

# An appetite for good works sparks cookbook

By Shirlee Rose Iden  
staff writer

Marge Blalkin will tell you she was born, bred, and buttered in Brooklyn, New York.

She and her husband Bernard, Southfielders for 18 years, haven't a single relative here, "not even the most distant cousin," she says.

Blalkin has qualities, however, that win her friends and a niche as a valued member of the community, a dedicated volunteer, and a resource as well.

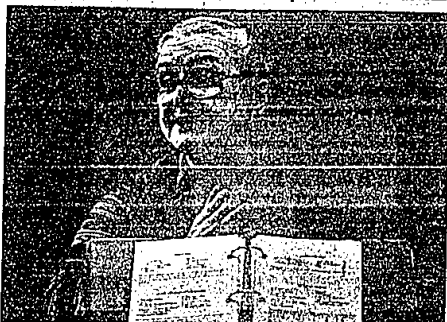
Three years ago, when Ruth Miller, then president of Pioneer Women Na'amat was looking for someone to "do a simple revision" of the group's cookbook as a fundraiser, she chose Blalkin.

Miller says it was because of her exactness, her efficiency, and her talent as a cook.

What began as a simple revision became a complete overhaul.

"We started three years ago, but I broke an arm, then became president of my Dimona Chapter, and what with a lot of meticulous work, it took a long time," Blalkin says.

"ACTUALLY, the work time was 18 months. We took the old cookbook, revised and culled, asked members for new recipes and made some basic changes."



MINDY BAUNDERS/staff photographer

Margaret Blalkin used her skills as a statistician, her preciseness, and her talent as a cook in revising Pioneer Women Na'amat Cookbook. Recipes from about 100 area cooks give instruction for everything from chicken soup to chocolate mousse, and everything's kosher.

Gloria Zauber, who had edited the original cookbook, assisted Blalkin and did clever line drawings that appear throughout the 200-plus pages.

"We divided the book into sections and have each recipe cross-indexed," she says.

"I removed monosodium glutamate (MSG) from all the recipes and every recipe is kosher."

Cross-indexing was accomplished by Frieda Leemon of Farmington Hills, who recently completed duties as Pioneer Women's national president.

With the assistance of Shoshanna Edelson, the book was proofread twice.

The finished product is a handsomely bound plastic loose leaf binder, unique in that the bottom half folds back and forms its own stand.

The book is being sold for \$11.95 at the Pioneer Women office at 25900 Greenfield, suite 203-D. Proceeds will

go to continue the struggle for women's rights carried on by the organization here and in Israel.

Blalkin who joined Pioneer Women "because of the children" is pleased that the work of her hands and head will help improve the quality of life for women and children in Israel, including Arab and Druze women and children.

"We're first in child care in Israel," she says. "They need so much and if we don't help our children, who will?" Blalkin and her husband who came to Michigan in 1948 have a daughter, Paula, who is a teacher, and now is working as a paramedic.

"I went to City College of New York (CCNY) when women weren't accepted during the day," she recalls. "I bought that and went at night to study statistics. My field is accounting."

Blalkin was the controller for American Relief for Italy during World War II and after. "Then I left to come here."

"My husband is a professional engi-

neer and he was going to make a fortune," she says. "He didn't, but we've been happy."

Although recipes are not attributed in the new cookbook, Blalkin says more than 100 women from Pioneer Women's 18 clubs and 1200 members contributed.

Blalkin says the first traditional Jewish recipe in the book is for gefilte fish in five versions and all Americanized. "We also have one for bering and one for tuna lasagna."

"I gave a book to a gourmet cook friend of mine," she says, "and she bought three more."

Blalkin says two of the book's best features are that it is a loose-leaf binder and that you can add pages, some of which are provided.

A few of her favorite recipes are: Biltz Souffle, the baked gefilte fish, and Chocolate Mousse.

Is she a good cook? "I don't know," she responds. "My husband says so."

## club circuit

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,** Michigan Chapter, sponsors a panel discussion on teacher certification at 7:45 p.m. tonight in Southfield Civic Center.

Three guest panelists will give their views on the need for change in the certification code with focus on special education, pre-kindergarten, middle school, gifted, vocational education and administrative certification.

Southfield Civic Center is located on Evergreen Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

**RIDGEWRITERS,** a group of published and aspiring writers, meets from noon to 2 p.m. every Friday in Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile.

Members of the group critique each

others work and learn about writers' market updates. New members are welcome.

**MOONDUSTERS** meet at 9 p.m. every Saturday for a dance party in Livonia Activities Center, 15218 Farmington Road. The events are open to all singles over the age of 40 in all surrounding communities.

Admission of \$3.50 includes dancing to a live band and refreshments.

**PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS,** Wayne-Westland Chapter, hosts a dance called "Frosted Poles" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in Bonnie Brook Country Club, Telegraph Road, south of Eight Mile.

The event is open to all interested

persons. Admission for non-members is \$5 at the door.

**INDOOR LIGHT GARDENING SOCIETY,** Metro Detroit Chapter, meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 3737 13 Mile.

Speaker for the evening is Bernie Margolis. He will talk about seasonal care of outdoor plants and the different ways plants protect themselves through the season.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 21333 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

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