Daughters examine their mothers' lives

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

Harriett Nelson provided an unflappable presence and cookies with milk after school. June Cleaver wore pearls every day and in bad moments confessed, "Ward, I'm worried about the Beaver."

For many growing up in the 1950's, these television characters, women who devoted equal attention to the minutia and the momentous in family life, symbolized some aspects of motherhood. Mom came perilously close to becoming an icon representing all that should be right with the world.

Between mothers and daughters, especially, there comes a time when each must at least make a move toward accepting the other as an adult. Some make the transition. For others, personalities and long held but disappointed expectations make it impossible.

Handling the situation is the focus of a one-day workshop "For Daughters Only" set for 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, June 15, in Oakland University's Oakland Center near Rochester. Coordinated by Roberta Dalley of OU's Continuing Center, the day is devoted to examining the relationship between mother and daughter.

"We focus on seeing mom as a human being instead of seeing her in the role of mother — seeing her as most people see her," said Dalley.

In the beginning, tiny daughters see their mother as few others may. "When daughters are small they worship their mothers and their fathers. Their mother can be the whole world to them," Dalley said.

"When they become preteens, they begin to break away from their mothers. It can be hard for the mother to experience this breaking away. Then when the daughter is in her teens, mother can't do anything right.

HIGH expectations held by both sides, perhaps even from the time of the daughter's infancy continue to color the relationship.

"Some mothers can't leave daughters alone. They're always picking," Dalley said. Their aspirations, their hopes for things that perhaps they didn't accomplish are wrapped up in their daughters. They want their daughters to be the best — the best-looking, the most polite, the brightest."

Such heartwrenching hopes can be the source of continued friction between the two. An example of the situation was used by Berke Breathed in one of his "Bloom County" comic strips. It drives home Dalley's point.

A mother and daughter sit side by side. The mother looks over at her offspring and begins " Why don't you wear a little makeup?"

"Aw mom," the daughter cringes.

"Are you allergic to makeup ? Why don't you get your hair done ?" (Searches in her purse for a newspaper clipping) "Look at this hairdo Marie Osmond has. And she's pretty."

By this time, the daughter has been reduced to defensively wrapping her arms around herself.

"At least," the mother concludes. "At least, let me bleach your mustache."

Often, such irritating moments recede as the daughter matures.

"But as daughters mature, they see their mothers in a different light," she said.

As the mother ages, subtle changes occur in her relationship with her daughter. Roles held for almost a lifetime begin to slowly switch. "Usually daughters end up taking care of their aging parents, helping them with the shopping and decision-making," Dalley said. Usually such responsibilities aren't assumed by a son.

For many women, a part of achieving full maturity lies in examining their relationship with their mothers and the expectations it has led them to harbor. Sometimes this searching continues long after the mother's death.

"A lot of mothers and daughters want to communicate in a different way than before. Most of the problems come down to communication. Lots of women make a lot of assumptions about their mothers without checking it out first," Dalley said. "Then they incorporate their assumptions and act on them."

MESSAGES about a woman's role in life which 4-year-old daughters receive through their mothers' words and actions lie fallow until adulthood. Now grown, the daughter must cope with the reality of her role as well as expectations and obligations she perceived as a woman's role when she was a child.

Other childhood expectations may complicate matters. Thirty years ago, television mothers kept immaculate homes and never raised their voices. "How come no one ever lost their temper?" Dalley asked in an amazed tone.

Some women who stayed home with their children raised daughters who didn't follow that pattern and instead went to work.

"The day is gone when a woman doesn't have to work. I think it's a luxury to be able to stay at home," Dalley said. She herself, raised three daughters before returning to work. "I think it was something I decided to do when I was 7 years old," she said.

Mothers of grown daughters may sometimes come to grips with the fact that their daughters are pursuing a style of motherhood in a way that's different than theirs. Dalley encourages women to talk about problems that arise between mother and daughter when the daughter elects to become a working mother.

Music, song and dance make up folk festival

More than two dozen musicians, singers, storytellers and dance groups from across southern Michigan and Ontario will perform at this year's Ann Arbor Festival of Folk Song and Dance.

The festival begins Saturday night, June 23, with a square and contra dance featuring the Reed City String Band. The dance will run from 8-11:30 p.m. in Forsythe Intermediate School at 1655 Newport Road. Beginners are welcome, and all dances will be taught by a caller.

The performance portion of the festival will run from noon to dusk Sunday, June 24, on the grounds of historic Cobblestone Farm, a restored 1840 homestead. Tours of the farmhouse will be available. The grounds are located at 2781 Packard.

Folk music from around the world, kwith an emphasis on British and American tunes, ballads and blues, will be played on fiddles, banjos, mandolins, guitars, concertinas and bagpipes, among other instruments. Festival-goers will have a choice among simultaneous performances at two stages and a dance area.

Among this year's musicians will be: Jay Stilelstra, Ann Arbor's composer of two folk musicals, "North Country Opera" and "The Prodigals," in a rare solo performance; Rich and Maureen DelGrosso from Troy, well known for their wide-ranging repertoire and Rich's unique bottleneck mandolin playing; Sandor Slomovitz, half of Michigan's most popular fid duo, Gemini; and Lady of The Lake, East Lansing's eclectic, three-woman string band.

Dance groups will include Ann Arbor Morris and Sword, performing colorful ritual dances from England, and the Star Crossed Cloggers, demonstrating the spirited clog steps of the southern Appalachians.

Admission is $3 for the Saturday dance, $5 for Sunday's festival or $8 for both. For more information, interested persons are welcome to call (313) 769-1052 or (313) 665-0568.

The festival is sponsored by the Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance, a division of the Peter Mattis Memorial Fund. Profits from the festival go toward the continuing support of folk music in Ann Arbor.

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48018

TO: The owners of the following properties:

Supervisor's Plat No. 15
Lots E. 244' of 21, E. 244' of 24, E. 244' of 35, E. 303.5' of 36, 38 through 48, 50 through 63, plus parcel numbers 22-22-35-201-049, 050 and 051.

Please take notice that sanitary sewer service is available for connection to your property. Section 14.050(3) of the City Code of the City of Farmington Hills requires all structures within two hundred (200) feet of an available sanitary sewer system to connect to the system within twelve (12) months of the date of this notice. Failure to comply with the above-referenced City Code will subject you to a judicial mandate to connect and/or misdemeanor penalties. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, contact the Department of Public Services at 474-6115, extension 224.

FLOYD A. CAIRNS
City Clerk

Publish: June 21, 1984

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Farmington Hills Summer 1984 Tax Statements are payable from July 1, 1984 through August 31, 1984. 4% penalty added on September 1, 1984 plus ½% interest per month on unpaid balance.

City Hall Office will be open for payment of taxes 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with the following exception:

Wednesday, July 4, 1984, closed all day

For taxpayers' convenience a night depository, located on the east wall of the front courtyard, is available for after hours payments. Also, tax payments may be made at any Michigan National Bank. They will accept tax payments until 3:00 p.m., August 31, 1984.

Whether you pay your taxes in person, through the mail, or by night depository, be sure to return only the TOP PORTION of the tax bill. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

Applications for deferment of 1984 taxes will be available at the City of Farmington Hills Treasurer's Office. If your income for 1983 did not exceed $10,000.00 and you are a paraplegic, quadriplegic, senior citizen, eligible serviceman, eligible veteran, eligible widow, blind, totally or permanently disabled, your application must be filed with the City of Farmington Hills Treasurer's Office no later than September 15, 1984. Summer taxes that are deferred will be payable along with winter taxes no later than Tuesday, February 15, 1985.

By law, PAYMENTS BY MAIL are recorded by the Treasurer on the date actually received. Payments received after August 31, 1984, will be returned with added penalty.

CHARLES D. ROSCH
Finance Director/Treasurer

Publish: June 14, 21, 28 and 23

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR PUBLIC HEARING
June 18, 1984

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council on June 18, 1984 at 7:30 P.M. Members present, Aniloar, Dolan, Dudley, Soronen, Williams and Wolf. Absent: Alkateeb. Others present: City Manager Savage, City Clerk Cairns, Assistant City Manager Costick, City Attorney Poehlman and Planning Consultant Coates.

Introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-315 (ZR 27-12-83) to rezone 3.69 acres of land east of intersection of Grand River and Ten Mile from LI-1 to B-3 was adjourned.

Council denied introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-324 (ZR 10-2-84) to rezone property at 25603 Middlebelt Road from RA-1 to RC-2.

Introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-327 (ZR 13-2-84) to rezone property on the north side of Northwestern Highway, between Inkster and Wellington, from RA-1A to OS-3 was withdrawn.

Council denied introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-330 (ZR 14-2-84) to rezone property at 30303 and 30347 Overdale Court from RA-1A to OS-3.

Council denied introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-331 (ZR 15-2-84) to rezone 11.5 acres on west side of Orchard Lake Road, north of Park Hill Blvd from RA-2 to OS-1.

Council approved introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-332 (ZR 18-2-84) to rezone property at 28564 Orchard Lake Road from RA-1 to OS-2.

Council approved introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-333 (ZR 19-2-84) to rezone Lots 117 and 155 of Regal Orchards Subdivision from RA-4 to OS-1.

Council approved introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-334 (ZR 20-2-84) to rezone Lot 20 of Oakland Hills Orchard Subdivision from RA-2 to OS-2.

Council approved introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-335 (ZR PC 20-2-84) to rezone Lot 18 of Oakland Hills Orchard Subdivision from RA-2 to OS-2.

Council approved introduction of Zoning Map Amendment C62-336 (ZR 21-2-84) to rezone the following property in Farmington Heights Subdivision: Lots 12 and 13 from RA-4 to B-3, Lots 14 thru 18 from RA-4 to P-1 and Lots 19 thru 25 from RA-4 to OS-1.

Council approved vacation of 20 foot alley which abuts Lots 12, 13, 14 and 15 on the north and Lot 11 on the south of Sunnyvale Subdivision, contingent upon entire alley being reserved as a full width utility easement. Vacation 2-1984.

Council approved utility easements approximately 531 feet on Yorkshire Road in Kensington Gardens Subdivision in Section 35. Vacation 3-1984.

Council approved request of residents of West Franklin Estates Subdivision to change the name of Pearridge to Pear Ridge (two words) in Section 3.

Council approved changing the name of Lyman Road to Old Homestead Subdivision to: East Lyman Road, West Lyman Road and West Lyman Court in Section 17.

Enactment of Ordinance No. C-13-84 was approved amending the liquor license approval provisions of Chapter 33 of City Code. Council also approved the summary for publication.

Council introduced Ordinance C-14-84 adding a new Chapter of Part I of the City Code regarding tax exemption for the Flanner Center Association's housing project for the elderly.

Mrs. Dolan requested that the Mayor appoint two members to the Planning Commission as soon as possible due to summer vacations coming up.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

CHARLES H. WILLIAMS, Mayor
FLOYD A. CAIRNS, City Clerk

Publish: June 21, 1984

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