



Artist & family: From left, watercolorist Eve Samra's four children at Monday's Art in the Corridor series exhibit opening in the Farmington Hills City Hall: George Samra, Gail Stone, (Evanthia Samra), Karen Edwards, Lisa Samra; George's children, Victoria and Gregory.

Mural inspires hope

Former Farmington Artist in Residence Donna Vogelheim has created a mural for the Assarian Cancer Center of Providence Hospital in Novi. The center combines traditional medicine with a holistic approach.

"It invites the patient to head on a spiritual, meditative and artistic journey," said Vogelheim, a painter and a breast cancer survivor. "Much artwork was commissioned for this two-story glass, crescent-shaped structure.

Floral images

"My piece is a 13-foot by 6-foot mural which shows the patient and family on the journey of cancer. The story is told in beautiful large floral images that take on human emotions. It leads the viewer through cellular reproduction and what happens when the cells replicate incorrectly and cancer results. There is an accompanying text."

One of every eight women is diagnosed with breast cancer, Vogelheim notes. And one of every 10 men with prostate cancer.

"I felt that cancer is in almost epidemic proportions and that this journey in pictorial form will be of interest to many," said Vogelheim.

A 27-year resident of Farmington, she recently moved to Walled Lake. Vogelheim is known for her watercolors, but the mural is done in acrylics. Two 61-inch by 41-inch watercolors illustrating pain and healing also hang in the main lobby.

"The mural faces a large wall of windows, and the watercolor style would fade in the sunlight," she said.

Vogelheim, who has taught painting classes at the Longacre House, was hired as the center's art coordinator.

Her duties include booking exhibitions for the art gallery, hiring instructors for and teaching in the art studio and the fully equipped ceramics studio and selecting projects for the patients and their families.

"Art then becomes another avenue through which healing can take place," Vogelheim said. She was Farmington's Artist in Residence in 1991.

Inner struggle

"It is said that art imitates life, and the story I tell in this painting is a reflection of the struggle one has when diagnosed with cancer," she said. "There is a gamut of emotions one experiences: shock, denial, fear, rage, depression and acceptance. I wished to relate to anyone who comes to the center, all the biological and emotional phases that take place in this illness through the images of the iris."

"Above all, I wanted the images to be beautiful to show that cancer need not be so fearsome."

"After the initial shock of the diagnosis, one can gather information and plug into treatment that will allow people to live with the illness for many years to come. There is hope."

JCC offers special winter rates for fitness program

Adults, singles and families looking to get fit are invited to join the Jewish Community Center at significantly discounted rates during its winter 2000 membership campaign.

General members can use the pools, tennis courts, volleyball courts and racquetball courts, tracks, gym and Olympic weight room. Health club members can take advantage of the state of the art fitness center, whirlpool, premier locker rooms, beauty and barber shop, massage and much more. Personal trainers are available at an extra charge. Baby-sitting is available to all

members at a fee. Jewish Community Center members also get discounts on classes and special events, and receive a monthly magazine. Centerline, to inform them about upcoming events, such as holiday observances and family programs.

The JCC has programs for every interest and ability, including persons with special needs. There are sports and recreation programs for children through adults, cultural events, such as the forthcoming Lenore Marwyl Jewish Film Festival and concerts, educational programs,

such as Seminars for Adult Jewish Enrichment, classes in dance, theater and the arts and activities for teens.

Special membership rates will be offered during January and

February. Reduced rates are available at both JCC locations in West Bloomfield and Oak Park. For membership information, call 661-7621.

Artists club meets Feb. 9

The speaker for the Farmington Artists Club for Wednesday, Feb. 9, is Professor Richard Rubinfeld from Eastern Michigan University.

He has a Bachelor of Fine

Arts degree and a PhD in art history. He is also an author.

The Farmington Artists Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Farmington Hills Library on 12 Mile.

Band hosts Valentine's dance

The annual Valentine Dinner Dance sponsored by the Farmington Community Band will be held Friday, Feb. 11, at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills.

You can celebrate Valentine's Day at this annual event, which features the Farmington Community Band for dancing and listening. The cash bar cocktail hour begins at 6:30 p.m. The elaborate Glen Oaks buffet dinner begins at 7:30 p.m. Dancing

will continue until midnight.

Ticket prices are \$40 per person for dinner and dancing. Tables of eight may also be reserved. Last year's dance was a sellout. Early reservations are suggested.

To buy tickets or get more information, call (734) 261-2202 or (248) 469-3412.

Glen Oaks Country Club is on 13 Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills.



Ugliest Bathroom Contest

Sponsored By 760 WJR, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Building Industry Association and Mathison Supply of Livonia, Garden City and Canton.

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Take a photo of your ugly bathroom and bring it into any Mathison Supply store or mail it to WJR, Ugliest Bathroom Contest, 2100 Fisher Building, Detroit, MI 48202.

The winner's bathroom will be upgraded with new fixtures, tile, medicine cabinet and accessories with a value of up to \$10,000. And, be sure to visit the WJR and Mathison Supply booths at:

THE 2000 HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW
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All entries become the property of WJR. No cash equivalents. Judges decision is final. No purchase necessary. Winner will be announced May 13, 2000.

Employees of WJR Radio, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, BIA and Mathison Supply are not eligible to enter.

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PRESENTS

Life after Breast Cancer

The "Life After Breast Cancer" symposium represents the first of many Sharing & Caring events designed to help breast cancer survivors. A nationally renowned panel on the topics of breast cancer and breast health has been assembled for the event.

Seating for "Life After Breast Cancer" is limited. Please call to register at 1-248-423-3780.

HOSTED BY THE
Birmingham Community House

February 5, 2000
9:00AM TO 3:30PM