

Schoolcraft joins effort to aid battered women

By SHERRY KAHAN

The black and blue are gaining advocates all over the metropolitan area.

Locally, the Women's Resource Center of Schoolcraft College is leading the effort to aid battered women come "out of the closet" to improve their lives.

In Detroit, the Women's Justice Center is serving as a catalyst to create a network of aid agencies and groups trying to aid abused women.

Organizations like the Detroit Chapter of the National Organization of Women and the Downtown YWCA are struggling to start a kind of shelter for women who have been beaten by husbands and boyfriends.

"Rather than serve as a crisis intervention center, we plan to focus on helping these women get restarted in life," said Jenn Christensen, director of the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft.

"We also hope to make members of the public more sensitive to the problem. It is so large, so immediate, so hidden, and it has not been dealt with. It is a closet issue. Battered women are ashamed to admit that they have been beaten."

What the Women's Resource Center will offer these women is the chance

to join on-going classes and programs at the school which might be of special benefit to them.

"WE HOPE THAT some social change will occur that will reduce the number of men who hit their wives or girlfriends," continued Mrs. Christensen. "But meanwhile we can offer them career counseling, classes to reveal to them their own potential and all of the services of the Women's Resource Center."

She emphasized the message brought to Schoolcraft last November by Bonnie Jordan, a member of the NOW Domestic Violence Project of Washaw County.

"Typically, these women have little self-confidence," Mrs. Jordan told her audience. "Their self-esteem is low and they are usually isolated individuals."

Classes in human potential, Mrs. Christensen believes, could be the first step in boosting the ego of these abused women.

Career counseling, leading to job-training and employment, could also help to liberate many such women who feel they must remain in a situation of continual battering because they have no way to earn a living.

Attending school could pull them

out of their isolation.

BATTERED WOMEN and members of the public will soon be able to pick up at the Women's Resource Center an informational bulletin on the problem. Prepared by Betty Rothbore of Northville, the pamphlet discusses the role of the police and courts, and gives suggestions on alternatives to being a victim.

In addition it lists community resources such as crisis intervention centers and places to go for counseling and legal advice.

At the present time these services, plus a sympathetic ear, are the principal help the center can offer.

"A refuge for these women would be an excellent idea, but we are not geared for it," said Mrs. Christensen. "A shelter may be a long way away."

But various women's groups in the area are working hard to make the idea of a shelter a reality.

"Battered women usually have no place to go," declared Jacquelin Washington, chairperson of the violence against women task force of the Detroit Chapter of NOW.

"We are working with the Downtown YWCA to get state funding for this purpose and will submit a grant

proposal in the next six weeks."

"NOW is deluged with calls all the time from abused women who need some place to flee to. The other day I heard from a woman with five kids, who had been beaten but who had no place to go. She was not destitute, but at that moment she had no money."

"I HAD NOTHING to offer her. That was the sad part."

Mrs. Washington observed that abuse of women cuts across class lines.

"When you flee, you leave your money," she said. "If you have family or friends to help you, fine. But if you don't, the only thing you can do is go back home to be battered again."

A shelter would not only provide battered women safe place in which to stay while they decide what to do with their lives, but would offer them legal counseling, medical advice, the intervention of a social worker and general counseling.

"At the present time there are practically no place where she can go to decide what to do," noted Mrs. Washington. "The only place available is the Salvation Army Shelter in Detroit, and they will only keep them a couple of days."

She suggested two groups who within the past few days have started special programs for battered women. A

rap group is offered by the Detroit NOW, which can be contacted by calling 961-2777.

Catholic Social Services, 9651 Hamilton, Detroit, is ready to give counseling to both wives and husbands facing in this problem. Contact Ann Hauser or Jeanette Shalish at 883-2100.

TRYING TO TIE together all the ends and beginnings of groups offering services to battered women is the Women's Justice Center, 651 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

"We are currently working to correlate a research network of agencies, organizations and groups which provide services for the abused woman," said Mary Anne Courtney, resource coordinator.

Forty organizations have expressed interest in the network and sent representatives to a February meeting, at which a steering committee was formed.

"In our meeting March 31 we will decide the format and structure of the network. We hope also to exchange a newsletter through the network."

DESPITE MUCH RECENT publicity, interest in the problems of abused women is not a sudden development, Mrs. Courtney said.

"Women's groups have been con-

cerned for a long time," she said. "One of the reasons the Women's Christian Temperance Union was formed was that they believed there was a link existed between alcohol and domestic violence."

"In this area feminists working on rape began thinking that a network should be set up to look at the whole issue of violence against women."

"These women need an advocate. A woman who has been beaten feels there is something wrong with her. She is too isolated and alone to be able to be an advocate for herself."

She remarked that when the Women's Justice Center opened phone lines offering legal advice, 72 per cent of the calls involved domestic trouble.

"A significant percentage of these calls were from women who said they had been beaten," she said. "They preferred to remain anonymous but wanted help."

The justice center wants to start self-help groups of battered women who can meet regularly and be supportive of each other. It also hopes to recruit volunteers to help attack the problem at many different levels, including law enforcement and public awareness.

The center's phone number is 961-7073.

Pianist Dady Mehta with Oakway

Pianist Dady Mehta will perform an old favorite and a modern work when he appears with the Oakway Symphony Orchestra at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 24.

Oakway's sixth subscription concert of the season will be in the auditorium of Southfield-Lathrup High School, Twelve Mile west of Southfield Road.

A cousin of New York Philharmonic conductor-designate Zubin Mehta, the soloist is pianist-in-residence at Eastern Michigan University.

MEHTA WILL be heard in Richard Strauss' "Burleske," one of the composer's early works, and in this area's premier performance of Wallace Berry's concerto for Piano and Orchestra.

"Mehta is easy to work with," said Francesco DiBlasi, Oakway conductor. "He knows his solo parts back-

ward and forward. At one point in the Strauss, we agreed to slow down to a 1, 2, 3, to make the woodwinds fit in with the piano."

"The Berry concerto is one of the hardest things I've ever conducted. It's written in every conceivable metric marking, from two-eighths to nine-eighths and two-fourths to seven-fourths."

At rehearsals, I don't like to stop a whole lot, but in the Berry I must have stopped 30 times in an hour. It's so tricky. You have to work out every detail."

Berry, he added, is a faculty member at University of Michigan. The piano concerto was composed about 10 years ago and is written in one continuous movement with allegro, andante and scherzando sections.

BORN IN SHANGHAI of Parsi Indian parents, Mehta went to Paris

and earned an artist's diploma from the Ecole Normale de Musique.

He received highest honors at the Vienna State Academy of Music and, at his 1958 debut, was recognized as a Beethoven disciple.

His concert tours have taken him throughout Europe and the United States. He also has taught at the Vienna State Academy.

DiBlasi will conduct the orchestra in the overture to "Russian and Ludmila" by Glinka, Symphony No. 6 ("Unfinished") by Schubert, "Essay for Orchestra" by Lawson and the prelude to "Tannhauser" by Wagner. General admission tickets are \$4. Student and senior citizen tickets are \$2.

Tickets are available from Hudson's Northland, Westland and Oakland; Madonna College and Hammill Music; Lavonia; and Royal Music, Royal Oak.



Thursday, April 21, 1977

Farmington Observer

Suburban Life

F119

Daughter follows mother, with role in 'Our Town'

By LORAIN McCLISH

When the curtain goes up on Farmington High School's production of "Our Town," Diane Schwartz will be playing the same part in the play her mother took when she was a freshman at Oberlin College in Westerville, Ohio.

"When Diane said she was going to audition for the part of Emily, we went over the lines together and pretty soon they were all rolling back to me," said Pat Schwartz.

The lines remain exactly the same as when Thornton Wilder wrote them. There was never any need to update the play, which is around the turn of the century. The moral stands the same today as it did then; that few of us appreciate life while we are living it.

Emily does much of the narration of the play, from the time she is 14 until after her death in childbirth when she speaks from her grave.

MRS. SCHWARTZ said she never tried to coach Diane in her lines, because she wanted her daughter to interpret Emily in her own way.

And she won't be sitting front row center on opening night because Diane is afraid "I might not live up to her standards. Maybe by the second night, I'll feel a little more confident about it," she said.

"It would be real neat if I had some publicity photos of our show, just to see what they look like now," Mrs. Schwartz said. "I looked but couldn't find any."

Neither mother nor daughter has had any theatrical career aspirations.

Mrs. Schwartz worked some as a radio actress and holds season tickets to Meadow Brook, and that's about the extent of it," she said.

Diane is enjoying her stint in "Our Town," and her study with the school's play production course well enough, however, that she is thinking about joining the Farmington Players.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, as "Our Town" goes into the rehearsal countdown, Diane and her fellow students

in the production class are getting ready for "Mimes to Music." It is a traveling show the teens will bring to elementary schools throughout the district this spring.

Diane is one of six children, a member of the high school's girls' basketball team and describes herself as "an athletic fan."

Her sister Mary was in several Farmington High School play productions before her. She was just informed that she will be an aunt for the first time.

"Our Town" opens April 21 for a three-day run. It is produced and directed by the school's play production teacher, Ves Spindler. Tickets are on sale in the school.



Diane Schwartz and her mother, Pat, share the script of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." (Staff photo)

Camp Fire photos in library exhibit

Forty photographs, submitted to the 1976 Camp Fire National Art Competition by members of Camp Fire Girls Detroit Area Council, will be on display through May 1 in Farmington Hills Community Library on Twelve Mile.

Among the photos is one taken by 12-year-old Debbie Schell, a Farmington Hills Camp Fire Girl, who took first place in the color photo category for her work called "Madame Desha."

The display represents the winners and best entries submitted for the national competition.

To encourage participation in the contest, Camp Fire Girls Detroit Area Council offers workshops for girls and their leaders only at the program

year. The workshops are conducted by volunteers who are professionals, hobbyists and educators.

The council already is planning its 1977 art competition when the media will be pottery.

The winning entrants in the photo contest received gifts that came from Detroit area camera shops.

CAMP FIRE Girls Detroit Area Council is a Torch Drive agency serving 5,000 girls and adults in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

The Farmington Hills Library is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.



Spring bouquet

A "Spring Bouquet" is being prepared now by Rita Foresi (at left), Dorothy Flynn of Farmington Hills and Clair Lawson, Detroit, in St. Eugene Church Parish Center, 23000 Chippewa, Detroit, May 1. The luncheon and card party begins at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50 each, and reservations will be taken by calling St. Eugene Credit Union, 533-0610. Mrs. Lawson is chairwoman of the affair; Mrs. Foresi and Mrs. Flynn are on her committee.

Israel Expo comes to Adat Shalom

Belly dancers, art sculpture, a trade fair, fashions, films, wine, food and even a camel are all part of "Israel Expo '77" coming to Adat Shalom Synagogue on April 24.

The Detroit area event which celebrates Israel's Independence Day begins with an opening ceremony at 11 a.m. and keynote speaker, Dr. Yizhar Floman, a member of the Entebbe rescue mission.

Floman was a physician with the medical team aboard the hospital plane in the mission last July while serving in the state's hospital rescue unit.

"Passport tickets" at \$3 for a family; \$1 for adults or 50 cents for children and senior citizens are sold with a tour map for the events and displays which run continuously for 12 hours.

Youth groups from the metropolitan area will furnish singing and dancing entertainment. A film festival will run throughout the day. Cafes will feature authentic Israeli dishes and wine.

The latest news from Israel will be relayed directly with hourly newscasts in both Hebrew and English. **GLASSBLOWERS**, clowns, magicians, craftsmen, and a display of gifts from Israeli manufacturers are part of the day's event, along with a fashion showing from Israeli designers, coordinated by The Greater Detroit Council of Fashion Women.

A nursery school for 1 to 6-year-olds will be open through the expo hours.

Israel-Expo '77 is sponsored by The Detroit Zionist Federation in cooperation with the Jewish Educators Council.

stering committee, which includes Betty Bienstock, Morrey Cooper, Hymie Outler, Helen Naimark, Eka-

nor Richmond, Gordon Silverman, Tarcia Wagner, Renee Wohl and Anne Zuckman.

The synagogue is located at Thirteenth Mile and Middle Belt Road, in Farmington.



Members of Pioneer Women: Judith Blavin (at left), Sue Brinkman and Karen Finkelshten model fashions to be shown at Israel-Expo '77. The costumes, which are not for sale, demonstrate the work of the women's group.