

club circuit

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BETHANY NORTHWEST meet for a session of square dancing at 8 p.m. Friday, April 12 in Our Lady of Sorrows Church social hall, 23615 Powers Road. Inquiries are taken by the president, 471-2708.

FARMINGTON NEIGHBORS CLUB invites guest to a luncheon and fashion show at noon, Wednesday, April 17 in Glen Oaks Country Club. Fashions will be furnished by Jacobson's. The show will be narrated by Linda Gunderson, who will give new wardrobe ideas.

Reservations must be made by or before 4 p.m. Friday, April 12 with Kay Clark, 474-6161; or Helen Benner, 474-1944.

TAU ALPHA GAMMA CHAPTER of Pi Omicron National Sorority, meets for a luncheon meeting Saturday, April 13 in The Leather Bottle Inn, Farmington Road south of Eight Mile Road.

Inquiries are taken by Charlotte Zuraw, 776-6317.

Pi Omicron is a philanthropic and educational organization dedicated to providing college scholarships to deserving young people.

FARMINGTON SINGLE PROFESSIONALS will be traveling to the Ann Arbor-Saline Antique Show

and Sale Sunday morning, April 14. Interested singles are invited to call the group's information office, 478-9181, for car pool information or a complimentary newsletter.

FARMINGTON AREA COMMUNITY WOMEN invite women who are interested in community service work and making new friends to its next informal general meeting 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 15 in The Community Center, Farmington Road north of 16 Mile Road.

Guests who are interested in attending, or those with questions about membership are invited to call Michele Paul, 477-5893.

FARMINGTON GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 in Farmington Branch Library, State and Liberty streets.

Guest speaker for the evening is David Van Gordon from Burton Genealogical Library in Detroit. He will talk on the history and new acquisitions of the library, and on Mayflower research.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

Most able leaders meet

In 1787 the states sent some of their most able leaders to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Among the great leaders were George Washington, who served as President of the convention; Benjamin Franklin, the elder statesman from Pennsylvania, whose good advice kept the convention running smoothly; James Madison, a Virginian who knew a great deal about governments and constitutional law; Alexander Hamilton of New York, who was a student of finance and government; James Wilson, who was sent by Pennsylvania to the convention, was an authority on political and legal matters; Gouverneur Morris, from Pennsylvania, was responsible for the final wording of the Constitution because of his keen mind and ability to write.

The Quakertown Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, urges the study of these famous men, and their accomplishments.

Martial art authority surprised

About 100 people gathered in Proud Lake Recreation Area early this month to surprise Sensei Peter Carbone with a party to celebrate his promotion to 6th degree black belt.

The owner and operator of Carbone's Academy of Martial Art in Farmington Hills has been titled the "Foremost Authority in Michigan in Okinawan Martial Art" by the master of the art in Okinawa.



Pick Your Pet
Out Of The
Classifieds



Society seeks dignified death

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

The Hemlock Society has only one goal — to make it legal for physicians to assist a terminally ill aging patient in his or her requested death.

The 400,000 members of the national society expect that to become a reality in Washington, the first state to put that issue before the public for a referendum vote this November.

Hemlock of Michigan was formed very late in the battle to support the option of active voluntary euthanasia for the terminally ill, but when it did, it moved fast.

The state society was born in the living room of the Farmington Hills home of Janet Good with 16 members in September 1989. Less than a year later it had a membership of more than 500.

Good gives much of the credit for the rapid growth to the publicity surrounding Dr. Jack Kevorkian assisting Janet Atkins in her death in an Oakland County Park.

"I cannot tell you how many phone calls I had every time his name was mentioned in the media," Good said. "It brought a lot of new members. Some of the calls gave me a chance to tell what The Hemlock Society is all about."

"There were stories and stories about the terrible suffering that is going on right now from relatives of the mature terminally ill who pleaded for some information, some help to end the pain. The worst were from the terminally ill themselves who begged me to send them some hemlock."

RUNNING CONCURRENTLY with the phone calls from publicity on one's right to die was Good's own dedicated efforts to spread the word about The Hemlock Society, which as founder and president of the state society is what her job is all about.

She has spoken on the subject on Bill Bonds' "Up Front" and "The Today Show," national public radio, C-span, and "to every college, group, organization, church body, ethics committee that would hear me," she said.



Janet Good

or how many want counseling or how many want to order hemlock," she said of the poison that Socrates took after he was sentenced to die in 399 B.C.

"We are not a counseling society," she said. "I cannot tell you what to do and I won't."

SHE ALSO TALKS about some of the agonizing stories she's gotten on the phone.

A very poignant plea came from a mature physician in a nearby community who had stockpiled drugs for his own suicide when the time came, but when that time came his drug life span had expired. He begged

Good to pick up a prescription he would write from his apartment and have it filled for him.

"I have a great deal of compassion for that man, a great deal, but I just couldn't bring myself to do that," she said.

Good believes she belonged to every euthanasia society in America before she learned of The Hemlock Society, formed in 1980 and headquartered in Eugene, Ore.

She has presented the society's views to an audience during the Governor's Conference on Aging; talked to the graduating nurses class at Schoolcraft College; and spoke from the pulpit of the Universal-Unitarian Church of Farmington.

The thrust of her talks are to support the society and the state legislation she expects to have passed before 2000.

"I also straighten out all the misconceptions; I can't tell you how many think we are a suicide society."

She also believes she is one of the first people ever to write a living

DEATH by Choice

will and durable power of attorney, long before Michigan took it up last November, 1990. Both concern appointing someone to make medical decisions having to do with life support devices, if the patient is unable to make the decision for him- or herself.

"All of this is bits and pieces of a tiny patchwork," she said. "We want a uniform law that gives us the right to make a decision as to when we will die, with dignity, when we are mature and terminally ill."

For reading, Good recommends "The Right to Die," published by the national society. It can be ordered for \$10, plus \$2 for postage, by calling 795-0931.

Hemlock of Michigan has four satellite groups, in Farmington Hills, Ann Arbor, Grosse Pointe and Flint. Each has its own schedule of meetings.



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