



m.m. memos

Margaret Miller

Word is of honor, but is it accurate?

Last week I took a step that's pretty drastic for me. I purposefully turned on the television set to watch a drama.

Usually on the nights I have a choice about video entertainment, I choose silence or recorded music. But this was a much-publicized film, set in a community I know and about a principle that's important to me. Definitely I was going to watch "Word of Honor."

True to form, I turned it on five minutes late, so I missed a lot of the shots that showed the charm of Plymouth and perhaps some recognizable faces. But I didn't miss the message the drama was bringing regarding the right of a newspaper reporter to protect his source — a person who gives him information.

And I found seriously wanting the way that message was presented.

SKIP FOR THE MOMENT the somewhat sloppy script-writing that put Michigan Avenue in Plymouth, Plymouth in Oakland County and the trial in superior instead of municipal court. Since the real name of the community was used, a little checking of facts would have been in order. But that was just jarring.

What bothered me was the way the moral dilemma unfolded. Reporter Mike McGee receives information implicating a pillar of the community in a possible murder. The word comes from a young woman who does not want the man she plans to marry to know she has given the information, and McGee promises with his word of honor to guard her identity.

He keeps his word, of course, though the police ransack his newspaper's office, the court frees the criminal for lack of evidence, the town ostracizes him and he goes to jail.

But how likely is the setting? It seems to me I've heard of much better reportorial tensions on "Lou Grant." (I say heard of because I don't often watch that one either.)

I WONDERED, for instance, why police didn't follow up a lead provided by a picture of the suspect at the site where the body was found. Then McGee's information would not have stood alone. Why did the prosecutor go into court without backup evidence? When the reporter found himself in that pickle, why didn't he go to the young woman who had given him the information and ask to be released from his promise? She was not in danger, nor was she a source who would make a difference to future community safety. On the other hand, as the film depicted things, McGee's keeping his promise to her posed definite danger to community safety. It would seem he would have felt some concern and made an attempt to negotiate.

I can't decide whether a real community would actually have treated a reporter the way the fictitious Plymouth treated McGee. People act in strange ways, and if things had been as depicted maybe they had a right to be resentful. But there surely was a false note.

I MAKE these comments not in an effort to turn television critic but to point up a vital principle that seems muddled in its presentation.

FARMINGTON AREA MOTHERS OF TWINS CLUB invite newcomers to its meeting at 8 p.m. this evening. Membership is open to all women who have had a multiple birth.

Interested persons are invited to call Lila Henry, at 478-8751, for an invitation.

HILL AND DALE GARDEN CLUB meets at 8 p.m. tonight in Farmington Hills Community Library on 12 Mile Road. Speaker for the evening is Evelyn Edgar, a member of Michigan Audubon Society.

Her topic is "Wildlife in Your Backyard."

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS, Farmington Hills Chapter 2088, meet at 1:30 p.m. Friday, in Farmington Hills Community Library on 12 Mile Road.

Guest for the afternoon will be Louis Karminsky, an artist who will give an easel demonstration.

Meanwhile members are taking lessons this month to resume the Tax Aide program which assists seniors with their 1980 income tax forms.

DETROIT STORY LEAGUE meets at noon Saturday, Jan. 17 in the Southfield home of Alice McCoy, 25324 Stoncrol.

Guests are invited to sit in on the story-telling program and workshop by contacting Donna Teichman, a Redford resident, at 531-6359, who will give membership information.

CONGREGATION BETH ACHIM SISTERHOOD is taking reservations now for its Institute Day, set for 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, in the synagogue.

"Manners for Children," geared for girls 6-10 years old, is one of the new classes on Farmington Community Center's roster for the winter season.

The youngsters will be learning the proprieties from Carol McCarthy and Paula Kempton, who hold the Michigan franchise for Manners, Inc.

21100 12 Mile Road, Southfield.

Ruth Lefkowitz, from Detroit Institute of Arts, Cantor Chiam Nayman of Congregation Shaarey Zedek and Dr. Lila Goldman, professor of English at Wayne State University, are speakers for the day.

Following lunch, guests will view "Amateur Night at Littman's Theater." Reservation information is available by calling Millie Rosenbaum, 357-0575.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CALLIGRAPHERS meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, in Farmington Hills Community Library on 12 Mile Road.

The meeting will be devoted to sharing and discussing ideas and entries for the group's spring exhibit. The session is open to all area calligraphers.

WOMEN OF NORTH FARMINGTON meet for a gourmet luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22 in Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, J Building.

Speaker for the afternoon is physis Terri Vige.

Reservations must be made on or before Monday, Jan. 19, by calling Gail Hockowski, 553-8480.

SAVING SENSE, a group formed for coupon exchange, meets at noon, and at 7:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, in First United Methodist Church of Farmington on Grand River and Warner Street. Inquiries will be taken by calling Sharon Stein, 477-5573.

SOLO FLIGHT, a group for singles over the age of 30, meet at 8 p.m. Tues-

day, Jan. 20 in Temple Beth El, 14 Mile and Telegraph roads, Birmingham.

The meeting is open to newcomers at no charge.

The January meeting is called "Revival" and will concentrate on seeking fresh ideas and suggestions from members and guests so future planning will reflect the needs and desires of the participants.

FARMINGTON GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY meets at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, in Farmington Community Library, 23550 Liberty Street.

Program for the evening will be the showing of a filmstrip, called "Immigration and Genealogy," from Michigan State Library.

The meeting is open to all persons interested in genealogy without charge.

THE CHICKADEES, junior gardeners sponsored by Hill and Dale Garden Club, meet at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, in the home of adult leader Sandy Donlon.

Project for the afternoon is "Flowers Under Glass."

Discussion for the afternoon is home energy conservation.

The club has openings for four more young garden enthusiasts. Membership information will be given by Mrs. Donlon by calling her at 661-1684.

B'NAI B'RITH, Detroit Chapter, meets at noon Wednesday, Jan. 21 in Farmington Hills Community Library, 32737 12 Mile Road.

This meeting is open to guests without charge.

Michelle Ungar and Mark Bakst will be guest speakers.

LAMAZE CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION is taking registrations now for a four week class designed for couples who anticipate a cesarean section delivery.

The class will run from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning Jan. 28 in Boisdorf Hospital's Professional Building, 28050 Grand River. The fee is \$20. The class will be led by Judy Stachura, a registered nurse.

Completion of the class allows the father to be present at the delivery, in Providence Hospital.

The class includes discussion on the emotional, psychological and physiological effects of a cesarean delivery. Registrations are taken by Yvonne Bouchard, 464-1215.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024, and must arrive on the Monday prior to Thursday publication.

Red Cross aid fed thousands

The Red Cross provided nearly 30,000 meals and sandwiches to residents evacuated from their homes during severe thunderstorms last July

downriver. Final reports indicate a cost of \$22,000 for these services, made possible by donations to the Torch Drive.

Little girls turned into little ladies in new class

"Manners for Children," geared for girls 6-10 years old, is one of the new classes on Farmington Community Center's roster for the winter season.

The youngsters will be learning the proprieties from Carol McCarthy and Paula Kempton, who hold the Michigan franchise for Manners, Inc.

All services offered by Manners, Inc. stem from books authored by Marjabelle Young Stewart, a White House etiquette consultant who schooled the daughters of Presidents Johnson and Nixon in the social graces.

The class will meet 4-5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays beginning Jan. 20. The students will be schooled in telephone

manners, table manners, introductions and grooming.

The philosophy of the class is that knowing what is expected in given situations as youngsters helps develop the poise and self-confidence that produces gracious adults.

The course has been taught throughout the metropolitan area, mainly in

Crowley's department stores under the title "White Goves and Party Manners." A book of the same name was authored by Ms. Stewart and Ann Buchwald. The two also wrote "Stand Up and Say Hello" for young boys.

Fee for the four sessions is \$15. Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling the center, 477-8404.

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