

MILK AND MUSIC — Gwyneth Walker, a composer of music who lives in Braintree, Vermont, will present a program, "Composing Music Today," after a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church, Oenoke Ridge. She is known for her compositions for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles and her latest work "About Leaves," inspired by the poetry of Robert Frost, was recently premiered by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. Wednesday's program is open to the public; reservations are required and can be made at the church office, 966-0002.

"Women of Islam" photo wins award at Guild

"Zakia," a photograph from the "Women of Islam" series by Nzingah Oyo Muhammad of Brooklyn, N.Y., won the Margaret Guest Memorial Award of \$500 in Spectra '97, the first national photography biennial competition and exhibition opening with a reception this Sunday at Silvermine Guild Galleries.

The award was given in memory of the late Margaret Guest of Weed Street by members of her family.

"Women of Islam," portraits that include Muslim women in their homes, is the beginning of a photographic journal of Muslim women throughout the world. Ms. Muhammad says each has a caption highlighting one of the characteristics of the woman; for Zakia, the caption "Paradise lies at the foot of the woman, so I wait patiently."

A Juror's Gallery Talk will be given at 2 p.m. Sunday by Robert Sobieszek, curator of photography at the Los Angeles County Museum and juror for the competition at Silvermine. The public reception and awards ceremony will be held



NZINGAH MUHAMMAD

from 3 to 5 p.m.

Nzingah Muhammad has been photographing Muslim communities, festivals, holidays and religious ceremonies since she was 14.

Growing up in a family unit con-

sisting of one father, seven mothers and 32 children in the Bedford Stuyvesant ghetto, she realized that the goal of most neighbors was simply to make it to the next paycheck. She says she kept herself "from this oppressing mentality and built a shield of motivation" based upon self-discipline and her own imagination.

In an interview on Channel 13 during her high school days, she discussed her experiences as a young Muslim woman in American society. She went on to get her high school diploma by passing an equivalency test and she won an Empire State Scholarship to the State University of New York, Purchase, where she majored in photography and received her bachelor of fine arts degree this year. She was also a Fullbright scholarship finalist in 1996.

She has worked as photo editor of Muslim Woman Magazine, a production assistant in filming, editing and researching documentaries for Channel 13, and a photo assistant at Source Magazine in New York.