

retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Samantha draws retiree across the continent

A tiny new person named Samantha — Samantha Margaret to be more complete — had this retiree traveling 16,800-plus miles this fall. Holding her was worth every inch of the trip.

Samantha was born Aug. 18 in Fairbanks, Alaska, to our youngest daughter, Ann, and her husband, Gary Anderson. Her arrival in a far-flung family occasioned a lot of telephone for her aunt and a lot of travel for her grandmother.

Daughter Barb in Michigan was the only more-or-less stationary member of the clan when Samantha came on the scene. Receiving the news from Gary, she was able to get through quickly to the Cooperstown, N.Y., motel where Joe and I were vacationing.

Locating two more sisters — one traveling from Phoenix to Kansas and the other between conferences on the East Coast — took considerably more use of the phone lines, but of course she managed it.

THEN IT WAS decision time for Grandma. I kept telling myself Ann was fine and it was a terribly long way to go and the baby probably would be more fun next summer. But the arguments couldn't hold up very long.

I hadn't seen Ann in nearly two years and I'd never met Gary and a fine travel deal was available for a senior citizen like me. Mainly, the pull of a new little family member was too strong to resist. I made my reservation and headed to the North and West.

The trip — three flights and more than 16 hours each way — went so well that I'm composing a letter of praise to Delta Airlines, which I'm

sure isn't receiving too much praise these days.

IT TOOK ME to a week with Samantha and her parents that will long be treasured in memory.

Our new baby is the family's first non-blond in two generations. Ann and I had a lot of discussion on the weighty matter of whether her hair will retain its dark reddish brown shade or give way to a more sandy color to match her eyebrows.

Samantha has blue eyes that seemed to mesmerize me and long fingers and toes and already is showing a lot of strength in pushing legs and arching back.

She likewise shows a lot of strength in her decision to keep her parents in attendance through the night as well as the day. I took over a morning shift so Ann could get a little extra sleep and kept up the assurances that this wouldn't go on forever.

IN TWO PREVIOUS trips to Alaska, I've viewed snow-capped mountains and lively green rivers and icy blue glaciers. This time I realized anew that there is nothing more beautiful in God's world than a healthy baby.

Leaving Samantha was about the hardest thing I've had to do in a long time, and already I'm looking forward to seeing her again — with Grandpa Joe next time. It's a long way, but maybe those air bargains will hold until next summer.

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

Gardeners' labor of love

Continued from Page 1

enough to accommodate wheelchairs.

"Some workers from Crowley's come out for lunch here, and sit on the benches," Moore said. "Spring through fall is when the gardens are most colorful."

The club utilizes herbs from the taste garden for its annual crafts fair, weaving them into wreaths and other crafts. This year, the fair, a major fund-raiser for the club, is scheduled Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dunek school. The ninth annual juried craft show will feature 80 artisans.

The club is also holding a drive in hopes of boosting membership from 33 to between 40 and 50 members. It

meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon at the Farmington Hills branch of the Farmington Public Library, 32737 W. Twelve Mile, between Farmington Road and Orchard Lake.

"Anyone with an interest in gardening or flower arranging is invited to join," said Moore, adding that the group also deals in areas ranging from table settings to landscaping and conservation.

The next meeting is scheduled Oct. 13. Sessions are adjourned by 3 p.m. Annual membership fee is \$10.

"The friendships that we cultivate are also an important part of it," Moore added.

For more information, call membership chairwoman Irene Barth at 474-8463.

Cornerstone of Freedom

Our Constitution, the cornerstone of our freedoms, was written to protect every American from the abuse of power by government. Without the determination to restrain the

excesses of political power, our Republic will perish. The Quakertown Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution urges that we study the value of public service.

club circuit

AMERICAN LEGION, Groves-Walker Post 365 and its auxiliary meets at 8 tonight in the post home, 31775 Grand River.

BETA SIGMA PHI, Xi Epsilon Beta Chapter, meets Tuesday evening, Oct. 6, in the Farmington Hills home of Helen Bonasigna, who will present a program to the members called "Serious Music: Opera, Symphony and Religious."

The chapter will be represented by several members when the organization meets for its Michigan State Convention Oct. 2-4 in the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

WELCOME WAGON CLUB OF FARMINGTON-FARMINGTON HILLS hosts a pot luck brunch at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile east of Farmington Road.

Guest speaker for the day is Wendy Lampert, a lawyer, who will talk about Michigan law and current legal issues pertaining to women.

The event is open to area women who are interested in learning more about Welcome Wagon.

Inquiries are taken by Peggy DuPont, 476-6882.

TINNITUS AND HARD OF HEARING SUPPORT GROUP meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, in Botsford Hospital. Inquiries are taken by calling the hospital's Health Development Network, 471-8050, during regular business hours.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARNS LADIES AUXILIARY has raised more than \$2.5 million over the past three years to fight cancer, according to the group's national president, Jeanne Katus.

Members of Broadhead-Farmington Hills VFW Post 2269 will help raise that figure with the proceeds from their annual luncheon and card party. The event runs 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the post home, 23414 Orchard Lake Road.

Reservations and inquiries are taken by Irene Rodebaugh, 349-6024.

Hills resident finalist in AAA drink contest

A non-alcoholic drink recipe created by Richard Brown of Farmington Hills has been selected a finalist in AAA Michigan's seventh annual "Zero Proof Mix Off" contest.

A blending of romantic appeal, taste, appearance and creativity of the non-alcoholic drink entries won 20 of 206 competitors a place in the mix off finals.

The contest serves as the centerpiece of AAA Michigan's "First a Friend, Then a Host" traffic safety program designed to encourage the sensible use of alcohol during the Christmas/New Year holiday.

Brown, a bartender at Birmingham's Machus Red Fox, created "Wish Upon a Star" with vanilla ice cream, strawberries, peanuts and chocolate sticks.

The winning recipes will be included in a "Great Pretenders" party booklet which will be distributed

free to the public at AAA offices statewide in early December.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK OF FARMINGTON meet for breakfast and a program at 7:15 a.m. Friday, Oct. 9, in Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

Members and guests must make reservations, with advance payment, no later than Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the center. Cost is \$5 for members and \$6 for guests.

Speaker for the morning is Gratia Louisa, wife of former astronaut Jack Louisa. Her talk is called "How to Thrive and Not Just Survive in Today's High Tech Society."

She will tell about her life as wife of an astronaut, her career as a nurse, homemaker and mother of four children.

EMBROIDERERS' GUILD OF AMERICA, Farmington Hills Chapter, meets at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, in Faith Covenant Church, corner of 14 Mile and Drake.

Members and guests will make a Christmas ornament using cathedral window quilting.

All meetings are open to guests. Inquiries are taken by Nancy York, 861-0666.

DETROIT METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER CLUB opens the season with a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, in Room 3221, Science Building, Lawrence Institute of Technology Campus, 21000 10 Mile, Southfield.

There are no club dues. The second Thursday of every month meetings are open to high school students in surrounding communities, their parents and high school math teachers.

Lectures, demonstrations and programs are designed to give a better understanding of career options and necessary training for those interested in mathematics and computer science.

Inquiries are taken by Dean Zaven Margolian, of the college's School of Arts and Science, 356-0209, Ext. 3500, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



Gratia Louisa, wife of former astronaut Jack Louisa, is the guest speaker for Farmington Professional Women's Network's October meeting.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, in Pine Hill Congregational Church, 4160 Middlebelt. The address is south of Long Lake Road.

All meetings hosted by the group.

chartered as Group 324, are open to the public.

Inquiries are taken by Kristen Ball, 547-7893.

HILL AND DALE GARDEN CLUB meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile, east of Farmington Road.

Guest speaker for the day is Dolly LaCroix-Porter, a teacher in Farmington Training Center, who will talk about the needs of special education students.

Marilyn Began, Hill and Dale's garden therapy chairwoman for the season, will join LaCroix-Porter to introduce the 1987-88 classroom projects.

Guests are welcome.

Members who wish to contribute craft supplies for the year's garden therapy projects are asked to call Began, 553-0131, or bring them to the meeting.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

Cox family has a reunion

The Cox family reunion took place at the home of Jerry and Tammy Cook in Union Lake with 74 people in attendance. They are descendants of Mr. and Mrs. John Garland Cox who came from Somershire, England in 1860 and lived on 13 Mile Road near Drake in Farmington Township until their deaths in 1904 and 1907.

The oldest person attending was Gladys Cox of Drayton Plains, and the youngest was Katie Wolf, daughter of Colleen and Terry Wolf of Pontiac.

Those coming the farthest were Jan and Grace Cox of San Antonio, Texas.

The group has met annually since 1920, with occasional get-togethers before then, including Mr. and Mrs. John Cox's 50th wedding anniversary in 1901 when four-generations pictures were taken.

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