

# YWCA Women Learn

# Talk Can Help Ease Tensions

By MARGARET MILLER  
Women's Editor

They sat around the conference table—six wives and mothers at varying stages of life.

Their problems were sometimes different—yet sometimes similar.

There was the mother who felt panic as she watched her 13-year-old daughter grow up and the one who felt deep distress because her youngest son had failed in college and his life was at loose ends.

There was the wife who knew a long-time-making mistake and the one whose marital peace had had its ups and downs.

There was the mother whose worries made her keep her 10-year old son in his home block. And the mother of two pre-schoolers who seemed content to listen to what might be in store in the future.

part of a course in family living.

Helping families by involving mothers in small-group counseling sessions is the aim of the course. This reporter visited during the second session in an eight-week course.

Leader was Mrs. Lucille Cantoni, director of Family Life Education for Family Services of Metropolitan Detroit and herself the mother of a son and a daughter.

She mostly listened, directed the conversation a bit, put in an occasional "Why?" and offered a little advice.

"JUST SINCE I was here last week, I find myself analyzing everything I or others say or do," one woman said.

"Me too," agreed another, "but it makes me more worried. I'm realizing I'm too restricted with the children. We moved here from the Upper Peninsula and the city scares me—not for myself but for the children. Don't really want to let my 10-year-old son leave the block."

*"After I got home last week, my husband and I had a discussion instead of an argument for the first time in a long while."*

"Why is that?" Mrs. Cantoni asked.

"I suppose I worry about what might happen," the mother said. "But I also worry because he's such a day-dreamer. I guess he's a lot like me. And really, he does seem quite content being with the family. Shouldn't he want to be with his friends more?"

The other mothers agreed children that age should be given some freedoms—like visiting friends a few blocks from home.

and I had a discussion instead of an argument for the first time in a long time. There has been the matter of a bank account in my name that has resented. I could see his point, but I wanted him to see mine, too."

"It's not just the money," Mrs. Cantoni suggested. "It's the way we communicate with money. I think maybe what your husband really wants you to understand is that his masculinity is somehow threatened by the independence that money gives you."

"And so by talking about your feelings you got close to the basic issues between you."

who said she started the course because she'd had a winter of being rather depressed, commented that she had come to realize that the focus of her relationship with her husband had changed three or four times in the course of their marriage.

"I was very shy when we were first married," she recalled. "My husband was definitely the leader."

"Then, as the children grew up a bit, I got out of the house more. My daughter joined Girl Scouts and I was a leader. That was my time."

"Last winter my husband got a promotion, and he was on the way up. I should have been happy, but I felt put down. He and all I could see ahead was a dreary winter."

"Can you share with each other when one is down?" Mrs. Cantoni asked.

"Evidently we didn't," was the answer. "I think we're learning now."

Sherman in the pictures. I'm not sure I like that."

THE OTHERS suggested it was a pretty normal stage. Mrs. Cantoni put it in sociological terms.

"In our society," she said, "kids have to go from complete unknowing to mate selection, but doesn't quite know how to deal with themselves. This is a tremendous task we impose on ourselves."

"Choosing friends of one's own sex is a beginning in the process. Then you often get the stage of hero-worship. The young girl starts having grown up feelings, but doesn't know how to deal with them—she needs a far-away object for her feelings."

"When she and her friends start noticing the boys close at hand, they often all like the same boy. That's safer. All these are perfectly normal stages in growing up."

THE GROUP gave a sympathetic ear to the mother whose son had failed college.

It was one of life's more difficult situations, they agreed, and also agreed that perhaps the best thing to do was step aside and be a listener when he was ready to express his feelings more.

Mrs. Cantoni, whose work with Family Service entails conducting quite a few such discussion courses, said that was an interesting group because its members were so widely assorted.

"We've had trouble sticking to the topic I plan," she said. "There's so much difference among the women. But I usually find things pull together more by the end of the course."

# m. m. memos

I've never been one to get sentimental over Mother's Day. My feelings have been it would be simpler and less embarrassing to skip the whole thing.

But the statistics of mothers seems a bit different this year. Two quotations I've read point to that idea.

One was from a youth involved in the ecology movement and it went this way:

"Ecology is going to be the motherhood issue of the 1970's. No, make that apple pie-motherhood isn't so popular now."

And the other from a symposium on environment and related subjects:

"In an age when offspring are not economically a necessity, it is difficult for me to see why they are still considered so important."

Now I accept the need to control our population growth.

And I realize economics and ecology and every other logic point to families in the future of no more than two children.

But on Mother's Day or any other, I look at the two young girls who make up the second half of our gang and feel only thankfulness that a dozen years ago no one talked to me about population control or two-childer families.

—Margaret Miller



# Comedian Levenson Tops Area Town Hall Guests

Famed humorist Sam Levenson will highlight the Northville Town Hall 10th anniversary season for 1970-71.

The ex-schoolteacher of television fame will lead off the series, appearing in Northville High School Thursday, Oct. 8.

Other features in the program will be a fashion show Nov. 12 by a Dearborn women's specialty shop, a lecture March 11 by Mike Whorf, host of the WJR radio show "Kaleidoscope," and an introduction to wines April 22 by Walter W. Rosenberg, proprietor of a Detroit chain of wine shops.

ALL THE LECTURES will begin at 11 a.m. in the auditorium of the high school, located at Eight Mile and Sheldon, Northville.

The price for the four-lecture season will remain at \$10.

Celebrity luncheons following each talk will again be held in Lady's restaurant, Ann Arbor and Lilley Roads, Plymouth, and will be \$3 for each luncheon.

Town Hall chairman Mrs. Nelson Hyatt said the special anniversary line-up "is a huge thank-you to patrons, sponsors, advertisers, ticket holders and everyone who has contributed and supported the town hall these many years."

WOMEN INTERESTED in receiving brochure announcements may call Mrs. Hyatt at 349-4896; Mrs. Jack Doherty, vice chairman, at 349-0509; or Mrs. Philip Wegger, ticket chairman, at 349-0484.

Those wishing to order tickets may send checks to Northville Town Hall, Box 93, Northville, Mich., 48167.

Mrs. John Frew, 349-0836, is taking luncheon reservations, and Mrs. Robert Broeck, 349-2264, is in charge of babysitters.

SAM LEVENSON once was described by the late poet Carl Sandburg as "America's greatest living humorist."

A native of New York, he taught in Tilden High School in Brooklyn and one year, during an end-of-the-term-party, did a takeoff on the principal's in-



MOTHER'S DAY VISIT -- Mrs. Mary Rugg (left) a resident of the Riverbank Convalescent Home in Livonia, is glad of a chance to chat with her granddaughter, Mrs. Thomas McEvilly of Dearborn. The home is holding open house on Mother's Day. (Observer photo)



MIKE WHORF  
WALTER ROSENBERG

# Moms In Nursing Homes Would Enjoy A Visit

Visit your Mom!

Sunday is Mother's Day and the emphasis is on the traditional family gathering.

It's also a time to stop and think about the elderly who are now living in nursing homes and might appreciate a visit.

If your mother is living in a convalescent home, a visit is undoubtedly already scheduled for your family on Sunday.

However, what if this is an elderly aunt? She too might appreciate a visit on this special day.

If you have no relatives now residing in nursing homes, but would like to do a kind deed, this is an excellent time to visit the person who has no one to visit him.

SUNDAY IS also the opening day of National Nursing Home Week and many local convalescent and nursing homes have scheduled open houses in honor of the week and of Mother's Day.

Some of the open houses are:

- From 2 to 4 p.m. at the University Convalescent & Nursing Home, 28550 Five Mile, Livonia.
- From 2 to 4 p.m. at the Darwin Convalescent and Nursing Center, Inc., 29270 Morlock, Livonia (off Middle Belt one block south of Eight Mile).
- From 2 to 5 p.m. at the Riverbank Convalescent Home, 34350 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

AN ADMINISTRATOR of one local nursing home described the open house and added that: "We hope people from the community will come to visit us and we hope that some of our patients will make new friends."

"When you are sick and aged, it is a good feeling to have someone visit you on this special day."

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