



## retirement memos

**Margaret Miller**

# Some retired women who made a difference

One of the things I've enjoyed in retirement is membership in the American Association of University Women. I had long felt ties to this group because of many friendships and countless inches of copy written about AAUW activities during my community newspaper years. I never joined, though, it seemed there never was time enough available.

But time became a bit more plentiful in retirement, and AAUW became my organization of choice. It has proved a good choice. Besides pointing me toward friendships with a lot of interesting women, it has given me opportunity to go on writing about its activities as editor of the local branch bulletin.

And this spring it also provided a fascinating look at how much retired women in particular, can mean to a community they either adopt as home or continue to call home.

"AN EYE-OPENER" branch program dealt with the way that AAUW activities had proved a catalyst in the Sarasota community. It traced histories of services that had begun in that organization since its beginnings in 1952 — services in the areas of mental health, libraries, family service, college scholarships, a women's center.

"We were educated women who came to the community and brought expertise and experience," noted the longtime member who put the program together.

Then followed reports like the one from a retired mental health worker whose study group went into action when people in these parts hardly knew the term "mental health." The study brought support; a psychiatric unit was

established in the largest local hospital and eventually a county mental health service came into being. "That is still in existence, and we started it," said the AAUW member.

Another member told of discussion "in my living room" about the need for a free community library in this area. That led to a public meeting, and not too long afterwards a store-front library. Now there are five libraries in the county. "It's a fine system now, and the seed was one we planted," she said.

In the '70s, several members reported, a program for displaced homemakers was established but not funded, so again the AAUW was asked to do a survey. One thing determined was that these women whose lives had been changed drastically needed a place to come to. That was the beginning of the Women's Resource Center of Sarasota, which serves all women and has the AAUW as one of its strong supporters.

THOSE WERE JUST a few of the seeds planted and nurtured. "We're keeping on," said the leader. "We need new and good ideas, and newcomers who know what has been done in their home communities are our best source."

It's a proud heritage in which to play even a small role. But this summer I hope to participate in an AAUW survey, requested by the school district, on what makes high schoolers drop out.

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.

# Fall's fabrics to reflect batik of Java

By Corinne Abelt staff writer

Inger McCabe Elliott's message at the Design Center of Troy was bold and clear — mauves, tawpes and neutrals will be taking a back seat to brilliant primary colors in the months ahead.

"The color now is marigold and aqua," she said. Later in her slide talk to a group of interior designers in the Campbell-Louis showroom which handles the China Seas line, she said, "January 1986 will be quite different than what you see about you now. Where we think things are going is in the very brights — aqua, red, green, marigold."

(Orange was also mentioned, but not in this list). Your mind has to stretch and your eye has to stretch."

Elliott, founder and president of China Seas, is a multi-talented entrepreneur and the author of a new book, "Batik: Fabled Cloth of Java."

THE BOOK is a catalog of this wonderful but fast disappearing art which Elliott has been collecting and studying for many years.

An exhibit of antique batik which complements the book, partially funded by Mobil Oil Corp., and organized by The Textile Museum of Washington D.C., will be at the Royal Ontario Mu-

seum of Art in Toronto in May. About half of the pieces in the exhibit are from Elliott's personal collection. As she collected, she catalogued. The Textile Museum asked her to do the book.

Which came first — the book or the international excitement about the patterns and colors — is a moot question. These prints and colors are already a strong influence on the interior design market as well as areas of life and clothing. And the hottest color among the batik prints is raspberry.

Among the many things which China Seas does is two collections a year of fabrics and wallcoverings. And, as expected, part of the current one, "Fables of the China Seas," is a batik extravaganza inspired by the vivid colors and designs of Java's north coast where Elliott said there is both a Chinese and an Arabic influence.

There are four Batik-inspired patterns — Batavia, exotic flowers; Hoko-kai, a flowered woodland; Indramayu, menagerie of mythical creatures; and Semen (accent on the second syllable), a fantasy design. Each comes in a variety of colors.

The collection is on cotton from the United States, handwoven in Switzerland. The collection of real batik is made in Java. Along with this is a collection of what Elliott called "tea towel

plaids," in cotton and linen and a selection of Ultraseeds.

Before Elliott talked about the collection, demonstrating the many combinations of patterns and colors, she showed her own slides of Java and the Far East, an area where she has lived and worked.

HER FAMILY escaped from Norway during the Nazi occupation, made their way across Siberia to Japan and eventually to the United States.

After completing a master's degree in history at Harvard, she was a photographer for Life, Time, Newsweek and other publications and lived in Hong Kong during the 60s.

She credits her work as a photojournalist with building a high level of visual awareness and timing, especially valuable for her work in the interior design field. "It taught me how to see," she said.

"I was the eldest child of an immigrant family — slated to be a doctor or lawyer," she smiled adding, "as you can see I'm in the rag business."

China Seas, founded by Elliott in 1972, based in New York City, has 21 distributors and representatives throughout the United States Europe, Australia and the Caribbean.

# DeMolay chooses its sweetheart

Amy Lynn Pankas of Farmington Hills was selected as one of 12 finalists in Michigan DeMolay State Sweetheart competition. Finals of the contest will be Aug. 20 at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant during the DeMolay annual state convocation.

Prior to entering state competition, Amy was elected the local sweetheart for Livonia Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

In addition to her DeMolay activities, Amy is active in Job's Daughters.

DeMolay is an organization for young men between the ages of 13-21 designed to help its members gain skills in leadership. The International Order of DeMolay was founded in 1919 in Kansas City, Mo. Since its founding, DeMolay has initiated more than three million members worldwide and presently has 50 active chapters in Michigan.

In September each Michigan Chapter selects a sweetheart as their representative for state competition. Contestants are judged on the basis of talent, poise



Amy Lynn Pankas and personality and serve until the following September.

## club circuit

AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION hosts a meeting for the organization of a new chapter at 7 tonight in 1 Building, Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College. Membership in the new chapter is open to employed women in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

Guest speaker for the evening is Ann Greene, president of Profiles in Color. Her talk is called "Wardrobe-Color Analysis."

The association of working women has more than 112,000 members in 2,100 chapters nationwide. Inquiries are taken by Bettie Johnson, 478-5048.

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER WOMEN'S CLUB meet at 12:30 p.m. Friday, June 7, for lunch on the veranda of Farmington Historical Museum, followed by a conducted tour of the house and grounds.

Guests are welcome. Reservations, at \$8 for members, or \$9 for non-members, must be received before Wednesday, June 6, in Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

The women's club is a social group for women with new-found freedom from work or home responsibilities. Meetings are planned for the first Fri-

day of each month throughout the year.

INDOOR GARDENING SOCIETY OF AMERICA meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile Road.

Speaker for the evening is Bill Katz who will tell about the care and growing of ferns indoors and outdoors, as well as the propagation of ferns.

Visitors are welcome. Refreshments are complimentary.

YOUNG WOMEN OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND meet for their last gathering of the season at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, in Crickets, 4305 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Entertainment for the evening will be a fashion show presented by Active Outlet.

Reservations are necessary and must be received before June 7 by calling Pam David, 855-9331. Charge for the evening is \$15.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

# Fair Lane's quilt ready for viewing

The Henry Ford Estate, Fair Lane, has a newly completed quilt for the wicker bed in the master suite sun porch.

The quilt, with its detailed bird motif and intertwining branches against a solid background, took 11 volunteers 19 months to complete.

Laurie Taylor of Farmington Hills

was one of the 11 expert quilters who gave, all told, about 1,000 hours of work in layout, tracing, sewing and final assembly of the quilt.

Designs for the quilt were based upon a black and white photograph taken of the master suite sun porch shortly after Clara Ford's death. In the photograph, only a portion of the quilt on the

wicker bed was visible. Upon closer inspection of the photograph, the bird and branch motif were evident.

The completed quilt resembles the original and gives a sense of Henry and Clara Ford's special interest in bird identification.

Heading the project was Mary Jefferson, special projects assistant at the estate, who found the photograph, researched its subject matter and solicited donations from national companies for thread, fabric and batting.

Kathleen P. Crombie, designer and owner of Tint & Splint Basketry in Garden City, reproduced the wicker bed on

which the quilt was displayed.

The work is part of the continuing efforts of the University of Michigan-Dearborn to restore the mansion to its original refined beauty and elegance.

The quilt and wicker bed along with the home and its gardens can be seen during guided tours Sundays, 1-4:30 p.m. or Monday-Friday at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m.

The estate is on the UM-D campus at 4901 Evergreen, directly across from the Fairlane Town Center.

# Summer term at Mercy opens

Registrations are now being accepted for all classes and events offered in Mercy Center's summer term, which runs from June 14 to Aug. 29 in the center at 28600 11 Mile Road.

A number of swimming classes are available, including open swimming and private lessons.

Fitness classes come in a variety of mixes in the pool and in the gym.

Summer day camp for those 3-12 years runs from June 17 through Aug. 30, and overnight stays are offered on six weekends.

A new program on the summer agenda is called Counselor-in-Training for those from 13-15 years of age.

Brochures will be sent on request by calling the center, 476-8010.

The pulse of your community

**BRIDGETT MARX\***  
One of the founders of D.A.D., a Michigan Design Group is now associated with ROCHELLE IBER'S KNT KNT KNT in the presentation of a series of Knitting Workshops.

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**Starting the Week of July 1st:**  
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IV. FINISHING 4 Weeks - 24 hours Wednesday Evening 7-9:30 \$36.00

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