

Noted author visits to talk on teens and sex

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Eric Johnson, a man whose 40-year career has been devoted to teenagers, comes to Farmington Hills Community Library to talk about "Adolescent Sexuality," at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5.

Johnson has been a school teacher and writer of textbooks. He is the author of three books dealing with teens and sex, and is considered an authority on the subject by Sex Information Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS).

Barbara Walker, young adult librarian in Farmington, says his name is "a household word among all librarians who work with young people."

In her job as incoming president for "Young Adult Round Table," made up of librarians who work with teens throughout the state, Mrs. Walker has dovetailed Johnson's appearance with that group in Lansing with his scheduled appearances here.

In addition to his open discussion for parents and professionals in the library, Johnson will talk to students that afternoon in assemblies at Power and East Junior High Schools.

The events are sponsored by the Michigan Library Association in cooperation with the Family Education Committee of Farmington Youth Assistance and are without charge to the guests.

"ANYONE WHO knows anything about adolescent psychology knows that sex is one of the big concerns as the young teen moves from child to adult," Mrs. Walker said, "so we stock a lot of books on the subject and get a lot of requests."

"The problem is learning which book is right for who."

"A minister who has authored a book on sex for teens, for example, will be good to take one fact that will be good for one and not another," she said.

But overall, Mrs. Walker and her counterparts have a long history of recommending Johnson's books. In her own experience, "family doctors are especially impressed."

Her own recommendation for the man is that he is continually updating his books.

"Love and Sex in Plain Language" is now in its third revision, emphasizing that sexuality should always be seen in the context of one's total personality

and expressed in responsible, respectful interpersonal relationships.

"Sex: Telling It Straight" is now in its second revision, written for pre-teens or the slow reading teenager, presenting positive views on sex without preaching or moralizing.

A third book on adolescent psychology, "How to Live Through Junior High School," is geared for the parent and teacher.

During Mrs. Walker's talks with the author she asked what prompted him to become so involved in this subject.

HE RESPONDED by telling her that when he was once chaperoning one of his young son's friends, he asked the boy what he would be interested in knowing about human sexuality.

The boy answered "Everything."

"And that," Mrs. Walker says, "is pretty much the philosophy he's followed in all of his books. He believes the danger lies in not too much, but too little information."

"He presents it all so teens can make their own decisions on how they want to handle their own bodies."

She adds, "This man is not a burning liberal. He just wants the kids who are entering puberty to be approached in a straight forward way so they can take the responsibility that goes with it."

Mrs. Walker's feelings is that parent and young teens should be reading the same books so more straight forward communication can follow.

Her own interest in the subject stems from the young librarians' monthly visits to Merrill Hall, a home for unwed mothers that lies within her geographic purview for library service.

"I can't give you definite statistics right now on teen age pregnancies but they are pathetic, and I can't help but relate Eric Johnson's work with what I see out there every month," Mrs. Walker said.

Johnson, who lives in Philadelphia's Germantown, says he has no barrel of ready-made speeches, but rather works out a subject and title with the group he is going to meet.

He prefers to speak for 30 to 40 minutes and then have an equal time for questions and discussion.

"He sure is doing his homework," Mrs. Walker said.

"He had me answer an uncommon number of questions to give him a good profile of our community."

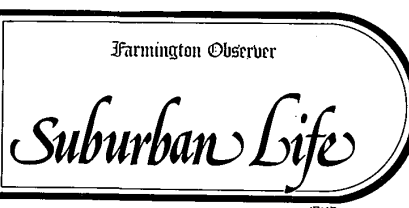


Eric Johnson, an educator who has written books that ranged from how to improve your spelling to children's fiction, has retired from teaching to devote full time to his work helping those who are enter-

ing puberty. The author of "Love and Sex in Plain Language" will speak in Farmington Hills Community Library on Thursday, April 5 on adolescent sexuality.



Thursday, March 29, 1979



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Woman's World '79 features Alice Ginott

"How to Communicate with Those You Love" will be the topic of Dr. Alice Ginott, speaker at Woman's World 1979 on Wednesday, April 4 at Congregation

Shaarey Zedek in Southfield. Dr. Ginott is a psychologist and psychoanalyst as well as author and lecturer.

The all-day fund-raising event will begin with a 10 a.m. breakfast followed by an exhibit of the wares of more than 25 unusual boutiques of the area, a white elephant sales booth, a gourmet luncheon and other activities and surprises.

"The way parents respond to a child determines the child's destiny," Dr. Ginott has said, making it clear that parents cannot expect to be perfect.

"Communication principles do have rules, and if learned and applied 60 percent of the time, work well. The trick is to make it clear that what you are expressing is your feelings, not a judgment about the other person."

"We need to be concerned with feelings more than behavior. If one feels right, one acts right."

Dr. Ginott, wife-partner of the late Haim Ginott, collaborated with him in pioneering studies of parent-child and teaching-child relationships in the books "Between Parent and Child," "Between Parent and Teenager" and "Between Teacher and Child."

Alice Ginott recently completed "Between Husband and Wife," which she co-authored with her late husband.

Her syndicated column, "Between Us," is carried in 70 newspapers across the country. She travels throughout the country, conducts workshops and seminars, has appeared on radio and TV and continues a weekly guidance group with parents, teachers, couples and employers.

The guidance groups are intended to teach participants how to enter the world of another in a compassionate and understanding way.

She has appeared in Canada, Brazil, Africa and Mexico, and was a visiting scholar at Chatham College and a member of the White House Conference on Children.

"Most of us are unaware that words are like knives, that we need to be skilled in the use of words," she said. "Unlike a surgeon who is careful where he cuts, we use words randomly."

"We make incisions until we hit the

right spot, heedless of the open wounds we leave behind. We perform daily emotional operations without training."

Dr. Ginott's concepts will appear in her latest book, soon to be released, "How to Drive Yourself Sane." She also has a private practice.

Born in Czechoslovakia, she fled that country with her parents in 1938. She received her BA from Indiana University and an MA and Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in New York. She has been professor of psychology at Hunter and Queens College in New York.

Both doctors concentrated in areas relating to children. They reared two daughters and lived in New York City.

Cynthia Steinberg of Birmingham is sisterhood president. Marjorie Saulson is chairwoman of Woman's World 1979.

Among those assisting in planning the annual event are: Ilene Nemer, Jackie Milgrom, Virginia Hoffman, Lilian Perlman, Arlene Luckoff, Lois Sandberg, Esther Benson, Helen Feder, Evelyn Levine, Sandra Weinberg, Esther Ruben, Ellen Labe, Mary Freeland, Joan Jacobs and Edith Snider, all of Southfield.

Also Geraldine Margolis, Shirley Levin, Carmen Biederman, Yetta Shiner, Doris August and Doreen Hermelin of Birmingham.

Others are Rose Meskin, Linda Hayman, Carol Matsuman, Iris Aaron, Sandy Wittenberg and Thelma Feuerman of West Bloomfield and Alice Ragins of Franklin, Fannie Robinson, Estelle Gubow and Sharon Fleishman of Bloomfield Hills.

And Bea Katzman and Ida Rogovien of Oak Park, Ruth Meisner of Farmington Hills, Joan Brode of Huntington Woods, Rhea Brody of Detroit and Rose Milstein of Davisburg.

Admission is by patron or sponsor tickets. There is a charge for tickets and the event is open to the public.

Tickets and additional information may be obtained by calling the synagogue at 357-5544.

Art program opens a new world

By CORINNE ABATT

At Michigan Council for the Arts, it's called an artist in residency grant.

At Oakland Training Institute, Lamphere, it's labeled a miracle.

As arts and activities coordinator, Martha Segal, a lady who moves around the Madison Heights center for training the mentally impaired like she was plugged into a super generator, arranged for two artists to spend 10 weeks at the center.

The culmination of this endeavor which is an area first and possibly a first in the country, was the multi-media event, "The Flip Side," held one day recently at the center. Michigan legislators who attended later sent the center a special award, they were so impressed.

But, the long lasting award of the program which Christopher King and Raken T. Leaves implemented is just as treasured.

King, a Detroit artist who likes to combine dance and visual arts, is so enthusiastic with his results that he plans to continue working with one particular student on his own time. Ms. Leaves, mime and puppetry, voiced the same sentiments.



Figures in Kathy's charcoal drawings improved dramatically in both concept and skill. Her work shows an increased awareness of self through the definition of body parts and their function.

MS. SEGAL said of the artist-in-residency program, "It was all done within the curriculum and it helped both teachers and students by opening up many new ways of teaching language."

But the proof of the program is in the results. Ms. Segal looked at a self-portrait which a young man did of himself in charcoal.

"He was really non-verbal. But, when we asked him to tell us about it, he couldn't stop talking. Ms. Segal said."

King related dance to drawing, in each instance, asking for what he termed "mark-making" rather than "diddle daddling."

He did a lunge with arms spread wide and compared it to the strong positive lines the students had made for their still lifes once he got his point across.

The young people, ages 14-26, come to the school in Madison Heights to learn vocational and life skills. They are the trainable, and the institute is one of four in the county. This one serves the Southeast corner of the county, including the communities from Oak Park north through Troy. The curriculum incorporates lots of

practical skills from furniture refinishing, rug hooking and housekeeping, physical education along with social adaptability, language, personal grooming, sewing and, for the older ones, work skills.

THE YOUNG people in the sheltered workshop, ages 20-26, were earning money making an order of red velvet bows for Frank's Nursery and Trims — a project they will be working on most of the summer because 200,000 bows have been ordered. The first 42,000 were already carefully packed and neatly packaged in boxes ready for delivery.

Now all of this kind of training and job skills helps build confidence and satisfaction. But it was the arts program that provided the thrills for these young people. For the first time in their lives they were dancing, acting and freely showing on paper some of the things that had been long buried in due for lack of a means of communication.

King said he had noticed a difference in the way they walked. He attributed it to the dance classes. Not long before, most had moved and stood with shoulders bent and arms hanging limply, now they stood with heads held high like dancers.

After contour drawings of thumbs, King introduced his art students to still life drawing — a new word for them.

"It was an incredible experience for them to try to draw something they could see — and none of them were aware of shadows until I showed them what they were," he said.

THE STILL life he set up was a simple cone, the kind used to mark an area on a street. Yet for many of these young people the cone soon took on new meaning, shaded it, others elongated it and still others, turned it into an abstract form.

Ms. Segal said that because of the dance program, "Instead of going home and watching the box when the music comes on, our kids get up and dance."

King nodded in agreement and added, "Now the minute they hear music, they want to get up and dance."

Realizing that most mentally impaired persons are programmed for failure, he designed his instruction in art so there were no failures, no rights and wrongs — just creative expression.

Center supervisor Bernard Travnik reinforced what King and Ms. Segal had said: "We've had nothing but positive results from this program and we're hoping to work this program into all



Kathy Ruckle was drawing like this before the artist-in-residence program started.

the centers in Oakland County."

Ms. Segal, who sees few limits to the kinds of exposure to the arts for these young people, had taken most of the students to the Detroit Symphony, a performance of "Annie" at the Fisher and a performance of "Showboat."

She's now preparing a resource book for the Title I program under which much of this was possible.

"It's been instant success," she said, "and the next person I want in here is a musician."

His only regret is that it wasn't started sooner. But, once started, she's not about to let it get away from her.

Testing scheduled for Oakland course

Personal assessment inventory, prerequisite to entering the Legal Assistant Program at Oakland University, will be offered Monday, April 2, through the Division of Continuing Education at Oakland University.

The inventory will be conducted from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Gold Room of the Oakland Center on campus in Rochester. Advance registration and payment of a \$10 fee are required.

Evening non-degree courses in the program being the week of April 9. The Oakland University legal assistant program, which can be completed in 10 months, consists of 10-week foundation and concentration courses and an 80-hour job internship.

For information about the personal assessment inventory and for a brochure detailing the legal assistant program, call the Continuing Education office, 377-3120.

FHS symphony is No. 1

Farmington High School's symphony orchestra returned home from the Michigan Schools Band and Orchestra Festival with the highest rating attainable, a Number One.

"The group is small in number, large in determination," said director Nick Palise. "The many hours of rehearsal really paid off. They never sounded better."

Dressed in new vests, made of black velvet, and all male members of the symphony wearing ruffled shirt fronts, the group was impressive in appearance as well as in sound.

The orchestra played three prepared pieces, then one they had never seen before for the judging.

Palise is now in the process of encouraging more students in the elementary grades to play string instruments to be ready for the requirements neces-

sary to play symphonic music.

The school's music patrons boost the students' musical skills by sponsoring clinics to sharpen skills and techniques. This year's symphonic orchestra members attended two clinics during the school year.

Annual spring festival planned

Our Lady of Apostles School, in Hamtramck, will have its annual spring festival, Friday to Sunday, March 30 to April 1.

The festival will include Polish foods, games, and prizes. All proceeds will go to the school, which is located on Conant, between Prescott and Harold in Hamtramck.