

Untraditional choices

Research uncovers moms' resiliency

MARGARET Taylor Smith, back home in Birmingham fresh from a two-week tour sponsored by Doubleday, the publishers of her book, "Mother, I Have Something to Tell You," scoffs when she's called a "writer."

"For this book I was a researcher — for seven long years I researched it — but I think my true calling is as a professional volunteer."

Smith, a volunteer at the Ekegas Foundation among others and the mother of four grown children, got the idea for her book from mothers like herself whose children were making "untraditional choices in their lives."

"What surprised her, she said, was how some of these women, whose children might be living in prison, on the streets, in communes or cults, or in the gay communities, had learned to cope and to accept their children all over again."

"What I was finding was that the children might not survive, but the mothers do," she said.

Smith eventually found an agent and Doubleday bought the book — or rather the research.

"They chose Jo Brans, a marvelous writer, to take what I had written and polish it for the commercial market. Jo asked for her own byline," Smith said, "and I happily agreed."

"The book came out in January and was reviewed 'quite favorably' in the New York Times. Smith took two weeks off to go on the road. The book tour took her to New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and points between."

Her big moment was an appearance on the Phil Donahue Show (on Jan. 12). Locally, she talked with Sonya Friedman on J. P. McCarthy's "Focus" show (McCarthy was in Australia for the America Cup races) and on "Kelly & Co."

Smith says the materials in her book went through six stages: shock, attention, action, detachment, autonomy and connection. "Some of it was two steps back and one step forward but they did it."

"Doubleday thought enough of the book to take out a full-page ad in last Sunday's New York Times, complete with coupon and money-back guarantee."

Smith will talk about her book at the Mount Clemens Library at noon Tuesday, March 24. The library is at 150 Cass. Call 469-0200. The talk is free and open to the public.

Coming up:

WAYNE STATE University is sponsoring a second edition of "The Third Coast," this time of contemporary poetry (no prose). Submission deadline is April 20 and the judges are three poetry



book break Mona Grigg

heavyweights: Herbert Scott, Conrad Hilberry and Michael Delp.

Fifty poets will be selected and allowed five book pages each. Applicants must be Michigan residents living and voting in the state for the past two years. There is a 15-page limit on submissions. Write to Michael Delp, Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen 49843.

THE FIFTH MID-Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show is coming up on Sunday, March 29 in the Lansing Civic Center, 505 W. Allegan. Lansing. Fifty dealers will be on hand with first editions, autographed books, books on Americana, the Civil War, Michigan history and much, much more, they say. Admission is \$1, children under 13 free. Call or write the Curious Book Shop, 307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing 48823 or call 332-0112.

UPCOMING AT THE busy, busy U-M Visiting Writers Series:

Tuesday, March 17 — Mark Strand reads in the Rackham West Conference Room at 4 p.m. Winner of the Fellowship of the Academy of American Poets, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Edgar Allan Poe Award, his collections include "The Late Hour" and "Elegy for My Father." Free.

Tuesday, March 24 — British adventure novelist Jon Marching White ("Mask of Dust" and "Death by Dreaming") reads in the Rackham West Conference Room at 4 p.m. Free.

Thursday, March 26 — Native American poet Duane Niatum reads from his works in the Hopwood Room, 1000 Angell Hall, at 4 p.m. Niatum edited "Carriers of the Dream Wheel" for Harper & Row, said to be "the most widely read book on contemporary native American poetry." Free.

And at the WSU Colloquium Poetry Series, Charles Baxter and Brian Flanagan read from their works at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 25. This continuing series meets every Wednesday at 400 State Hall on the WSU main campus. Call 577-3324 for more information.

Bestsellers of the week

FICTION

1. "Windmills of the Gods," Sidney Sheldon
2. "The Eyes of the Dragon," Stephen King
3. "Red Storm Rising," Tom Clancy
4. "It," Stephen King
5. "Outbreak," Robin Cook
6. "Night of the Fox," Jack Higgins
7. "Death Quest," L. Ron Hubbard
8. "Flight of the Intruder," Stephen Coonts
9. "Whirlwind," James Clavell
10. "Watchers," Dean R. Koontz

NON-FICTION

1. "A Season on the Brink," John Feinstein
2. "Fatherhood," Bill Cosby
3. "The Frugal Gourmet Cooks With Wine," Jeff Smith
4. "Echoes in the Darkness," Joseph Wambaugh
5. "The Rotation Diet," Martin Katan
6. "The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys," Doris Kearns Goodwin
7. "Communism," Whitley Strieber
8. "Men Who Hate Women and the Women Who Love Them," Forward and Torres
9. "His Way," Kitty Kelley
10. "Unlimited Power," Anthony Robbins

(Associated Press
(Courtesy of Time, the weekly newsmagazine))

'Close Encounters' is musical fare

David Mairs, guest conductor, will join the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra for its family concert "Close Encounters of a Musical Kind" at 3 p.m. Sunday in Plymouth Salem High School auditorium.

Mairs is the music director for the Flint Youth Symphony

Orchestra and is the assistant conductor for the Flint Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3.50 for seniors and full-time college students. Students 12th grade and under are admitted free.

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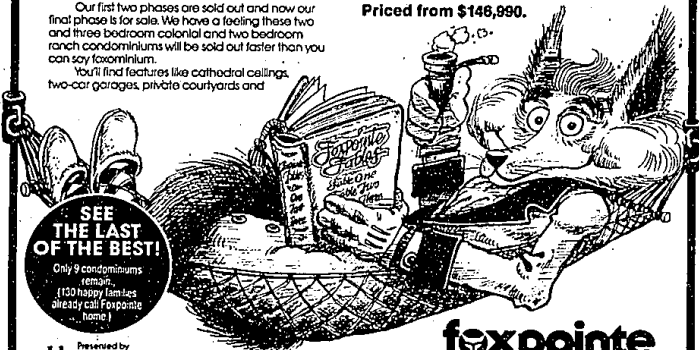
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32175 HIA, \$77,000 477-1111
34078 Cass Ct., \$115,000 477-1111
5200 E. Wight Way, \$117,800 477-1111
21713 Adlon, \$81,000 477-1111
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