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Know thyself

'Beyond Dreams' is next study for Edgar Cayce researches

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

A DAYLONG SYMPOSIUM called "Beyond Dreams" will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, in Southfield's Ramada Inn, brought to

the area from the Association for Research and Enlightenment and arranged by Farmington Hills resident Dorothy Gordon, who is the lecture and symposium chairman for the ARE Michigan Council.

The ARE, in Virginia Beach, Va., is based on the readings given by

psychic Edgar Cayce (1877-1946) while he said he was in an altered state of consciousness very similar to deep meditation. The association's library contains copies of 14,256 readings, filed and cross-indexed under more than 10,000 subjects.

The library is open for public perusal and the material is studied both by those who visit the association, and those in "thousands of study groups all over the country," Gordon said.

"It is all a matter of getting to know yourself. It has certainly been a positive influence in my life," said Gordon, who hosts a study group in her home as well as having brought symposiums to Michigan with titles such as "Healing," "Remembering Past Lives" and "Mysteries of the Mind."

"We're on a search for learning who we are," said Joanne Gregory, a West Bloomfield resident and president of ARE's Michigan Council.

"OUR TEXTBOOK is called 'A Search for God,' which is pretty self-explanatory, and though it is based on Cayce's work, we are not a cult. Cayce was very determined that the association not bear his name. He wanted people to study the material that came through him. He was insistent that no cult or sect or ism, no system or revelation be permitted to go out from the Cayce records," Gregory said.

The textbook, briefly, gives step-by-step lessons in soul development, so that through meditation and applying the lessons, one learns right from wrong.

Gregory was involved in a home study group that was meeting once a month in Southfield when she learned about Gordon's study group that was meeting once a week.

"That's quite a commitment, opening your house that often for study, and I was eager to learn," Gregory said. "I had studied numerology, astrology, trying to find that inner person. Maybe it was because I was a foster child that the drive was so strong. And I wanted to find out what this talent I had was all about."

A member of Farmington Artists Club, Gregory said she wanted to know if she was painting for the right reasons.

"It's so easy to get caught up in getting more money. In the competition, in the recognition. That's all ended now. The ego isn't operating any more. I'm painting now to bring joy and beauty into other people's lives," she said. "I have a whole new direction which can be summed up by saying it is a freeing up of the spirit. As Cayce was the instrument

to allow information to flow through him, I (now) align myself up to receive my gift of drawing."

GORDON WAS introduced to Cayce's work through a chance reading of Jess Stern's "Edgar Cayce, the Sleeping Prophet" 15 years ago while she was a student at Oakland Community College.

"I was raised in a very orthodox religion. Nothing like this was even discussed in my home, and at the time I read the book I was busy concentrating on getting my degree," Gordon said.

"But it seemed so natural, so right. There was no question in my mind that this was right for me," she said.

Since that time Gordon has made eight trips to the ARE in Virginia Beach to attend the summer lecture programs.

"All of the more than 14,000 readings are being computerized now so that with the help of electronics they can be tapped into from all over the country," she said. "There is still so much to be learned. Everything that is recorded is still not totally explained. All of the readings have been in print form for a number of years, for distribution, but with the computer access now we can speed up learning about the concepts in the readings."

The computerization project is being done by the ARE as a tribute to Gladys Davis Turner, who died early this year. Turner was Cayce's secretary who committed her life to transcribing the readings, and in so doing became a living repository of detail concerning them.

GREGORY PRESIDES over the four-member ARE Michigan Council, which in turn oversees two ARE regional representatives and seven area chairmen in the state who are responsible for developing and perpetuating the home study groups.

People who wish to learn about the ARE are invited to attend a series of six lectures, which is repeated at 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of every month in Oak Park Community Center.

The lecture subjects are medicine, health, the Bible, dreams, reincarnation and ESP.

"The series gives a good foundation of what we're all about," Gregory said. "There is no charge for the series or to attend home study groups. Love offerings are accepted to support the work on the beach."

Profits made from books and literature, the fall symposium, periodicals, retreats or lectures that Gordon arranges for the Michigan Council



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Joanne Gregory, a West Bloomfield resident and a member of Farmington Artist Club, talks about her work as chair of the Michigan Council for the Association of Research and Enlightenment, based on the life work of psychic Edgar Cayce.

are all turned over for the continued research done by the ARE.

People wishing information on the association, how to contact a home study group in their area, the lecture

series, or reservations for the fall symposium, are invited to call Michigan ARE regional representatives, Rudy and Georganne Barden, 773-3300.



Joanne Gregory's life has evolved since her affiliation with the Association for Research and Enlightenment and is manifested in her art work. The picture above, called "Grandpa," is executed in stark realism and is an example of her former work. The picture below, called "Spirit of flowers," is the type of work she is doing now.



'Health Care in '80s' program opens OWL season

Margaret Walker, incoming president for the Farmington Chapter of OWL (Older Women's League), has arranged to bring Francine Pegues to the community for a program called "Health Care in the '80s" to open the new season.

Pegues is manager of the state's Health Care Network and is responsible for all of the activities necessary for the development, implementation and operation of all government-contracted health-related programs, including Medicare.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, in Farmington Branch Library, State and Liberty streets. The chapter's monthly programs, generally concerning a subject pertinent to middle and older women, is always offered as a public

service without charge to all interested people.

"We've asked her to talk about the changing health care system. Medicare, the HMOs and all of those variations that come to us with letters instead of names that are now being called the 'alphabet agencies.' We specifically want her to talk about DRGs," Walker said.

DRG stands for Diagnostic Related Groups. That set of alphabet letters came into use through Medicare. The DRG spells out what "family" a particular illness or medical problem falls within. The "family" spells out how many days in the hospital and how much money is allowed for the patient.

"Of the few cases I know personally about, it doesn't allow much, or anything for variables. I understand it is causing some problems. If not downright hardships," Walker said. "At any rate we need to understand it better."

WALKER COMES takes the presidency of Farmington OWL after a four-year membership in the local chapter of the national organization that will celebrate its sixth birthday in October.

"I have always felt that OWL was an idea whose time had finally come," Walker said of the only organization in the country that focuses exclusively on the concerns of middle and older women. "We're in on this at the grass roots level to play an important role in improving the life of older women and we're the ones who are going to reap the reward of seeing these improvements come about."

Nationally OWL works to provide

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— Margaret Walker

mutual support for its members, to achieve economic and social equity for its constituents, and to improve the image and status of the older women.

In Walker's words, "It bridges the gap between women's groups and organizations representing the aging to achieve these goals."

OWL's targets are the correction of inequities in the Social Security system and pension rights; access to affordable health insurance for older women; attaining support services for the primary providers of the chronically ill within the family, which in most cases are women; easier

access to jobs for older women; and working to redirect national budget cuts that disproportionately hurt women.

OF HER NEW office, Walker says, "It's a chance to make a worthwhile contribution. A chance to help work out the inequities."

Assuming the office of president is not new to Walker. She is a past president of the Michigan State Quarters and the National Quarters, an antique study and historical preservation society that lists about 20,000 members on its national roster.

Parents can learn how to recognize the signs of alcohol and drug abuse in children at Brighton Hospital's next community education program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2. The free program is given in the hospital's chapel.

The film, "Sons and Daughters, Drugs and Booze," will be shown to

She is a founding member of Farmington Genealogical Society and a past president of that organization, and a past president of Michigan Genealogical Council.

She most recently retired as chairman for Farmington Historical Commission. Through that tenure Walker coordinated all efforts in the conversion of the former Warner Mansion into the Farmington Historical Museum, and the most major project on the museum grounds, the Victorian gazebo.

She is now a member of the executive committee of the Oakland County Sesquicentennial Committee coordinating plans within the county for the state's 150th anniversary and was involved in the planning of Boisford Inn's 150th anniversary.

Walker authored the booklet, "Visitors Guide to Historic Boisford Inn," which deals in large part with its furnishings and will continue to head up the free tours through the inn that are offered periodically throughout Boisford's year of celebration.

Walker's vice president is Mary Barrett of Farmington Hills. Other incoming officers are Vi Altschuler of West Bloomfield, Colleen Hughes



Margaret Walker

of Livonia, Jeanne Allyn of Northville, Betty Griffin of Northville and Dorothy Diskin of Redford.

Membership inquiries are taken by Virginia Nicoll of Farmington, 474-3094.

Drug, alcohol abuse film shown Sept. 2

Brighton Hospital specializes in treating chemical dependency among adults. In response to frequent requests from parents, the hospital devotes one of its monthly

tions from the audience and explain how alcoholism and drug abuse can be treated.

The series is offered on the first Tuesday evening of each month. For a schedule of programs, contact the hospital at 227-1211, Ext. 276.

community education programs to the problem of youth substance abuse.



Francine Pegues