

Newest information on Reyes Syndrome told in symposium

Diane Maloney, a woman who speaks from experience when she talks about Reyes Syndrome, will bring the most recent information available on studies of the syndrome to a symposium at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, in Farmington Hills Community Library.

The symposium is sponsored by Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA) as a public service under the heading of the Reyes Syndrome Foundation maxin, "If You Love Children, Learn About Reyes."

Mrs. Maloney is a Southfield resident and vice president of the National Reyes Syndrome Foundation, who is one of four persons in Michigan serving on the foundation's speakers bureau in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Her presentation is a 20-minute film on the history, diagnosis and treatment

of the malady, followed by a question and answer period.

She describes her presentation as an awareness program that is particularly important to parents this month.

"Caseloads are down now. But with flu and chicken pox running rampant now, doctors in Michigan expect a sharp rise in the caseloads between now and March," she said.

THE WEEK of Feb. 8-14 has been declared "Reyes Syndrome Week" by Governor William Milliken in another effort to make people aware of the need to protect healthy children under the age of 18 who are the prime victims of the disease.

Reyes Syndrome can be fatal or leave its victims with varying degrees of motor or learning disabilities.

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— Diane Maloney
National Reyes Syndrome Foundation

Its cause is unknown and there is no known way of preventing the disease.

"The best chance for survival or complete recovery is for the parents to be alerted at the first symptoms," Mrs. Maloney said.

The disease strikes the child who is recovering from any viral illness, such

as flu or chickenpox. Violent, relentless vomiting is almost always the first serious sign of the syndrome. This is followed by behavioral changes, which can rapidly lead to coma, and may lead to death.

MRS. MALONEY'S son Michael, who

is now 10, is a survivor of a 10-day attack he suffered in 1976. She describes her own experience as "just lucky."

Her subsequent affiliation with the foundation has made her convinced that the mortality rate of the victims drops considerably with those children who have parents who recognize the symptoms immediately.

Mrs. Maloney's affiliation with the national foundation also keeps her abreast of all research that is going on pertaining to the disease.

She will tell her Farmington area audience about the latest information stemming from Ohio State Health Department's aspirin studies, which indicates a possible link between Reyes Syndrome and aspirin.

And she will also tell her audience of the importance of the time factor when

dealing with a case that has the suspicions of Reyes Syndrome.

"Other diseases have time," she said. "The cause is known and the cure is known. With Reyes, time is the most important factor."

According to the foundation's records, one death occurred in nine minutes; one child spent a year in Mott Children's Hospital in a coma.

Reyes Syndrome was first described as a recognized disorder by Dr. R. K. Reye and two colleagues in 1963. The national foundation was established in Flint, in 1976, by three fathers who had simultaneously lost their sons to the disease.

The Farmington Hills Community Library is located at 32737 12 Mile Road.

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Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450

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Course begins at OCC

National push to bring chess into the classroom

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

'No matter what age or sex, I am sure getting this into the schools is going to aid our youth, whether they play for fun and relaxation or to help them become better-thinking people.'

— Gerald Curwin

An Oakland Community College (OCC) instructor who is convinced that playing chess cultivates concentration and learning skills in young children begins a national push to bring the game into the classroom.

Gerald Curwin, a resident of Wixom and an industrial engineer, brings his tailor-made course on chess and his new textbook to Orchard Ridge Campus 7-9 p.m. Thursdays beginning Jan. 22.

"The course is open to those from 8 to 80," he says. "I'm not worried about a class age mix. We're talking about the basics of playing chess, not a mentality level. The course is designed for newcomers to the game, where everyone will be starting from scratch."

Based on studies stemming from chess clubs affiliated with Flying Knights Postal Chess Club, whose members play games through the mails, Curwin says there is no doubt in his mind that playing the game helps students learn concentration, cause and effect, timing and organization.

WRITING The textbook and designing the course is a long-time dream of Curwin, who is working with his father, Gerald Curwin, to make chess a national pastime.

The senior Curwin begins a similar class in Piedmont Technical Community College in Greenwood, S.C. as a pilot project this month.

Y water class set for seniors

Northwest Branch YWCA, 25940 Grand River, is offering an eight-week class in swimming and water exercise for senior men and women beginning Jan. 19.

Daytime classes will meet 11 a.m. to noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and evening classes will meet 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Each session will include water exercises designed to increase mobility and flexibility and to strengthen the cardio-vascular and respiratory systems. Some time will also be spent in improving swimming skills at all levels.

The three-day program is offered for \$16 and the two-night a week program fee is \$11. YWCA membership of \$20 is required.

Registration is taken by calling Cyndie Frid at Northwest YWCA, 537-8500.

Meanwhile, newspaper advertisements have been placed seeking elementary and secondary school teachers who are chess players interested in teaching the game in a classroom in accordance with Curwin's instruction.

"The response has been very good," he said. "Any average player could teach it, and teach it well, if he used my manual and my outline," Curwin said.

"The rules on the box just don't do it," he continued. "They leave too many interpretations hanging, and they leave you pretty much on your own to figure out strategies."

"Books by great chess players don't help much either. They've all written one and used their games as illustrations. But you can't follow those illustrations if you don't know the language."

"In class I will teach how to record a game and make a tally, so students will thoroughly understand each move."

THE TALLY sheets that Curwin speaks of come with the textbook which is included in the \$25 fee.

Students will learn the fundamentals of chess, such as moves and locations, chess language and common abbreviations, and the board numbering system which is used to record a game.

Students will then pair off for practice play while Curwin observes and critiques.

Curwin suggests that students join a chess club but only after they learn the game.

"Most clubs just play chess. I don't know one of them that would take the time out to teach anything to a newcomer," he said. "But you'll need the club for more experience."

His rule for getting more experience and becoming steadily more proficient is "Always play with someone you know is better than you are."

Curwin was taught the game by his father when he was 12, and just recently tested his instruction course on his 8-year-old grandson.

"He did exactly as I had expected. Learned just what I thought he would in 10 hours of play and became more competitive as time went on, as I predicted," he said.

CHESS HAS been dominated by male players through the years, at least at the tournament level. Curwin says he can remember only a handful of women ever being in the higher ranks of the game.

"But the women who are playing now, or maybe I should say the girls, have a particular competitive attitude about chess. I sense that they have found it another door open to do what the men or the boys are doing," Curwin said.

"But no matter what age or sex, I am sure getting this into the schools is going to aid our youth, whether they play for fun and relaxation or to help them become better-thinking people."

Roller skaters called to help fight diabetes

"Skate to Beat Diabetes," the annual skate-a-thon sponsored by the American Diabetes Association-Michigan Affiliate, will be headed by Alan Almond, evening DJ at WNIC-FM, for the third successive year.

Twelve roller rinks in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties will participate in the event Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 24-25.

Almond hopes to top the \$50,000 raised year by 2,191 skaters. He has the support of other DJs who are helping publicize the skate-a-thon and who will appear at the rinks with Almond during the two-day event.

Skaters in this area may participate at Riverside Arena, 36635 Plymouth, Livonia or Bonaventure, 24605 Halstead, Farmington Hills. Both rinks ask a 75 cent rental fee for those who do not own their own skates.

All the money raised in the skate-a-thon is earmarked for the association's programs of research, education, camping for children with diabetes, and statewide detection every November in cooperation with local hospitals.

PERSONS of all ages are welcome to join Skate To Beat Diabetes. Entry forms were available for the asking at the participating rinks or by calling the American Diabetes Association, 342-9333.

Grand prize for the skater who collects the most money is a portable color television set donated by R. Lowell Ahee of R. Lowell Ahee Jewelers, Century Plaza, Troy and Russ Klatt of Frame Art, Birmingham, Waterford, and Troy.

The first prize at each rink for the top money raiser is an AM FM portable cassette recorder. The second prize at each rink is a pair of roller skates, donated by the rink.

In addition, each person who brings with him or her collected pledges exceeding \$10 on Skate Day, will receive a free yellow, nylon backpack which can be worn during the skate-a-thon.

TO BE ELIGIBLE for a prize, envelopes containing the collected pledges must be postmarked by Saturday, Feb. 14. Prizes will be determined by the actual dollars received. One prize per skater is allowed and every prize winner receives immediate notification.

The Skate To Beat Diabetes has become the association's top annual fundraiser. Persons who would like to help at the rinks during Skate Day are asked to call the association at 342-9333. Volunteers are still needed.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Piano lessons for tots

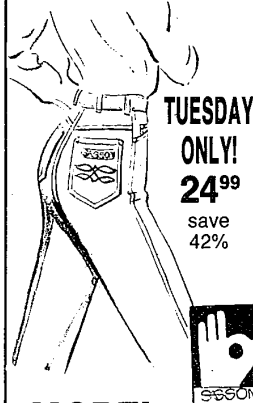
Susan Nichols introduces the piano for kindergartners who will color, march, sing and learn ear-training with the Kelly-Kirby method of music studies in Farmington Community Center. Tots begin their lessons at 9:30 or 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays beginning Jan. 24 with the teacher who holds degrees from Detroit Institute of Musical Arts and Kelly-Kirby Kindergarten Piano Teaching. In-person registrations are taken now in the center on Farmington Road, north of Ten Mile Road. Staff photo by Randy Borst



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