

Authors of romance novels called to organize

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Marianne Willman, who writes under the pen name of Sabrina Clark, will head up the organizational meeting of the Detroit Chapter of Romance Writers of America.

"It's an organization that's needed," the Farmington Hills woman said. "Romance writers are generally women, and they are generally typing all alone in their kitchens or their basements so none of us know one another."

"It's an organization for would-be writers of romantic novels as well as published writers and unpublished writers; those who are trying to write and those who are thinking about it."

The organizational meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, in

the lower-level conference room of Farmington Hills Community Library, 32737 12 Mile Road.

There is no charge to attend. Willman, who writes for Jove Publications, will be joined in her efforts to get the new chapter started by Barbara Bennett, another Farmington Hills resident published by Harlequin; Maryann Verdi, a Beverly Hills woman who is publisher of a poetry magazine called "Concepts"; and Ruth Ryan Langhan, a Southfield woman who writes for Silhouette Publishers.

ROMANCE WRITERS of America was started less than two years ago by the editor of Harlequin Romances in New York and is now based in Houston, Texas.

As of now there is no chapter in Michigan.

"I'm sure the organization was started to make all writers of escape literature legitimate. I know I wasn't legitimate with my own family until I got my first check," Willman said, speaking of the advance she received for her first book about a year ago.

"The market was flooded with very poor Gothics just because the demand was so great a few years ago, but a rather less thing happened along the way, the readers themselves weeded out the bad ones."

"I suspect that having an organization will make us all a little more choosy and overall upgrade this kind of literature," she said.

Market reports show that the typical romance reader is reading from 6-10 books a week now, and as the economy

dips, sales of books that offer escape soars.

"The publishers can depend on it," Willman said.

MARIANNE WILLMAN has never been to a Romance Writers of America meeting, but she said the individual chapters are autonomous in what they offer to the members, depending what the members want from the chapter.

She already has a couple of editors lined up to speak to the new group and at least one publisher.

She expects the chapter will hear speakers on how to discipline time for writing; how to keep records of expense for income tax purposes; how to get that first story published; and arrange for critiquing sessions.

"Most important will be that the members can keep up with the trends," she said.

"It used to be that all romance stories ended with a happy-ever-after. Some publishers may still demand this. Some ask you to follow a cut-and-dried formula."

"But maybe because of the change in women's thinking, there is a change in the writer's outlook, and I see a new trend where the male does not have to be in charge all of the time, and he can show his emotions."

"That's on the way. But that might change again. The national newsletter alone will keep members abreast of that."

Willman will take inquiries at 476-0250.



Marianne Willman

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Loraine McClish editor/477-5450

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Miss Michigan United Pageant

For those looking for careers in modeling and show business

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Up to be part of the Miss Michigan United Beauty Pageant this year will be hostesses for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's benefit ball, set for June 5 in

The first 25 young women who sign



Kimberly Mexicotte will carry her title of Miss Michigan United only until pageant night, June 23. The Farmington Hills resident will turn over her crown to this year's winner in Canton's Center Stage.

the Hyatt Regency. This is the second year the pageant will play an active part in the benefit.

"They will be out meeting people and being seen, which is what this pageant is all about," said Cynthia Guenther, who is now expanding her pageant operation to go nationwide with its new federal registered trademark.

"We're looking for girls who are interested in modeling and show business careers, and we push to open those doors for them," she said.

Guenther backs up that statement by guaranteeing each of the pageant's 25 finalists two auditions.

"All 25 finalists get an automatic audition for the Ford Motor Co. traveling shows, the same as we've given in past pageants. This year they'll also be offered a test screening for Miss Kitty Key," she said.

Miss Kitty Key is a new TV commercial and promotion proposed by Key Olds-Datsun of Warren.

THE DATE for the pageant this year is Wednesday, June 23, in the Center Stage in Canton.

Contestants must turn 17 by Dec. 31 and be no older than 28 on that date. They must never have been married and must be a resident of Michigan or attending school in the state.

Applications will be sent on request by calling Guenther at 271-9783.

"No special talent is required," Guenther emphasized.

Contestants will be interviewed and

reviewed in the pageant parade by 17 judges.

"I know that sounds like overkill, but it's not," the pageant director explained. "If a couple of judges happen to be hung up with stereotype images of models, and a contestant does not happen to look like the Cherry Ladd or Farrah Fawcett stereotype, that girl still has a chance at the title."

One of the pageant judges this spring will be DeeDee Russell, a model now seen in Silhouette commercials and "Yes, Michigan" commercials for the Detroit Tourist Bureau. She won the title of Miss Michigan Venus when she was a resident of Southfield, and Guenther was director of that pageant.

"But you don't necessarily have to win the top spot to be a winner," Guenther said.

"Kelly McCool wasn't picked for the title, but she was spotted by my photographer, who put her picture into nomination, and with that she got the title of Miss Cosmopolitan."

The Troy resident Guenther spoke of was fourth runner-up in last year's pageant.

THE NEW Miss Michigan United will take her crown from last year's title holder, Farmington Hills resident Kimberly Mexicotte.

Along with the roses of victory she'll also walk away with a year's lease on a 1982 Ford from Renaissance Ford in Detroit, a \$2,500 fur coat from Diltrich



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Watercolors on display

Jerry Panyard shows his fine art publicly for the first time in a one-man show that continues throughout the month in Farmington Hills Branch Library's Quiet Room. The Farmington resident, who paints in gouache, an opaque watercolor, says he hopes viewers will find a bit of themselves in the works now on display. Panyard worked as an illustrator and air brush renderer for Chrysler for 25 years, but it took a layoff from the commercial artist to turn his attention to the fine arts. Now studying with Sister Mary Angelina at Madonna College, he will attain his fine arts degree next spring.

Furs, a \$1,500 John Robert Powers Modeling School scholarship, a Russian fiancé diamond necklace, a weekend vacation in northern Michigan and a

new gown from Kay's Bridal. "There are many other beautiful prizes waiting for the runners-up," Guenther said.

Joyce Brothers to visit Adat Shalom Sisterhood

Dr. Joyce Brothers will be the after-luncheon speaker for Adat Shalom Sisterhood's annual donor's fund-raiser April 26.

The event begins at 10 a.m. when boutiques and shops line the synagogue foyers for shoppers and browsers. Continental breakfast is free for the ticket-holders while they shop for jewelry, pottery, flowers, plants, unusual women's wear, toys, religious articles, cosmetics, paper goods and works of needlepoint.

All proceeds are earmarked towards the Sisterhood's continued support of youth programs, the needy in nursing homes, the braile fund, cultural and educational programs.

Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling the synagogue office, 851-5100.

Brothers is a psychologist, an NBC radio network personality, columnist, author and business consultant.

She is a regular columnist for Good Housekeeping and writes a daily column that is published in more than 350 newspapers. Her books have been translated into 28 languages.

As a consultant to the business world, Brothers creates and performs in films and seminars designed for corporate personnel training programs. She is a frequent guest on network television.

For six years she was a member of the faculties of Hunter College and Columbia University and is now a frequent lecturer at universities across the country.

Brothers is a graduate of Cornell University and received her Ph.D. from



Dr. Joyce Brothers, Columbia University. Her newest book, "What Every Woman Should Know About Men" will be on sale at the luncheon. She will sign autographs. Guests are invited to the luncheon by Sonia Knopper, president of the sisterhood. Chairman for the event is Terran Leemis, vice president in charge of the ways and means committee.

Renamed guild honors seamstress Mary Stoll

Mary Stoll, among the original patrons of Farmington Community Center and best remembered for her 12 years of work as director of the Sewing Guild will be honored by the women she worked with every week making

clothes for needy youngsters. The women have renamed their guild the Mary Stoll Sewing Guild. Memorial funds for Mrs. Stoll will be used for redecorating the Farmington Community Center's library, the meeting

group's meeting spot from 10 a.m. to noon each Thursday.

The guild women give their time and expertise in sewing for the needy. More than 150 outfits a year are given to Farmington Goodfellows, Childrens

Aid, Ruth Alden of Detroit and other organizations.

New volunteers are welcome. Those interested can call the center at 477-8494. There is a particular need for hand-sewers.

Calligraphers host annual spring show

The Michigan Association of Calligraphers will exhibit their work Friday and Saturday, April 30-May 1, in Farmington Hills Branch Library auditorium, 32733 12 Mile Road.

Admission to the fine arts exhibit is free. The association is a nonprofit organization that was founded in Farmington in 1978. Its goal is to perpetuate the ancient art form of calligraphy and to increase public awareness and appreci-

ation of the art. Its membership has grown from 27 members in 1978 to 310, who live throughout the metropolitan area and a good number of outstate locales. The association is headed by Dr. Patricia Herliand, a professor of English literature at Wayne State University.

Among its activities in the 1981-82 season, the association cosponsored, with the Detroit Public Library, a lecture by Donald Jackson, scribe to

Queen Elizabeth II and an internationally known calligrapher.

The lecture was sold out in advance, reflecting the public's interest and enthusiasm for calligraphy," said Carol Allen, speaking for the group.

"We participated in the Michigan 16th Century Renaissance Festival. We exhibited at the Royal Oak Art Show and are presently on exhibit in the Oakland County Court House," she continued.

Two of the association's members were juried into New York's "Calligraphy in the Graphic Arts" show. That club has since traveled to Detroit's Scarab Club.

The association sponsors five programs a year, which feature speakers of interest to the members.

The spring exhibit will show how the ancient art form has been interpreted into modern-day use, utilizing letter shapes to create paintings.

Sex equity in athletics is topic at NOW meeting

Pat Babel, physical education teacher at Northville High School, will be guest speaker at the April meeting of the Northwest Wayne County chapter of the National Organization for Women. Her topic will be sex equity in athletics.

April 21. Announcement of the slate of officers to be elected for the coming year will be made at the business meeting that precedes the program.

Babel will focus her discussion on implementation of Title IX and the obstacles posed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). A sex discrimination suit was filed recently against the MHSAA, the State

Department of Education, and five local school districts. Complainants were the Michigan Education Association Women's Caucus, an Ann Arbor-based League of Parents, the Coalition for Non-Sexist Education and the National Organization for Women.

Babel has been involved in girls sports since 1956. She has been a physical education teacher for 27 years and

has coached women's sports. She is a charter member of the Girls' Athletic Association and serves as a member of the Advisory Board to the MHSAA.

Anyone who attend and participate in the NOW meeting.

Anyone needing more information or transportation may call Northwest Wayne NOW president, Janet Evans, 476-3352, or Betty Kelley, 981-6117.