

community calendar

● PALS

Monday, Jan. 14: Testing of 4- and 5-year-olds to qualify for PALS (Potentially Able Learners), an enrichment program sponsored by Farmington Public Schools, continues through Jan. 18. Persons wishing to have their child tested can make an appointment by calling Fairview Early Childhood Center, 626-8335.

● BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Monday, Jan. 14: Blood pressure screening and follow-up are offered from 1-4 p.m. in Belford Hospital's Education Center, Classroom C, 28050 Grand River. No charge.

● 'PIANO IMPROVISATION'

Monday, Jan. 14: "Piano Improvisation," lecture and demonstration for those of general musical interest and in particular to pianists wishing to improve their improvisational skills, at 7:30 p.m. daily in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile. No charge, but reservations are requested by calling the library, 553-0300.

● 'LIFE AFTER MOTHERING'

Monday, Jan. 14: "Life After Mothering," workshop led by Dr. Judith Goren from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Reservations, at \$20 each, taken in the center.

● G.E.D. TESTING

Monday, Jan. 14: Registrations taken for G.E.D. (General Education Diploma) testing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, through Jan. 31 in Clarenceville School Board office, 20210 Middlebelt. Fee of \$10 required at time of registration.

● PRESCHOOL ART

Monday, Jan. 14: Students in Farmington Co-Op Preschool show their art in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road. Display remains through Jan. 30.

● SYMPHONY AND LUNCH

Tuesday, Jan. 15: Registration deadline for Detroit Symphony Coffee Concert followed by lunch in Renaissance Center when bus leaves Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College parking lot at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 1. Package price is \$22. Reservations taken in Farmington Community Center, on Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile Road.

● ADULT EDUCATION

Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 15, and 23: Registration for all adult education classes offered by Clarenceville School District 7: 8:30 p.m. each night in Clarenceville High School lobby, Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile.

● 'COOKING WITH A BLENDER'

Tuesday, Jan. 15: "Cooking With a Blender," lecture and demonstration by Judy Antikahn, who makes dishes utilizing the blender, at 10 a.m. in Farmington Community Center. Fee is \$10 with in-person registration in the center on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile.

● 'SELF-AWARENESS THROUGH LOSS'

Tuesday, Jan. 15: "Self-Awareness Through Loss," workshop led by Lynda Clark designed for the survivor of a traumatic event which alters a life style at 7:30 p.m. in Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile. Fee is \$7 with in-person registration in the center.

● PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tuesday, Jan. 15: Farmington Area Jaycees annual Prayer Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. at Glen Oaks Golf Club, 13 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt. Breakfast speaker is John Gross of WXYZ-TV. Reservations are \$7, taken by Larry Greg, 471-7150 during business hours, or 553-0077 in the evenings.

● 'SWEATSHIRT APPLIQUE'

Wednesday and Friday, Jan. 16 and 18:

"Sweatshirt Applique," one-session workshop begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday and Friday in The Magic Needle, 35125 Grand River. Registration taken by calling the shop, 471-1077.

● SUCCESS IN BROADCASTING

Wednesday, Jan. 16: "Succeeding in Broadcasting," program led by Vicki Marlon of Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts, designed for young adults considering a career in this field at 7 p.m. in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile. No charge.

● BAND BOX WORKSHOP

Thursday, Jan. 17: Participants create a band box in three hour workshops which begin at 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. in Farmington Community Center. Registration information given by calling the center, 477-8404.

● CHAMBER LUNCH

Thursday, Jan. 17: Michael Glusac, director of government affairs for Chrysler Corp., is the after-luncheon speaker for Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce meeting which begins at noon in Farmington Holiday Inn. Reservations at \$10 each taken by calling the chamber, 474-3440.

● MODELING

Saturday, Jan. 19: Modeling techniques taught from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by Marlene Coffey in Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile. Fee is \$30 with in-person registration in the center.

● INSULATED SHADES

Saturday, Jan. 19: One-session workshop teaches how to create "Warm Windows Insulated Shades" at 10:30 a.m. in The Magic Needle, 35125 Grand River. Preregistration is necessary by calling the shop, 471-1077. Workshop repeated Jan. 26.

● 'SNOOPY'

Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 19-20: "Snoopy" produced by Peanut Butter Players is preceded by lunch at 1:30 p.m. in Genesis Theatre, Mercy High School, 11 Mile and Middlebelt Road. Package price is \$15. Tickets are \$5 available by calling the theater, 559-3893. Children's luncheon theater continues weekends through Feb. 22-23.

● 'CREATING A FAMILY'

Sunday, Jan. 20: "Husband-Wife Relationship" begins "Creating a Family" film series at 3 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. in Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church, on 10 Mile, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook in Novi. Five-part series co-sponsored with Hope Lutheran Church. No charge. Baby-sitting services offered.

● SUPER BOWL, BUFFET

Sunday, Jan. 20: Buffet and viewing the Super Bowl on an 8-foot TV screen begins at 4 p.m. in VFW Post 2269, on Orchard Lake Road, north of Grand River. Tickets are \$4, in advance by calling Sue Szepepanik, 471-5642, or at the door.

● 'SKATE TO BEAT DIABETES'

Sunday, Jan. 20: "Skate to Beat Diabetes," skateathon to benefit American Diabetes Association.

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retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Dad — man to remember

A remarkable life came to an end just a week before Christmas. My father died at age 92, after a time among us full of years, full of respect, and especially full of love.

I've written before in this space about the wonderful man the world knew as Harold Hyde and we knew as Dad and Grandpa. Never wrote enough, though. I know I never can fit his spirit into a few columns of type, but I'll give it my best shot.

My brother and sister-in-law and I stood beside his casket after I flew to Michigan, receiving those who came to pay their respects. Not all that many; when you reach 92 you've outlived most of those who knew you well.

But the comments were memorable. "The kindest man I ever knew." "Never a bad word for anyone." "A true gentleman — with the accent on the gentle." "He never complained."

ALL WERE TRUE, we agreed in the family, except maybe the one about bad words. Long ago Dad vented a lot of them against FDR and the New Deal. In every other respect he had only tolerance and compassion.

Certainly he never complained. Not when he worked for a pittance to support his family during the Depression. Bringing home every evening a pack of work to be slaved over far into the night after baths, bedtime stories and homework assistance were completed.

Not when argumentative and sometimes uncooperative children made life difficult. Not when money was terribly scarce. Even when our mother died 25 years ago; he was grief-stricken but never self-pitying. Later, in his second marriage, he was kind, gentle, almost fanatically attentive to our stepmother.

MEMORIES OF Dad are much with me now. I think of the stories he used to invent for me and the dollhouse he almost finished just before dawn one

Christmas morning. I remember his pride in his Navy son and in the little son who showed such musical talent. He had pride even in the liberal-thinking daughter who went into newspaper work.

I think back, too, to the help he gave his own father and aunts and brothers and sisters. I recall the devotion always in his eyes when he looked on the two women he married. I remember the special bond that developed between him and the granddaughter who was a baby when my mother died. I think of the fun times he gave all his grandchildren.

And I treasure another memory that goes back only to last September. Dad was then was in a nursing home, where the staff loved him. He couldn't see or hear or talk much, and he rarely responded except to say he didn't hurt and he didn't need anything.

But that day our minister-daughter and I sat beside him, each holding a hand and singing along with hymns she had put on a tape for him. Dad started singing, all the hymns, all the way through. And later my nephew placed his baby daughter on Grandpa's lap and the appreciation was mutual. She held his finger and rubbed his cheek with a small hand. He kissed her head repeatedly.

AT DAD'S funeral service, the minister quoted a friend of fairly recent years who had remarked that "every family should have a Harold Hyde."

I agree, but I must disappoin the rest of the world. There are no more Harold Hydes. I am positive I'll never know anyone like him.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for Observer Newspapers for 16 years. She and her husband, Joe, have retired to Florida, where she writes Retirement Memos.

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