

Unsung hero

Meet George Raymond

By LORRAINE McCLISH

When Cathy Norwood decided to go back to work to help bolster the family finances, "Uncle George" came to the rescue.

George Raymond, a retired Detroit Edison employee turned baby sitter, is the Barry Norwood family's choice for "Unsung Hero."

Mrs. Norwood writes in part, "My husband leaves at 5:30 a.m. to start his job at Ford Motor Co. and I have been leaving as early as 6 a.m. for my job as a Farmington School bus driver. I know my kids are in good hands."

"Do you know of any other 65-year-old man who changes dirty diapers and fixes bottles?"

"He even lets me use his car to get back and forth to work."

"BACK AND FORTH" because of the split shift known to all school bus drivers. But the "back and forth" can be doubled up along with switched-around schedules that come if Mrs. Norwood chooses to add to her income

by volunteering to drive for outings or field trips periodically planned for school children.

"I would never have been able to afford to go back to work if I had had to pay for a sitter, much less keep up this kind of schedule," Mrs. Norwood said.

"It just wouldn't have been worth it." Raymond worked as a service repairman for 30 years and is still doing repairs on whatever he finds needs repairing.

"I do whatever around here needs doing," Raymond said.

"Between dusting and scrubbing there's wallpaper for me to hang in the bathroom and a TV in the garage that needs looking at."

"I'll keep up the schedule just so long as it doesn't interfere with my gardening," he chides.

Mrs. Norwood refers to Raymond as "the man who came to dinner."

Raymond explains, "I offered to help her folks (the Harold Kelo family in Farmington) re-model a bedroom and then moved in to that bedroom and that

was many years ago.

"So I sort of helped raise Cathy and her brother. But it's been a long time since I changed a diaper."

UNMARRIED, RAYMOND has been "Uncle George" since the time Cathy Norwood was a very small child, and has "sort of been on call for us ever since we were married," Mrs. Norwood said.

"We called him once at 3 in the morning to stay with the younger children when Nancy had a nose bleed that wouldn't stop," Mrs. Norwood said of her daughter Nancy, who is now 9 years old.

"He was here through a lot of childhood emergencies; the choking spasm we went through with Brian (now 11 months old); and he's here to make lunch when Michael (age 7) gets home from school."

"He's here when we need him," she said.

Nancy Norwood calls her baby sitter, "the best uncle I could have."



George Raymond is "Uncle George" to his charges, Brian, (at left) Michael and Nancy. The youngsters are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Barry

Norwood whose "Unsung Hero" is their baby sitter. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

China painters ready for spring show

China Decorators Guild schedules its spring show from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 18, in St. John Episcopal Church, 115 So. Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak.

Wanda Myers, of Livonia, is chairman of the event this spring that attracts buyers and browsers from throughout the state.

"We're very proud of the high quality pieces we create," said long-time guild member Dolores Petachenko, of Farmington Hills.

"It is one thing to know the technique of painting on china, and a completely different thing to have an eye for color and proportion," she said. "We're fortunate to have so many good artists among us who turn out the high caliber of work that they do."

About 20 exhibitors will be on hand showing about 500 original pieces, both decorative and utilitarian. There will be tables offering china painting supplies and demonstrations will run continuously throughout show hours.

SHIRLEY WEIBEL, of Berkley, will be painting grapes from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Mary Patuskus of Oak Park will be demonstrating leg, forte, yellow roses, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Mrs. Petachenko will show how to paint mums from 2 p.m. until closing time.

The China Decorators Guild is the first of its kind in the area. Members meet at 10 a.m. the first Saturday of every month in First United Methodist Church of Farmington, on Grand River and Warner for a program, lunch and business meetings.

"Newcomers are always welcome," Mrs. Petachenko said. "We generally have a guest speaker who talks about a new idea or a new technique, and we can all learn something new with whatever they have to tell us."

"There's no charge, just to sit in," she said.

Many members of the guild are also members of the International Porcelain Teachers-Artists who as Detroit members will be hosting the international show in Ren-Cen the first week in July.

Donation to the guild show is \$1, asked at the door.



The display of china painting is the work of Farmington Hills artist Dolores Petachenko. This and other pieces will go up for sale when China

Decorators Guild opens its spring show this year Friday, April 18. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Bella Abzug is coming to lunch

Adat Shalom Sisterhood is taking reservations for its annual Donor Day Luncheon when the guest speaker will be Bella Abzug, former Manhattan congresswoman and a long-time activist for women's rights.

The event begins at 10 a.m. Monday, May 12, when the synagogue's foyers will be transformed into an array of boutiques and shops with jewelry, pottery, art objects, flowers, clothing, toys, antiques and the collectibles for browsers and shoppers.

A coffee bar will be set up for early bird shoppers. Lunch is served at 12:30 p.m., followed by the speaker.

Tickets for the all-day affair are \$18 and will be reserved by calling the synagogue office, 851-6100.

All proceeds from the day will go towards the sisterhood's continued support of synagogue projects, educational programs, youth activities, camp scholarships and support of those in nursing homes.

Donor Day chairman is Harriet Dunsky.

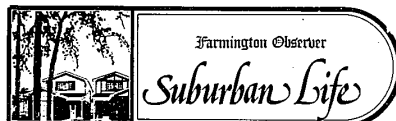
POLLS NOW show Bella Abzug as one of the 20 most influential women in the world.

While she was a member of Congress she co-sponsored the original Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). She was founder of the National Women's Political Caucus and during that tenure wrote the first bill banning discrimination against women in obtaining credit, loans and mortgages, and fought for the Title IX Equal Opportunity in Education Laws.

She is author of "Bella: Ms. Abzug Goes to Washington" as well as numerous magazine articles, most of which concerned women's rights.

She served as presiding officer of National Commission for the Observation of International Women's Year in 1977 and later as co-chairman of National Advisory Committee for Women.

She is currently in private law practice in New York.



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New approach to reading is subject for MACLD

The Farmington area Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (MACLD) will host Karer Urbschat, information utilization specialist with Wayne County Intermediate School District, for a program called "Reading: A New Approach."

The event is open without charge to parents, teachers and professionals at 7:30 p.m. April 24 in Farmington Hills Community Library, 32737 12 Mile Road.

The talk will emphasize recognizing the different learning styles in children to avoid frustration and failure.

Alic Kanayan, president of the host group, said, "This concept encompasses the view that children develop and learn in different ways which necessitates individualized reading instruction using the child's strongest mode for assimilating material. This can be auditory, visual or kinesthetic."

"Use of this method, with the proper materials," she continued, "allows the students to experience success as they are introduced to this very important skill."

Ms. Urbschat is the author of "The Pupil and the Reading Program: A Modalities Approach."

Job search seminar starts May 1

"Step Up," a seminar which offers a step-by-step action plan for those seeking employment or a change in employment, will be offered from 7-10 p.m. for four consecutive Thursdays, beginning May 1 in Allen House, Birmingham. A follow-up session is offered to participants on Thursday, June 12.

Participants will form an individual weekly action plan to help them in attaining employment. Each person will also be assisted in resume writing, interviewing techniques, networking and resources and contacts.

The follow-up support system will be provided for those who may not have been hired by the end of the seminar.

The seminar will be led by staff members of New Sources, based in Farmington Hills, who are experienced in career counseling and have advanced degrees in guidance and counseling.

The all-inclusive fee for the job search is \$85. Registration and inquiries will be taken by calling New Sources, 851-3150.

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