

# retirement memos

## Margaret Miller

### Grandparenting fun, even from a distance

We had telephoned hoping to talk to Katie, but our 3-year-old granddaughter was already in bed after an exhausting Halloween.

However, the conversation with her mother was rewarding. "We were sitting on the front steps when the Observer came," reported daughter Barb, "and I turned to your column. Katie looked at the page and said, 'There's Grandma in the newspaper.'"

It really made my day, in fact my week, to have my postage-stamp-sized column picture recognized by this very important little personage. It added another dimension to what Joe and I have been learning about retired and long-distance grandparenting.

**THERE ARE** some unexpected advantages.

For the first year and more of Katie's life we were, of course, resident grandparents. We lived just a few miles away from her and her parents. But all our lives were as hectic in those days that it seemed sometimes that even something as enjoyable as Katie and watching her grow had to be sandwiched between other responsibilities.

We did occasional Katie-sitting, but her parents were reluctant to ask very often. "I know how busy you are," Barb would say. We managed to step by in a while, but felt a need to respect their privacy too, so visits were usually scheduled.

Now the distance is long and the visits are far apart. But in between we're getting in some neat telephone conversations.

sations. In recent red-letter days, Katie told us about the "begg wheel" at the cider mill and the "teeny teeny" fish in her new aquarium.

And in trips to stay with her family — three for me and two for Joe since we retired and moved to Florida — there has been some real togetherness time, all minutes and hours we wanted to read stories to Katie, walk to the park with her, share mealtime and bathtime. While visiting, we make it clear we're delighted to babysit.

**LAST MONTH** we watched with joy the emerging assertiveness of this little 2-year-old and marveled at the patience shown by her parents as they help her grow. "We just try to treat her as a person," our son-in-law said.

We agreed somewhat with the cliché of our times that grandchildren are great because you can enjoy them and then hand them back, but we also felt privileged to share, through close proximity for a little while, the kind of person Katie is becoming.

It was hard to leave them all, of course. But while we were there Katie waved eloquent several times about the planned January visit to "For-da-See blue birds," she would announce. "Jump in now. Walk on beach. Find shells. And mommy. And daddy. And grandma and grandpa."

We can hardly wait.

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.

### club circuit

**MOONDUSTERS**, a social group for singles 40 years and older, meet for a dance party from 8 p.m. to midnight every Saturday in Livonia Activities Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

Admission of \$3.50 includes dancing to a live band and refreshments. Men are asked to wear jackets and ties. Women are asked to dress in good taste.

**SPIN**, (Single Parent Instructional Network) sponsored by Women's Resource Center of Schoolcraft College, offers three workshops to single parents designed to help single parents improve their home environment and the quality of family life.

"Your Home: Safety and Efficiency" begins at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, in Room F120 of the Forum Building on campus, at 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. The program is led by representatives of Consumers Power and Detroit Edison and is free.

"Nutritious Holiday Treats for Kids" begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in Room F400 of the Forum Building. Home economist Jackie Troutman will tell of effective ways to involve children in food preparation, and participants will leave with recipes and holiday treats they have prepared. The fee of \$14 includes all materials necessary.

"Loneliness and the Holidays" begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, in Room F400 of the Forum Building. Dr. Charles Meredith leads this session on how to cope with the stress holidays bring more effectively while developing new expectations for both parent and children. Fee for this session is \$10. Advance registration is required for all workshops. Tuition assistance and child care are available to those who qualify.

Registration is taken by calling the college, 591-6400, Ext. 430.

The dance party is open to all members and all courtesy card holders.

**THE MENDEED HEARTS** meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, in the lower level of the Michigan Heart Association Building, 16310 12 Mile Road, Southfield.

A class will be given in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Inquiries about the Metro Detroit Chapter of the national organization will be taken by calling 557-9500.

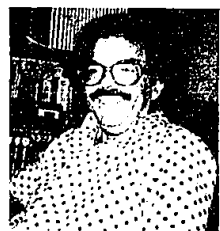
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**, Brookhead-Farmington Post, and its auxiliary host the meeting of state's 5th District Sunday, Dec. 4, in the Farmington Post home.

The 5th District commander, William Babcock, and the 5th District president, Regina Telford, will lead a Pearl Harbor Memorial Service.

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

### Dentist addresses AMA

Dr. Jack M. Dorfman, a Farmington Hills resident with dental practice in Farmington, was in Los Angeles last week to present a paper to the American Medical Society's Congress of Rehabilitative Medicine.



Dr. Jack M. Dorfman

He addressed the congress on "Whiplash Injuries and Its Effect on the Jaw Joints and Facial Muscles Causing Various Symptoms which are not Relieved by Normal Medical Whiplash Treatment."

It is a subject Dorfman has studied intensely and specializes in, in his offices at 29541 Nine Mile Road. He collaborated on the paper with Dr. Thomas Symke, a medical doctor in Florida. Dr. Dorfman has been practicing in Farmington for about 20 years.

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**Chicago Cutlery American Chef BioCurve 19° Handle Cutlery Set.**

These top quality knives are not only highly functional, but also attractively designed. Made by master American craftsmen, the knives feature solid walnut handles, rust-resistant, stainless high carbon Chicago Special Steel® blades, and Chicago Cutlery's exclusive Taper & Flex Grind® edges. Set includes a 2 1/2" peeler/parer, 4", 6" and 8" chef knives and a curved block. Plus, of course, the ergonomically designed 19° handle. American Chef Cutlery Set with Block, \$129.95. Delivery—\$5.00.

**Chicago Cutlery "Chef's Favorites" BioCurve 19° Handle Cutlery Set.**

Gift box starter set contains a 3 1/2" parer/steak knife, a 6" chef's knife and a 10" utility slicer. "Chef's Favorites" Cutlery Set, \$59.95. Delivery—\$3.50.

**Braun Minipimer.**

It's a blender and mixer for your ergonomic kitchen—plus it's got a few tricks of its own. The Braun Minipimer Vario MR-8 is truly portable, allowing you to blend and whisk in any container, even on the stove-top. Large, special designed handle is easy to grip. It is easy to clean and you can select just the right speed, from blending sauces to whipping cream. Comes complete with mixing beaters, strainer, whisk, spatula and wall holder. Braun Minipimer, \$69.95. Delivery—\$5.00.

**MiniChop Electric.**

Complement your ergonomic kitchen and end the tedious work of chopping and mincing with this new little food processor. It finely chops garlic, onion, and parsley in just a few seconds. Light pressure on the lid is all that's needed and the built-in security system assures you the chopper will only work when the lid is in place. Easy to clean, too. A recipe book is included. MiniChop Electric, \$29.95. Delivery—\$3.50.

**Chicago Cutlery American Chef Large Cutting and Serving Board.**

Here's another application of the unique Bennett's BioCurve principle. Though large, (8"x11 1/2") and hand fashioned of hard maple, the 19° curved handle makes the board easy to lift, carry, control and balance. Versatile board may be used for slicing fruits, vegetables, meats, boning chicken, cooling baked goods, etc. Juice trough conveniently catches excess drippings. Large Cutting and Serving Board, \$15.00. Delivery—\$3.50.

**Mirro Precision Cookware Set.**

Mirro calls it the Control 19° Helping Handle, but it's still the 19° angle principle in action, helping you grip, lift, carry and balance this heavyweight polished aluminum cookware set. Features include tough Silverstone non-stick interiors and steam release vents on snug-fitting covers. Nine-piece set contains 1 quart covered sauce pan, 2 quart covered casserole with double boiler, 3 quart open saucepan, 5 quart covered Dutch oven, 10-inch open frypan and roasting rack, 9-piece Cookware Set, \$89.95. Delivery—\$3.50.

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