



m.m. memos

Margaret Miller

One loss, then another

Death seems to deal our family double blows.

Last summer we lost an uncle and aunt who died three days apart after 57 years of marriage. This year death hit in a way that will ever echo in memory of our recent trip to Michigan. Daughter Barb won't forget either. She was proclaiming for a while that she wasn't answering any more telephones.

Joe and I were having a fine visit. We had reveled in being able to spend hours with granddaughter Katie and her parents. We had seen family and friends and some fine fall color. We had taken in a University of Michigan football game and were planning to see another and then head back south the following day.

THEN THE FIRST blow fell on Friday afternoon as we chatted with friends for lunch. Voice trembling, Barb telephoned to say she had received a call from my brother, Jim. Our younger brother, John, was dead in Indiana.

It was unexpected, unbelievable and devastating. In shock, we sought to learn more and prepared to do what had to be done.

Jim and his wife, Louise, were getting ready to leave for Indiana Saturday morning, and Joe and I were going to join them there the following day. Then the telephone rang again. Barb answered, then dropped the receiver and burst into tears. Our Aunt Helen had died in her sleep at the nursing home.

Numbly we changed plans. Jim and Louise would arrange a funeral in Indiana; we would arrange one in Michigan. None of us could get to both services, but we were thankful we were all available to do our part.

THE FUNERALS are over, and to some extent shock has given way to contemplation, mostly on the terrible contrasts.

Gallery expands

Ilena and Gallery has opened a new larger gallery at Lechmann's of Hunters Square Mall in Farmington Hills.

The new gallery features a larger selection of handcrafted jewelry, clothing and fashion accessories as well as new works by potters, glassblowers and other craftsmen from all over the country.

Aunt Helen was 94. Her death was a peaceful finish to a fine life. In fact, said the minister who spoke at her funeral, peace was her great gift to the many whose lives she had touched. I feel great loss, but also thankfulness that death came without illness or pain or loss of dignity, and that I was nearby and had seen her the previous evening and on two other recent occasions.

But John, the beloved baby brother of my childhood, was only 50, a brilliant man, a fine educator who had contributed much to life at the university where he taught, a fun uncle to our daughters. He suffered alone what must have been a torturous death from an illness none of us knew he had.

Over the years, our busy lives and his private nature had made our contact infrequent and short. But he called recently to say he would visit us in Florida right after Christmas, and we were really looking forward to more time together. I feel only emptiness, and the words keep repeating: "If only I had known."

BUT I HAVE been going back to some other words, ones that Joe and I memorized for a small drama in church. The story deals with death through the falling leaves of autumn. We had rehearsed them glibly, and now it's going to be terribly painful to say them.

And, as the drama ends with leaves falling and the ground preparing for new life in the spring, we'll think of John and Aunt Helen and join with our friends in the final words, "The beginning."

Owners Hirschel and Toni Levine make frequent trips searching for fresh and interesting merchandise.

Gallery hours are Monday, Tuesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

Liston-Melat

Allice F. Melat and William Jeffrey Liston were married in Blue Water Free Methodist Church in Marysville, Mich., on Oct. 8. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer L. Melat of Goodells, Mich., and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Liston of Farmington.

The bride, a graduate of Hope College, is employed at television station WKBD, Channel 50. The bridegroom, a graduate of Ferris State College, is employed by WTVS, Channel 56 in Detroit.

Following the wedding, a reception was held at the National Guard Armory in Port Huron. The couple plan to live in Livonia following a wedding trip to Easton, Pa.



Hickman-Butler

Rosemary Ling of Salem, Mich., and Donald Hickman of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter Kimberly to Wayne Butler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Les Butler of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Cody High School and employed with Georgios in Birmingham. Her fiancé is a graduate of North Farmington High School and is employed as a salesman in Las Vegas, Nev.

A February 1984 wedding is planned in Franklin Community Church.



Writers brush up on their craft

By Cathie Bralendenbach
special writer

"Anyone who wants to be a writer and isn't, and isn't writing, doesn't." Ernest Hemingway.

The cardinal rule offered to the nearly 600 writers who gathered at Oakland University last Saturday for the 22nd Annual Writer Conference was WRITE. Lose sleep, farm out the kids, do battle with guits, schedules, and intrusive telephones, but write.

Rule two. Read everything you can get your hands on. Rule three. Persevere. Writing is a tough business and only the stubborn get published.

This year more writers than ever came to talk shop and gain practical directives on their chosen craft at the conference co-sponsored by Oakland University and Detroit Women Writers. An after lunch talk by Judith Guest, author of the recently published "Second Heaven" and the runaway best seller, "Ordinary People," highlighted the conference which featured manuscript workshops Friday and a feast of varied seminars on Saturday.

WRITERS could choose from 33 seminars designed for poets, fiction writers, and journalists, as well as for those who write for the youth and teen-age markets.

There were seminars on how to write personal columns, confession stories, and personality profiles, and how to write gag and spicy romances.

Experts told writers the advantages of having a literary agent, what Doubleday and Harlequin book houses want, and how word processing is changing the old slug-it-out-on-a-beat-typewriter image of writing.

One seminar addressed legal questions about copyright laws and contracts; another outlined how to write

successful query letters and proposals.

Writing can be a frustrating business. Even successful writers boast they could paper whole rooms with their rejections slips. Margaret Mitchell sent out "Gone With the Wind" 27 times before it was accepted.

Every year New Yorker magazine receives 50,000 unsolicited manuscripts and publishes no more than five. If the odds in the writing business are bad, the pay is often worse. The average income for full-time writers in America is a meager \$5,000.

Writers came to the conference in unprecedented numbers but not just for the practical meat the seminars offered on how to write well and get published.

They came to hear Judith Guest, the Cinderella of Detroit writers tell how she felt 11 years ago when she first came to the Writer's Conference as a hopeful, unpublished writer.

HER FIRST novel, "Ordinary People," which she calls a novel of appearances, was plucked from the slush pile (what publishers call the stacks of unsolicited manuscripts they receive) and published as a long shot by Random House.

It catapulted to the top of the best seller list and was made into an acclaimed movie directed by Robert Redford. Judith Guest has since published her second successful novel, "Second Heaven."

She is as unassuming and pleasant as a Cinderella ought to be, a down-to-earth person and a speaker full of provocative ideas. Underneath her "ordinary person" guise, Judith Guest is a concerned thinker who spoke of what's happening in American society.

"Too often," she said, "mind triumphs over emotions. Reason has become separate from feeling. . . . Think-

ing should be used in the service of feelings and not as a substitute for them. . . . A lot of problems people have, I don't think, are reachable through thought.

"People feel their lives are out of control. They have need for security and stability. . . . Life is complicated, full of science and technology, and people yearn for a set of rules."

THE LAW and religion are two institutions people expect to fulfill their needs for stability, and Judith Guest says, "Institutionalized answers don't fit the needs of the individual."

"The main body of my sermon," she joked, "is autonomy. It's hard to be responsible for your own life. . . . As a society we often behave as adolescents."

"We resent controls and that stems from our ambivalence about exercising

our own personal power. . . . It seems we focus on the consequences of breaking rules and forget that there are powerful consequences to keeping rules. . . . People don't want to believe that things are a matter of personal choice as long as you're willing to accept the consequences of the act."

Of writing she said, "I'm bored reading novels that don't point any direction toward solution after taking a great amount of time to delineate the problem. You have to do more than describe problems and let the reader solve them if you're going to be a writer."

"The truth is I write for myself and I love the process. If at the end I come out with a product that's less than perfect, it doesn't negate the pleasure of doing it."

Change the color

of your eyes!
NEW COLOR SOFT LENSES
available to change the color
of your eyes, lenses less likely to be
lost because of color.

Watch for this on "Good Afternoon Detroit" on Thursday, November 10, at 4 P.M.

FOR APPOINTMENT CALL
DR. DON P. SHEER
Optometrist
531-1344

26370 Grand River Redford, Mich.

\$3 OFF ANY LARGE PIZZA!

Ooohh, the aroma of sauce, spices, herbs and bubbly melting cheese. Aaahh, the savings! Just bring the coupon and take your choice: \$3 off large size, \$1 off medium.

Includes our special Pizza Hut® Pan Pizza. You get more Mmmmmmm!!! for the money than ever before. Eat here or carry out, but don't miss out. Hurry before this offer expires!



\$3.00 OFF ON ANY LARGE PIZZA
OR \$1.00 OFF ON ANY MEDIUM PIZZA



Present this coupon when ordering, and we'll give you \$3.00 OFF on any large pizza, or \$1.00 OFF on any medium pizza. Offer not valid when used in conjunction with any other coupon, discount or special offer. . . . including the Juggernaut offer. One coupon per party, per visit. Offer expires December 4, 1983.

\$3.00 OFF ON ANY LARGE PIZZA
OR \$1.00 OFF ON ANY MEDIUM PIZZA



Present this coupon when ordering, and we'll give you \$3.00 OFF on any large pizza, or \$1.00 OFF on any medium pizza. Offer not valid when used in conjunction with any other coupon, discount or special offer. . . . including the Juggernaut offer. One coupon per party, per visit. Offer expires December 4, 1983.

33000 Northwestern Hwy. • 851-6230

Save a life. Learn CPR.

American Red Cross

Together, we can change things.

Come early for the best selection!

ONE DAY ONLY!

Ray Interiors' In Store Warehouse Sale

SAT., NOV. 12th, 1983
9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
(NO ONE will be admitted before 9:30 a.m.)
SAVE 25%, 35%, 50%

Talk about values, they're here! We've been accumulating merchandise a whole year for this 8-hour sale. Floor samples, discontinued items, undelivered sold orders, mistakenly ordered, manufacturers overstocks and excess inventory...they're all included at savings hard to believe. Come early while the selection is best, but plan on spending some time as the bargains are many and the prices will amaze you.

Terms: Free delivery and set up included. Visa, Mastercard, or our own custom charge accepted. All sales final. No layaways. No refunds. No exchanges.

EXTRA SALE FEATURE - ONE DAY ONLY
All Special orders - 20% off!!

Yes, we mean ALL special orders can be placed this one day only at a savings of 20%. Order the living room, dining room, bedroom, carpeting, upholstery or draperies you've been thinking about and save 20%. Delivery on most special orders will be made in time for the Holidays. Remember November 12th, Saturday is the only day these prices will be in effect.

Ray Interiors

Michigan's first Drexel Heritage store

476-7272 • 33300 Slocum Drive • Farmington
Open Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30 to 5:30; Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9:30 to 9:00; Sun. 12:00 to 4:00
"Serving the Metro Area Since 1958"