

'Before enrolling a tot, visit the preschool,' says teacher-director

Mothers who are going to be shopping for a school for their tots to attend next fall are going to find a mixed bag offering, with mixed philosophies, directions and concerns.

As to philosophies, the woman who wants her child to know the multiplication tables before kindergarten is not the same woman who wants a school that stresses stimulating the imagination.

As to concerns, many parents may well be concerned with mental well being and physical safety, stemming from preschool teachers and directors who are now facing charges of abuse that have been in the news over the last few months.

"Before you select any preschool arrangement, I would suggest you ask friends who have had a child enrolled in that school, call around, you'll find someone you know that can give you first-hand advice about her experience," said Mary Lou Grant, who is teacher and director for Farmington

Co-operative Preschool. "You'll feel much more secure in the selection process. And I would highly recommend that you and your child visit the school for first-hand observation."

"We welcome any and all drop-in visitors. Whenever you come you'll find we have created a comfortable combination of teacher and parents to make preschool a fun and secure learning adventure," she said.

THE CO-OP preschool is an alternative to the traditional drop-off system.

"The preschool decision is a big one, but working side by side with your child an average of two days a month, and knowing that other loving parents are with him or her the rest of the month, makes the transition from home to school environment a smooth one," Grant said.

"Belonging to a co-op may take a little more time and a little more effort, but the experience is so gratifying for both parent and child," she said.

In Farmington Co-op, there can be as many activities going on in the school as there are children. The program offers a wide variety of physical, mental, social and academic activities.

"The facilities stimulate a role play and inventive activities," Grant said. "At this age a child's work is his or her play. And through this work-play they learn how to share, verbalize differences and generally socially acceptable behavior."

The two-hour sessions are broken up into one hour of personal choice, and many projects to take home, and another hour of group activities, snacks, stories, songs and outside on the playground activities.

"Within the two hours there is enough activity to meet every child's need physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and academic," Grant said.

FARMINGTON Co-op is located in Universalist-Unitarian Church, on Halsted Road, north of Grand River, and is licensed for children from 2 1/2 to 6 years of age.

"We encourage parents and their children to drop in, any time. Appointments are not necessary, but it would be wise to call ahead of time because we do have special outings, or field trips from time to time," Grant said.

For times when classes are in session, parents are invited to call Betty Page, 477-5116.

Visitors will not be sitting in on any class of formal teaching, but much learning takes place just the same, in a comfortable, conversational manner. I do not stress teaching, but we do teach in a fun, subtle way," she said.

People who have an affinity for gardening and all its facets have a grand relationship. As an illustration, several years ago we had a wonderful garden center in a store, owned and operated by Jack Ball.

Many a time about 11 p.m. while I was working at my typewriter, I would receive a telephone call from Jack Ball who was writing his newspaper advertisement giving gardening advice.

He would say, "Alice, help me out, I have hit a dry well."

So after about 10 minutes of conversation, he would say, "I guess I have a story, Alice."

Needless to say, was also enriched by the late-night conversation.



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

An old memo reminds me of one of our conversations in September, 1961, where he said, "I have found that 5-10-5 is the perfect fertilizer formula for feeding bulbs in the early spring."

ANOTHER TIDBIT was, "Is he have a hot dry summer, there will be a poor crop the next year unless an abundance of water is supplied."

Another quotation from our late-evening garden chats, "Bulbs placed on the east side of the house will give the best performance because bulbs like an afternoon shade."

Why didn't I find this memo from Jack Ball before I had done so many years of gardening?

Recently, I reviewed the booklet by Brooklyn Botanic Gardens relative to the selection of flowering trees. This category of plant brings to mind the many possibilities for an accent of beauty in a rear garden area. When planting an ornamental tree, first study the light factor.

A flowering tree with a beautiful circular flower bed can be as striking as a work of art in a garden. You don't necessarily need to always use the circle flower bed form. It could be a kidney shaped if such would be appropriate to the topography.

IF YOU OPT to use a kidney shape, the smaller part of the form could hold a boulder, tying in the accent of flowers and the tree itself. If your landscaping time is limited, you could extend the length of the kidney-shape bed, maybe giving it a curve. And it could have a collection of flowers in it

from early spring to fall, highlighted by the flowering tree which would provide a never-to-be-forgotten accent.

Another idea using flowering trees might be that if your land space at the back of the property permits, make a wide loop with maybe three flowering crabs of the same kind. In this half-circle, and within the form of the loop, place a white bench. Be sure and try to develop trunks of equal height and similar form to complete the beauty picture.

This is the month to get fired up about new garden ideas. Be sure to plan on an exciting new idea, whether large or small, so you can say to a visiting friend: "You must see the new addition to my garden."

PERSONALLY, I can get excited just thinking how much fun it is to go to the Pontiac or Royal Oak farmers markets early on a Saturday morning.

We have excellent local sources for plant material. And remember, if the grower or retail outlet doesn't have just the color you want or the category of plant to suit you, many of them will secure it for you.

Gardeners are pleased to learn that certain years are dedicated to the promotion of specific plants, 1985 has been proclaimed as the year for wild flowers.

At Cranbrook house at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 27 there will be an interesting program. The well known Jane Kohring will share her knowledge and slide photographs of wildflowers.

Admission is \$1 and local wild flower fanciers are welcome to attend.

Retirement is subject for seminar

"Practicing for Retirement," a three-part lecture series for those nearing retirement, begins at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in the Farmington Community Center. The sessions will be led by Ruthan Brodsky, for a fee of \$20.

The classes include planning for leisure time and housing, health maintenance, changing family relations, financial and legal planning, and use of community resources.

Registration is taken by calling the center, 477-8404.

new voices

MR. AND MRS. DANIEL GRAHAM of Farmington announce the birth of their daughter Michelle Lynn, born Feb. 23 in Providence Hospital, Southfield.

The infant has a sister, Heather Marie. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Graham of Livonia and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Glascock of Lexington, Mich.

Jews include message 'Matzah of Hope' in Passover rites

On the evening of Friday, April 5, the first seder night of the festival of Passover, tens of thousands of American Jewish families will include as part of their Passover ceremonial a reading of the "Matazh of Hope" which recalls the fate of the Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience.

For some years now, the Soviet KGB has hounded Jews who fight for the right to be with their families in Israel.

Like the pharaohs of old, the Kremlin is under the impression that the human spirit can be held down; like the Jews in Egyptian bondage thousands of years ago, tens of thousands of Soviet Jews are struggling for the right to a homeland in Israel and to practice the faith of their fathers.

In recent years, the door to leaving the Soviet Union has almost been shut. In 1970, the Soviets

permitted an average of 4,000 Jews to leave each month; in 1984 and 1985, less than 100 a month have been permitted to leave, and the Soviet propaganda machinery grinds out messages of prejudice and anti-Semitism daily.

This past year, the world has witnessed a vicious crackdown on Jewish cultural activists. A number of those who

have been involved in the teaching of Hebrew, Jewish culture and Jewish observance have been arrested, beaten and sentenced to prison.

The "Matazh of Hope" is almost a modern reenactment of the exodus from Egypt.

The message to the Kremlin is the same message as that in the story of Passover: "Let my people go!"

Getting settled made simple.

New-town dilemmas fade after a WELCOME WAGON call.

As your hostess, it's my job to help you make the most of your new neighborhood. Our shopping areas. Community opportunities. Special attractions. Lots of facts to save you time and money. Plus a basket of gifts for your family. I'll be listening for your call.

Welcome Wagon



CALL 356-7720

Your kitchen is on fire.

Call 477-5116

Dhurrie

from India

...one of hundreds at

Best 543-5300

WE WILL BUY
Your fine jewelry and precious gems. Immediate payment. Fully insured consignment arrangements available. By Appointment • 642-2650
GREENSTONE'S
Craze of fine jewelry for over 55 years
528 N. Woodward • Birmingham • Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30

Dhurrie
from India
...one of hundreds at
Best
543-5300

We Only Look Expensive!

SEE FOR YOURSELF!

Charles FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
222 E. HARRISON
ROYAL OAK **399-8320**
OPEN MON.-SAT. 10-5 • FRIDAY 'TIL 8 P.M.

"We Discount Luxury!"

EXCELLENCE

You demand it of yourself, expect it from your upholsterer. At A.E. Hoskinson's, we give you excellence in upholstery.

A.E. Hoskinson

EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY
3337 AUBURN ROAD, AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN 48306-3113

Atlantic Drapery Shoppe

DRAPERY SALE
Labor \$8 Per Panel

Special Prices Available on Drapery, Slipcover & Upholstery Fabrics
BEST PRICES ON VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL BLINDS

Custom Spreads
Custom Slipcovers (Labor Special)
CHAIR - \$69.90
SOFA - \$87.90

360 E. MAPLE • BIRMINGHAM • 647-2020/647-0721

Spring LAYAWAY SALE

LAYAWAY SALE PRICES NOW IN EFFECT
On our entire 1985-1986 inventory. No interest or carrying charges until Fall.

Duty and Sales Tax Refunded. Full Premium on American Furds.

Furs by Arpin

Canadian Fur Specialists for Over 60 Years

484 Pellissier Street
Downtown Windsor
1-519-253-5612
HOURS: Daily 9-5:30 Mon.-Sat.

Spring Summer '85

VILLAGE SHOE INN

Always 20% to 60% Off

East Detroit 21021 Kely Road 778-7640
Farmington 33224 G4 River 477-7105
Clawson 250 E. 14 M. 589-3434
Warren 12 ML Schoerher 401 Walnut Blvd. 771-1365
Rochester 20000 E. 14 M. 652-2095

Hours: Mon. to Thurs. & Sat. 10-6, Fri. 10-9, Sun. 12-5