

# Oakland talent swings at 'Talent Extravaganza'

By Noreen Plack  
staff writer

Some of the most talented people in Oakland County had a chance to take the stage Sunday at Mercy Center in Farmington Hills during "Talent Extravaganza."

The 20-act show offered a variety of entertainment — from performances by the Rochester Hills rock group, Albion, to the belly dancing talents of Jo Melekian of Franklin. Melekian is a physical fitness instructor for the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Program. She teaches eastern-style dancing and has belly danced at the Bouzouki Restaurant and Lounge in Detroit's Greek Town. She also placed runner-up for the title of 1990 Ms. Senior Michigan. In April, she'll go to Trump Plaza in Al-

lantic City for the Ms. Senior America Pageant.

SAM "THE Harmonica Man" Gorlick of Southfield won the audience over with his rendition of "The St. Louis Blues." The audience joined in the harmonica tunes with hands clapping, toes tappin' and fingers snapping.

Mary Gorlick, Sam's wife, participated as an "old fashioned porch singer." The couple both admitted they are "stage hams."

"I love it," Sam said. "I had more fun than they (the audience) did." The Gorlicks are frequent entertainers at the Oak Park Jewish Community Center's "Social Hour" on Wednesdays.

Vikki Appleton of Southfield captured the audience with her acapella-

folk songs, "The Scotsman" and "All The Pretty Little Horses."

She's often seen during "open mike" nights (every other Wednesday) at The Ark in Ann Arbor. She took her singing to the stage when her radio in her Volkswagen Rabbit broke. She had to depend on her talents for relaxation while driving, which she said has improved her voice.

Appleton works for the City of Southfield in the graphics department.

The talent show included first-, second- and third-place winners in three categories: youth, adult and senior. The categories were separated by age: youth group, 15 and younger; adult group, 16 through 55; and senior group, 55 and older.

"This is just part of our attempt to offer a broad range of activities and

programs in the community and to utilize our facilities as best we can," said Jackie McParlane, Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission recreation supervisor.

McParlane and Sandy DeVance, recreation intern, coordinated the show and began auditions in March. The two coordinators contacted schools, dance programs and fine arts associations in the community

to get the word around. They wanted talented participants from all ages with a variety of different interests.

THREE JUDGES, with backgrounds in entertainment, dance and theater, rated each performance. First-place winners received a \$50 gift certificate. Second- and third-place winners received various donated gifts.

Winners in each group:

• youth — 1st, Ondrea Hall, classical piano player; 2nd, Kristy Zasadney, jazz/pop dancer; 3rd, Code Zero, dancers.

• adult — 1st, Vikki Appleton, folk singer; 2nd, Amy Smith, singer; 3rd, Andrew Young, actor.

• senior — 1st, Sam Gorlick, harmonica player; 2nd, Sixth Gate Cloggers; 3rd, Jo Melekian, belly dancer.

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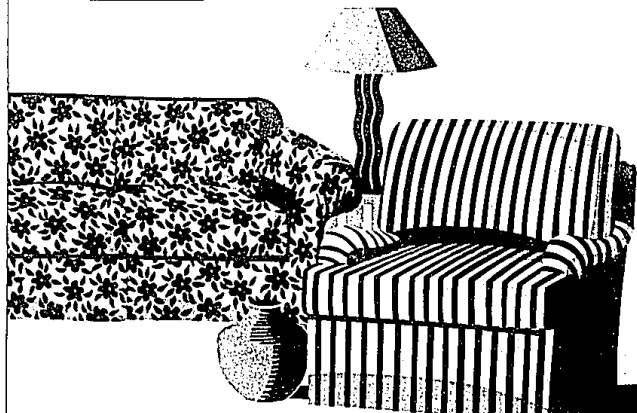
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