Writers from page 8A

with tap abose," Abulnar said.
"I don't like 'submit,' " Sally Davis of West Bloomfiel' asid. "It's too harsh, formal."
It's bowing to a higher power, submitting to nature, Abulnar said.

asid.

The last two lines sound like they would really be beautiful at the beginning. Stretten said.

"That's good, a good suggration," said Betty Monson, a Farmington Hills resident and director of the group.

"You could move night's peace all the way down to the end," said Gail Felker of Farmington Hills.

"Yeah, I like that," Monson said.

said.

After all the changes, Abulnar read the revised version. Monson then suggested she submit it to the Housewife-Writer's Forum

read the revised version. Monson then suggested she submit it to the Housewife-Writer's Forum magaine.

And that's the goal of these writers, to find a publication that will publish their work. Being published is not a requirement to be a member of the group, but some members have moved on to join the Detroit Women Writers, which does require publication.

After almost 20 years, about 100 writers have passed through the group, which has had swersl, in a way, rewrites. It started as an offshoot of a 1976 creative writing class taught by Sandra Sunderland at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills. The name Ridgewriters atems from the Orchard Ridge Campus name. The first two Ridgewriters groupe folded. This is the third time the group has formed, but this time it has lasted for about 15 years. Members meet at the Visions Center in Heritage Park on Frideys from noon to 2 p.m. enorpt for the first week of the month when they meet from 7:30-30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Six members have moved on to Detroit Women Writers; 21 have been published for money.

Thirty-four members are on the roaler now. The number who attend the weekly meeting varies.

Part of the benefit of joining the group is the lending library of writers books. There are also sample copies and guidelines for all of the Sanday magazines in the United States.

People can attend their first meeting for free; dues are 33 per meeting attended after that. The money buys texthooks and other supplies as well as the occasional small stipend to attend a work-shop. Some of the books available.

include: "Writer's Dignet," "The Literary Agent and the Writer' by Diane Cleaver, "The Writer's Essential Deak Reference." The Hyming Dictionary Survivers and Small Presses. Thirty-four references are swallable in all. Members live all over the area, including Fermington Hills, West-Bloomfield, Birmingham, West-land, Bingham Farms, Livonia and Southfield.

They also keep each other up-

and Southfield.
They also keep each other upto-date on writing seminars, contests, publication deadlines and
ideas for other creative endeavors,
such as designing croesword pux-

such as designing crosswort puzzles.

Davis, who describes herself as a complete fanatic with crossword puzzles, wondered if others in the group were interested in designing

To design them, she said with a

group were interested in designing them.

To design them, she said with a laugh, "You have to be extremely erudite and know everything there is to know about everything."

As the readings continued around the table, Scholchit read a humorous essay about migraine headaches, and member doan Wilder read a abort piece called "Be Careful What You Snort," about emphysems, which she plans to submit to Mature Outlook magnitise.

"Is it too morbid to start out with?" she asked the group. "I don't want it to sound too weird." No, the others assured her, it's fine.

Maude B. Reid of Inkater read a haiku and members helped her come up with other descriptive words that would fit.

Stretten read "Weft of Worry," which she said is how abe feels. "It's me; I want to fly sway. I don't want to be enanared in all these worries," she said.

"I think that's thought-provoking," Monson said of the work.

Debbie Lampi of Farmington Hills read part of the first chapter of a book she's working on called "A Most Heinous Act." After a lot of questioning and suggrations for plot lines, the group assured her she's heading in the right direction.

of questioning and suggestions for plot lines, the group assured her she's heading in the right direc-

she's heading in the right direc-tion.
Felker's humorous poem, shout being stuck on hold on the tele-phone, gave the group a good leugh. Others suggested the sub-mit it for publication.
As Monson said, "The idea of the group is to get published."

Call Betty Monson at (810) 851-6730 for information on Ridgewriters

Group's leader is a lady of letters

By Joan Wilder
Bescha Warrise
Betty Monson recently led the
Ridgewriters from the Community Center to the refurbished
Spierr House (the Visitors Center) in Farmington Hills.
Evary Friday at noon the shiny
sunlit room, overlooking Heritage
Park, becomes a literary salon
with Monson as the lady in
charge. The creative writers struggie to find perfection in words and
then an appreciative audience.
The original group began in
1976 as an offshoot of creative
writing class taught by Sandra
Sunderland at the Orchard Ridge
Campus of Oakland Community
College.
During a typical meeting, Betty
marks out her space at the end of
a long table. Sho greets the group,
passes out name lags, introduces
newcomers, reads the previous
work's minutes, while a cohort
"Business out of the way," Betty says, "Who is going to read?"
The first volunter passes out
copies and begins.
The writings come in every
shaps from haiku to novels and
cover every subject from birth to

The first volunteer passes out copies and begins.
The writings come in every shape from haiku to novels and cover every subject from birth to death with humor or pathos.
She consoles newcomers, "Don't hesitate to read your work for critique. We never leave anyone bleeding."
Each listener is encouraged to offer suggestions and they do. But, Betty says, "One time a male writer was accused of being a male chauviniat. An argument ensued. The voices raised to such a peak, I suggested they take the debate outside." She admits there've been heated discussions about everything from Christmas decorations to Pearl Harbor, but usually disagreements are headed off when she says, "Hold that thought," or "We're there to critique not to rewite."

Some writings may be legtimately earthy or controversial and Betty chuckles as she says, "We're not into tensorship, but please warn us shead, so easily offended members may leave early



Righting writing: Joan Wilder of Farmington Hills takes me constructive criticism on her work from other Ridgewriters.

if they wish."

She never says "never," even to
the tasteless and tacky ner does
she gush over the Shakespeares;
but edit she does.

With a kind smile in a dulcet
voice she says, "On page two,
paragraph four you lapsed into
the passive voice." "On page
three, paragraphe one, show, don't
tell, the hero's anger," "Look up

tutelage," she says as she shoves the dictionary toward the middle of the table.

People come and go from the group, adding interest like new flavor in the stew. Several have gained professional status, but many just seek to capture life's mysteries on a page.

From dues collected over the years Betty has built a

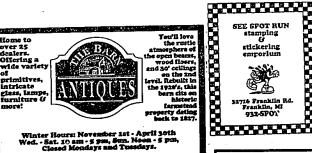
Ridgowriter library to answer writers (questions; What is a sonnet? Where do you put commas? Who will buy my short story? How do you write a query letter? How do you write a query letter? She has rystamatically cate in logued back issues of Writer's Digest and guidelines from small publications, to circulate among the members.

Betty is well-qualified to be the Ridgowriters' director. From the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, she received her backled of a tax in education, with a major in art and minor in English, Before she married her bushand Norb, who is an accountant with Ford Motor, she worked as an editorial assistant/artist for ATAT's in-house publication, C.A.L.I. Magazine.

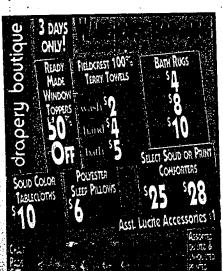
After her marriage she stayed home to mother six children and become a boushold engineer. She continued to attend writing classes, and became a columnist forcith St. Edith church paper of Livonia. When she moved to Farmington Hills she became the volunteer-editor for the weekly; newspaper of Our Lady of Sorgowa.

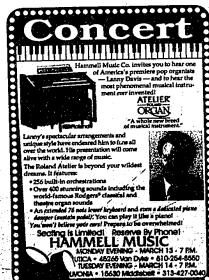
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