

Suburban Life

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Transitions

Women share their feelings on going through life's stages

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

AFARMINGTON HILLS PSYCHOLOGIST who discovered to her surprise that she wanted to stay 38 forever developed MetroVision's "Transitions" for women to air their own feelings about the changes that are taking place in their lives.

"I am tired of hearing the experts tell us how we feel, how to live and where to live when they haven't gone through the same thing — like the male doctor who is telling me how I'm going to feel when I have my first baby," said Natalie Rice of Humanistic Resources.

"It is time for a forum for the teens to talk about how they feel about their own acne and own dating problems, or the divorced woman to tell us herself about the way it is trying to get her first job after 20 years of taking care of the house. Or how does it really feel to be left with that empty nest?"

Rice describes herself as "always being an up person" who unexpectedly went through a period of depression.

"I analysed and evaluated everything in my life," she said. "I went through the whole works; mother, husband, house, work, responsibilities, going back to school, before I connected up with the fact that I was approaching my 39th birthday."

"Call it mid-life crisis, identity crisis, change of life, there are a lot of terms. No matter what you call it I was 38 and liked it. I resented that I was going to be 39," she said.

Rice is now two months away from receiving her doctorate. Her dissertation for the degree is called "What is the Experience for Those Who Perceive Themselves to be Entering Middle Age?" The research she did for the paper launched "Transitions."

RICE SAID she has had more volunteers than she can use for the panel of women that make up the program with a different subject every month. It is on at 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. every Wednesday on Channel 12.

She is into her third taping now and says she cannot imagine ever running out of subjects.

All of the subjects pertain to women for no other reason, she said, than that her dissertation pertained to women and the transitions they go through throughout their entire lives.

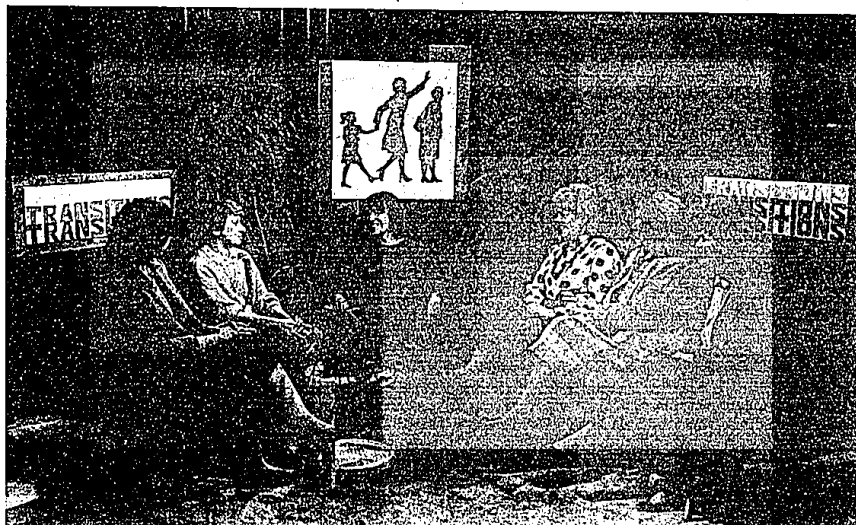
"We weren't prepared to face aging," Rice said. "We were groomed to be lovely little nymphets. When this passes by it suddenly hits us that we've never been taught to enter the next step and sometimes we don't even know what that next step is."

"We were once valued as young and sexy and we have to work our way through to mothering and nurturing and caretaking and into numerous roles, sometimes, as in the case of death or divorce, without forewarning."

In many of those cases there are paradoxes that only add to the confusion.

In the case of turning 39, Rice said, "On one hand I loved the freedom in my life I had created for

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Natalie Rice (center) leads the discussion on divorce for her show taped for MetroVision cable TV. Guests for the program who share their feelings about going through that change in

their lives are Penny Striegel and Phyllis Rice, on her left, and Joyce Ward, Lark Samouelian and Jan Deveroux, on her right.

At Botsford Inn

Homicide hosts lead sleuths through trail of scattered clues

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Michigan Governor Stevens Thomas Mason stood at the head of the receiving line while guests arrived at the ball in celebration of the territory admitted to the Union as its 26th state. He and his entourage were dressed in the most elegant of fashions that had arrived from Paris early in 1837. Revelers were offered punch, then circulated to greet their friends in the ballroom before dinner was served in a spirit of merriment in attaining the long-sought statehood.

But all was not well.

A dispute broke out at one of the tables. One of the ladies in attendance was openly accused of being "a clumsy wench" by her escort. One of the governor's bodyguards was clearly disturbed about the diamonds owned by one of the inn's guests.

Jealous lovers were in evidence. There was talk about an inheritance and bad investments. One of the guests became ill and had to leave the festivities. A party crasher accused the governor for "giving all that good farm land to Ohio."

Guests were called to form squares for the next dance, and the caller was lively calling out his dosados, but all was still not well.

Super sleuths kept alert for the next clue.

THE RE-ENACTMENT of the ball on the eve of Michigan's statehood was part of a weekend of suspense and sleuthing with Homicide Hosts Donald and Helen Olmsted.



C.D. SOUFFER/staff photographer

Governor Stevens T. Mason greets the guests who have come to the ball in celebration of Michigan's admission to the Union as its 26th state.

ed in Botsford Inn.

The Howell residents scattered clues throughout the weekend for guests to stalk their way through a scenario that began Friday night and continued through Sunday morning. Helen Olmsted is the scriptwriter. Donald Olmsted acts as master of ceremonies, and in the 1830's mode, instructed the dancers for their try with the Badger's Gavotte and the Military Scottish.

Each of the scripts the couple act out in party form are original, written to fit a specific locale or occasion and are never repeated. But all of the scripts, enacted with about a dozen actors scattered among the guests, are created for guests to match wits with guests.

And they all lead up to a Sunday morning brunch when the culprit is unmasked and the guests discover

who is the most canny prober among them as prizes are awarded for those who have best worked their way through the intricately woven plots.

A bonus for guests who pined their snooping skills in Botsford's "A Michigan Mystical Mystery Weekend" was learning a bit of the state's history.

This month Botsford and its Homicide Hosts switch from history to hauntings for "A Ghostly Weekend." We hear tell that ghosts have been summoned to walk the halls of the 151-year-old inn from March 27-29.

THE ONLY RULE for the game is to be on time.

Without a close adherence to the "Calendar of Capers" mystery weekenders might miss out on a clue or two.

The agenda advises to "check in with haste" to meet and join fellow-sleuthers for the 7 p.m. Friday reception. It advises when to be a wanderlust for those who want to see other parts of the Detroit area. It advises when to dress in costume, for those who choose. And where best to be when the clues will be coming, which is generally, but not always, during breakfasts and dinners when the sleuths are all together.

Botsford Inn, Michigan's oldest lodging facility at 2800 Grand River, celebrated its "150 Years of History and Hospitality" in 1986. Innkeeper John Anshut begins 1987 with the "Mystical Mystery Weekends" as a year of "drama and adventure."

Reservations for the package-priced weekends are made by calling Botsford Inn, 474-4800.



C.D. SOUFFER/staff photographer



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Botsford weekend guests Mary Jo Houston of Davisburg and Tina Turner of Southgate are diverted from conversation to catch a clue to the mystery plot that is enacted during dinner.

Edward Bickford, the governor's bodyguard, is concerned about the safety of jewels worn by guest Elizabeth James. The actors were among 12 hired to play out the plot of "A

Michigan Mystical Mystery." Guests in Botsford Inn turned super-sleuths through the weekend, which concluded when prizes were awarded during a Sunday morning brunch.