

Storytellers give lessons in their art

Registrations are being taken now for three workshops led by members of Detroit Story League given in October in Farmington Community Center.

The local league is affiliated with a non-profit national organization which encourages the creation and appreciation of the good and beautiful in life and literature through the art of storytelling.

Members perpetuate the ancient art with workshops and by answering requests for storytelling engagements.

All of the workshops begin at 7:30 p.m. on three consecutive Wednesdays. Participants may attend any one of

them for a fee of \$7, or the series for \$18.

Alice McCoy will head the session Oct. 12 called "Sources and How to Select Stories." The workshop will deal with story sources available when probing for the appropriate subject for an intended audience.

The Oct. 19 session is called "Getting and Keeping the Audience's Attention" led by Bruce Smith, who concentrates on drama as an important part of storytelling to keep listeners involved.

"Storytelling for the Child in Everyone" is the workshop set for Oct. 26 led by Violet Altschuler, who tells how to tell stories for an audience of all ages.

THE DETROIT Story League is made up of members from throughout the city and its suburbs who meet once a month in one another's homes.

Members have answered requests to tell stories in playgrounds, at luncheons and dinners in hospitals, libraries, camps, nursing homes, in school classrooms or school assemblies.

Some come in costume if that is appropriate; some incorporate a musical instrument, or puppets or pantomime into their repertoire.

Some are specialists, who answer requests for telling stories to children, for example, or to a group interested in

Shakespeare or history, or any other special interest.

The group does not advertise, but because members have so often been called upon for their expertise by libraries or schools, most of the engagements on their calendars have come by word of mouth.

The workshops the members will lead this fall are the first of their kind offered by Farmington Community Center.

Fees for the workshop are accepted in person or by mail. The center is located at 24705 Farmington Road.

French for 3-6 graders offered at Lycee Campus

An intensive French course for children will be offered by Lycee International in cooperation with French Institute at the Lycee campus, 30800 Evergreen at 13 Mile in Southfield.

for successful long-term study.

The French Institute of Detroit is the only one in Michigan acknowledged as meeting standards established by Alliance Francaise in Paris for its affiliated institutes throughout the world. The fac-

ulty must meet stringent requirements for native proficiency.

Lycee International is an accredited independent school offering formal bilingual education. It is recognized by the school systems of France and the United States.

The course is offered for children in

grades three through six. Classes will meet twice weekly beginning Monday, Oct. 3, and continue through May 28. Tuition is \$225.

For registration, call Lycee International at 642-1178, or the French Institute of Detroit at 644-4110.

"On Golden Pond" opens Komedya Players season

The touching and highly acclaimed comedy "On Golden Pond" by Ernest

Thompson will open Friday, Sept. 25, as Komedya Players Dinner Theatre

presents its third season of professional dinner theater in Allen Park.

This year a season ticket is offered at special savings, which will enable customers to plan their entertainment year in advance. Nell Simon's "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" will be the second show opening Jan. 20; and "Relatively Speaking" by Alan Ayckbourn will round out the season with an April 27 opening.

The dinner theater is owned and operated by Farmington Hills residents Jan and Bill Salisbury.

"On Golden Pond" is the tender and funny love story of Ethyl and Norman Thayer who are returning to their sum-

mer home on Golden Pond for their 44th year. They are visited by their daughter and her fiancé who then go off to Europe leaving his teenage son in their care.

The single show price is \$15.95 per person, while season tickets are available for the three shows at a \$6 saving over the single-show price. Tax and gratuity are not included.

The theater is located in the Allen Park Motor Lodge, on Southfield Road between I-94 and I-75.

Reservations may be made by calling either 386-1100 or 661-1833 at any time. Group rates, motel room packages, and other information are available upon request.



retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Instrumental farewell

"I just sold a piano," said the voice on the telephone. An era was ending, but in a way another was beginning.

The piano that left the family was one that daughter Kathy — the most accomplished tickler of the ivories in our clan — had been enjoying in her Lansing home. But she was getting ready to move to the West Coast and didn't see much hope of fitting it into her compact car.

It's a good instrument, and Kathy and others made fine music on its keys. But for us it never held the memories of its predecessor, the one that began the era of music in our family.

THAT PIANO we found in the basement when we bought the old house that was home for 20 years.

An intricately-carved upright, it had a dark finish already pitted and dulled when we first met. Since the piano lived in a room we came to call the playroom, I fear it received a few more scars over the years.

A couple of its keys stuck and a few others had lost their ivory covers. But a tuner we called in when it seemed loose time was approaching told us it was basically in reasonable shape.

He made a few repairs, and although the piano never could be tuned perfectly, four girls learned to play on it. While they were at it they picked up musical knowledge that took them all to wind instruments, school and community bands and an enjoyment of vocal music.

ABILITIES VARIED and we produced no professional musicians. But the music and the discipline gained in front of that old piano became an extremely important part of four young lives.

The aging instrument finally gave up when Kathy was in high school. And because she was performing a lot and giving some lessons, its successor was purchased.

The new piano stayed upstairs and moved with us when we sold the home-stand. And when we knew we'd be heading south, our daughter found a larger apartment and some husky friends to move it.

BUT HER impending relocation finally dictated the sale. And it wasn't all nostalgia when she called to say she had found a buyer.

"A father and mother and three little girls came to look at it," she reported. "They brought along a piano teacher to try it out and decided to buy it when she approved."

So the new era begins, both for the piano and for Kathy.

She'll have another piano someday; no doubt about it. But before the piano left, she told us later, she sat down at the bench and played... and played... and played.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for Observer Newspapers for 16 years. She and her husband Joe have retired to Florida, where she writes Retirement Memos.

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