Tragedy braces need for pool safety

The funeral program for 10-year-old Rachel Reynolds of Detroit be-gan with a verse from Ecclessor. "To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under the beauen."

A month after Rachel drowned un-

A month after Rachel drowned under ironic elreumstances May 6, Mary Chill of Farmington Hills said she is still pondering why.

"It was such a pointless tragedy," she said. "It should never have happened. It doesn't make sense."

The circumstances that claimed Rachel's life and nearly that of her friend, 11-year-old Ainya Nelson, are indeed ironic.

friend, 11-year-oin anya anasan, indeed ironic.
Chill and the girls were among 500 adult and youth delegates attending the annual convention of Michigan Parent Teacher Association and Parent Teacher Student Parent Paren

THE GIRLS, accompanied to the three-day affair by Rachel's mother, atthea Reynolds, represented Mark Twain Elementary School in Detroit, where both attended school.

"Youth delegates add so much to the convention," Chil said. She describes adult delegates as "people seriles and the describes adult delegates as "people seriles and the describes adult delegates as "people seriles adult delegates as "people seriles and the describes adult delegates as "people seriles and the delegates as a "people seriles and the delegates as a "people seriles and the delegates as a "people seriles and the delegates and the delegates and the delegates and the delegates are "people seriles and the delegates and the delegates are "people seriles and "people seriles and "people seriles and "people seriles and "peop

who spend a lot of time and energy on children. To lose one at the con-vention was a tremendous loss and shock."

The loss has been particularly pro-found for Chill because of the role she played in trying to save Rachel and Ainya.

she played in trying to save Rachel and Ainya.

The first hint anything was amiss came in an announcement during the convention's opening seasion Widnesday atternoon. Delegates to be convention's opening seasion with the convention of the convent

AFTER THE announcement, Chill, a registered nurse who has worked in hospital emergency rooms and who is now a home health care nurse in Oakland County, raced to

the pool.

She was joined by another delegate, Lynette Cisson of Royal Oaks, who is also a registered nurse. It took the two women 2-3 minutes to locate the pool. cate the pool. r Chill instantly assessed the situa- Ciss

'Everyone should look closely at pools and pool safety. Very few people understand the risks or how profound drowning is.; Mary Chill



"One girl (Ainya) was unconscious but moving her arms and legs. People were warming her. Another girl (Rachel) was prostrate. CPR was being administered improperly. Her stomach was bloated. Her pupils were fixed and dilated.
"It was clear she was in trouble."
"It went into automatic," Chil sald, and the nurse in her took over. For the next half hour, she and Cisson alternately applied cardiopulmonary resuscitation, until

paramedics from North Flight Emergency Services arrived by heli-copter.

AN AMBULANCE had arrived earlier from the nearby town of Cedar but Chill said the crew was trained only in basic emergency care and unable to relieve Chili and Cis-

son.

They took Ainya to a nearby hospital, where the girl was attached to a respirator. She recovered and was

released from the hospital the following week.

By the time Rachel was evacuated
by hellcopier to Munson Medical
Center in Traverse City about 4 p.m.,
Chill said the girl was "Freathing
spontaneously and it looked like she
should come back.
"But it doesn't work that way. The
crisis from drowning is profound.
The daminge is profound."
Rachel's body was unable to cope.
She died early the following mornling, at 2:14 a.m. May 6.
Convention business continued.
Sessions were scheduled through the
following day.
"It was important we finish our
the service of the continued of the continued of the continued the contin

time. "There was much crying and other manifestations of grief," Chill sald. "It was particularly difficult for the younger delegates to understand why we continued (the convention)."

A GRIEF counselor arrived from Munson to counsel them. Ministers in the crowd comforted adults. Delegates left for home after the close of convention business Thurs-

The accident has been particularly painful for Chill because Rachel was similar in size and age to Chill's only child, Tina, 12.

"When I estimated her (Rachel'a) weight and size (while applying CPR), I was only off by two pounds and two months."

Temple in Ecorse.

"Hondreds of people attended,"
Chill said. "Rachel was evidently a
real bright little girl."
The memorial program spoke of a

real bright little girl."

The memorial program spoke of a season and a purpose for everything. Chill felt anger. "I am personally very angry. All the kid did was go swimming, it seems a heavy punishment for disobedience."

WHILE AINYA has no memory of the accident, it is believed the two girls waited for a lifeguard. When none appeared, they entered the pool to play a game of tag. They were dis-covered floating face down by two other youth delegates planning a swim

Vet remembered for helping less fortunate



Herbert Viergutz community activist

Herbert Viergutz never sat still

Herbert Viergutz never sat still for very long.

Even in retirement after 46 years as a veterinarian, he made house calls to neuter dogs and cats for longtime customers who wouldn't let anyone else do the procedure, said his wife, Beutah.

Mr. Viergutz died June 4 in William Beaumont Hospitial, Royal Oak.
He was 79.

The Parminaton Hills resident

llam Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak.
He was 79.
The Farmington Hills resident
never dropped his involvement with
the Lions, a civic group dedicated to
helping the less fortunate, including
deaf, blind and handleapped people.
In recent years, the club also has
fought juvenile diabetes and substance abuse.
Mr. Viergutz founded the Farmington Area Lions Club 40 years ago
this September. The charter membership was 39, 14 more than today.
He never tired of talking about the

Lions, which helps fund Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills and Welcome Home for the Blind in Grand Rapids. He was proud of the Lions' work with the Eye Bank, which finds corneas and eyes for needy people.

"Even though we assist many organizations for the blind and visually handicapped, we are always looking for new, worldwhile causes," he said in an interview shortly before his death.

MR. VIERGUTZ helped organize many Lions fund-raisers. Last year, the club raised \$10,000. At its 40th annual installation din-ner June 2, the Farmington Area Li-ons Club gave Mr. Viergutz the Mei-vin Jones Award for 40 years of hu-

manitarian service, the club's highest honor. As a symbolic gesture, Mr. Viergutz, two days before his death, applied the gavel to the bell that called the meeting to order.

Orphaned as an infant, Herbert Viergutz was raised by his grand-parents. "They raised me with a strict Baptist hand," he said.

It was his aunt who provided emo-tional support, he said.

The Colorado native earned a degree in veterinary medicine from Colorado State University. "The financial burdens were often so bad that I thought I might have to drop out, but my aunt helped me out so I made it," he said.

His wife, Buelah, said: "Herbert's aunt was more like a mother to him."

IN 1941, Mr. Viergutz started a veterinary clinic in Detroit. A year later, he was drafted and served in the Army for four years, from 1942-46

. When he returned from serving as When he returned from serving as an inspector of the food for troops in Australia and the South Pacific, he found his clinic condemned. "They told me that they were putting Davison Road on the same spot that my hospital stood on, and I had to make other plans," he said.

Mr. Viergutz then decided to start the Farmington Dog and Cat Hospital on Grand River. He retired in 1985.

ULTRA-HOL DENTURES

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He was a recognized breeder of the cross-bred Octeat cat, recognized by the Cat Fanciers Association. He also served as a veterinarian for the Detroit Police Department Mounted Division. He also enjoyed flowers.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Vierigiz is survived by one daughter, Marie Grossman; two step-children, Carol Cranston Van Hartesveldt and Dr. Raymond Cranston III; fograndchildren; and one sister. He donated his body to the University of Michigan Medical School. A memorial service was held June 6 at Heeny-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Members of Farmington Masonie Lodge officiated.

The family asks that memorials made to Leader Dogs for the Blind, Rochester Hills.



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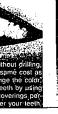
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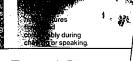
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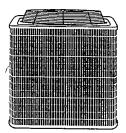
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