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when we did," she said. "I would not have a child in this world, it's too complex."

Mary Marshall, 92, had to borrow money from her sister to start a business after her husband died in 1956 and she still had three children to raise.

She said there are both good and bad points to being a woman of today compared to her generation.

"They didn't have to worry like I did," she said, "as in, 'How am I going to raise my kids after my husband died?'"

She started a uniform business and put in 12-14-hour days to make ends meet.

She said her Italian father raised their children to be independent.

"I have no sympathy for weak women," she said.

Mary Legg, 77, agreed there is good and bad points in both generations.

Women today take better care of themselves, she said.

"They're more independent," she said.

She worked for the township of Farmington and her husband, who died two years ago, worked for the local post office.

He shared in household chores without a problem, she said.

Traditions

Legg said the years and atti-

■ Arlene Frank, program coordinator for the Womencenter at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, said that many senior women might see what career possibilities are available to women today through what their daughters and granddaughters are doing.

tudes toward women may change but family traditions remain.

"Our traditions are the same as my grandparents," she said of her family. "And my daughters carry it on."

"We've changed, however, I think we're basically the same."

She said she has noticed one thing that women are waiting longer to get married, whereas she felt old to be married at 23 and her husband at 29.

"Women are marrying older today and that's better for them, they have more experiences in their lives."

Arlene Frank, program coordinator for the Womencenter at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, said that many senior women might see what career possibilities are available to women today through what their daughters and granddaughters are doing.

She said a big difference in comparison of the two generations is that today's women is expected to do it all: Be a successful mother and worker.

Whereas many women of the World War II generation had the opportunity to stay home and raise a family, and, in most cases, work if they wanted or if they had to, Frank said.

Women now have a choice if they want to work full or part time, she said.

"There's a much greater openness to women working today, compared to then," she said.

Raising a child is not always a woman's issue today, she added. If the future holds anything for women, it's the fact that there are more opportunities for them to realize their potential, Frank said.

"Each person should realize their full potential and how it works for them," she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRZALEK

Detective work: Bloomfield Township Fire Lt. Alex Mimikos and Canton Township Fire Inspector Nichole Hamilton look for clues to the origin of the training fire.

Arson from page A1

and private sector investigators, said Hills Fire Inspector Mike Kish.

The class of 30 was mostly made up of firefighters who hailed from Milford and Birmingham and the townships of Canton, West Bloomfield, Groveland, Harrison and Shelby.

The participants were separated into six groups. Each was allowed to look over the damaged house and then focus on what caused the fire in the specific room the group was assigned to investigate.

Firefighter Dave Utinien, assigned to the arson unit of the Southfield Fire Department, joined Hills firefighters in the program.

Utinien played the part of the homeowner and then the simulation more authentic.

He acted vague and offered conflicting statements to the students when they questioned him about what happened before, during and after the fire.

"There was one too many

Absolut's," he said to the students about having a party the night before the fire started in his basement.

In the basement area, the group asked Utinien to sign his consent to inspect the house, but he refused.

The students were told an investigation has to be carefully put together and that it's important to get consent of the homeowner or a search warrant.

It was up to the investigating students to sift through the ashes and determine by odor whether any flammable materials were used.

Out of character, Utinien said later that his department finds the cause of about 80-85 percent of fires they investigate.

The students took photographs with digital cameras to document the basis of their theories and moved the debris around to investigate further possible causes.

Of the six groups, most got the cause of the fires correct. Kish

provided videotape of the rooms before, during and after the fire to show whether the theories were wrong or right.

In the living room, the group assigned correctly deduced that the fire started because of a wall arrangement that fell on top of an unprotected halogen lamp bulb.

In one of the bedrooms, though, the group guessed the fire started because of a malfunctioning space heater.

The real cause turned out to be a lit candle igniting a blowing window curtain, sending shreds of it into a waste basket that was next to the space heater.

Denn Kueppers of the Shelby Fire Department was on that team. He said he learned a lot from the day-long program.

"We do this to keep our skills up," he said of attended RAFT courses. "It's good working with other fire departments. You get good feedback."

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