

Hills woman 'pays dues' as Zionist activist

(Continued from page 1A)
explains. "I was lucky to be brought from Europe at an early age."
"All of this affects you when you're growing up. I felt terribly unwanted. No one opened the door for you."
Today, she feels reassured by the presence of Israel in the world.
"It's comforting to know there's a place to go."

As president of Pioneer Women, she takes a part in insuring the group continues to provide education, vocational training and child care for women who have immigrated to Israel.

THE GROUP supports nine training farms for women, 15 girls vocational high schools and three old agricultural high schools.

Graduates of the agricultural high

school are in demand by the Israeli army to settle and protect border lands, according to Mrs. Leemon.

During the Pioneer Women's convention, delegates lunched on food grown and prepared by the students.

"You get the feeling you aren't working for nothing," she says of the lunch, obviously proud of the students.

The group began their first day care center in Tel Aviv in 1928. After 1948, the classes became head start centers for young students. Today there are 37 day care centers in affluent and poor areas operated by Pioneer Women.

Their programs have changed to fit the needs of new immigrants to Israel. The first women in the early 1930s were feminists who wanted to build roads and dig ditches. They discovered

their middle class upbringing didn't prepare them for those activities and they set about teaching themselves to accomplish these tasks.

Today, the program focuses on teaching Jewish immigrants from Arab countries to read. Vocational skills are still taught since the ailing Israeli economy prompts two career families.

HER SPECIAL concern is teaching lowering the illiteracy level in Israel. Two-thirds of the illiterate persons in the country are women.

Education is a concern which has followed her throughout her life. After graduating from high school in Detroit, she looked for work to earn the \$50 a year tuition which would allow her to attend Wayne State University.

"In those days, the employment applications had a box marked religion," she said.

Being Jewish hindered her from getting a job at major department stores and restaurants. After looking for four months, a friend managed to help her get a job working as temporary Christmas help for a linen store on Woodward.

Eventually, she worked her way into an office job and stayed for two years, determined to earn enough to attend college.

"When I left, my boss was so pleased with my work that he gave me my first term's tuition as a bonus," she remembered.

Besides acquiring a college education, Mrs. Leemon stresses the impor-

ance of receiving a Hebrew education.

"I'm a firm believer in Hebrew education," she said.

"Especially in times like these when we are losing our children to indifference. They are being Jewishly deprived."

Education will help keep alive a sense of belonging to a Jewish nation.

"WE ARE too accepted. They are grabbing away our kids. We need a Jewish renewal in the United States."

She and her husband, Norman raised two sons, Mark and Sheldon, and a daughter, Judith. Each of their children followed their father's occupation. Mrs. Leemon lives in a family of lawyers.

Even a son-in-law is a lawyer.

"Of course," she laughs. "Actually,

it's a compliment to my husband's father. He was a lawyer."

When her children were young, she stayed home with them.

"The early years are the most critical years. They need lots of love and attention."

"Some say it's not the quantity of time it's the quality of time you spend with them. I say to that horsefeathers."

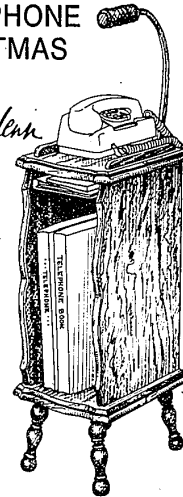
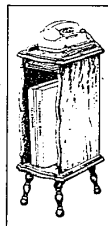
After her children were in school full time, she became active in Pioneer Women. She still takes Hebrew lessons.

In the light of the fact that 3,000 Pioneer Women moved to Israel including five past presidents of the group, Mrs. Leemon doesn't rule out someday setting up at least a seasonal home in the country.

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Providence Hospital plans to fight efforts to reduce number of beds

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Findings of a regional health planning council may force Southern Providence Hospital to cut back on admissions and could force Straith Memorial Hospital in the city to close.

As expected, though, hospital officials aren't taking the proposed bed-cutting down.

The Comprehensive Health Planning Council (CHPC), an agency established by the governor, is urging that more than 3,500 beds be eliminated in the state of Michigan. Of that figure, 2,412 beds in southeast Michigan are proposed to be cut and the CHPC says the area of northwest Detroit and south Oakland County has an excess of 253 beds.

The rationale for the plan, according to CHPC Executive Director Terrence Carroll, is that by forcing hospitals to become more efficient, health care costs will decline. Hospitals which find it difficult to operate at reduced capacity will be forced to merge with other facilities, close down or consolidate

health services not merely move out beds.

BY ORDER of the state legislature, all hospitals in the state were required to complete a 50-part questionnaire earlier this year to determine their efficiency and range of services.

Based on the survey results, Providence Hospital has been asked to reduce its capacity of 430 beds (not including psychiatric and rehabilitation) by 28, a drop of 6.2 percent. Straith Memorial, a hospital specializing in plastic surgery, has been targeted for a decrease from 45 beds to 27, a 40 percent reduction.

Frank Brock, director of planning and construction at Providence Hospital, and Dr. Richard E. Straith, chief administrator at Straith Memorial, both admit inefficiency, overbedding and duplication of health services exists in the state but don't think their hospitals are guilty.

"There is excess capacity," said Carroll, CHPC executive director.

Brock pointed to a 95 percent occupancy level at Providence as justification for keeping the hospital's capacity at current levels.

"Inasmuch as Providence Hospital has been operating at medical-surgical occupancy levels well in excess of 91 percent for at least the past six years," Brock said, "and during recent months, ambulances have been required to other hospitals because of 100 percent occupancy, we do not believe the proposed reduction responsibility assigned to us is, or can be, justified."

But Carroll said counting patients in beds avoids the larger issue.

"We are performing more surgical procedures than the population requires," Carroll said, citing 1978 figures which show that in Washington D.C., citizens average 30 surgical procedures per 1,000 residents while the lowest rate found in southeast Michigan was 75 surgical procedures per 1,000 residents.

In the area around West Bloomfield, Carroll said there were 145 surgical operations per 1,000 residents, "which would lead me to believe we're performing unnecessary surgical procedures or providing more days of hospital care than what's needed."

Carroll said the mortality and disability rates in Washington D.C. are no higher than the Detroit area.

IF THE STATE really wants to cut health costs it shouldn't close small, specialized hospitals that do operations much cheaper than large institutions, says Memorial Hospital's Dr. Straith.

If efficiency is what the state desires, Dr. Straith said he'd like legislators to show him a full-service hospital that can have an operating room ready three minutes after its used, like his hospital can.

The problem that the CHPC fails to address, said Dr. Straith, is current methods of medical financing. A change in the system would upset Blue Cross-Blue Shield, a member of the CHPC along with the United Auto Workers and the Big Three auto makers, according to Dr. Straith.

Straith favors a complete revision of medical care insurance that, he said, would eliminate current incentives to spend more money.

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obituaries

CHRISTINE V. HUBBARD

Christine Hubbard, 51, of Farmington Hills died Dec. 7, in William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak.

She was a secretary for Montgomery Ward. Mrs. Hubbard was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, Farmington.

Survivors include: husband John Scott.

Services were conducted Dec. 10 at Heeney Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, and Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, the Rev. Kean D. Cronin officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

ISABELLA A. MARZOLF

Isabella Marzolf, 92, of Detroit died Dec. 10 in Oak Hill Nursing Home, Farmington.

She was born in St. Paul, Minn. and

was a teacher at Northrop Collegiate School, Minneapolis, and in the Detroit public school system for 35 years. She was a graduate of Teachers College in Winona, Minn.

She was a member of St. Mary's of Redford Altar Society, St. Mary's of Redford Senior Citizen Club and Daughters of Isabella.

Survivors include: brother Francis X. of South Lyon; nieces Patricia Thill of Milford, Betty Chandler of Howell, Joanne O'Brien of Novi; nephews, Frank C. of Farmington, Thomas of San Francisco, James of Brighton, William of Troy, 36 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services were conducted Dec. 12 at the O'Brien Chapel of Fred C. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi, by Miss Hubbard's great-nephew, the Rev. David Chandler of the Paulist Fathers. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre.

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