

# Suburban Life

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## Hillel breaks ground for another expansion

Hillel Day School, founded in 1958 with 23 students in two classrooms, broke ground early this month for another expansion in its 27 year history. With enrollment now at 470, the new William, Ethan and Maria Davidson wing, and the Mary and Mike Must multi-purpose room is under construction on the school site at 32200 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. New classrooms, conference rooms, a science and laboratory facility are included in the new addition.

The day school was started in Detroit under the guidance of the late Rabbi Jacob Segal and a handful of determined families whose goal was to combine a thorough Hebrew education with an excellent general studies curriculum, and whose hope was to serve the entire Jewish community by offering a Hillel education regardless of financial needs.

In those early days the concept was not fully accepted. Doubts came from both community leaders and parents. Some worried that their children would be isolated from the neighborhood children attending public school. Some were fearful that children might be taught an ideology different from their own Jewish home life. Some thought the proposed curriculum too ambitious for small children. Some questioned whether kindergartners or first graders could learn two languages at the same time.

BUT THE CONCEPT, sometimes referred to as "the grand experiment," caught fire and the pioneering families felt intimately linked to Hillel.

Naomi Floch, Hillel's first principal who set the course for the school's early days, describes the feelings of those early days by saying, "We had Hillel

for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We all believed that Jewish heritage by and large would be strengthened by the Jewish day school."

Within two years Hillel moved from its home in the Chaim Greenberg Building on Seven Mile and Schaefer to the Jewish Community Center in Oak Park. In 1963 auxiliary classrooms were established in Congregation B'nai Moshe.

In 1967 the school graduated its first class of ninth graders and simultaneously began a fund-raising drive to get its own building and grounds in Farmington Hills. In 1970 the school opened its door to students from kindergarten through sixth grade.

Hillel families mark 1985 as a landmark year when Rabbi Robert Abramson assumed the position of headmaster and June Weinberg as executive director.

Abramson brought a rich background in Jewish and general education as well as curriculum theory and development. Weinberg's expertise brought increasing financial credibility. Together they brought a constant and steady enrollment growth in the past 10 years, improved curriculum and increased staff training.

By 1979 another expansion was called for and another four classrooms were added to the building.

TODAY HILLEL is acknowledged as a model day school. Last year Hebrew University's Department of Education for the Diaspora chose Hillel as a pilot school for testing its "Jewish Values Materials" for grades six through nine. Much of the material has already been implemented at Hillel.

The staff strives to instill enjoyment in learning. The Hebrew program strives for abilities in written and oral

expression, along with the traditional learning of the Bible and religious holidays.

Families meet for a variety of programs, holiday celebrations and workshops.

Hillel is affiliated with Solomon Schechter Day School, the national

movement of Conservative Jewish day schools.

Its goals remain much the day as they were 27 years ago, the offer of a superior education with a sound knowledge of classical Hebrew texts along with the pride that comes from knowing what it means to be a Jew.

## Travel writer wins 'best overall' in awards competition

Iris Sanderson Jones is the top winner in the 1984 Mark Twain Awards competition of the Midwest Travel Writers Association.

Jones of Farmington Hills received the Frank J. Cipriani Memorial Award given to the best overall writer as well as plaques for the best writing in single magazine and series categories. She was chosen for the Cipriani Award on the basis of decisions by two judges in separate writing categories.

Her story, "River City, U.S.A.," was "an outstanding example of writing craftsmanship," according to the magazine division judge. The decision was influenced by Jones's tight writing, "enabling the author to pack a tremendous amount of information into four pages."

The judge in the series category placed all three of Jones' entries ahead of others in the division and chose for first place a series about South Africa. The judge found that she "writes crisp, clean, grammatical prose rich in images but free of cloying opulence."

Jones is the immediate past-president of the travel writers group, the oldest association of professional travel writers in the U.S. She previously received Mark Twain Awards in 1979 from Bernice of Baton Rouge, La. and 1980 and the Cipriani Award in 1980.

Other awards went to Doris Schar-



Iris Jones

fenberg of Farmington in the book category; Jack Blisterfield of Crystal Lake, Ill., for single newspaper story and photography; and Art Schreier of Bloomington, Ill., for broadcast. Norman Bernice of Baton Rouge, La. received the Fred Burns Memorial Award given annually to a travel-related service agency.

## Author pens a winner

Doris Scharfenberg of Farmington has received the award for the best travel book in the 1984 Mark Twain Awards competition of the Midwest Travel Writers Association. The award is for her book, "The Long Blue Edge of Ontario."

Winners of the 1984 awards were announced in Portland, Ore., where the group had its spring meeting.

"The author has woven historical and geographical information into the text in a non-pedantic way which provides context for the practical information a traveler seeks," wrote the judge. He also found that "the layout of the book enhances the usefulness of the text: it's both attractive and practical, with the marginal headings promoting quick and easy reference."

## Gavel goes to Fezzey

### Center's new board of directors elected

Robert Fezzey, a Farmington Hills resident and a member of Farmington Community Center board of directors for the past three years, was elected president of the board for the coming term. He took the gavel from outgoing president Mary McCormick.

Fezzey's vice president is Wilbur Davis. Other incoming officers are Ruth Farrell and Richard Wells.

In addition to serving on the center's board Fezzey has worked to raise funds for the center through both benefits and the annual fund drive. Several years ago he initiated the highly successful center-sponsored Men's Club. Most recently he was named the center's "Volunteer of the Month."

He is firmly committed to the concept of volunteerism and credits the center's recognition as a focal point in the community by saying it would not have happened "except for the tremendous volunteer efforts" given by area residents.

Fezzey's wife, Mary Jo, likewise committed, has coordinated the operations of the Second Edition, the center's resale shop, since its inception.

Fezzey is retired from a management position at Michigan Bell where he worked for 36 years. He is a member of the Lions Club and Economic Club of Detroit.

INCOMING BOARD members are James Blazek, Katherine Dowling, Scott Colburn and Nancy Finley.

Blazek is vice president of industry relations at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co.

Dowling is an administrative assistant for Northville's senior citizens housing program and has worked as both administrative assistant and assistant director for Farmington Community Center.

Colburn owns Scott Colburn's Saddlery and was co-chairman for the center's 1983 fund drive.

Finley is senior vice president for the Farmington Branch of Michigan National Bank and serves on the Spicer Property Citizen Committee.

McCormick and Betty Paine, executive director of the center, will continue to serve as members of the board.

Other continuing members are Phyllis Cummings, Jan Dolan, John Donohue, John Farley, Lawrence Freedman, Katrina Jensen, Edward Lane, John Miller, Ernest Sauter, Nancy Taylor, Dwalin Whinnery and Ralph Yoder.

Members leaving the board, effective with the spring election, are Margaret Halava, Ed Kettensstock, Vernon Lunn, Jim Mitchell and John Svagr.

Both officers and board members are voted in by area residents who make a financial contribution to the center during the past year.



Robert Fezzey

## Northern Lites

### Singers need funds for concert tour

A mass mailing went out this week asking for contributions to send the Northern Lites, a select group of singers and dancers from North Farmington High School, on a goodwill tour of the Caribbean Islands.

No mention of the school's name was made in the letter because neither the trip nor the solicitation is sponsored by the school, or the school board.

"This is Joan MacKenzie's last hurrah," said Ruth McKinnon, one of the parents who signed the letter which said \$16,000 was needed before June 29 to make the trip possible.

McKinnon's statement referred to part of the Northern Lites director who is being involuntarily transferred to another school in the district surrounded by protests from students and their parents.

And it referred in part to the many hurrahs that have come to MacKenzie and her vocal students in the past school year.

After a long string of awards and championship titles for the school's vocal groups, and scholarships for a number of her vocal students, the Northern Lites have been asked to perform aboard the cruise ship "Bermuda,"

then make a round of goodwill concerts in Bermuda schools.

"THEY WEREN'T even asked to audition for this. They were invited on their reputation after winning contest after contest," McKinnon said of the invitation from E. T. World, based in Salt Lake City, Utah. "Bermuda" is a program for college groups. It is only because the Northern Lites have such an outstanding record that they were asked to participate."

Under MacKenzie's direction the Northern Lites have won the Northern Regional Show Choir, Five-State Invitational Vocal Jazz, and Michigan School Vocal Association Ensemble Festival competitions.

The group rehearses several times a week throughout the school year and gives an average of 54 performances a year.

The 16 teens have been offered professional training workshops and education while aboard ship as part of the package.

Persons wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution may call McKen-

non, at 661-4911, or Judy Abar, 851-8585.

## '84 Kiwanis Queen in Paris to model

Cathy McBride, who was Farmington Kiwanis Queen for 1984, leaves for Paris, France, this week to visit modeling agencies there, sponsored by Prestige, a modeling agency in New York.

McBride is a graduate of Clarenceville High School who won the title of "Miss Michigan Teen" and later was a semifinalist in the Miss Michigan U.S.A. Pageant. During the semifinals of that pageant she captured the title of "Miss Photogenic" from the official pageant photographers who were judges for that category, which led in turn to her affiliation with Prestige.

After her graduation from high school McBride traveled with Ford Motor Co. auto shows as a floor model, and also served on 12 Oaks Mall's Fashion Panel.

For the last few weeks she's been taking her own self-taught crash course in French in preparation for interviews that have been arranged for her with four modeling agencies during her stay in Paris.

McBride's career in modeling was launched when she took a "Wendy Ward" class, sponsored by Montgomery Ward, then later studied with Marlene Corfield in her "Modeling for

Teens" class in Farmington Community Center.

"It is hard for me to believe this is happening," said Marlene McBride of her daughter's European trip. "All the time she was growing up she was known as the tomboy on the block."

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harris McBride of Farmington Hills.



Cathy McBride

## Museum shows collections

Fairy lamps, sailing ships, perfume bottles and still banks are being exhibited in Plymouth Historical Museum through Sept. 8.

Candle-burning fairy lamps were made 1840-60 and used as night lights. They were made of many kinds of glass and came in many colors. Some of the many lamps on display are made of pink mother of pearl, blue coraline, burmese, pink and blue ribbon glass, puffy palporint, nallsea and butter-scotch.

An unusual three-sided lamp with figures of a cat, dog and owl is included in this rare collection.

The sailing ship collection includes such models as the Robert E. Lee, the Mayflower, and the Titanic.

The Plymouth Historical Museum, 151 S. Main Street, Plymouth, is open 1-4 p.m. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$1.

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