SUBURBAN LIFE

FAMILY LIFE



`Up, ready.and go goodmorning'

ere's a little poem that can be read aloud to children who get up early and follow a schedule just like you do.

I wake up early to a bright piggy lamp light.
Mama says it's morning; I see only dark night.
I take my special towel to the bathroom.
Mama says I should leave it here, my favorite red and yellow thing I hold sodear.
Daddy knows I need it close; he says it's OK.
I love them both.

My face, hands and body too are washed up real

Ny mee, ministant bay town good.

My tencher told me it's important to do the right things; objest, I really should.
It's a very good way to start my day; teacher said it's so.

Cause this is how we fight mean germs, so that germs won't grow.

And when my germs have disappeared, my hair needs combing, too.

I'm only 4 with lots of pride; I'll learn these things serhaps by 6.

Athreakfasttime, it's 7 a.m.; my cereal's chewy

I give a good blow and blow again. Did you know I know a lot?

While Daddy still drinks his coffee from his

White Diagy stuffers his contention in a favorite blue cup, Mama saysit's time to go To work and to day care school. I can't understand 'cause I'm just a little man, why it's still early, still dark you know.

I grab my coat, hat, boots and gear, but it's again OK. Thave nothing to fear. Hike my teacher a whole bunch, a lot. So off we go... Ocops, Mann, I forgot to put on my socks.

And when I climb the steps up to my day care school, I see other kids just like me. Friends Jamie, Sharon; ch, look there's Paul Lee. They come with their Mamaor Daddy, too, bringing with them snacks, totes and sticky glue. I wonder if their eyes are aleepy.

My eyes and body feel sleepy today, but when I play it mes naws.

it goes away. Sleepy sleepy, l'Il try hard not to be weepy, 'cause yes, l'Il have a grrrrreat fun day.

Pilkiss my Mama a loud goodbye; she'il be right back about 4 o'clock with a hearty hil Ilike my day care school, you know. It's a place for learning, and friends to go. Yesterday, we painted and baked apple cookies, too. There's always something wonderful to do.

I'm thankful to have my special place to go every morning. I even like the ride. Especially what makes it very cool, Mama's by my

side. It's our time then to talk, sometimes we even sing. The only part of this I dislike, is getting up in the dark, but it's not night. If only Mr. Sunshine comes out with his happy face, and let Mr. Dark go to bed, Sleepy eyes I might erase.

If you have a question or comment for Eartha De Yampert, call her at 953-2047, mailbox number 1883, on a Touch-Tone phone, or write her at The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schooleraft, Livonia 48150.

Madonna plans signers' reunion

Madonna University will host the first reunion for graduates of its sign language studies program Saturday, Nov. 13.
The banquet will be at 6:30 p.m. in the University Center Dining Room. Dennis Berrigan, former Madonna faculty member and coordinator of the American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Programs at Gallaudet University, will be the speaker.
Awards will be given to distinguished alumni, and the anniversary classes of 1988, 1983 and 1978 will be honored.
The cost is \$35. For more information, call 591-6126.



Dot, dot: Transcriber Emily Buchman (left) demonstrates how Braille pages were produced on a slate with a wooden stylus,

Transcribers put dots in Braille



It is a service that blind people need and it is a service being provided by a dedicated group of Wayne-Oakland County residents who work in the solitude of their homes transcribing books

Oakland County and tend to be affili-

BY SUE MASON STAFF WRITER

Party Whitesi

Pearl Biber has a thing for dots. So do Emily Buchman and some 100 of their friends. Sentered throughout the tri-county area, they spend hours embossing paper with dots.

There's a good reason for their dotty doings. As the Tri-County Braille Volunteers, they have the task of Brailling everything from novels and children's books to textbooks and sheet music for the bihadand visually impaired.

"After doing my very first page of Braille, I was hooked," and Biber. "It's the most rewarding feeling."

Biber founded Tri-County Braille some 25 years agoloserveasanumbrella

Biber founded Tri-County Braille some 25 yearnagot scervesantumbrelli organization for the seven-eight Braille groups that were doing translations for the bilindin the metropolitam area.

Sponsored by The Greater Detroit Society for the Bilind, the organization opened up a line of communication among the groups so they knew who was doing what, avoiding duplication ofeffort.

Most of the Braille groups are in

"I once did a book in Old English."
Original Braille work was done on a slate using a stylus and working from right to left. A wooden crosure was used to make corrections and "a little spit" went a long way in keeping the impression from coming back up, Buchman said.

Oakland County and tend to be affiliated with synangogues-Adat Shalomin Farmington Hills, Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Township, Beth Achimand Shanarey Zedek in Southfield, Temple Israel in West Bloomfield and Beth Shalom and Temple Emanuel in Oak Park. The other groups are the Nardin Park Braille Transcribers in the Farmington area and the Grosse Pointe Braille Club.

The group primarily does textbooks for blind students who are placed in regular classrooms although "anything canbedone in Braille," according to Buchman.

pression from coming back up, Buchman said. With the slate, a proficient Braillist could do one page in about 10 minutes, but accuracy rather than speed is the most important part of the work and one reason why everything is proof read. The group has four five members who have taken a Braille proof reading course. All of the work is free of charge "although we're not above asking for a donation," considering a ream of the heavy Braille paper costs \$16, Buchman said. The thermopaper, used to make copies of the Braille work, costs about \$45 n ream.

Meeting a need
"Our whole purpose is service to the blind in the best way," said Biber, who recalled Brailling textbook for an Ann Arbor student all through school until he went to college.
Buchman is the assignment chairwoman and when a call comes in for a Braille book, she first checks with American Printing House to see if it has already been done. If the book has been done, the requestis referred to the Talented group
Just looking at the talents of the
group's 40-50 Braillists is proof. Six
candomathematics in Braille, using
system devised by Dr. Abraham
Nemeth, a retired University of
Detroit mathematics professor. Two
others are music Braillists, and Biber
works in Hebrew.
"Braille can be reproduced in any
form, if you can get the code," she said.

printing house; if not, the group registers the book and then does the transcribing.

The Braille book bindery is a "pet project" of Temple Beth El, while Nardin Parkmaintains adepository at the Farmington sub-library, where it keeps books and disca. Those originals not registered with the printing house and sent to the depository go to the state library in Lansing.

"The fiction stays at the binders," Buchmansaid. Thenit sboundfor distribution as part of the Gift of Books project."

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No request is too small or too large. The group has Brailled letters for the families and fans of blind entertainers like dose Feliciano, knitting instructions and cookbooks, even menus for restaurants. They Brailled the works of Shakespeare for a young man who lived in Punjab, India, and are Brailling greeting cards at selected card shops.

Gift books

Biber got involved in Brailling when she and her sister discovered blind people had almost no books of their own. They started a project to give every blind child in school a book of their own at Christmas.

See TRANSCRIBERS, 2C



nable: Julia Hoaglan (left) and Jill Scypta model some of the fashions that will be on sale at the Nov. 4 Plymouth Symphony League fashion

Symphony League show features worldly fashions

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO STAFF WRITER

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STAFF WRITER

Adriane Petrakis formed her company
Serv'Elegance with reality in mind. Frustrated with
trying to judge how fashions on tall models would
look on her small frame, she vowed to have models
that everyone could relate to.

Now, with her private shows, she blends her own
models with members of the clubs in which her fashionshowaere housed and the organizations that benefit. At an upcoming show, Nancy Reed, wife of the
Plymouth Symphony conductor Russ Reed, will be
among the models.

"I think in terms of my customers . . . I have
house models and women from the groups so there's
every type of woman (on the runway)," Petrakis, a
Bloomfield Hills resident, explained. "In mycryshort.
Itangoing took like on me."

"I buy real clothes for real people."

Petrakis has done 10-12 fashion shows per year
since her company's inception in 1984, but on
Thursday, Nov. 4, she'll present her first show in the
western suburbs. The Plymouth Symphony Lengue
will benefit from her show at the Western Golf and
Country Clubin Redford.

In past shows, she has aided the American
Association of University Women, St. Joseph Mercy
Hospital, the Neuromuscular Institute for Crippled
Children, the Women's Councilothe Navy League, the
American Red Cross and the Birmingham/Bloomfield
Symphony.

"It's exciting to be going into a new club; there's mething to be said for new places," Petrakis said.

"It's exciting to be going into a new club; there's something to be said for new places," Petrakis said. During the 35-minute show, she will show about 200 items that she handpicked from around the world. "It's going to be a high energy afternoon." Petrakis sells her clubres strietly through fashion shows: Herseason runs from Labor Day to Christmus Eve. In between, she shops around the world for her customers. By using this strategy, she feels she husa more personal relationship with her clients. "By keeping my company not open to the public, I can keep a handle on what my customers like," she said.

said.
She goes by one rule: "Best quality for the best price."

price."
Petrakis came to the fashion industry from a speech and drama background with a minor in English. A graduate of University of Detroit. Mercy, she spent a semester at the Sorbonnein Paris doing a theater study. Additionally, she completed a year of post-graduate work at Oakland University with an emphasis on law. Despite her studies, Petrakis feels that her ability to chose clothing comes from within. "Being able to pick out right clothes is a gift," she said.

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The Plymouth Symphony League's fashion show will be Thursday, Nov. 4, at the Western Golf and Country Club, 14600 Kinloch, Redford, The event will attar with cocktails at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunchat 12:30 p.m. and the show at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased by Friday, Oct. 29. For information, call 453-2602.