

Parenting from page B1

tions with their children. Each parent sits at a table behind a namecard which also features the names, ages and pictures of the children.

The parenting class FYA facilitators believe in the building block for all others is called "Children: The Challenge" based on the book of the same name by Rudolf Dreikurs, M.D. Though some of the book examples might be outdated, Meloeche said "the focus is gearing in on the kids and making of the family harmonious. And getting the tools to make it work."

"It's a good course for parents of young children," Meloeche said. "It helps you understand and power struggles."

"It teaches you to see and learn differently."

Moms: Kate Harmon and Tricia Hampt talk about how they've applied their new-found knowledge with their kids.

Caring parents

Suttle added, "Parents who come here are phenomenal. They care. They're interested, truly dedicated."

Meloeche speaks for all the facilitators when she says "You get the feeling you're helping. It's a good support group here. I remember the first class I took, I realized everyone here was facing the same problems."

Courses normally run six to 10 weeks, one night per week. Cost is minimal, usually just enough to cover materials. Sessions run during the school year. Occasionally there might be a one-night parenting seminar in summer.

"It's a commitment," Meloeche said. "There's lots of material. Once you complete the course, you can come back for no charge."

Added Suttle: "I had a woman who took the course two years ago come back recently. She explained that now her kids are older, in a different point in life, facing different issues."

"I don't think there's any other community with such a good, comprehensive parenting program as Farmington. And we have a wonderful volunteer base."

In addition to coordinating the parenting program, Janet

Meloeche has been an active volunteer with Girl Scouts and was recently named Farmington Volunteer of the Year, voted by a former Michigan first lady, the late Lenore Romney.

For more information on any of the parenting courses sponsored by Farmington Youth Assistance, call 489-3434.



Facilitators: Mary Reading, Shirley Unger, Janet Meloeche and Marilyn Suttle before classes begin.

Chat room from page B1

Detroit Sweet Adelines and the Longacre House with information about many programs.

The Farmington Hills Department of Special Services serves as our host and will display information about activities as well as pictures of many of Farmington and Farmington Hills' beautiful parks. The Farmington Community Library will provide the poetry wall where visitors can explore their own creativity. The library will also present a special program for kindergarten through fifth-grade students called "Art in the Afternoon" 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 1. Parents are asked to accompany their children.

What about music, you say? The Farmington Musicals will provide another fine display this year as well as presenting performing members on various days and a special program by student scholarship recipients. The Farmington Area Philharmonic will not be performing but will likely have a beautiful display. The Farmington Community Chorus will join the Farmington Community Band in the traditional concert for seniors and handicapped titled "That's

Entertainment" 3 p.m. Sunday, May 2, in the Costick Center's Dublin Hall. The concert is free and all are welcome to attend. Both the chorus and band will have displays in the Exhibit Hall.

During the weeklong festival, hundreds of fourth-grade students will be bused to visit and listen to performances by many Farmington Public Schools music groups. They will get a chance to see "art in the making" as members of the Farmington Artist Club demonstrate different processes. A day for senior citizens has been planned Friday, April 30, and will include a special program by Hammell Music, "fact hunt" game with prizes, luncheon and dance with music provided by the Harrison High School Jazz Band.

For those who really love a party, "Starry Night" will feature the Matt Michaels Trio, some outstanding food and beverages plus a new auction with many premium items and of course, the chance to view the Exhibit Hall and possibly purchase that special painting before it gets away.

This year's Festival of the Arts

Committee has done a truly outstanding job planning a very special week of exhibits, performances and a party to boot! They will never receive enough thanks, but I would like to recognize them. Jeff Zorn chaired publicity, Randy Patterson and May Arvo took care of finances, Dixie Doerr chaired the volunteers, Marvel Steiger chaired the Boutique, Pam Schultes designed the staging, Robb Clarkson planned the Senior Involvement, Sara Woollard chaired the Gala and I coordinated performances.

We, of course, have many others to thank for their time and energy in making the festival wonderful but we are saving the best for last. YOU will make this festival the "best ever" by attending. There are special performances each day and evening, the exhibits are wonderful and the displays will be informative.

We also want to thank all those individuals and companies who have given generously in support of the festival. In fact, everyone associated with the festival has been wonderful. This community is rich with creative and talented people. Come see for yourself. You can't get a better deal in town. The festival is free of charge. The William Costick Activities Center is on 11 Mile east of Middlebelt. Gala Preview tickets are only \$25 per couple and are available by calling Sara Woollard at 478-3256.

What talent we have. It's great to be a part of it!

For more information, call 473-1816. Paul Barber is chairman of the festival committee.

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