

'Let's Not Kid Our Kids' gives facts on teen sexuality

"Let's Not Kid Our Kids" a two-session seminar for parents on adolescent sexuality, runs from 7-10 p.m. Thursdays beginning March 11 in O.E. Dunkel Middle School.

The educational program is sponsored by the Oakland County Chapter of the March of Dimes and the Midwest Region of B'nai B'rith Women, headquartered in Southfield.

National organizations of the two groups have a long history of affiliation with the common goal of protecting the healthy birthright of the unborn and the newborn. Both have been in the forefront of advocacy for legislation to improve maternal and infant health services.

Most recently, facing a national crisis of adolescent pregnancies, the two organizations joined to sponsor community education forums, parent awareness seminars and clubs for young parents.

"Let's Not Kid Our Kids" is designed to aid parents of children from the ages of 8-18 years in understanding their child's sexuality and to enhance communication between child and parent.

Co-chairwomen of the program for this area are Ruth Grey, a Farmington Hills resident and Operation Stork chairwoman for B'nai B'rith, and Myra

Jacobs, a resident of West Bloomfield and a health educator for the March of Dimes.

FOUR EDUCATORS will conduct the seminar, all experts in their field. Rita Weiss, a family management specialist for Oakland County Youth Assistance, leads off the seminar with "Is Your Child Ready?" The session will introduce the seminar by explaining the psycho-social aspects of adolescent sexuality.

Joy Schumacher follows with her talk "Where Do Babies Come From?" The clinical nurse for the Oakland

County Health Division describes her segment of the seminar as a mini-course on sex education.

"The Schools and Their Message to Our Teens" is delivered by Pat Nichols, a health specialist for Troy Public Schools.

The second session of the seminar, given on March 18, is devoted to "Conveying What We Mean," led by Janice Flaska.

Ms. Flaska is a social worker for Henry Ford Hospital's Adolescent Pregnancy Program and a consultant in human sexuality education, who will talk about values and strategies for communication.

"This is not a fund-raiser," Mrs. Jacobs stresses.

"We charge \$5 registration fee (for both sessions) and that just covers the costs. We want to promote understanding of adolescent sexuality and provide parents with some basic facts."

THE FEE covers all materials necessary for the two sessions. Refreshments are complimentary.

Interested persons may register by sending a check in the amount of \$5, made payable to March of Dimes Oakland County Chapter, to "Let's Not Kid Our Kids," March of Dimes, 5641 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield, 48033.

A note attached should include the participant's name, address, phone number, and ages of their children.

Mrs. Jacobs asks participants to commit themselves to attending both sessions of the seminar, as one segment builds on the next. The seminar will run about three hours each evening.

O.E. Dunkel Middle School is at 32800 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads.

Inquiries will be taken by calling March of Dimes, 651-8000, or B'nai B'rith Women, 569-1335.

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suburban life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450

Frieda Leemon Girls Vocational High School
Pioneer Woman leaves office
with school named in her honor

By Lorraine McClish staff writer

Frieda Leemon is back home after a trip to Israel, a trip she's made many times in connection with her work in Pioneer Women-Na'Amat. But this time she left after visiting the Frieda Leemon Girls Vocational High School which opened last fall in the town of Lod.

"Most past presidents get a dormitory named after them, but an entire school complex was named after me," the Farmington Hills resident quipped.

The visit was marked by a reception planned by the students to honor the woman who winds up her second two-year term as national president of the international organization that operates in 13 countries to upgrade the status of Jewish and Arab women in Israel.

"I see some progress," she said of academic and vocational education, legal aid, recreational facilities, counseling and child care centers that Pioneer Women-Na'Amat works to provide.

"But it isn't going fast enough for me."

PIONEER WOMEN, the Women's Labor Zionist Organization of America, was started 55 years ago to help spur a migration of feminist settlers to Palestine; a group that has since been referred to many times as "the first kibbutz."

Most recently Pioneer Women tackled on the name of its sister organization in Israel, Na'Amat, to be used as its official title.

The thrust of the organization remains the same: "Pulling these women up into the 20th century" in Mrs. Leemon's words. But the situation, 55 years later, is not the same.

"The spirit is different," Mrs. Leemon said. "Fifty-five years ago we had women who were real pioneers. They were highly motivated and willing to work hard to build a new land. There is an entirely different attitude among those who came to Israel because there was no place else to go."

"There is still much to do in putting that same pioneering spirit into those who came for a haven."

THE WOMAN who has been received by Israeli presidents and entertained by Golda Meir since joining Pioneer Women 26 years ago, says she still suffers cultural shock on her visits to Israel.

She tells about a meeting she had one morning with women who are department heads at universities and women who hold doctor of philosophy and medical degrees.

"Then that afternoon not a half-mile away I find 17-year-olds learning the alphabet with the youngsters they are babysitting for in our day care centers," she said.

"These are girls whose fathers are still into escort dating and arranging marriages. Even so I guess it's a step forward that their fathers are permitting them to be there at all."

"They have mothers who are functional illiterates and chattels in the real sense of the word. And these are the women who are raising families and don't bother sending their children to school. It is sad and it troubles me."

"So we keep plugging. We keep trying."

"We keep hoping that the girls who attend our vocational schools will go back to the out-of-the-way development towns and become role models for others who come from Moslem societies. But most of them don't. It's like trying to keep them down on the farm after they've seen Paro," she said.

THE STUDENTS now enrolled in the Frieda Leemon Girls Vocational High School are learning to become nursery school aids through a para-professional course. Sewing and commercial sewing are also offered. Those who show a talent for sewing are encouraged to pursue a career in fashion design.

Study in commercial subjects is the next department to be initiated at the new school.

Mrs. Leemon estimates the student body is made up of about two-thirds Jews and one-third Arabs. The girls come from Lod and its neighboring towns, Ramle, so their cultural backgrounds are similar.

She hopes that next she will be able to offer those girls' mothers courses in reading and writing as part of a job she's taken as the national chairwoman of foundation grants for Pioneer Women-Na'Amat.

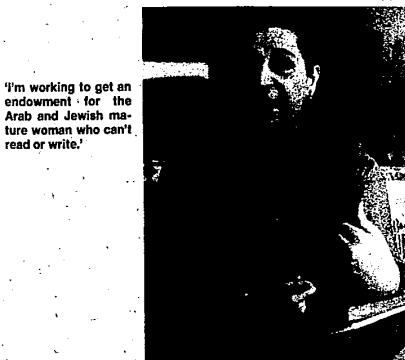
"I'm working to get an endowment for the Arab and Jewish mature woman who can't read or write," she said.

"They live together now and come from like cultures. We'll take a stab at seeing if they can study together. I've already named the program: Educated Women for Peace and Progress."

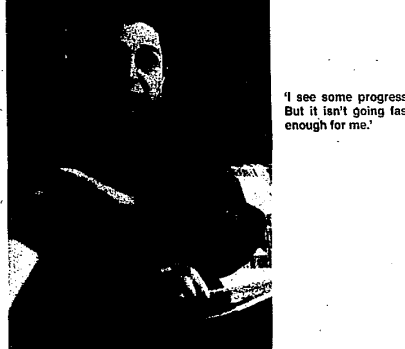
SHE TELLS of a song called "For the Honey and For the Stinger" that is popular in Israel now.

"It pretty much describes it all," she said.

"It describes the sweet and the bitter of the country. On one hand, filled-up successful universities. On the other hand the lowest end of the economic scale with an outmoded culture they can't seem to shake off."



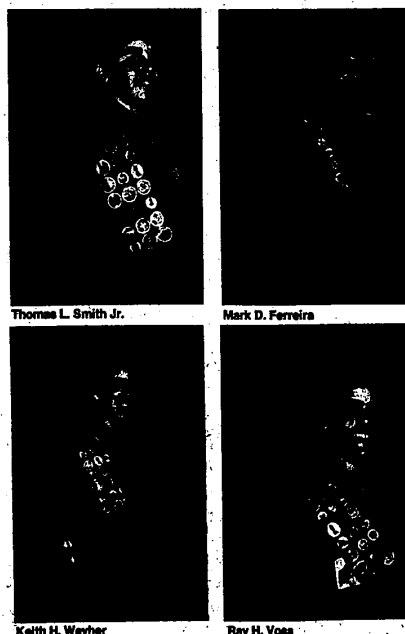
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I see some progress. But it isn't going fast enough for me.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

Troop 263
Young men step up to become
area's newest Eagle Scouts



Thomas L. Smith Jr.
Mark D. Ferreira
Keith H. Weyher
Ray H. Voss

Boy Scout Troop 263 held its annual Eagle Court of Honor this month for seven of its members who were inducted into the highest rank in scouting.

Among the guests of honor was Tom Smith Jr., a 15-year-old and the ninth child in his family to earn the Eagle rank.

Bob Hood, speaking for the troop that is sponsored by Kendallwood Farms Association, called Smith's achievement, "Quite an honor and truly an exception."

Smith collects coins, plays football and is a member of St. Fabian Catholic Church.

His service project, a requisite for the rank of Eagle, was fulfilled with a furniture refinishing job he completed in conjunction with the Farmington Historical Society's work in turning the former governor's mansion into the Farmington Historical Museum.

Smith's fellow troop-members who attained the Eagle rank this month were Mark D. Ferreira, Brian S. Hood, John T. Kerrigan, Richard E. Kettenstock, Ray H. Voss and Keith H. Weyher.

Ferreira painted several rooms in St. Fabian School for his project. The 15-year-old stamp collector says his ambition is to become an aerospace engineer and become involved with the space shuttle program.

Hood, turned both maintenance man and host for Farmington Community Center to complete his community project. The 15-year-old, who has his sights set on a career in medicine, is the only ninth grader in North Farmington High School's history to become a wrestling champion.

Kerrigan has given his time and talents to raising money for St. Vincent DePaul Society and Thanksgiving baskets. The sports-minded 14-year-old is hoping to be accepted at Stanford University.

Kettenstock is 15 and has represented his school in both state and regional academic competitions. He is treasurer of the student board at North Farmington High School and is a member of the school's marching band. The model railroad and rocket builder worked on the grounds of Farmington Community Center to fulfill requirements for his service project.

Weyher is 15 and an acolyte at St. Christopher's-St. Paul Episcopal Church, who swims, plays baseball and football. He spent a good part of last summer working toward the opening of the new Farmington Historical Museum for his service project. His job there was edging, weeding and preparing the soil for several garden plots on the grounds.



Brian S. Hood
John T. Kerrigan
Richard E. Kettenstock

Mrs. America-Michigan will be crowned March 5

Mrs. America-Michigan of 1982 will be crowned in Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn, Friday March 5. The winner will receive a host of prizes, including a fur coat and an opportunity to compete in the Mrs. America Pageant in Las Vegas, Nev.

Cher Perlmutter, State Director of the contest said 30 women are expected to vie for the title during two days of beauty, poise, personality, swimwear and evening gown competitions. The contest will begin at 6 p.m. March 4.

The Michigan pageant is being co-sponsored by Fairlane Town Center and Vassar's of Detroit.

A panel of judges comprised of entertainment, community and business leaders will have the task of selecting the Michigan winner to succeed Sally Jane Peters, the reigning Mrs. America-Michigan.

Fairlane Town Center is located west of Southfield Road, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, in Dearborn.