OWL hosts seminar on domestic violence

Betty Lee Ongley, national president of OWL

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER
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The topic will be domestic violence at a mini conference Saturday, Oct. 9, sponsored by OWL Michigan and Women's Resource Center of Schoolcraft College.

Held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the conference, "Escaping the Cycle of Violence: Stop Violence Against Women," will be 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the college's Waterman Center, Haggerty Road south of Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

Participants will learn how women's shelters and the courts aid the victims of violence and how they can aid victims, according to Virginia Nicoll of OWL. OWL and the WRC also will be collecting donations for First Step, the Wayne County Project on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse.

"We want to focus on how we can help them get out of the situation; we don't want to just talk about it, that won't help," said Nicoll, a Farmington Hills resident.

The conference costs $15 and includes coffee and muffins at the 8:30 a.m. registration and buffet lunch. Scholarships are available.

To register, send a check, payable to Schoolcraft College, to the Women's Resource Center/OWL, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia 48152-2696.

The deadline for registering is Saturday, Oct. 2. For more information, call (248) 474-3094 or (734) 462-4443.

On the agenda

Following registration, WRC director Nancy Swanborg and OWL Michigan co-presidents Nadene Mitcham and Vi Wagner will welcome guests before turning the podium over to Donna Lyons who will look at "Beyond Menopause."

A member of the Menopause Action team, Lyons is a clinical nurse specialist/ practitioner in OB/GYN at the Detroit Medical Center. Under the supervision of a doctor, she provides menopausal and other patient care. Her presentation dovetails with OWL's ongoing campaign to educate women about osteoporosis.

Betty Lee Ongley of Portage, president of National OWL, will present the Washington Report, a report of events taking place in Washington, D.C., that affect women in mid-life and later years.

Speaking about "The Escape Route" will be Judith Barr, social worker and associate director of First Step, and Emily Wolfe, assistant prosecuting attorney in Wayne County's Child and Family Abuse Bureau.

Barr counsels and assists victims of abuse and educates batterers who have been referred by the courts to First Step as part of their sentencing. Wolfe, who previously worked in the Felony Trial Division of the Prosecutor's Office, trains police officers about laws relating to domestic violence.

Change of mood

Following the luncheon break, Carol Green, an occupational therapist with Rehabilitation Centers of Michigan, will lighten up the atmosphere with her "Laughing Matters." At one time a program director for the YMCA, Green is a nationally known speaker on the Health benefits of humor.

"We decided to have Carol because domestic violence is such a sobering subject and it can be depressing," said Nicoll. "She'll talk about the role of humor in recovering from an illness and maintaining health."

In a switch from previous years, the conference will end at 2 p.m. so "women can enjoy an afternoon of sunning, snoozing or shopping," Nicoll said.

This is the sixth year OWL and the WRC have teamed up to sponsor the fall conference. This year's program is funded in part by Botsford Hospital and Merck & Co. Inc.

The conferences have dealt with such subjects as including health care, income security, political activism and housing. Through the collaboration, OWL and the WRC hope to convince younger women that the problems of the older female in society are the same problems that afflict women of all ages.

"OWL and the Women's Resource Center joined forces because we want to convince mid-life and younger women that the ills of poverty and such that older women suffer are due to lifelong discrimination of women," she added.

OWL is a grassroots organization of volunteers dedicated to providing a voice for the 58 million mid-life and older American women through research, education and advocacy, Nicoll added. Ending violence against women and securing job and wage equity for them are just two of the organization's goals.

Women interested in joining OWL can send a $30 check (for state and national dues), payable to OWL Michigan, to Maryalyce Smith, 23930 Cass, Farmington 48335-3405.

AAUW book sale begins with Friday preview

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

From "The Best Word Book Ever" for toddlers to "Samantha Saves the Day," an American Girl book for preteens, children of all ages will find lots to read at The American Association of University Women, Birmingham Branch's 72nd annual book sale next week.

In fact, organizers of the book sale are particularly excited about the children's books being offered this year.

"Many of them are in absolute pristine condition, which I find amazing," said sale co-chair Katherine Wlodarczyk of Orchard Lake, a retired young person's librarian.

"We have more children's books than in past years," added co-chair Marianne Donohue of Birmingham, attributing that simply to the fact that more donations have come in this year.

This year, for the first time, there are three co-chairs. They also include Dorie Marshall of West Bloomfield.

The AAUW Book Sale will be Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18 and 19, at the Birmingham Masonic Temple, 357 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills.

Not only thousands books of all kinds, ranging from the rare and collectible to the popular recent titles, but video and audio cassettes, computer software and selected magazines will be sold. The average price of a book will be $1.

The book sale has gained a reputation for having books of good quality that are in good condition.

"Our sorters are very fussy ladies," said Donohue. "We have very nice, clean, nice-smelling books."

"We try to sell books that are fairly up to date," added Marshall. "Fiction is from 1985 on, in general, except for classics." And, only 1990's editions are sold in categories such as travel, health, and reference.

"Even the most discriminating shopper will find something," said Donohue. "There's a room of specials and first editions."

An added feature this year is that those who wish can pay a small fee and have the book covered with a protective jacket.

The AAUW Book Sale is put on with the help of members. Barrels are placed at area supermarkets for the collection of books, and emptied daily.

"It takes a lot of people," said Marshall, but, "I would say the best part of the whole experience is that everyone is so willing to help.

"I think the reason we all come is we love books so much. You never know what's going to come it. It has really been fun."

Proceeds from the book sale are used for fellowships and local community projects.

Dozens of schools in the area also benefit from the sale. That's because sponsors allow teachers to shop for free classroom materials, placing thousand of books into the hands of children.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19.

A special preview sale is 6:30 -8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17, with an $8 admission charge.

Callers needed to reassure elderly

Volunteer callers are needed for about one hour per week to provide reassuring daily telephone contact to homebound senior residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills through the senior adult division's friendly phone call program.

Calls are made from your home. Folks who would like the comfort that comes with this daily phone call are also welcome.

Prospective clients must live alone and be able to receive calls between 9-10 a.m., Monday–Friday. Please call 473-1830 to volunteer or for more information.

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