

Single parent workshop set

By JACKIE KLEIN

SPACE gives single parents and their families room to grow. SPACE isn't an acronym. It's a program, sponsored by the Southfield-based National Council of Jewish Women, to serve basic needs for persons to identify with one another and enhance individual and family strengths.

Nadine Bell, executive director of the program and a psychotherapist, will conduct a two-day workshop Sept. 19 and 20 on single parenting for the Southfield Parent Youth Guidance Commission.

Since May, Mrs. Bell and National Council of Jewish Women volunteers have been working to structure and develop a program for single parents. Single parents themselves are involved in the planning.

"We realized that groups such as Parents Without Partners serve social needs of singles," Mrs. Bell said. "In a January forum at Oakland Community College, we talked to single parents and their families about basic issues such as coping with loneliness and isolation."

As an outgrowth of that forum, Mrs. Bell said, nine committees were formed and SPACE was created with funds contributed by National Council of Jewish Women.

COUNCIL OFFICES on Twelve Mile and Pierce are bustling with multiple meetings for single parents and children. "Coping as a Single" and "Enhancing Self Esteem" are among topics for single parent families.

Support groups deal with isolation and loneliness for both parents and children. They participate in informal support sessions on surviving, cooperation,

and caring, Mrs. Bell said.

"Single parents are often cut off from their," Mrs. Bell said. "They're not all the types who go to bars or enroll in singles' dating services. Most of them don't want encounters in superficial settings. They'd rather meet and discuss and issue or participate in a project."

"Our program brings persons together to become involved in issues which builds better relationships. We're even planning a single parent family weekend retreat with dynamic programs for kids."

Widowed to Widowed is another program committee. The needs of widowed men and women are often different than for divorced parents, Mrs. Bell said. Many widows and widowers are learning to cope with the loss of a spouse and the "empty nest" left by children who grow up and move away.

SISTER MARGARET Basso is training persons on the Widowed to Widowed committee in grief management, listening and outreach. Professionals in various fields are group facilitators. The SPACE newsletter advises single parents about what activities and agencies are available to them. It offers a column of services which can be exchanged such as writing skills for plumbing skills.



NADINE BELL

"We want to heighten single parents' awareness of what exists," Mrs. Bell said. "We help agencies and institutions fill in the holes and we fill in the holes ourselves. We're planning a crisis intervention hotline for persons who believe they've reached the end of their rope. This has never been tried before for single parents."

"Our social action advocacy committee was formed to heighten community awareness of the concerns of single parents. We'll be dealing with the Friend of the Court and other agencies. This definitely isn't a social program for singles. But it is a service which could lead to meaningful relationships."

"We don't provide marriage and divorce counseling or therapy. We believe single parents with mutual concerns can best help one another."

Church restores window

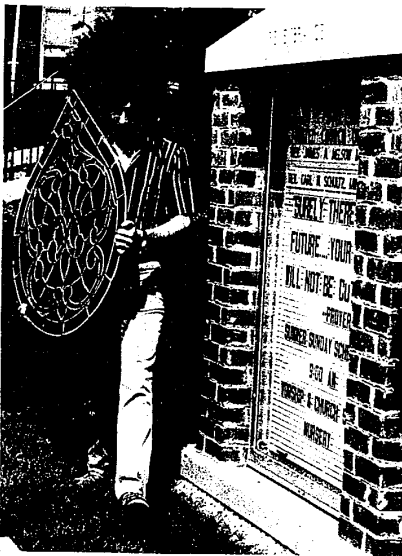
Safely is the best word to use when describing the way Ron Kowall walks while holding onto the 76-year-old stained glass window from Farmington's Salem United Church of Christ.

The removal of the window is part of an effort to restore the wooden framework around the stained glass.

As part of a five-year-old maintenance project, church members had been searching for someone to repair the hand-carved wooden window frames in the building. But with their repair came another problem—what to do with the stained glass window.

Kowall and his company, Accurate Woodworking of Waterford, removed the glass and will return it to its customary place in about two weeks.

The stained glass is a source of pride and mystery to church members. "We don't know where it came from," admitted Mrs. Ruth Schroeder, a church member. "But we're told it's among the finest stained glass in the Midwest."



Ron Kowall gingerly carries the stained glass window from the Salem United Church of Christ. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

C'ville board sets meeting schedule

The Clarenceville school board has set meeting dates for its 1978-79 school year. As in the past, there will be two meetings a month with the exception of November and December.

The next meeting will be Aug. 24. Next month, the meetings will be held Sept. 14 and 28. October's meetings are scheduled for the 12th and 26th.

November's date is the 9th while the December meeting will be on the 14th.

Next year's dates are Jan. 11 and 25; Feb. 8 and 22; March 8 and 22; April 12 and 26; May 10 and 24; and June 7 and 21.

The meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education office, 28830 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills.

Notice of special or rescheduled meetings will be posted at the board office at least 18 hours prior to the special or rescheduled meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

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