

Heads reunion

Marilyn Burke of Southfield is chairman for the International Reunion Day luncheon for Alpha Gamma Delta fraternity beginning at 12:30 p.m. April 16. Mrs. John Baetz of Grosse Pointe, province vice-president, will be speaker for the event which will draw alumnae and active members from several college chapters. The fraternity, founded in 1904, supports work in the fields of learning disabilities and cleft palate research. To register for the Reunion Day program, call Mrs. Burke at 642-9564.



Styles are home-sewn

A do-it-yourself fashion show is planned by the Scandinavian Symphony Women's Organization at noon Thursday, March 31, in the Sutton Place Apartment club house, Nine Mile west of Lahser. Southfield

Rigmor Cuolahan of Livonia will be commentator and one of the models. Among the others showing their creations will be Florence McOmber and Irene Seavey of Bloomfield Hills, Gudrun Rosenkrands of

Rochester, Khirley Dabich of Franklin, Joan Granning, Mildred Bruggen and Marilyn Arnold of Farmington Hills, Lael Marsh of Livonia, and Delores Shank, Debra Abersold and Belette MacMillan of Birmingham.

The Lively NEEDLE

By MARY KAY DAVIS

One of the most creative projects that a needleworker can engage in is the dyeing of her yarns with nature's materials. The smells are horrible, the price is negligible, and the colors are heavenly.

I'm involved in dyeing wools with all the materials that I can find in the park behind my home. When I get enough colors, I'll do a stitchery with the park as the theme. My only problem is that, since I'm not a native of Michigan, I don't recognize many of the dye plants. If you have the same difficulty, "Michigan Wildflowers," published by the Cranbrook Institute of Science, is a great help.

Before 1800, almost all dyeing of cloth and yarn in America was done at home by women. Utensils were the same ones they used for cooking, with hopefully a good scrubbing between one job and the other.

Dye materials could be purchased, but were more commonly gathered from the woods and fields around them.

Itinerant dye peddlers came around from time to time selling imported dyes. The most widely used were indigo for blue, madder, a cousin of clover, for soft red, and cochineal, which was expensive, for scarlet.

Cochineal is the dried bodies of small insects found in Mexico and Guatemala. The dye looks so much like sand that it was often adulterated with sand somewhere between the producer and the consumer. This played havoc with the dyeing and frayed cochineal tempers considerably.

HOWEVER, MOST dye materials were free for the gathering. Goldenrod produced yellow, sumach berries gave grey and walnut bark and nuts produced a lasting brown. House-



By
MARY KAY
DAVIS

wives exchanged dye recipes, learned from local Indians, and watched the knees of their little sons' trousers. After all, one woman's stain is another woman's dye.

I'll pass on my favorite dyeing story, even though I don't believe a word of it. It seems that in old Salem there lived a woman named Polly whose charity left a little to be desired. In Colonial times red dyes were hard to come by.

When Polly discovered a pink dye in the neighborhood, Salem housewives pricked up their ears. But nothing came of the discovery because, while Polly kept right on dyeing her wool pink, she wouldn't give out the recipe.

Then came the witch trials and guess who was pinpointed as a witch? But it did the housewives no good. Polly's pink died with her.

DIFFERENT PLANTS dye best at different times of the year. One of the spring dyes is lily of the valley leaves. They give a greenish yellow in the spring, and a reddish gold in fall.

Two of the best dye recipe books that I know are Rita Adrosko's "Natural Dyes and Home Dyeing" and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's pamphlet, "Dye Plants and Dyeing."

But take a hint and never try to match colors with natural dyes. What you get depends upon how hard your water is, what pots you use, and how your plant material was feeling at the moment you picked it.

Chi Omega sets State Day

Chi Omegas in the sorority's student and alumnae chapters in Michigan will gather for State Day Saturday, March 26, at the chapter house on Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor.

Mrs. Kenneth B. Hollidge Jr. and Mrs. Thomas Higginbottom, both of Grosse Pointe, are co-chairwomen for the event. Reservations can be made by calling Mrs. Hollidge at 824-1809.

Riegle talk opens fund drive

Senator Donald W. Riegle (D-Flint) will address the formal opening of the 1977 Allied Jewish Campaign-Israel Emergency Fund beginning at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, at Adat Shalom Synagogue, Farmington Hills.

The fund-raising arm of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit supports 16 local agencies and various other humanitarian agencies nationally and abroad.

Democrat Riegle, 39, who was sworn in as Michigan's junior senator

last January, is a staunch supporter of Israel, which he terms "the only real democracy and the steadiest friend of the United States in the Middle East."

Support of Israel's security fosters not only peace in the Middle East but also the moral values and security of the United States, he said.

Reservations should be made with the Jewish Welfare Federation, 265-3939. Persons wishing only to hear the senator's address and campaign reports will be seated after the dinner.

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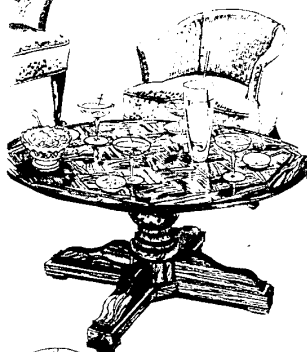
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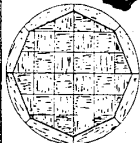
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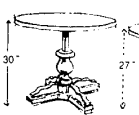
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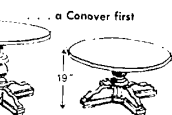
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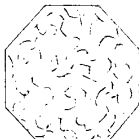
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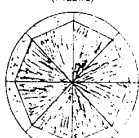
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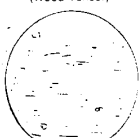
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