



Russian puppetry dazzles students

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A form of entertainment — usually thought to be accomplished here by merely putting a sock over one's hand — is serious art in Russia.

Those who practice puppetry there would rather sock it to audiences with dazzling productions, elaborate sets and characters.

Students at St. Fabian School in Farmington Hills school were treated to American Russian Theater PuppetArt production of the ancient folk tale, "The Firebird," on Dec. 20.

For 40 minutes, children at the Farmington Hills school were taken back by the ornate scenery and colorful puppets, which include a sparkling fowl for which the tale is named.

"The scenes and the background look real," said St. Fabian student Brittany Fajewski, 11. It was the first time Fajewski watched a puppet show.

Student Brad Wilkinson, 10, has viewed puppetry in the past, but he added, "Not like this one."

PuppetArt is comprised of members from this area's Russian immigrant community. Members live in Southfield,

West Bloomfield, Auburn Hills and Pontiac.

In Russia, puppetry is taken with the seriousness of live theater. The art is supported by the government and prevalent in Russian schools.

PuppetArt members made their living through their art in their native country. In the U.S., they share their passion for puppetry with full-time careers.

"It's a part of life," said Igor Gorman, who is artistic director and a computer engineer. "Every child goes to puppetry shows ... Children learn how to work their imaginations."

PuppetArt believes the art can be used as a teaching tool. The group provides workshops for elementary-age children to high school and graduate students.

Behind-the-scenes know-how only makes audiences appreciate PuppetArt performances even more.

"They do a lot of rehearsing," Alva Dworkin, manager of PuppetArt and who lives in Southfield. "There are people who have to go back and forth behind the stage."

"If they didn't choreograph it like a dance, they would be smacking into each other or the puppets would be hitting together."



STAFF PHOTOS BY LARRY MCKEE



Folk tale: "The Firebird" is derived from an old Russian folk tale told by parents to their children through generations and includes colorful puppet characters "Ivan" and the princess. At left, St. Fabian School children were mesmerized by the PuppetArt performance in the school gymnasium.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves with Farmington-area connections. Send a brief biographical summary, including the towns of residency and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired, to: Business Editor, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335. The Observer's fax number is 1-810-477-9722.

DAVID KIM, M.D. of Farmington Hills has been named a board certified physical medicine and rehabilitation physician for Oakwood Occupational Healthcare Center-Romulus.

JOE LOZOWSKI has been named President of University Business Interiors in Farmington Hills. He announced the unveiling of their new Haworth Showroom located at 23306 Commerce Drive.

PETER ARNDT of Farmington Hills has joined Parallel Creative, a creative group formed by the Detroit office of Bozell Worldwide Advertising. Arndt was hired as senior art director specializing in interactive media.

RANDALL MILLER of Northville was appointed senior manager in Arthur Anderson's business consulting division. He is responsible for the consumer products industry and enterprise systems teams.

BOTSFORD CONTINUING CARE CORP. in Farmington Hills named Charlene Brooks the Applause! Applause! winner for December. A member of the housekeeping staff, she has been



Michael Tetrick

with Botsford for almost 10 years.

MICHAEL TETRICK of Farmington Hills has been named Business Evaluation and Support process leader at AAA Michigan. He joined the organization in January 1991 as a corporate budget manager and in 1994 was named a Financial Analysis team leader.

JOHANNES HENSOLDT of Farmington Hills joined Calsonic North America Inc. as director of business planning. He was previously the Division Controller of International Operations at the European headquarters of Lear Seating Corp. in Germany.

LAWRENCE WISNE of Farmington Hills, president of Progressive Tool and Industries Co., has been elected to University of Detroit Mercy's Board of



David Kim

Trustees. He is a member of UDM's Engineering and Science Advisory Council and a board member at Madonna University.

ALAN PRASUHN of Farmington Hills and chairman of Lawrence Technological University's Civil Engineering Department, traveled around the globe for the cause of recognizing outstanding civil engineering projects. The American Society of Civil Engineers has bestowed the William Wisely American Civil Engineer Award on Prasuhn that cites individuals who have made efforts to promote the history, tradition, developments and activities of the ASCE. He was cited in particular for serving as an extraordinary ambassador.

Annual GRIP program switches venues

GRIP: The Next Generation switches venues to Farmington High for this year's annual program Saturday, March 8. GRIP — which stands for Generations Responding to Issues and Problems — had taken place at North

Farmington High during the past two years. Author and recording artist Karl Anthony will be the keynote speaker at this year's program sponsored by Farmington Families in Action and Farmington Public Schools.

The program is free and open to children in grades 4-8 and their parents. Registration is required by Feb. 28. Registration will not be taken over the phone. Call 489-3349 or 489-3333 for more information.

No refuse collection planned on New Year's Day

Refuse and recycling will not be collected on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1997 in observance of New Years.

If your regular collection day is Wednesday, your

trash will be collected on Thursday, Jan. 2. Trash normally picked up on Thursdays will be collected on Friday, Jan. 3 and so on until normal trash collection resumes on Monday, Jan. 6, 1997.

CLEARANCE



STOREWIDE CLEARANCE BEGINS TODAY!

SAVINGS ON THE THINGS YOU WANT NOW. THINGS YOU NEED. THINGS ON YOUR LIST THAT SANTA DIDN'T BRING. THINGS FOR THE FAMILY. STUFF FOR THE HOME. QUICK! COME SEE... COME SAVE.

Jacobson's

BIRMINGHAM
810-643-0000

LIVONIA
313-501-7600

ROCHESTER
810-651-0000