

# Suburban Life

Lorraine McClellan editor/477-5450

Thursday, February 23, 1984 O&amp;E

(F)10

## Educators to be educated on ageism

By Lorraine McClellan  
staff writer

A coalition headed by Area Agency on Aging has put together a workshop to educate educators in Oakland County on the value and benefits of bringing

senior adults into classrooms.

"We know intergenerational programs have a positive impact on children's growth," said Barbara Majoros, who represents Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College (OCC) in the coalition.

"And while the children are benefiting from the seniors' skills, talents and vast stores of knowledge, the seniors are deriving a great deal of satisfaction from this giving," she said.

Majoros has helped plan the daylong workshop with Louise Churches, services coordinator for the county's Southfield-based Area Agency on Aging; Meg O'Connor, who represents Oakland Schools on the coalition; and Lola Ryan, who represents OCC's Royal Oak Campus.

They expect about 150 educators in the county to attend the event, set for Mar. 1. The workshop has been designed to show how intergenerational programs have worked successfully in communities throughout the state.

"We're starting with the basics because we're still fighting myths and stereotypes about aging. Aging is still our biggest phobia in this country. This will be a conscious-raising session on ageism," said Churches, who brought the coalition together.

She went on to explain that, in many cases when educators hear the term "bringing seniors into the classroom," they think the seniors are coming in as free labor to grade papers or clean up the lunchrooms.

"What they are going to see and hear about are seniors who teach foreign languages and test arts; ones who tutor, work with the impaired, tell farm stories, tell about their travels or their personal history," Ryan said.

"And this makes them a real person," O'Connor said. "Much of this is done on a one-to-one basis so the grandperson becomes a friend. Relationships are established. Communication becomes easier for the youngster, not only with one senior, but with all seniors. It links the generations."

"Aging comes to be thought of in the child's mind as a natural process, not something to be feared."

**LINKING THE generations** in Michigan classrooms was started in Ann Arbor through a program called TLC (Teaching Learning Communities).

The concept and philosophy of TLC is

## Area Agency on Aging pushes for seniors in the classrooms

the basis of many intergenerational programs now in progress, though most use other names and most have adopted the original program to conform to the facilities or needs at hand.

"What they (the educators) do with the material we give them and how they implement the concept in their own school or community is up to them," Churches said.

"What we want is to get them to understand the exchange of talents and abilities that is out there that should be tapped. And that the exchange is going to benefit both the K-12 and the over-60 generation."

Speaking at the workshop will be Carol Tice, the creator and director of TLC, now a nationally known model of intergenerational involvement.

The educators also will hear from persons who devised programs from TLC for residents in Harbor Springs, Bedford and Rochester. (In Harbor Springs, the town's senior adult center is located in the middle of its high school.)

The educators will hear how See Hayosh has integrated intergenerational arts in Royal Oak schools.

And they will see dramatic vignettes staged by the Mythboggott Players of Oakland County. The players are grandpersons who write their own scripts about personal experiences they've had related to aging.

**OAKLAND COUNTY** has experienced one of the biggest jumps in the over-60 population in the state during the past year. There are now more than 131,000 seniors in the county, which is about 13 percent of the total population. The number is expected to hit

155,000 by 1990.

As Majoros rattles off these figures she says, "Aging begins at conception and continues throughout a lifetime. It's a process that should be understood."

She believes that the intergenerational strategies the workshop offers will aid that understanding, with the hope that it can be passed on to others through the educators.

O'Connor adds to that by speaking of the program's cost effectiveness.

"For a minimum financial investment we're getting maximum benefits. There's only so much in the pot. By pooling money allotted to each generation we reach individuals, groups and entire communities," she said.

"The grandperson is passing down wisdom, understanding, love and skills that only they know to enhance the entire educational experience. In turn, she or he gains new relationships, new worth, appreciation and a reciprocity of that love."

**THE PROGRAMS** the coalition proposes works with a cooperation between an individual teacher and grandpersons who volunteer a few hours a week to head up a class period.

The grandperson-volunteer is on his or her own to use the class time sharing a skill or knowledge.

Educators interested in attending the workshop are invited to call Majoros, 553-3122.



Meg O'Connor



Barbara Majoros



Louise Churches



Lola Ryan

## Older adults, youth linked through SAGE

**SAGE (Senior Adults Giving to Education)** is the name of the program in Farmington Public Schools that brings the area's older adults together with its youth.

SAGE was brought into the community, patterned after TLC (Teaching Learning Communities), by the Farmington Branch, American Association of University Women (AAUW). It is sponsored by AAUW, Farmington School District and Farmington Area PTA Council.

SAGE began in Larkshire Elementary School about a year ago through the

cooperation of the principal, individual teachers, and older persons who volunteered to share their stories, skills and talents with the youngsters in the classroom.

This month, SAGE began in Longacre Elementary School.

The AAUW is still recruiting SAGE volunteers.

SAGE volunteers do not have to be concerned about a lesson plan or a scholarly orientation to be a part of the program, said Phyllis Cummings, who heads the SAGE committee.

Cummings will take inquiries at 476-4735.

## Picture Ladies needed

### Aiding youth develop appreciation for art

By Lorraine McClellan  
staff writer

"The Picture Lady" is a familiar term in many Farmington area schools. Sponsored by Farmington Art Foundation, a service branch of Farmington Artists Club, the program aims to develop an appreciation of art in the young.

The Picture Lady is a volunteer who goes into the classroom and suggests different ways of viewing a piece of art to the students, and familiarizes the

**"You don't have to have a teaching degree to become a Picture Lady. We will personally assist anyone who is interested."**

— Nancy Mudloff



A portfolio of prints is prepared for another lesson in art appreciation by Molly Duggan (at left), Lena Massara and Diane Lubaway. Massara is this year's chairwoman for the Picture Lady program. Lubaway is Picture Lady coordinator for Our Lady of Sorrows students.

youngsters with well-known artists and their work.

She does this with a portfolio of prints of related subject matter. A portfolio might be made up of birds, or clowns, or sports, or country life so youth can see how different artists depicted these subjects. Or a portfolio might be made up of the work of only one artist.

New Picture Ladies are needed to keep the art appreciation sessions going.

"You don't have to have a teaching degree or an art background to become a Picture Lady," said Nancy Mudloff, who is working in the program this year. "We will personally assist anyone who is interested."

"There is an established format to follow for the different age groups and we promise it is a simple matter of asking questions and promoting interest."

**MUDLOFF CAN** back up her statement with stories of success for both the adult volunteer and the youth that stem back to 1975 when Picture Ladies

first entered Farmington school classrooms.

"At the time this was initiated, by Alice Nichols, (who was named Artist-in-Residence by Farmington Art Commission in 1982) we had one participating school and 16 art portfolios to start the program," Mudloff said.

"Within the first year we had four schools and 30 art portfolios."

"Now we have 14 schools involved and 89 portfolios."

This spring two new subject matter portfolios are added, that combined are called "Let's Tell a Story." One portfolio deals with settings; the other with characters.

"We hope this material will encourage

the children to use their imagination and relate their personal feelings and thoughts in story form," Mudloff said.

In yet another new dimension for the program, Mudloff and her committee are in the process of assembling portfolios to be used as visual aids in art appreciation.

She explains, "There will be a separate portfolio for each painting media. One for oil, watercolor, pen and ink, printmaking and acrylics. The portfolios can be passed around the classroom, enabling the children to feel the texture of each media and the material it is painted on."

These portfolios were made up by members of the artists club who supplied the examples that were needed for the different media.

**EACH OF THE 14** schools involved in the program need four or five Picture Ladies.

The volunteers spend from 15-20 minutes in a classroom, one day a month, sharing the art works in the portfolio.

Those who wish to learn more about how the Picture Lady works are invited to call Lena Massara, chairman of the program, at 478-2814.

Massara will also take calls from school personnel who wish to learn how the program can work in their school.

"We will set up an entire presentation for a classroom to show them how it works," Mudloff said.

Members of Farmington Artists Club are by virtue of that membership automatic members of Farmington Art Foundation.

The foundation also sponsors the senior adult painting classes in Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center; the one-person shows that run each month in both Farmington and Farmington Hills branch libraries and the retail galleries that are operated in cooperation with the libraries.

Currently members are getting ready for their spring art exhibit, set this year for Friday-Sunday, April 13-15, in Mercy Center.



Picture Lady time for first graders in Our Lady of Sorrows School is a joint effort between volunteers from Farmington Art Foundation and the school's fine arts teacher Mary Ellen Doman.

## Japanese art on display

The exhibit of Japanese art is now on display in Farmington Community Center is the work of Mary Bowman. The Farmington Hills resident learned the art of Sumi-E from Zen masters in Japan, then introduced the techniques of the Oriental brush painting to residents throughout southern Michigan in classes, workshops and seminars.

Bowman's regular classes in brush painting are given in the center and will resume for the 10th consecutive year this fall.

Her notecards, printed from her original works, have been on sale in I Browse Bookstore since 1981.

Outlets have expanded to include galleries in Des Moines, Iowa; Kalamazoo, Pontiac and Ozawa Bonsai Garden in Davidsburg. In addition, shops in Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York City carry her note paper.

The exhibit will remain, decorating the halls of the center on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile, until mid-March.