

Pioneer Women leader recalls former Prime Minister Meir

By SHIRLEE IDEN

"When Franklin Roosevelt died, his death came just before peace was achieved. Now Golda is dead, and it's like that again."

That was the reaction of a Southfield businessperson when the news of the death of Golda Meir came on Friday.

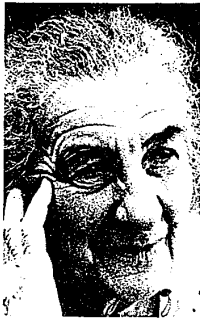
Mrs. Meir, a world figure and a former prime minister of the State of Israel, died after a long illness and hospitalization at the age of 80. News of her passing came almost simultaneously with reports of the departure of Prime Minister Menachem Begin for Oslo, Norway to accept the Nobel Peace prize which he shares with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

"She told me she wanted to live to see peace," said Frieda Leemon of Farmington Hills, the national president of Pioneer Women.

Mrs. Leemon, who returned from Israel on Nov. 24, said she last saw Mrs. Meir in March at a conference.

"She was alert and bright as always and tough in her opinions," Mrs. Leemon said. "But she was warm and friendly too, greeting everyone by their first name."

"Golda was a helluva good cook and



GOLDA MEIR

if she invited you to tea, she'd bake the cake herself."

Mrs. Leemon said Mrs. Meir founded the English speaking group of Pioneer Women in this country in the early 1930s. Before that it was solely for Yiddish speaking women.

A NATIVE of Kiev, Russia, Mrs. Meir grew up in Milwaukee but emigrated to Israel with her husband, Morris Meyerson, as a bride. She returned to this country several times as an organizer and fundraiser.

"We knew she was fatally ill when I was in Israel," Mrs. Leemon said. "In fact, one day while I was there the rumor of her death was made public, and then retracted."

Southfield resident Mrs. Emma Schaver, though not shocked, was shaken by the death of her friend.

"When I left Israel recently in August, she was quite ill," Mrs. Schaver said. "But she often went into the hospital for treatment of her pleuritis and other ailments."

Mrs. Schaver said the first time she appeared on a program with Mrs. Meir was in this country back in the 1930s. "My husband, Morris, knew her even longer," she recalled.

The last time Golda Meir was in Detroit was on Nov. 7, 1967 for a city-wide tribute to Emma Schaver held at Cobo Hall.

"SHE WAS a dynamic, charismatic person and yet she had a simplicity that radiated," Mrs. Schaver said. "She spoke English, Yiddish and Hebrew and though I understand Hebrew only a little, I could follow her Hebrew."

Mrs. Schaver said Mrs. Meir was a fortunate person in that even after she left office as Israel's Prime Minister in 1974, she continued to be respected and was drawn again into the sphere of policy-making.

"The first time that Begin came to the United States, although he and Golda were political adversaries, he consulted with her and announced he would report to her when he returned," Mrs. Schaver said. "Every-

body who came to Israel on official business would see her."

David Hermelin of Birmingham, local chairperson for State of Israel Bonds, issued a statement jointly signed by Sam Rothberg, national general chairman, and Michael Arnon, president of State of Israel Bonds.

"The Israel Bond organization mourns with profound sorrow the passing of Golda Meir, the most remarkable and most beloved Jewish woman of our age," they said.

"The quintessential Jewish mother, she was a simple woman touched with greatness who brought enormous dedication, devotion, and dignity to every task history assigned to her. She represented Israel and all the Jewish people with a passionate eloquence, enormous honesty and all encompassing love."

MARILYN FRIMKIN, a Southfield resident, said she met Mrs. Meir last year while visiting in New York City. "It was my greatest thrill," she said. "I felt as though I were talking with God."

John Shepherd of Southfield, president of the Jewish Community in the metropolitan area, is shocked and saddened at her death.

"She was a great in the history of the State of Israel and of the Jewish people," he said. "It's a time to reflect on our happy memories of her and also to mourn our deep loss."

The president of the Greater Detroit Council of Pioneer Women Betty Rath of Farmington Hills said she never met Mrs. Meir but has heard her speak.

"Israel has lost a beloved daughter," she said. "The world will be less without her. She stood as a fine example for each of us. We all walked taller and stood straighter because of her."

Pioneer Women in this area sent a message of sympathy to Mrs. Meir's son in Israel and they will join the entire community in a program in memory of the former prime minister on Sunday, Dec. 17 at Congregation Sharey Zedek in Southfield.



Loretta Tucker adds some more holiday touches to the Christmas tree at Oakhill Annex where she's worked for 22 years. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Oakhill veteran dedicated to aged

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Twenty-two years ago when Loretta Tucker, 57, began working for Oakhill Nursing Home Annex in Farmington, she did everything from ironing the linens to making sure the residents were comfortable.

"For 22 years, this has been her house," said Ms. Judy Swieton, charge nurse for the annex. "This has been her second life."

When Ms. Tucker started with the then seven bed nursing home, she applied because she wanted to work. She stayed with the home as it expanded to 13 beds, then 16 beds.

By that time, her reasons for staying with the job went beyond her normal duties.

"I enjoy the work. I love the old folks," she said in her quiet voice.

The petite, demure woman takes care of the 16 residents of the annex. Although she can no longer do "everything" as she once did since the law prohibits it, she still deals with the residents in her soft-spoken manner.

"She taught me so many things about herself and how to deal with people," said Ms. Swieton, who is a student of gerontology at Madonna College.

"I'M GOING by the book and she goes by people," said an admiring Ms. Swieton.

When she's not working at the annex, Ms. Tucker likes to relax in her Southfield home by crocheting afghans. She taught herself the craft about two years ago.

But it's only been recently that she has allowed herself the time to enjoy learning a new craft. Much of her time has been spent in taking care of the annex.

"Her son grew up here too," said Ms. Swieton. John Washburne, her son, has told Ms. Swieton about riding the bus to Farmington with his mother when they were landscaping the annex. Sometimes in order to enter the front door they had to remove the stones kicked up by the landscaping effort.

Recently, Ms. Tucker's efforts were recognized by the home and its residents by awarding her a plaque and presenting her with a bouquet of roses.

Someone dug up an old picture of the first staff at the annex that Ms. Tucker worked with and had it blown up to poster size.

"She runs the house, literally," said Ms. Swieton. "Nobody has acknowledged it before. She's a worthwhile and treasured part of the house. She shouldn't be taken for granted."

2 take turns as tour guides

Two area Michigan State University students have an opportunity to learn, explore and teach outside the classroom through MSU's Office of Volunteer Programs.

Suele Blas of Farmington Hills and Debbie Lipson of Southfield have volunteered as tour guides at Lansing's hands-on museum called Impression V. Visitors to the museum are able to explore the 140 science, art and technology exhibits using their five senses.

Because Impression V is a nonprofit organization, MSU volunteers play an integral part in its daily operation as guides, demonstrators, office workers and retailers in the museum store, MSU officials say.

Ms. Lipson, a senior, says: "As a secondary education and general sci-

ence major, working at Impression V gives me a unique personal experience. I can apply my classroom knowledge to my work at the museum."

A chemistry teaching assistant for Lyman Briggs College, MSU's residential college specializing in science and mathematics, Ms. Lipson is a 1975 graduate of Southfield-Lathrup High School. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Lipson of Southfield.

Ms. Blas, a sophomore majoring in advertising, sees her experience there as an opportunity to apply her classroom knowledge to actual public relations work.

The 1977 graduate of Harrison High School is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blas of Farmington Hills.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

ANGLES REMINDS its readers that the hunt for the perfect Christmas tree need not take them far from home. The Jaycees are selling trees of different sizes and shapes during the afternoons and evenings on weekdays and weekends in the parking lot of the old Federal store on Grand River. Proceeds will go to the Farmington Area Advisory Commission's drug counseling program.

AND TO KEEP THAT tree fresh in its new home, Angles passes on some advice from the National Christmas Tree Association in Milwaukee. (And you thought Milwaukee was famous for its beer.)

Let the tree remain outdoors or on a cool porch or patio until you're ready to decorate it. Bring the tree to a partially heated area, such as the basement or porch the night before decorating. Make a fresh cut in the tree and place in fresh water. Trees drink two quarts or more each day. If you allow the water to drop below the trunk, a seal will form and the tree won't be allowed to absorb the water. Keep the tree fresh and it will be fire resistant.

WHILE THE HOLIDAY season comes upon us now so slowly and very surely, other activities still go on in the world. William T. Utkerfer, M. D., of Farmington Hills has been appointed by Gov. William Milliken to a 14-member task force which will formulate policy regarding the reduction of hospital bed capacity in Michigan.

Utkerfer is a physician at Harper-Grace Hospitals in Detroit.

TEN FARMINGTON AREA residents certainly will never earn the title of 10 o'clock scholar. They've made it to the ranks of the fall honor roll at Lawrence Institute of Technology. They are: Lawrence Bertsch, a mechanical engineering student from Farmington Hills; Diana Kendall of Farmington Hills, a business administration major; Patricia Litter of Farmington Hills, a math major; James Arnold, a construction engineering student from Farmington and Rhonda Beier of Farmington Hills, a business administration student. Also on the list are: Mark Briolat of Farmington, a mechanical engineering student; Judith Feipel of Farmington Hills, a business administration student; Larry Lawson of Farmington Hills, an electrical engineering major; Mark Steiner of Farmington, an electrical engineering major; and Diane Young of Farmington Hills, a business administration major.

MARY R. PEASE of Farmington is in good voice at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts where she is in the school's concert choir.

ON ANOTHER NOTE, Paul Engle of Farmington Hills has been named project manager at Smith, Hinchman and Grylls Associates, Inc., of Detroit, architects and

planners. Engle and his wife Norma have a daughter Jennifer.

HANUKA APPROACHES and the Parent Teacher Organization of Hillside Day School will conduct its annual gift shop from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 12-13 at the school, 3220 Middlebelt Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. This year the gift shop will have a number of custom-made articles, including knitted slippers, decorative throw pillows for children, tooth fairy pillows and kitchen aid finger wipe towels. Other items include keychains, tool sets, clothes brushes, bracelets, necklaces, posters and bookmarks. Gifts are priced from \$3 to \$25. Proceeds will go toward buying educational materials for the youngsters.

GET READY FOR SOME music from Harrison High School's orchestra, chorus and symphony band when they present their winter concert at 9 p.m. Dec. 14 in the school. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Adult tickets are \$1.25, student tickets are 75 cents and \$3 for families.

PROPER EMERGENCY care procedures will be demonstrated in a 15-week course at Madonna College in Livonia. The Accelerated Basic Emergency Medical Technology course will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon in room 248, beginning Jan. 9 and ending April 26. Previous completion of advanced first aid course is required. Persons can register now in the administration building at the Registrar's office, 3650 Schoolcraft from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays.

NON-DEGREE EVENING COURSES will be offered for the first time by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education at Harrison High School, Farmington Hills, beginning the week of Jan. 22. Law for the layperson will be conducted by a practicing attorney on Wednesdays for 10 weeks beginning Jan. 24. Common legal questions will be discussed, such as landlord and tenant problems, wills and trusts, consumer problems and real estate.

Writing a resume and marketing yourself will be conducted for four weeks on Mondays, beginning Jan. 22. A geography course for travelers will be conducted, beginning Jan. 25. All courses will be from 7:30-9:30 p.m. A personal assessment inventory, prerequisite for entry into the legal assistant program, will be conducted from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Jan. 10. Brochures detailing the non-degree courses and legal assistant program may be obtained by calling the Continuing Education office, 377-3120.

DEADLINE Material submitted for the Inside Angle, sent to 22170 West Nine Mile, Southfield, 48034, should include the name and phone number of the sender and be typewritten if possible. Items should be received at least one week before publication and photographs can't be used. All materials become the property of the Farmington Observer.

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For friends you drop in on.

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