

Action for Equity

AAUW celebrates week proclaimed in its honor

By LORAIN McCLISH

The Farmington Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) celebrates the week of March 16-23 proclaimed in its honor with an open meeting on the "Middle School Concept" to be implemented here in September.

The changes that will affect the area's school-age children will be spelled out by a panel of speakers at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday in Farmington Hills Community Library on 12 Mile Road.

The meeting is one of a long list of community services the local branch has offered since its founding in 1951.

"We are a group of 150 women," said Phyllis Cummings, current president of the group, "with diverse interests trying to take positive action in areas of concern to us: education, community and cultural interests, international relations, legislation and advancement of women."

High on AAUW's priority list is passage of Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) both locally and nationally. Another important concern is AAUW's national Education Foundation Program which gives research grants and fellowships yearly.

"We contribute to this with proceeds from our annual book sale," Ms. Cummings said, "Number 38 is coming up this fall."

Book sale proceeds also have enabled the branch to support Farmington Community Center, Farmington Community Libraries and to establish scholarships at Oakland University.

"WHAT I FIND most satisfying with AAUW involvement," she said, "is as-

sociating with members of all ages, recent college graduates to senior citizens, with a common bond of working for a better world, and the resulting firm friendships that ensue."

The national thrust of AAUW this week is "Action for Equity."

Though this is a special week for the organization, the equity campaign is part of an ongoing national AAUW campaign. Through publications, speeches and action by members in more than 1,900 branches and about 600 campuses, the group works to increase public understanding of how inequity impacts on women in all walks of life.

"We cannot fail to act to remedy injustice when we look at some of the inequities," said Vivian Henderhan, speaking for the local branch.

"In 1978 more than 40 percent of all women in the work force were either never married or were divorced, widowed or separated. They work for compelling economic reasons but they earn

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59 cents for every \$1 earned by men.

"Add to that the median annual income of a woman with four years of college is less than that of a man with an eighth-grade education. Is it not time to end such economic gaps?" she said.

MRS. HENDERHAN gives another example regarding Social Security, a system developed 40 years ago which still reflects the traditional view of a lifelong homemaker and a life long paid worker.

"Women's Bureau statistics show that in 1978 full-time employed women were contributing nearly 40 percent of a husband-wife family's income," she said, "and those numbers are growing."

All of the inequities that have been put to women from the way the Social Security system works now can be erased, Mrs. Henderhan believes, through some proposals made by AAUW.

"We believe changes must include flexibility in eligibility for benefits," she said, "taking into account combinations of circumstances unique to women. And we must achieve financial independence for women such as that presently enjoyed by most men."

Mrs. Henderhan quotes Mary Grete, national AAUW president, "Today ERA is the underpinning of the whole Action for Equity movement."

"Without specific reference to women in the U.S. Constitution, all the gains made thus far are paper ones and can be easily erased in the male-dominated halls of Congress, the state legislatures and the courts."

AAUW IS THE oldest and largest national organization concerned with the advancement of women and education and has been committed to achieving equity for women since its founding in 1882.

This credo is supported by William S. Hartsock, mayor of Farmington, and Joann Soronen, mayor of Farmington Hills, both of whom issued proclamations in observance of AAUW Week here.

The program for the group's opening meeting was arranged by branch member and Farmington School Board Trustee Emma Makinen.

Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent of schools, will serve as chairman of the panel and describe the implementation procedures of the middle school concept.

Panelists will be Earl Baumank, district chairperson of School Organiza-



Phyllis Cummings, president of Farmington Branch AAUW, leads the membership of 150 women taking action in community, cultural and legislative activities leading to the advancement of women. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

tional Task Force, who will give an overview of the task force and its recommendations. Don Cowan, principal of Eagle Elementary School and Bob Brown, principal of Power Junior High School, will discuss the curriculum design and its implementation.

Three offices of the organization will be filled in March.

The nominees are Helen Ottati for treasurer, Jean Moran for corresponding secretary, and Sandra Healy for second vice president in charge of membership.

Genealogical society meets

Farmington Genealogical Society meets at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 18 in Farmington Community Library on State and Liberty.

Martin McLaughlin, of Michigan Historical Division of Michigan Archives

will speak. His topic is "Management and Retention of County Records in Michigan State Archives."

The meeting is open to all persons interested in genealogy.

Urban studies is topic for LWV



DOROTHY CONRAD

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of West Bloomfield-Farmington will hear former Birmingham Mayor Dorothy Conrad discuss the status of current LWV sponsored "Urban Studies Projects" when the group meets at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 19 in Farmington Hills Community Library on 12 Mile Road.

Guests and potential members are invited to learn of the league's studies, and meet the members of the local branch at this meeting.

Mrs. Conrad is now directing the "Hamtramck Study" made possible by a grant funded by the National League of Women Voters Education Fund and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The LWV views Hamtramck as a microcosm of urban strengths and weaknesses. It is a densely populated area undergoing major economic and

population shifts.

As part of its grant proposal the LWV of the Detroit Metropolitan Area is producing a slide presentation depicting the history, educational systems, housing patterns, community structure, government and social service systems of Hamtramck.

Wednesday's program is being coordinated by Grace McLendon of West Bloomfield, urban studies director for the local branch, and June Lee of Farmington Hills, program director for the local branch.

Another item on the agenda will be an update on the status of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution struggle, a high priority item for the national LWV.

Inquiries about membership in the local league will be taken by calling the branch president, Neva Carter, 661-5474.

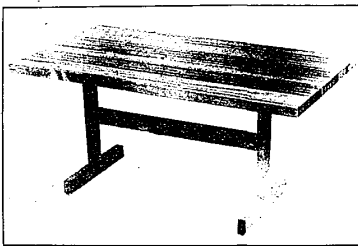


Preparing Easter brunch

Cheese souffle brunch surprise is the main entree prepared by Judy Antishin (left) and Barbara Dermody when the two gourmet cooks team up for "Easter Brunch With Barb and Judy" at 10 a.m. Friday, March 21. The sit-down brunch runs from appetizer to des-

sert to wind up Farmington Community Center's winter Fabulous Fridays Series. Early reservations, at \$6 each, are suggested by calling the center at 477-8404. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

March Specials



Butcher Block Tables

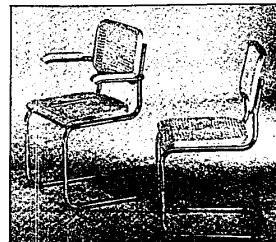
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