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Alumnae Learn Of Candles

The Detroit North Suburban Alumnae Association of Alpha Delta Pi will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Ball of Wax Shop, 266 E. Maple in Birmingham.

Women's Art Show Opens

The Birmingham Society of Woman Painters will open its 23rd annual exhibition Nov. 5 in the Bloomfield Art Association gallery, 15145 Cranbrook. The show will run through Nov. 28.

Orchard WSCS Sponsor Panel On Youth

The Women's Society of Christian Service of Orchard Methodist Church will sponsor a panel discussion and question and answer period on "Awareness of Youth in Our Community" at 8 p.m. November 2 at the church.

Members of the panel will include Cpt. Norman Stainbrook, township juvenile officer; Dr. Jack Cleveland, adult education supervisor and former Farmington elementary principal; and Robert Brown, junior high school principal.

Mothers:

- Your Child's Precious Feet Are Your Responsibility
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Women on the GO!

By Margaret Miller



YVONNE KURTZ

Take the busy occupation of being wife and department store executive and mother of two lively young sons.

Add a responsible part-time career—evaluating the educational needs of retarded youngsters at the Plymouth State Home and Training School.

You'd have the kind of life most women would consider more than full.

BUT ATTRACTIVE, brunet Yvonne Kurtz—in full partnership of her husband Donald—also adds two more dimensions.

She and her husband are foster parents of a 14-year-old boy who is blind and somewhat retarded.

And in their spare time they are doing a complete remodeling job on a 125-year-old Plymouth farmhouse they fell in love with.

YVONNE KURTZ leaves no doubt that she gets immense satisfaction from every part of her life.

This is especially true in regard to her work in special education because of her own bout with polio when she was a college student.

"I had considered teaching handicapped children and decided against it," Yvonne related. "Then, I was completely paralyzed when I had polio, and I saw things from the other side—I was the handicapped one. After I had to learn everything over, I realized I did want to help handicapped children."

The work at the Plymouth Home takes advantage of her training in special education and several years of experience in that line.

A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, she has taught in the Michigan School for the Deaf, the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Dearborn and the Detroit Day School for the Deaf. She also worked among blind, retarded and orthopedically handicapped youngsters at the Plymouth Home before taking over her present position in the out-patient clinic.

She tests children of various levels of retardation to determine where their potential can best be met. Her reports, together with those of the staff psychologists, determine the school's recommendations for each child.

"SOME OF these youngsters," explained Mrs. Kurtz, "are considered trainable—they can be taught to do simple tasks. Others, with I.Q. ranging from about 55 to about 75, are considered educable, and can learn to read and write and perhaps progress in school about to the sixth grade."

These children, Yvonne Kurtz feels, should be kept in regular school classrooms as far as they can progress. Or in special education classes rather than not attending school at all.

"It's true far too often," she said, "that a child with a fairly small degree of retardation isn't helped to work up to his full potential."

"And often you see a child totally handicapped in sight or hearing who seems retarded because no one has worked through that barrier to teach him."

SUCH WAS THE case with the Kurtz' foster son, described by Yvonne as "a very interesting boy."

Totally blind from birth, he spent the first 11 years of his life kept at home, mostly in his bedroom, and virtually ignored by his family.

After a concerned neighbor reported his plight to Gov. Romney, he was committed to the Plymouth Home, Yvonne said.

There, he mastered the Braille alphabet so quickly that it was obvious he did not belong among the severely retarded, and at that point the Kurtz family took him as a foster child.

"HE'S VERY musical," Yvonne said. "He's taught himself to play the piano, and he plays the harmonica better than many professionals. He also is a good swimmer."

Currently the boy is attending the Michigan School for the Blind in Lansing, and comes home weekends and vacations.

Yvonne and Don Kurtz hope he can progress enough to go to school closer to home next year.

"He's now in a class of retarded children, which isn't good for him because he needs to be pushed constantly toward acceptable behavior," she said.

"We can do that when he's with us."

"The handicap of being pushed aside for so long was a worse one than his blindness."

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ness, and he has reacted with anti-social behavior. We can see some progress over the two years we've had him—(for instance, he now pays some attention to our little boy—but he has a long way to go.)"

"We've remodeled six of the rooms since we bought it four years ago," Yvonne said, "so when the boys go to bed at night they never know what big change they'll find in the morning."

"One night we rehanging the bathroom door to make it open the other way, and I'll never forget it!"

Yvonne and Don are doing the remodeling work themselves.

"You find you can do all sorts of jobs you'd never think after you find out how much contracting costs," she said.

YVONNE SAID they had "pretty exciting" time when they decided to open up an enclosed stairway and put an archway between two rooms.

"The beam we thought was the supporting one just lifted up," she said, "but when Don tried to saw through a couple of rather insignificant looking boards the whole upstairs started to settle."

"So we had to brace the ceiling there and put in some more supporting beams. I guess we did it right, because everything seems to be solid now."

This is a gal who can even face calmly the prospect of a house falling down around her.

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Farmington Man Wed In South

The Lake City, Fla., home of Dr. and Mrs. William Gillespie was the setting for the Oct. 31 marriage of their daughter Judith Cheryl, to William Steven Hall, son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Hall of Farmington.

The ceremony was performed by Chaplain Homer Steffy with the immediate family present.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a champagne de sole dress, with a wreath of pink sweetheart roses in her hair. Her attendant, Mrs. Mae Peterson of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., wore an apple green dress and a white carnation corsage.

William Gillespie, brother of the bride, attended the bridegroom.

A reception followed the ceremony. Diane Hall, sister of the bridegroom, presided over the punch bowl.

The couple will live in Atlantic Beach, Fla., where the bride, Mrs. Hall, employed with Florida Publishing Co. and her husband is with the Navy in Mayport.

Feather Party Is Planned

The Polish Society Lodge 3160, Polish National Alliance is sponsoring its Annual Feather Party at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at Dom Polski Hall 3432 Junction Ave., two blocks south of Michigan Avenue. Public is invited. For further information call Stella L. manek, LOGAN 5-0398.