

CHAT ROOM



JONI HUBRED

We need to work harder to protect kids

The child's scream carried well. Up one aisle at Kmart and down the other came the echo, piercing even from a distance. Imagine what it must be like up close. I thought, as I cornered my own cart. Been there, done that. Haven't all parents? Most stores don't stock their shelves in a way that helps us out. They'll hide the girly magazines behind the counter, but where do they put the candy, gum, plastic toys and Barney videos? Right out there at the checkout counter, where you have to wait patiently in line while trying to explain the concept of delayed gratification to a screaming, begging 2-year-old. On this day, the mother in question had apparently made the near-fatal error of allowing her child to wander through the toy department. When I finally came upon them — having followed the child's siren wail as though drawn by some mystical, magnetic magnet — he was holding onto a Star Wars action figure as though it was the lost treasure of the Sierra Madre. She had him by the arm and was losing her temper.

Been there, done that, too. **Chilling rage** It sneaks up on you about the time you least expect it and are least able to deal with it. Chilling rage. An absence of feeling, or an overwhelming flood of emotion for which you are instantly sorry, but you can't help yourself. It's just the very last straw. The money doesn't stretch far enough, so you bounce a couple of checks.

Creditors make incessant, increasingly nasty phone calls. You and your spouse have been fighting since a year ago Tuesday. The boss derides you for having to take time off work because one of the kids is sick. Your day care provider is sorry, but she's going back to school.

A constant, nameless fear keeps you awake nights.

Bleary-eyed, you make your way through the store, past all the things your child has seen advertised on television, all the toys his friends have.

Every bad thing, stacked one atop the other, explodes and you strike out at the closest target.

In an instant, it's over. The shoulders grabbed too tightly, the small body shaken too hard, the abusive names screamed in anger.

Most parents feel awful after losing control, I think. We are the adults and adults aren't supposed to hurt children. It's our job to protect them.

Judging by the numbers, we're not doing all that well.

In 1997, three million reports of child abuse, neglect or maltreatment were filed in this country, and Child Protective Services validated more than a million of them. About 47 of every 1,000 children are neglected or maltreated physically, sexually or emotionally.

Abuse is rampant

And think about this for a minute: According to Prevent Child Abuse America, experts believe three children die every day as the result of neglect or abuse. Gasworkers report about 40 percent of those children were already known to them, as current or previous clients.

How does this happen? What kind of monster would abuse a child so severely as to cause death? Why don't social workers help those children before it's too late?

Everybody has different answers, but none so remarkable as those given by Karen Austin, a Farmington Hills resident.

Austin survived a childhood filled with horrifying abuses from both parents. She still lives with pain from the damage of sexual and physical abuses inflicted from infancy.

Having read her story in the book "Blind Trust: A Child's Legacy," no

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Watercolorist is Artist-in-Residence

A professor, painter, lecturer and exhibitor, Marjorie Chellstorp can now add the title of Farmington Artist-in-Residence.

BY MARY RODRIGUE
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Farmington Artist-in-Residence 2000 Marjorie Hogan Chellstorp has honed a career in the arts spanning four decades.

The watercolorist, an adjunct professor at Madonna University, has been painting, lecturing and exhibiting her work, which includes both abstract and realistic portrayals of nature, since 1972. Area residents might already be familiar with her art. Just recently, her painting of vibrant flowers was reproduced on a postcard promoting Nardin Park United Methodist Church's first annual celebration of the arts weekend. The watercolor is part of the Muriel Thomas memorial triptych of summer blooms that hangs at the Farmington Hills church. And she worked on the repainting of the mural in the downtown Farmington Library. She has also painted murals for a Comerica bank branch in Redford and Chrysler Realty in Troy.

Mural business

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she partnered with a former Artist-in-Residence, Edeo Joppich, in a mural business known as Wall Art. During the 1970s, she was also affiliated with the now defunct Carrett Gallery operating in the old bank building in downtown Farmington.

She just finished a two-year term as president of the Farmington Artists Club, to which she has belonged since 1974. She enjoys the mix of professional and student artists in the club. "It's certainly nice to be recognized by the community. It makes it real," said Chellstorp of her latest honor. She will be recognized in a formal reception Sunday, April 30, in the Costick Activities Center.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEEBEE

Home studio: Marjorie Chellstorp paints in her Farmington Hills home. Many of her watercolors, as well as the works of other artists, hang on her walls.

An Iowa native, she met her husband, Frank, a Chicagoan, when both were transplants to Detroit. They have lived in Farmington Hills since 1977 and have three grown daughters, a dog named Teddy and a cat, Dali, named after the surrealist painter. Chellstorp holds a bachelor of arts degree from Clarke College, a master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa and has had special studies at the Chicago Art Institute. Recent exhibits and honors include the Michigan Water Color Society 60th Anniversary Exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1997, Poetry Art Night exhibit Best of Show winner in

1997 and 1998, and last year the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame exhibit of the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors in Lansing. Her work is included in three different editions of the coffee table art book, *The Artistic Touch*. It is also hung in public and private collections across the country as well as Europe. Right now, Chellstorp's dining room floor is the holding pattern for a triptych to be shown with the Farmington Artists Club exhibit during the Festival of the Arts April 30-May 7 in the Costick Center. It features a nature trail at Heritage Park at different

times of day, thus in different light. As Artist-in-Residence, she will also exhibit six or seven other watercolors during the Festival of the Arts week. On the heels of the Farmington gala, she will be exhibiting her work at the Birmingham Community House. Water, flowers and fish are recurring subjects in her work. She has produced an intriguing series of paintings called *Matthaei Pond Reflections* for the Ann Arbor garden they are based on. One that hangs in her living room features light of a greenhouse reflected off the pond water and large goldfish seen

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Community chorus gets service award

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

It's fitting that the Farmington Community Chorus, celebrating its 20th anniversary, should be recognized this

year by the Farmington Area Arts Commission as Distinguished Service to the Arts winner. For two decades, the 90-strong chorus has belted out tunes from show-

time favorites to classical and jazz. They've performed regularly at the Farmington Founders Festival, in the summer series of Concerts in the Park, annual springtime extravaganzas and

a December holiday show. There's also the annual performance for the Farmington Adult Education graduation and the Christmas tree-lighting ceremonies at both city halls.

"Our shows are so popular, we had to move to a bigger venue," says business manager Kathy Hall, who has been with the chorus almost since its inception in 1980. She has been business manager for nine years.

This year, the spring concert is scheduled during Festival of the Arts week, with shows May 5-6 at Farmington High School beginning at 8 p.m. Dubbed "It's a Grand Night for Singing," it will feature the best acts of the last 20 years.

"We usually get 750 to 800 patrons for the spring show," noted Hall, who began her love of singing in high school and later when her husband was in the Air Force and she performed in bass shows.

Although there is a stable core group to the chorus, new members come and go according to their personal schedules. Members are selected through an auditioning process and there are two sessions, spring and fall. According to chorus literature, "One does not have to read music or have had any formal training in voice. Requirements: a love of singing and ability to pass a simple audition."

A musical outlet

"It's a good way for adults to continue their musical education. Music majors need an outlet. We have lots of talent in the group," said Hall.

The first director, Jim Whitten, a founding member who stayed at the

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEEBEE

All That Jazz: Christine Kauka, Maria Kruse and Chris Ann Carreno practice a jazzy number during Community Chorus rehearsals Tuesday evening at the Costick Center.

It's time to celebrate the arts in Farmington

The Farmington Festival of the Arts, an annual celebration of the creative arts for all ages, will be held April 30 through May 7 at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

In its fifth year, the festival has become one of the largest events in Farmington Hills. Ongoing displays and activities will share exhibit space with more than 100 paintings for sale by the Farmington Artists Club.

Events will delight the eyes and ears of everyone from young children to senior citizens: the schedule includes hands-on programs, live demonstrations, dance performances, concerts, art awards, literary readings and more. In addition, the Festival of the Arts will be the only location in Michigan to host the National PTA "Reflections" Exhibit, an annual contest for students across the nation in grades K-12.

Starry night kick-off

The Festival begins with a preview gala entitled "Starry Night" on Saturday, April 29. Party-goers will be treated to a gourmet dinner by Gourmet Express, live and silent auctions, door prizes, and a chance to be the first to view the displays and purchase the artwork. Music for the black-tie optional gala will be provided by the Matt

Michaels Trio. Tickets are \$20 each, or \$36 per couple, and are available by calling (248) 478-3256.

Sponsored by the Farmington Community Arts Council, the Festival of the Arts showcases the 22 arts organizations that make up the Council. The festival is free and open to the public. The Costick Center is on Eleven Mile Road, west of Middlebelt.