

Discovery from page 11A

there are over 100 members and she is currently president."

Both mother and daughter have made several trips to Washington D.C. to lobby Congress and particularly Michigan legislators on behalf of more funding for cancer research.

"She has done so much. I felt the (Discovery) store was an opportunity for me to do something," said Gray.

A Farmington resident for 47 years, she is past president of the Farmington Area Lions Club and a retired school teacher. She is

chairperson of promotions for the Discovery Store.

In addition to the Farmington store, there are shops in Sterling Heights, Lansing, and two in Grand Rapids. A store in Southfield recently closed and volunteers from it now help staff the Farmington location. Another Oakland County operation is being considered, possibly in the Rochester Hills area, according to Gray.

"Our clientele includes CEOs, lots of attorneys, and professional women who have to dress for

work."

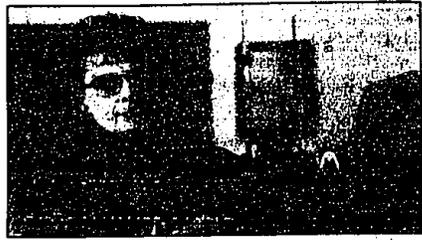
On a recent visit, merchandise included a blue pinstripe size 6 Harve Bernard suit for \$20, and a Christian Dior size 8 brown suit for \$15 — both in impeccable condition. There were three hooded winter jackets with original store tags attached for \$20 apiece.

"I've seen Ann Taylor purses with one stitch missing marked way down," said Gray. "You can get a shoemaker to repair the stitch and have a \$160 purse for a fraction of the cost."

Love of lyric lasts forever

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

This is the sixth in a series of stories about the Farmington Area Arts Commission Artists in Residence winners. The features are in celebration of the programs' 20th anniversary this year.



SHARON LEEMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Charlene Slaby has spent a lifetime composing music — from the time she was a young school girl until the present day. Fifteen years ago, she was named artist in residence for 1981.

Reminiscing recently over three scrapbooks that meticulously record her long career, the Farmington Hills resident mused over aspects forgotten over the years.

"These books have been sitting on a closet shelf for years," she said, just back from a Tuesday Musicales rehearsal of some of her works to be performed Feb. 6 at the Grose Pointe War Memorial. Slaby's compositions, "Songs of the Shinkokinasho," "What is it? What is it?", "Lord God, Pity Me" and Lyric Etude for Voice no. 1 and no. 2 will be sung by Detroit Symphony Orchestra soloist Carolyn Grimes, accompanied by Zina Astrakhan on piano.

In 1981, when Slaby was named artist in residence by the Farmington Area Arts Commission, it was a career highlight she fondly recalls.

She was honored for her work as a pianist, a composer and a teacher.

"It was a wonderful honor," she said.

Slaby studied music at the Detroit Institute of Musical Arts. Later she earned music degrees

Composer: Charlene Slaby was artist in residence in 1981. The Farmington Hills resident has spent a lifetime teaching piano and composing music.

from the University of Detroit (bachelor's) and Eastern Michigan University (master of arts).

When she took the \$500 award as artist in residence, she told a reporter for the Farmington Observer that she first started making sounds on a piano at the age of 3.

"By age 7, I wanted lessons so badly that I stopped a piano teacher in the street and brought her home," she said then.

"That zest for music has lasted a lifetime.

"My husband, Ted, is retired now. I don't take piano students at home anymore. We like to be free to go," she said.

But scouring over old newspaper clippings, she proudly names her former piano students who are now composing music themselves. She taught in Catholic schools in residence, she told a reporter for the Farmington Observer that she first started making sounds on a piano at the age of 3.

Slaby also spent time entertaining patients in the Northville State Hospital. She lived in Northville until 1977, then moved to Farmington Hills.

A longtime member of the St. John American Lutheran Church of Farmington, she composed original music for her church, including an anthem for a special anniversary.

Slaby has three grown children, Ted, Mindy and Nancy. Though none is a professional musician,

Ted "is a fine jazz pianist and Mindy plays piano by ear."

Although many of her compositions have a religious theme, she enjoys composing all types of music, she said.

Other career highlights include composing music for "Mackinac," an original musical performed on Mackinac Island in 1972.

"I remember J.P. McCarthy interviewed us. That was fun. It was performed first at Harrison High School, and then at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island."

She composed music for another musical commissioned by the Farmington Players on the history of Farmington in music and dance. "The Power of It All" was produced for Farmington's sesquicentennial in 1974.

Another career highlight — she composed "A Psalm for the Living" performed by the antiphonal choir of North Farmington and Harrison high schools.

Slaby also did a fair amount of lecturing. She credits the French Romantic composers as a major career influence.

Although many of her fondest career memories occurred long ago, Slaby is as inspired by her latest work in progress — the Tuesday Musicales series. She is still moved to pick up a pencil and notepad and create new work. "I haven't come full circle yet," she said.

McCullough from page 11A

dangers.

Jimsonweed (also known as locoweed because of its effects on grazing animals) contains high concentrations of the drug atropine. Atropine acts by blocking the receptors for a main neurotransmitter giving messages in the brain and to our muscles.

High doses of atropine (as in jimsonweed) can cause delirium, high fever, elevated blood pressure, circulatory collapse and death. Atropine can be useful when carefully monitored by a physician. It is very dangerous to use as a recreational drug.

Lately, you may have read newspaper and magazine articles about Herbal Ecstasy, a mixture of plant materials being touted by health food stores as a "safe, natural high" that "mimics the effects of stimulants without the dangers." The active ingredient of an herbal product is ephedra (or ephedrine). Ephedrine stimulates the sympathetic nervous system in the brain, lungs and heart and

is an active ingredient in medications such as asthma inhalers and some decongestants.

It causes blood vessels to constrict and the heart to pump faster and harder. (It works in the same way as adrenaline does when injected into the heart in a Code Blue). It can cause cardiac arrhythmias and even cardiac arrest.

Again, ephedrine may be safe when used under a doctor's care, but not in the unregulated dosages and mixtures with other stimulants found in Herbal Ecstasy. No wonder emergency rooms are reporting cardiac arrhythmias and death related to Herbal Ecstasy use.

The bottom line is that just because it's natural doesn't mean it's safe. Any substance that you ingest to get high must contain chemicals that act on receptors in your nervous system and probably other important organs in your body. Any time you mess with those receptors, dangerous effects including addictions, brain damage or death can occur.

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'Have a Heart' auction benefits abused children

Find the perfect gift for someone you love and help a child in need this Valentine's Day at the second annual "Have a Heart for Children" Valentine auction. Thursday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. at Kicks in the Troy Marriott Hotel, 200 W. Big Beaver.

The live auction will feature romantic items to benefit the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center's programs for severely abused children. Kicks will offer hors d'oeuvres, live music and a cash bar.

Sponsored by Astreina Jewelers and the Sports Gallery Inc. of Birmingham, the Valentine auction will feature an overnight stay at the Troy Marriott Hotel with breakfast, an Italian sea pearl necklace from Rox and Sherm, a Kenneth Cole backpack, gift certificates for roses from City Life Florist and Blossoms, a one night stay in a junior presidential suite at the Crown Plaza Pontchartrain with breakfast for two at Seaford Mesquite Creek steak-

house, lunch for two at Fox and Hound, the Kingsley Hotel and the Rhinoceros Club, and dinner for two at the Caucus Club, the City Grill, Clarkston Cafe, Daniel's, Envoy Cafe, Holly Hotel, Mario's Italian restaurant in Saugatuck, Mons Lisa, the Moose Preserve, Morton's of Chicago, Peabody's, Stewarts, Tom's Oyster Bar and Trattoria Bruschetta.

For more than 26 years, the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center has provided a safe and nurturing home for children with special needs. The center's six programs include residential treatment for severely abused children, foster care, special needs adoption support, and Marillac Outreach Services and Transitions programs for high risk infants and their young mothers.

Admission to Have a Heart For Children Valentine auction is \$3. For more information, call the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center at 626-7527, ext. 280.

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