

Volunteers help students learn

ALL ABOUT FAMILIES



ALICE MCCARTHY

There appears one large hope, that volunteers from all over the nation will come forward to make a crucial difference in student learning.

Parents, educators, leaders in business and industry, the United States Department of Education, governors and schools are putting standards of high achievement on their list of needs for the next century. Thinkers believe our children will not be able to compete with students worldwide unless learning is heightened.

This is why a day of honoring those who have volunteered and orienting those who will accept the joy and challenge of helping young people will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at the Birmingham Area Senior Coordinating Council, 2122 Midvale Ave., Birmingham, phone (205) 642-1040.

During the day, technology will be highlighted in a workshop called "Techno-Kids." The workshop will explain how students e-mail questions to the editors, who answer them and e-mail the answers back. Third graders then take the answers and write and illustrate a biography about their senior e-mail partner.

The Techno-Kids at Pierce School and seniors had tea together to complete plans for their project. "In all my years in education," says Dr. Paula Greene, principal at Pierce, "I have never been so touched. I believe seniors gained a unique respect for how the students developed their biographies, and third graders saw seniors with whole new eyes. It was phenomenal. The project was the work of so many creative people. I was the recipient of the pleasure of doing it come about. We will continue again in fall 1998."

"Another workshop will feature volunteer opportunities outside the regular classroom. Tutoring

non-English-speaking adults, working with preschoolers, assisting with before-and-after-school programs, or being a mentor for a high school club, are just a few of the ways seniors volunteer. Marcia Williamson, a Community Education Specialist, and Fred Gaulzetti, who has been active in the Intergenerational Program since 1994, will lead this workshop.

Marion King, who coordinates some 60 intergenerational education volunteers for BASCC, has this to say about the program: "We believe teachers are grateful for senior involvement. Seniors bring experience and skills that may not otherwise be available. This broadens learning, the responsiveness of the students is pretty amazing. King brings organizational skills from years of work in hospitals and industry to her job of coordination."

John Hoefler, superintendent of the Birmingham Public Schools, will welcome seniors; the Harlan choir will sing, and lunch will be served. And your columnist will be there too, serving on a panel to speak briefly about the tremendous need for all children to achieve at grade level and how volunteers can help.

Sean Eldon, a college student, will talk about experiencing an intergenerational program while he was a student at Harlan Elementary School. Lois Ryan, former BASCC coordinator, will facilitate the luncheon. The panel also includes Marion King.

May 21 will be an exciting day. Current volunteers will be honored, and you out in the community who are seeking meaningful challenges and wish joy from seeing students learn and grow are urged to call BASCC at (248) 642-1040 and say you will be there that day.

All About Families runs every other week in The Eccentric Newspaper's Birmingham resident Alice McCarthy, Ph.D., is a nationally known parent educator, writer and editor.

Sacco-Shanahan

Dr. and Mrs. Anthony G. Sacco of Troy announce the engagement of their daughter, Karen Michelle, to Joshua Michael Shanahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shanahan of Brighton.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Troy High School and Central Michigan University. She is employed by Access Management in Livonia.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Walled Lake Western and Central Michigan University. He is employed by Sportview Television Inc. in South Lyon.

A May wedding is planned at Sacred Heart Academy.



Vasquez-Rogers

Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Vasquez of Buffalo Grove, Ill., announce the engagement of their daughter, Soraya Marek, to Jeffrey William Rogers, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Rogers of Bloomfield Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and is employed at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Andover High School and Wheaton College. He is employed at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington.

A July wedding is planned at Willow Creek Community Church.



Submitting announcements

Residents of the Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield areas should send their engagement, wedding, anniversary or birth information, with or without photograph, to: Attn: Brides, The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Residents of the Troy and Rochester areas should send information to The Eccentric, 1814 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills 48307.

Residents of the Farmington area should send information to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335.

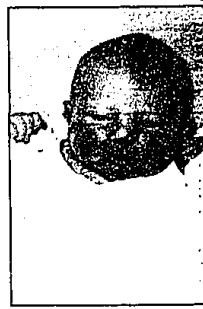
If you have questions, call Sue Wills in Birmingham at (248) 901-2560; Debbie Douglas in Rochester at (248) 651-7575, or Katie McManus in Farmington at (248) 477-5450.

BIRTHS

Miranda Pauline Oberman

Thomas and Leanne Oberman of Livonia announce the birth of their daughter, Miranda Pauline Oberman, on March 16 at Providence Hospital.

She has a brother, Patrick Stephen. Grandparents are Thomas and Janice Nowakowski of Troy, Lee and Roberta Shough of Santa Barbara, Calif., and Patricia Oberman of Bloomfield Hills.



2 from area taking part in women's dinner event

Two area residents are working on the dinner committee for the Michigan Women's Foundation's annual Women of Achievement and Courage Awards Dinner on Tuesday at the Ritz-Carlton.

They are Barbara (Bunny) Kratchman of Bloomfield Hills, who also is on the board of trustees, and Veronika Quaroni of Bloomfield Hills.

Four women leaders will be honored at the dinner. They are Eleanor Josatis of Detroit, co-founder and executive director of Focus: HOPE; Gladys May Beckwith of Lansing, professor of American Thought and Lan-

guage at Michigan State University; Vernice Davis Anthony of Detroit, senior vice president of

Urban and Community Health at the St. John Health System in Detroit; and Joan Luedders

Wolfe of Grand Rapids, environmental activist.

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