

Sarah Child



All in the Family

A Pro's Gone, Her Example Will Live On

It was late summer of 1982 and I had just had another manuscript rejected, the editors saying they liked my writing but the tone was not quite right.

"Why don't you call Maeva Dobner?" my husband suggested. "Maybe she can give you some tips."

Both of us knew Maeva—he, through her husband, Chuck, and I had met her briefly some 17 years before at Brighton High School where she and other professional writers were meeting one night a week to help each other.

With a new baby and a husband who worked nights, I didn't last long going to class.

"I can't bother her," I protested. "She won't remember me."

"She's a very nice person and it'll only take a minute," came the reply.

In awe of anyone who had written and been published as much as Maeva had, I deliberated. In addition to her books she had also had stories published in such magazines as "Redbook," "Good Housekeeping," and "Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine." Finally, I reached for the phone. Maeva did remember me and in her soft, warm voice suggested I come to one of the meetings of the Genesee Valley Writers, as the group is now called.

The format of the get-togethers held Monday nights from 7:30-10 p.m. is simple. Members who range in age from 30 to 76 take turns reading from their works in progress: a chapter from a book, a short story, an outline, a query letter.

The others then comment. It took me a couple of meetings to get up nerve enough to read. When I did, the reaction was swift. "Too many adjectives, you took too long to get into your story, your style is too elevated or formal for romances."

I learned then there are many ways to level criticism. Maeva's comments never hurt, never destroyed and invariably would be offered with encouraging remarks. No empty flattery, or soothing platitudes. If she said something, she meant it. New members, Elaine, Lori and I, looked particularly to Maeva for the incisive, succinct comment that would get us on the right path.

The meetings included a break for refreshments. I always chafed at the interruptions. What were we doing drinking tea when we should be talking writing? But, as the weeks passed, friendships grew. Maeva did not talk a lot

about her personal life but she sometimes mentioned her son, Christopher, her new daughter-in-law and the cats who frequently appeared in her novels. Her own reading tastes ran to Graham Greene and other English authors who "took their time telling their stories."

Her current works, young adult romances, were not her favorite thing to write. She preferred romantic suspense as exemplified in her earlier novels written under the name of Maeva Park Dobner and which began appearing in 1970. Among them: "The Gingerbread House" (a Victorian house on Oxford Street served as her prototype); "Sea Winds," set in Iceland; and "Heather," which her long-time friend, Webster author Virginia Smiley, claimed as her favorite and which Maeva had based on a murder on the University of Rochester campus.

She used the name Anne Park for the young romances she wrote for the Bantam line. Sweet Dreams. I wanted Maeva to autograph one of the first ones, "Love Song," but by the time my youngest had read it and pronounced it "sooo good" it was too crumpled and dog-eared. When Maeva lent me her copy of "Sea Winds" I commented how authentic her setting. Had she visited Iceland? No, and it was hard to research, she said, in her modest way, because so few books have been written about the land.

After writing for so long with no one to talk to about my progress, I looked forward to Monday nights as the highlight of my week.

Maeva, 66, and Kay Brion, 76, another close friend who would pick her up and drive her to class, seldom missed, their enthusiasm greater than anyone else's. Only very bad weather or illness kept them home.

Last week I called Maeva after talking to an editor at Silhouette who had asked for a complete rewrite of one of my manuscripts. I was doubtful Maeva concurred. "Don't do it. It's just one editor's opinion."

I sighed and said I guess I'd have to put all my work down as a learning experience.

"No," Maeva said firmly. "You're going to sell all your books. I know it."

Impulsively I blurted my gratitude. "Do you know what you've meant to me, what the group has meant?"

"Just keep writing," she answered.

She died that night, sitting next to Chuck, a heart attack taking her swiftly. I like to think that her heart gave out, in part at least, because she offered it so freely.

St. Joseph's Villa Gets Accreditation

St. Joseph's Villa has been awarded a three-year accreditation as a child/adolescent psychiatric treatment agency by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH).

This means, according to a press release, that St. Joseph's Villa "meets the highest standards in serving emotionally handicapped and mentally ill children and adolescents."

"This accreditation is clearly the most challenging we could have aimed for," said Sister Judith McKay, executive director. "To have been successful with no other

history of accreditation is a fantastic indicator of quality staff and programs."

The JCAH approval will enable the Villa to expand its services to include a new program for mentally ill adolescent boys.

The Villa currently operates residential treatment, group home, special education, and day treatment programs for emotionally handicapped children and adolescents from 14 counties in central and western New York. More than 3,000 youths and their families have been served since the Villa opened in 1942.

Nursing Process Workshop Topic

Hornell -- Dr. Helen Yura, professor and graduate program director of the department of nursing at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va., will lecture on "The Nursing Process: A Problem or a Solution," at a workshop Friday, April 6, at the Ponce DeLeon.

Dr. Yura received her diploma in nursing at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, Pa., her bachelor of science in nursing education from the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, and her master of science in nursing and doctor of philosophy from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

She has memberships in many nursing associations, is the recipient of many honors and awards, and is the author of many nursing publications which include periodicals, books and monographs.

Nursing Awards Given At St. James Hospital

Hornell -- Twenty-three students in the freshman class of St. James Mercy Hospital's School of Nursing received gold crosses, signifying completion of the first semester of nursing studies, in ceremonies on Sunday, March 11, at St. Ignatius Loyola Church.

During the ceremonies, annual awards were also presented to two members of the class by Loretta Haefele, director of the school.

Jacqueline Mackey of Dalton, was awarded the Reidman Insurance Agency Inc. Award. Established 14 years ago, the award is presented to a student who has scholastic ability and financial need.

The total amount of the award is \$450, with the student receiving \$150 in each of the freshman, junior and senior years.

Laurie Glover of Hornell was the recipient of the Jan R. Travis Award, given by the school in memory of the late school secretary noted for his charity to other persons.

This award is given to the student who notably demonstrates humanitarianism and kindness toward his or her peers. The recipient is chosen by a majority vote of the student body.

Father Jeremiah Moynihan, hospital chaplain, was the celebrant and blessed the crosses. A reception followed in DeSales Hall.

The students receiving gold crosses are: Mark Beecher, Robin Brundage, Laurie

Glover, Becky Miles, Pauline O'Connor, Susan O'Rourke, Michael Sherostick, Sharon Sleggs and Joan Weyand of Hornell; Brenda Eddy of Alfred; Linda Phillips of Dansville; Anna Hale of Avoca; Catherine Dahill of Friendship; and Linda D'Elia of Baldwin.

Also, Susan Kemp of Manford; Bruce Krog of Wayland; Jacqueline Mackey of Dalton; Molly O'Brien of Perkinsville; Gloria Pedroza of Apalachin; Ruth Schrader of Andover; Carol Stone of Troupsburg; Darla Valentino of Mt. Morris; and Vickie Vianese of Hunt.

Nursing instructors interested in participating in this conference should contact the St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing prior to the registration deadline of March 28.

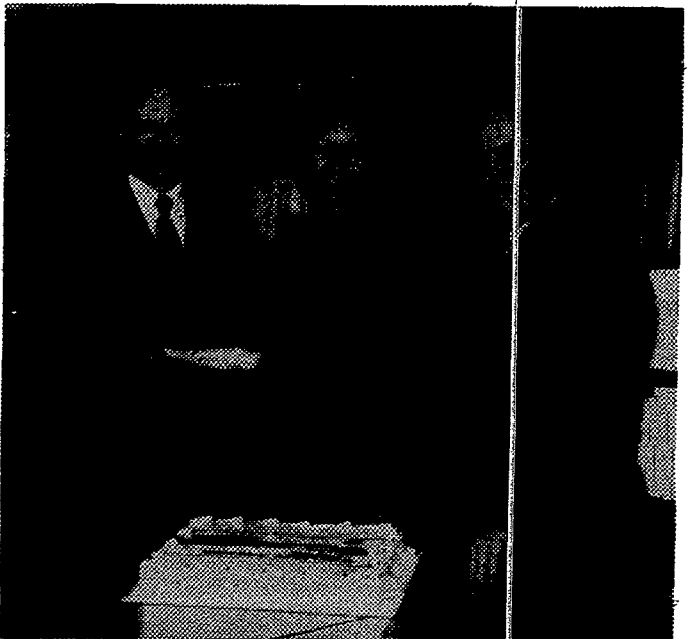
THE POPE Seek Motives of Sin

Vatican City (NC) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's talk in English at his weekly general audience March 14.

Dear brothers and sisters, As I continue my reflections on the sacrament of penance, I wish to draw attention to the importance of a good examination of conscience. To receive the sacrament of penance worthily we must take time to become aware of our sins and of the intentions and motives which underlie them. We need to ask God for the grace of honesty and courage so that we might acknowledge our faults in all humility. An examination of conscience is not merely an exercise of psychological introspection. Rather, it is a prayerful effort to bring ourselves face to face with the moral law and to stand humbly in the presence of the Lord. Only in the light of Christ can we clearly perceive our faults. Only in Christ who offered his life "for us and for our salvation" do we discover the fullness of God's merciful love for us as sinners. Only in Christ do we find pardon for our sins and the beginning of new life and peace.

I wish to offer a special word of welcome to the group of pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Through the special graces of the Jubilee of the Redemption, I pray that you will be strengthened in faith and hope. May you be joyful messengers of peace and reconciliation in the world.

And to all the pilgrims from England, Ireland, Sri Lanka, Canada and the United States, I extend cordial greetings in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Fund Gets Donation

Presentation of a \$5,000 donation by the Rochester Area Foundation to RG&E's Community Heating Fund prompted this cake, decorated to resemble the gift check. On hand for the cake-cutting are, from left, Dr. Walter F. McCanna, chairman of the Heating Fund advisory committee; Linda Weinstein, executive director of the Rochester Area Foundation; and John Oberlies, vice president in charge of public affairs for Rochester Gas & Electric. This donation put the fund over the halfway mark in its fundraising goal of \$150,000. On hand for the cake-tasting were Red Cross volunteers administering the community assistance program.

20 Make Honors

Twenty Nazareth Academy students have been named to the school's high honor roll. They are: Seniors Tracy Baxter, Dawn Olszanski, Maureen Sindram, Lisa Battaglia, Elena Rivera, PikYu Tang and Tina Baren; juniors Patricia Ryan, Ann Castaldo and Ling Hui Hao; sophomores Anne Marie Patamia, Lynne Staropoli, Deborah Carmen, Alexandra Giglio, Maria Dias, and Cecilia Bonaccio; freshmen Cynthia Yantz, Kristin Arcarisi, Jennae Bowerman and Lanee McCombs.

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