

Bye-bye bifocals

Baby boomers opt for newer technology

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

The old my-arms-are-too-short joke — heard as reading material is pushed further and further away from the body in an effort to focus on the printed word — is no joke to the Baby Boomers.

"The glasses up on the forehead, the glasses down on the nose, the squinting, is one of the first telltale signs of aging and the first of the Baby Boomers — they're 32-42 now — are coming to terms with that first obvious physical sign of age," said Dr. Ronald Gluskin.

He is one of the leaders in the field of new technology which produced progressive lenses, and one of its biggest proponents. His patients span five generations, but he is now hearing from the Baby Boomers who don't want that line running through their glasses which tell the world they are wearing bifocals.

"The lenses have no seams or lines and they have a progressive power of 112 focal lengths. They are called progressive lenses because they give progressive power."

"They've been around for a while, but it's the Baby Boomers who are making the big demand for them," Gluskin said. "These 40-year olds are without a doubt the most physically fit group of future senior citizens we've ever had and they want to look it. They are the ones who are going to make bifocals passe. I think this trend is saying bye-bye bifocals."

GLUSKIN is a resident of Farmington who has offices in Livonia Consumers Optical on Farmington Road, and Family Eye Care on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

He makes it very clear that fashion is not his concern.



RANDY BOST

Dr. Ronald Gluskin's wife, Grace, acts as a model to illustrate the meticulous precision of progressive lenses, an alternative to bifocals.

"Fashion is a bonus. There isn't a designer who hasn't designed frames and they do enough of their own advertising. I'm not doing what I'm doing to make you fashionable. I'm doing this to help you get rid of stiff necks and headaches and assist you eight-to-10 hours a day on the job," he said.

Stiff necks and headaches, he said, are the most common result of having an almost incalculable number of vision ranges that one must use every day even while sitting at the

same desk.

"This is where the squinting comes in, the strain, the glasses on, the glasses off. Then the sore neck or wondering why you are so tired or so tense."

"Your choice of frames," he says wryly, "is not the answer."

The fitting for progressive frames takes more of the patient's time than for the traditional lens, much of it accomplished during the regular eye exam. And a great deal more of the doctor's time.

"I'm a private practitioner so I can take as much time as I like, and I'm glad to do it because once my patients experience the progressive lens, they are not going to have anything else," said Gluskin, who is certified to prescribe the progressive lens.

"The measuring for the lens is critical and so is measuring for the fit of the frames."

The lenses cost anywhere from \$75-100 more than the traditional ones and "in most cases will last longer," he said.

Money is topic for open meeting

Audrey Pearl, the first woman in Michigan to earn the designation of Certified Financial Planner, CFP, helps her audience in "Understanding What Your Money Can Do For You" at 7 p.m. Monday, April 4 in the Farmington Branch Library, at State and Liberty streets.

Pearl is the guest speaker for the Farmington Chapter of OWL (Older Women's League). The meeting is open to all interested persons without charge.

She believes individuals should have control over their own money, know what their money is doing for them and what it can do for them.

Pearl is a Farmington Hills resident and president of Pearl Advisory Corp. in Southfield.

She has been in the financial services industry since 1969 and was one of the founders of Southeast Michigan Chapter of the International Association for Financial Planning (IAFP).

She was one of the first to be accepted into the Registry of Financial Planning Practitioners, developed by IAFP, and is now on the national committee which reviews applica-



Audrey Pearl

tions from those who want acceptance into the registry.

As for the fluctuations in the economy and the laws, she believes that knowing or not knowing what your money can do for you is the difference between being a victim or a beneficiary of those changes.

Grant boosts funds for research contest

Farmington Historical Society announces the receipt of a cash donation from the Farmington Area Arts Commission to be used along with its funds for prize money in the 1988 "Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest."

People of all age groups may submit entries of any common format audio, visual or written material concerning original research in Farmington History.

The emphasis is on material concerning day-to-day life, material that is easily lost to future generations but, if preserved, presents an interesting and humanistic record of real-life situations. Recollections of family and friends are especially

sought since no other record may exist of their experiences.

The society encourages the submission of entries dealing with events from all time periods from the early 18th century to the 1980s. Winning entries will receive publicity, and all entries will be preserved in the Farmington Library "History Room."

Entries should be mailed to Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest, 33309 Shawwassee, Farmington 48024. They will be accepted through April 1, and winners will be announced at the society's annual dinner meeting, May 13. Prizes range from a "Best-in-Age Category" prize of \$25 to "First Overall" prize of \$100.

club circuit

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION is now taking reservations for its annual luncheon and fashion show which begins with cocktails at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 16 in Fairlane Manor, Dearborn. Fashions come from Saks Fifth Avenue in Fairlane. After luncheon speaker is John McCullough, WXYT radio show host.

Farmington residents Marilyn Huth and Care Harkins are both staff members of the association. Tickets are \$22.50, available by calling the association office, 927-7833.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS (AARP) meets for its 1988 biennial national convention May 10-12 in Detroit's Cobo Hall.

A total of 31 sessions run concurrently and are free.

For brochures, information or registration forms, write to Convention Activities Office, AARP, 1909 K Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20049.

FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB hosts "Welcome Spring," a mini-flower show beginning at noon Monday, April 4 in Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile.

Guests are invited to see the 27 flower arrangements on exhibit, at no charge, but must make reservations with Norma Harris, 553-7251.

CITIZENS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, Livonia Chapter, host a free lecture called "The Dangers of Ritual" at 7 p.m. Monday, April 4 in the Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile Road.

The lecture is delivered by Dr. Saul Margulies and Darlene Woodrich, who is director of the commission in Michigan.

Ritalin is an amphetamine-like drug prescribed to nearly four million school children who have been labeled as having attention deficit disorder, learning disability or hyperactivity. It is classified by the Drug Enforcement Administration as a "schedule II" controlled substance, which means it has a high potential for abuse and addiction.

Inquiries are taken by the commission, 471-7902.

HOPE THROUGH GRIEF, a support and discussion group for those in grief, meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 in Farmington Hills Church of Christ, 35500 11 Mile Road. Open to all interested persons.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK OF FARMINGTON meets for breakfast at 7:15 a.m. in Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile.

Speaker for the day is Doris Scharfberg. Her talk is called "Mini Vacations."

Guests are welcome but must make reservations on or before Tuesday, April 5 by calling the center, 477-8494. Fee for non-members is \$6.

Scharfberg is a graduate of Hillsdale College and a free-lance travel writer. She is the author of "The Long Blue Edge of Summer," a vacation guide to the shorelines of Michigan. She is a member of Society of Travel Writers, Travel Journalists Guild and Detroit Women Writers.

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