

# Welcome Wagon:

## An invitation to newcomers

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Two members of the Farmington Welcome Wagon Club, both advocates of the aims of the club and the benefits it brings to its members, say frankly that they believe it carries an unfortunate name.

"I know for a fact that newcomers have shied away from us because they think we're going to give them a basket of things to peddle from door to door," said Gillie Quarterman.

"We are a club that was started for new residents to get acquainted with one another. It's a mental necessity for people that move," said Sandy Ronningen, president of the group.

"With all the moving I've done it's sure been necessary for my mental health."

The membership stands at 150. Those eligible to join the club must live in Farmington or Farmington Hills, and have been here less than a year's time. And the maximum amount of time they can hold membership is two years.

"THAT IS AN absolute must," Mrs. Quarterman said. "The group would get too big otherwise, and no one would get acquainted with anyone else."

"With it any other way," Mrs. Ronningen added, "We'd never be able to keep up the enthusiasm. We'd never be able to generate the spark we do now, and we'd get real stagnant in clique-y groups."

The members are of all ages with the bulk of them coming with a history of many, many moves since their marriages.

"Of our seven-member board," Mrs. Ronningen said, "three of them have moved since May."

In addition to monthly meetings, the club has maybe a dozen offshoot groups created to meet that many special social interests, headed by Nellie Healy: planned couples activities headed by Sue Teall, and one fund raiser a year.

A boutique auction last fall and organized by Pat Hamilton, netted \$440 that was split for contributions this month between the Farmington Community Center and the Children's Library in the Farmington Public Library.

IN KEEPING with another aim of the club, which is to take an active interest in the community, the group contributes monthly to the Oak Hill Nursing Home which pays for necessary materials to provide arts and crafts projects there.

Along this same line, one of Mrs. Ronningen's aims during her term of office is to set up a volunteer staff that will visit nursing homes regularly to "read, write letters for the residents, set their hair or do whatever is needed."

"New people need to do this kind of thing when they come into a community. It makes them feel more a part of it and it opens another door for them," she said.

In the social end of things, the January agenda listed a dinner dance and a football game for couples, and still upcoming is a tennis party.

Special group activities include daytime and evening bridge games, a gourmet club, a garden group and golf, tennis and bowling groups.

ALL MEMBERS automatically receive a newsletter, written by Marcia Harmon, that lists all activities during the month.

The monthly meetings offer speakers on a wide variety of subjects. Coming up in February is "What's New in Decorating." For March, an ESP demonstration is on the program. And in April, "The History of Furniture."

All meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. Twelve Mile Road.

"We make these meetings as informal as possible, but even so, it's some-



GILLIE QUARTERMAN

times difficult to get acquainted there. Where we can really get acquainted is at the Tea and Chatter groups," Mrs. Quarterman said.

Tea and Chatter groups might almost be described as an introduction to an introduction.

It is here that newly approached residents of the community are invited prior to becoming members. The teas are hosted by one of the members in her home.

"WE SIMPLY CHAT over tea or coffee, tell them about us and what ac-



SANDY RONNINGEN

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tivities we've got going on that they might join invite them to a general meeting as a guest and give them one of our directories.

"They might find the name of one of their neighbors there," Mrs. Quarterman said.

"We've broken the ice then and assured her we are not going to put a basket in her hand."

To be invited to a Tea and Chatter evening, newcomers may call Jeanette Malpas at 478-0741.

## Concert of original music spotlights women composers

The Farmington Musicales, affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs, is presenting "A Community Service of Music" Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. and again at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9 in Antioch Lutheran Church, Thirteen Mile and Farmington Roads, Farmington Hills. The program is dedicated to the American Music Month's Parade of American Music which is sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs.

"A Community Service of Music" spotlights selected Michigan women composers, saluting their creativity and contribution to American music. All selections are original works, most are being presented for the first time.

The service begins with "Hymn Tunes Volantes" by Whila Hutson of Southfield. Carolee McDaniel of West Bloomfield is organist.

The Rev. Bertil Anderson, pastor of Antioch Lutheran Church, will welcome the audience. The Farmington Musicales Chorus, directed by Helen

Anderson, will sing "Stand by the Roads" and "You Shall Go Out in Joy" by Betty Love of Farmington Hills.

The program continues with "Three Miniatures for Flute and Clarinet," "Dance before the Lord," "Peace and Joy in the Lord" by Helene Orner of Detroit, with Mrs. Orner on flute and Fern Barber of Northville on clarinet.

BRIGHTON SOPRANO, Mary Dulmage, will sing "The Ninety First Psalm" by Alma Exley of Grosse Pointe, "In the Shadow of His Wing" by Verna Mae Bryant of Grosse Pointe Woods, and "Be Still and Know That I Am God" by Roberta Bittgood of Battle Creek.

Carolee McDaniel is organist. Mrs. McDaniel will follow with three short organ solos by Mrs. Hutson and "Passacaglia" by Mrs. Orner.

The program concludes with "A Psalm for the Living" by Charlene Slabey of Northville featuring the

Concert Choir of Farmington Harrison High School and North Farmington High School's Northern Chorus. The Rev. Bertil Anderson is organist.

Also included is a string orchestra composed of musicians from the University of Michigan, Schoolcraft College of Livonia, the Oakway Symphonies, Detroit, Dearborn, Farmington and Farmington Hills schools.

More than 110 musicians will take part in this selection. George T. Still, director of vocal music at North Farmington High School and director of the Madrigal Club of Detroit, is guest conductor for the "Psalm."

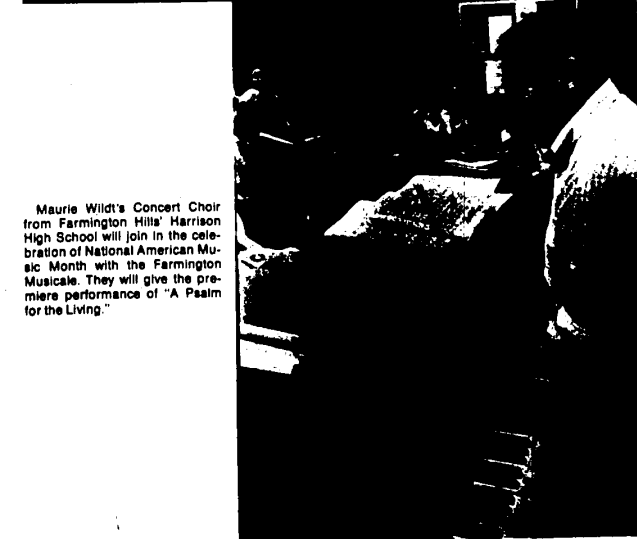
The service ends with a benediction given by the Rev. Charles Fox, pastor of St. John's American Lutheran Church in Farmington.

Pastor Fox will officiate at "A Community Service of Music." Charlene Slabey is program chairman and Lois Swanson of Detroit is program coordinator. Prudence Tomchak of Farmington Hills is in charge of ushers.

The public is welcome. There is no admission charge.



Sue Lenzen, a student at Harrison High School, is one of more than 150 area musicians who will take part in the Farmington Musicales' Community Service of Music. The event features the music of seven Michigan women composers.



Maurie Wildt's Concert Choir from Farmington Hills Harrison High School will join in the celebration of National American Music Month with the Farmington Musicales. They will give the premiere performance of "A Psalm for the Living."



Helen Anderson directs the Farmington Musicales Chorus who will sing original compositions by Betty Love, of Farmington, for the

unique salute to women composers of American music. (Photographed by Harry Mauthe)