

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Patton-Bekolay

Mr. and Mrs. David D. Patton of Bloomfield Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelly Elaine, to Marc D. Bekolay, son of Mr. Richard Bekolay of Beverly Hills and Mrs. Jane Bekolay of West Bloomfield.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Michigan and is attending the University of Detroit Law School.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Miami University and is employed as sales manager of B&H Machine Sales Inc. in Detroit.

A July wedding is planned at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills.



Chater-Sparkes

Julie Ellen Sparkes and Randolph John Chater were married April 26 at Walnut Hill Lutheran Church in Dallas, Texas.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Ellen Sparkes, formerly of Bloomfield Hills. She is also the daughter of the late Jack B. Sparkes. She is a graduate of Lakewood High School and the University of Texas. She is employed in the office of the city attorney in Arlington, Texas.

The groom is the son of Mrs. Ethel Chater of Fairhope, Ala. He is also the son of the late Randolph W. Chater. He is employed with National Semiconductor in Arlington.

A reception was held at Dovie's in Addison, Texas. The newlyweds honeymooned at Disney World in Orlando, Fla., and they are making their home in Weatherford, Texas.



Community seminar gathers views on subject of parenting education



ALICE MCCARTHY

education presented at the recent Community Information Exchange seminar sponsored by the First Church of Christ Scientist, Birmingham.

The synergy in the packed conference room was directed through the leadership of Judith Miller, former state of Michigan legislator and a volunteer activist for First Church of Christ Scientist. Miller asked 10 leaders to present important challenges in parenting today.

Helene Mills, principal of Seaholm High School in Birmingham and long-time parent educator, described complex societal changes. "Parents today," she said, "were the students in the '60s when substance use was rampant. When we talk to contemporary parents about substance use, they don't take us very seriously. Their attitude is reflected in 'Well, we experimented. We made it. We are

O.K.'"

Also presenting were: Renee Loah, former President Birmingham/Bloomfield Families in Action and current board member of Oakland Family Services.

Julie Stitt, director of Prevention Services at Common Ground, in Pontiac and author of "The Parenting Tightrope: A Flexible Approach to Building Self-Esteem," who noted that Common Ground has been working consistently with school children using a curriculum called "Watch Me Grow," that includes a parent component.

Kal Engstrom, chief of the Oakland County Probate Court—Youth Assistance, who said that while Parenting Awareness Month in March heightens the awareness, parents realize at different times that they need help or want to increase their skills. "The Parenting Awareness Calendar, which lists hundreds of classes, has been used broadly by agencies and parents," she said. Call (810) 858-0051 for the calendar.

Ellen Thomerson described the work of the Oakland County Parenting Coalition, which she facilitates. The coalition works throughout the year to promote parenting awareness, especially in March. Thomerson is the prevention coordinator at the Oakland County Health Division, Office of Substance Abuse, that

funds multiple prevention programs.

James Windoll, of the Oakland Psychological Clinic and Oakland County Probate Court and author of "Discipline: A Source Book of 50 Fail Safe Techniques for Parents," said, "I counsel kids at risk when their problems bring them to the court."

Donald Studt of the Birmingham Police Department reviewed the changes in laws that allow police officers to intervene in spousal abuse. "Kids are deeply affected by this abuse," he said.

Janet Voorheis, prevention education coordinator for the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County in Pontiac, described an upcoming Child Watch Visitation Program and a voluntary home visitor system, Healthy Families America, for all new parents to get their children off to a healthy start.

Florence Manooch, director of development at the Japhet School in Madison Heights, spoke about reinforcing strong values in their students so that they can develop into outstanding parents.

Carol Lick, executive director of Project Pathway, described services her agency offers to families whose children need treatment for substance abuse.

Leslie Drolot, director of community relations at The Community House in Birmingham, said

the center's new hotline, Community Network (810) 694-6400, is completely staffed by trained volunteers. "The network is a general information and referral service for all nonprofits and families in the area," Drolot said. "Anyone can call to obtain information or services. We will be listing parenting programs, and referring families to the Youth Assistance line, (810) 858-0061, for details."

Also featured was Margaret Campell, internationally known writer, lecturer and Christian Science practitioner from New Jersey. For the last five years she has been speaking on the topic of spirituality and its role in mental and physical health.

Judith Miller explains that the Community Information Exchange will continue exploring ways to keep the ideas presented viable. She may be reached at (810) 932-3843.

All About Families runs every other week in The Eccentric Birmingham resident Alice McCarthy, Ph.D., is a nationally known parent educator, writer and editor. She is the mother of five children and grandmother to eight young children. To leave a message for McCarthy, from a touch-tone phone, call (313) 953-2047, mailbox, 1894, or write her at The Eccentric, 8005 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

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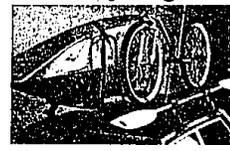


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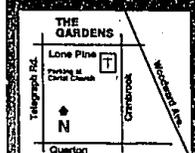
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