions. She can be called at 476-4125.



'Why Hanna's Skirt Won't Stay Down'

Writer and director uses theater to bring home messages of mental health

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

When Actors Alliance Theatre Company decided to produce "Why Hanna's Skirt Won't Stay Down," Annette Madias was ready to go to work.

"It was my kind of story," said the Farmington Hills resident who is directing the play for the Southfield-based company.

"It's a wildly funny story that brings home the message that underneath all people have funny little quirks they are anxious to hide; that underneath we are all the same."

"I do my best work when I'm working with a piece that gets across some message of mental health, and I've used any and every kind of theater form that works to do that. Matter of fact, I don't have any desire to do any-

thing in theater that doesn't have some social significance."

Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 6:30 p.m. Sundays for the Tom Eyen play that continues through March 4 in Actors Alliance Theatre, 30800 Evergreen.

Eyen is the author of "Dreamgirls." He has written for Bette Midler and "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman."

"WHY HANNA'S Skirt Won't Stay Down" is set in a Coney Island fun house, "which just happens to be perfect for theater-in-the-round," Madias said.

"It is farcical at times, old burlesque, but it tells about loneliness, the alienation the characters feel, and it connects those feelings to the audience, particularly with theater-in-the-round. "Eyen gets across that, no matter how intimate we are with someone else that when show-down time comes, you are on your own."

"He uses some bizarre methods to illustrate that the feelings you have you think are bizarre are really not that bizarre at all. Everybody has something they are careful not to show to others. By the end of the play all that whackiness doesn't seem to be so whacky after all."

The play has four major and equal roles portrayed by Eileen Elliott of Farmington Hills; Rod Moeller of Berkley; Chuck Greenleaf of East De-

troit; and John Puchalski of Hamtramck.

"It's been a challenge to direct that circus atmosphere, but I am so pleased with my actors and so in love with that play, it's pulling everything I ever did together for me," Madias said.

WHAT MADIAS has pulled together for herself is a background in theater and a background in social work which she works at simultaneously.

Her full-time job is crisis intervention with the Emergency Telephone Service Suicide Prevention, but says her first love is the theater, a career she prepared for with a degree in fine arts at University of Detroit.

Her first job out of college was with Common Ground, a 24-hour social service agency in Birmingham. It was a summer CETA position that called for a bit of clerical work, a bit of social work, and a bit of theatrical knowledge to aid in role-playing therapy as well as the production of short acts.

It wasn't long before she was writing and producing plays that dealt with domestic violence or sudden infant death or drugs or sexuality or "whatever social issue was at hand that needed addressing at the time," she said.

She eventually headed up Common Ground's drama theater and toured with it to local schools.

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"At the same time I was keeping up

with those issues, I was keeping up with the teens' current fads and languages and whatever was bothering them at the time. It was the training ground for every possible kind of crisis that I work with every day now," Madias said.

TAKING ON the two jobs this time of the year is particularly demanding for her.

"January and February are down months," she said. "The shivers, whether for the homeless or because of domestic violence are filled to capacity right now. Stress runs high when people are out of work. Everybody working in any kind of human service agency hits a high point in case loads this time of the year."

"Late last month was particularly heavy for us after 'Something About Amelia' was shown on television," she said of the drama on incest. "It provoked an extraordinary number of people to get to their telephones to report such a case, at least in the Detroit area."

She balances the demands of crisis intervention with her directing job.

"Hanna's Skirt" is up next," she said. "It is the best way I know to give people a bit of insight into themselves for the promotion of good mental health."

It is the second show she's directed for Actors Alliance, which shares a building with Lycee International on the corner of Evergreen and 13 Mile.

Ticket information for the Off Broadway comedy hit is available by calling the box office, 642-1325.

Freedom concert for Soviet Jewry features Israeli dance troupe

The "Third Annual Freedom Concert for Soviet Jewry in Memory of Al M. Rosenberg" has been scheduled for 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 28, in Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. The concert will feature "Anachnu Khan," an Israeli dance troupe composed of Soviet Jewish emigres.

Barbara Stollman of Birmingham and Esther Tucklapper of Southfield have been named co-chairwomen of the event sponsored by Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee (DSJC) of Jewish Community Council.

In 1971 members of the dance troupe, which was formed in the Soviet Union in 1956, were among the first emigrants to Israel in the renewed wave of Soviet repression. In Israel they established their ensemble, "We Are Here-Anachnu Khan."

The ensemble first toured the United States and Canada in 1975 and in February 1976 appeared before the Second International Conference on Soviet Jewry in Brussels. In 1977, the group represented Israel at the International Festival of Folklore in Mexico. Having recently marked its 25th anniversary, "Anachnu Khan" represents a milestone in the history of Jewish spiritual and physical survival.

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the advocacy activities of the DSJC including mailing of packages and phone calls to Soviet refugees.

Ticket prices are \$250 benefactor; \$100 sponsor; \$50 patron; \$25 and \$10 general admission. Patron, sponsor and benefactor tickets entitle the holder to reserved seating and participation in the afterglow.

CONCERT co-chairwoman Stollman is a board member of the Women's Division of the Allied Jewish Campaign, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the United Hebrew Schools. She has served as a member of the steering committee for Bar-Ilan University and on the board of the Jewish Association for Retarded Citizens.

Assistant Programmer for Cultural Arts at the Jewish Community Center, Tucklapper is an active member of the DSJC Special Events Subcommittee.

She is president of the Murray C. Zeiger Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women and Hospitality and Soviet Jewry chairwoman for the B'nai B'rith Council. Tucklapper is a member of Hadasah and Children of Holocaust-Survivors Association in Michigan.

She has traveled on missions to Israel, worked with the Young Adult Division of the Allied Jewish Campaign and served on the Israel Independence Day Committee.

Announcing the appointment of Stollman and Tucklapper are Joel D. Gershenson of Farmington Hills, chairman, and Gerald Rogers of Southfield, associate chairman, of the DSJC.

Members of the special events committee responsible for concert arrangements are Alex Golds, Geri and Nai Goldstone, Dean Gould, William Graham, Judith Grant Granader, Sharon Hart, Dorothy Harwood, Ida Jorlich, Paula Levine, Beverly Liss, Jackie Rogers, Phyllis Rosenberg, Rabbi Efray Spectre, Sylvia Starkman, Sherwin and Emily Tukei, and Pam Viano.

To order tickets, phone the Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee at 962-1890.

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troit; and John Puchalski of Hamtramck.

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Proposed Toastmasters Club needs members to get going

A chapter of Toastmasters International is in the process of being organized for residents in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Livonia.

Phyllis Sullivan, a member of Toastmasters in Plymouth, has six residents signed up to get the new club under way, but requirements for a charter demand 20.

Before determining a time, date and place for the new club's meeting place she wants to hear from others who would like to become charter members. She will take calls at 455-1635.

"It's a club for improving your speaking skills with the world leader in communication and leadership skills," she said.

"Toastmasters will put you up front when expressing your thoughts and ideas to others, and as you become a more effective communicator, you will naturally be in demand as a leader."

The Toastmasters Communication and Leadership program aims to take the shy and hesitant to one who can

comfortably participate in any speaking situation with confidence and assurance.

The program allows a member to develop at his or her own pace.

"Fees for membership are modest," Sullivan said, stressing that the program is not a classroom situation, but club members meeting for dinner in an atmosphere of growth and development.

TOASTMASTERS has a learn-by-doing philosophy.

Members don't guarantee the program will completely eliminate the butterflies in the stomach for the newcomer but it will "keep them flying in formation," Sullivan said.

After the first icebreaker, the member is on his or her own to set the speed of development while all the time being introduced to techniques on how to state a purpose and how to properly construct a speech.

How-to experiences are offered in the use of voice variety, word pictures, persuasion and making what the speaker wants to say clear.

To assist the newer members, the program includes evaluation on both prepared and impromptu talks by fellow members. The evaluations follow a prescribed procedure that is an integral part of Toastmasters' program.

After the basics, speaking skills are honed and enhanced with opportunities to take leadership positions, or gain experience in conference, convention and program arrangements.

Toastmaster membership provides professionally prepared educational materials on speaking, listening, discussion, parliamentary procedure, audiovisual techniques and meeting procedures.

Members receive The Toastmaster Magazine once a month, and an opportunity to compete in Toastmasters speech contest. "The World Championship of Public Speaking."