

"Ascent to leadership" was a success

By HOLLY MACE
STAFF WRITER

On February 27, at the AMA-ESD building, the Alpena JayTeens hosted "Ascent to Leadership," a seminar for young women to interact with women in the community who exemplify leadership and citizenship.

Alpena Community College freshman, Sara Sabourin, was chairperson of the event. Also involved in the planning were ACC freshmen Jennifer Gagnon and Holly Mace, and Alpena High School seniors Carrie Brzezinski, Meredith Woolman, Sara Speaks and Heather Roy.

Guest speakers for the event were Alpena's Mayor Camille Nerkowski and Joanne LaFleche-Gallagher of Thunder Bay Manufacturing (TBM). Music was provided by Jamie Patterson.

Also in attendance were the 16 State of Michigan Junior Miss Contestants.

The evening began with a welcome by Kelly Bushey, JayTeen Director, who introduced Jennifer Gagnon, JayTeen President.

Jennifer gave a brief overview of the JayTeens and what they represent. "The JayTeens enables the young people of our community to step out and find their talents and abilities and then develop them. That is exactly what the JayTeens has done for me," she explained.

She went on to explain how the three focal points of the JayTeens -- leadership, community service, and citizenship -- are all intertwined in the JayTeen creed, which reads:

"We believe that faith in God gives purpose and meaning to human life; that the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of the nations; that economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise; that government should be of laws

rather than of men; that earth's greatest treasure lies in human personality; and that service to humanity is the best work of life."

Jennifer ended her speech by introducing chair-leader, Sara Sabourin, who then introduced Mayor Camille Nerkowski.

Mayor Nerkowski shared with the group the steps she took in her ascent to the position of mayor.

At the end, she offered these encouraging words:

"In conclusion, and going back to what Helen Keller said about opportunity, 'When one door of happiness closes, another opens.' I urge you to look away from that closed door and open your eyes to all the opportunities that are in this great big beautiful world."

The first interactive table topic, "Balcony People," followed Mayor Nerkowski's speech. Everyone has both balcony and basement people

in their lives, explained Kelly Bushey.

Kelly went on to explain that balcony people are those people that have offered advice and support, and basement people are those that discourage others by sayings such as "You'll never amount to anything," or "You never do anything right." These basement people are the people that are remembered even though balcony people are the ones that should never be forgotten.

JayTeen Marketing Director, Carrie Brzezinski introduced Joanne LaFleche-Gallagher of Thunder Bay Manufacturing and, also, President of Jesse Besser Museum.

Joanne's speech focused on steps to becoming a leader and obstacles she had to face.

"Don't undervalue the importance of your education," Joanne advised. "What you are learning today is essential. What you will learn



Photo courtesy of the Jay Teens of Alpena

Jay Teen President, Jennifer Gagnon, and Mayor Camille Nerkowski relax after their presentations at the "Ascent to Leadership" seminar on February 27.

tomorrow is also essential. We can stand up here and talk to you about leadership, but none of it will mean anything if you don't go right from here and learn more."

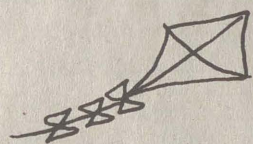
The next interactive table topic, "Rungs on a Ladder," tied in with Joanne's speech. Imagine a ladder with many rungs. Each rung represents an obstacle that a person has overcome to get where he/she is right now.

The last of the interactive table topics, "Turtle on a Fencepost," concluded the evening.

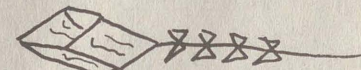
Question: When you see a turtle on a fencepost what do you automatically know?

Answer: Someone had to put it there.

What this means is that someone or something helped you get where you are, whether it's your parents, friends, religious beliefs, or simply belief in yourself.



MARCH



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
25	MONEY MATTERS 26	Polemic Distribution 27	28	29	30	31
ACC OPENS SPECIAL ENROLLMENT FOR NEW FALL FRESHMEN	MOUNT ST. HELENS	Single Parent Support Group VLH 104 2:30-3:30		FINAL DAY TO DROP CLASSES		



APRIL



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 3	EASTER BREAK 4	EASTER BREAK 5	6	7
START OF ACC SUMMER & EARLY FALL SESSION REGISTRATION		Single Parent Support Group VLH 104 2:30-3:30 WOODFIRING	WOODFIRING	WOODFIRING GOOD FRIDAY		EASTER SUNDAY
WOODFIRING	WOODFIRING					
EASTER BREAK 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Single Parent Support Group VLH 104 2:30-3:30				
INCOME TAX DAY 15	16	17	BODY AND MIND 18	19	20	21
		Single Parent Support Group VLH 104 2:30-3:30	TBT GREAT EXP	TBT GREAT EXP	TBT GREAT EXP	TBT GREAT EXP
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
TBT GREAT EXP	TBT GREAT EXP	TBT GREAT EXP Single Parent Support Group VLH 104 2:30-3:30	TBT GREAT EXP	TBT GREAT EXP	TBT GREAT EXP	TBT GREAT EXP
29	30					



MAY



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		Polemic Distribution 1	2	3	4	5
		Single Parent Support Group VLH 104 2:30-3:30				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
FINALS BOOK BUY BACK	FINALS BOOK BUY BACK	BOOK BUY BACK HSC BOOK BUY BACK FINALS Single Parent Support Group VLH 104 2:30-3:30	BOOK BUY BACK GRADUATION			