

Jewish war vets auxiliary to honor patriot

By SHIRLEE IDEN
Louba Sodos Luploff calls herself "an import and one of the wandering Jews."

The Southfield resident did most of her wandering at an early age, going from Russia to France before settling here in Detroit.

It didn't take her long at all to develop a fierce patriotism and love for this country as well as a sense of deep concern for society and people in need.

In recognition of that service, that spans more than 60 years, Mrs. Luploff will be honored by the past department presidents of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, at an evening reception planned simply as "Louba's Night."

"Louba's Night" will be on Thursday, April 13 and close to 1,000 people have been invited to come and pay tribute to their friend and co-worker. Included are many dignitaries from Oakland County community.

"We may have to stretch the walls or take the party outside," said Mrs. Oscar Katz, who is planning the event along with chairperson Mrs. Irving Silk. Both are Southfield residents.

Mrs. Luploff took back fondly on her early days in Detroit beginning in 1914 when she arrived here from France as a 13 year-old who spoke only French.

"MY FAMILY ran from the pogroms in Russia when I was barely school age," she said. "We went to France but others in the family went to America, England, Hungary and Galicia. Some we never made contact with again."

When they located close relatives in Detroit, the Sodos family, sublet their Paris apartment and came for a visit. "When we got here, we learned that the French were mobilizing for war and the family pressured us to stay in Detroit," she said. "We had furniture and possessions in Paris, but my grandmother wouldn't hear of our leaving. She said we could replace the furniture and she was right."

Young Louba began to learn English at the Dwyer School on Delmar and Caniff in Detroit. She also learned Russian and Yiddish here.

After attending old Central High School, where she got her first community assignment ever—as secretary for the French Club—she was moved to help the country which by then had entered the first World War.

"Patriotism for my new country encouraged me to serve it," she said. "So I applied for a job in the Signal Corps as an interpreter. I worked there until the Armistice which was only a few months."

By this time, she had met Morris Luploff in the neighborhood, and when she was eighteen-and-a-half, they married. Their marriage lasted 46 years until his death.

THE LUPLOFFS had three children: Harold, Albert and Shirley. "That's the investment—the children," she said smiling. "The interest is the grandchildren and the dividends are the great grandchildren."

Mrs. Luploff has eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, but she likes to dispute that figure. "I feel I have twelve grandchildren, because the spouses of my grandchildren are my own too."

"They're all right here in Michigan with me," she said. "No more wandering Jews. It's a beautiful legacy."

The Luploff marriage was a very close one and Louba and Morris knit themselves ever closer by joining groups in the community where they could work together.

"As long as the principles of the group are meaningful, you grow from serving them," she said.

Never a mere member, always an ardent worker, she left her mark on many community organizations serving the Equality Club, The Rebekas, City of Hope, the Oddfellows and Knights of Pythias to name just a few. But the organization that really captured her heart and loyalty was the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary.

Morris belonged to the Silverman Post No. 135, the first post in Michigan and so she joined the auxiliary in tribute to his service in World War I.

That was in 1937 and with the drums of war sounding in Europe again, she said it quickly became her priority.

"EVEN BEFORE World War II we were working at Bandages for Britain and during the war we had a Red Cross unit at the old Jewish Community Center on Woodward and Holbrook," she said.

"We got workers to come in and knit and sew. We made hospital gowns, dressing, bandages whatever was useful. We even made jackets for aviators."

She noted that both her sons served in World War II. In the next few years, she organized nine JWW auxiliaries and served as president of the Michigan Department. In 1948 she was a national vice president.

She was part of the planning group that brought thousands of people to a JWW national convention in Detroit in 1957. "They've never stopped talking about that one," she said.

Ever expanding her involvement, Mrs. Luploff organized the Allied Veterans Council Auxiliary of Wayne County in 1954 and served as its president.

She is also active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and helped organize the League of Jewish Women's organizations which now includes more than 300 community groups, as well as the Women's National Security Conference.

Her efforts go to organizations that feed people, clothe them, provide medical care and many years ago even provided coal for heating homes.

THROUGH the years Mrs. Luploff has had her share of health problems and difficulties. But she has never lost her sense of humor, dedication to service and young outlook.

Last fall the JWW women had a retreat at Camp Tamarack during the visit of the national president. They were subjected to slush beds with makeshift mattresses and three days of dismal rain.

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Russian art authority will speak April 12

An authoritative, controversial discussion on Russian art will be given at the April 12 meeting of Farmington Artists Club by Mark Morris, of Birmingham's Donald Morris Gallery. He is a critic and authority of Russian art and will focus on the strong links and relationships between the early revolutionary artists of the 20th century and today's American modernists.

Until recently, such artists as Malevich, Popova, Tatlin and Rodchenko were largely unknown in this country," he said. "They were also among the first non-objective artists of the 20th century."

The speaker expects to demonstrate how Russian art and ideas influenced the art of Europe and the United States. He will show how the Russian painters investigated every conceivable medium, form and technique, presaging trends American artists are exploring now.

Morris is a native Detroitite who has specialized in Russian art in studies at Wayne State University and University of Michigan. He graduated with

an honors degree from U-M in art history.

MORRIS CONTENDS that lack of information about early 20th century Russian art has proved unfortunate for American art and artists in several ways.

"Lack of serious regard for the vital work of these pioneers," he said, "and ignorance of their role in the stimulating developments in art in the first two decades of this century was a serious blind spot in the American art scene."

The meeting is open to guests. A nominal donation from non-members is customary.

The regular meeting of the club begins at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Farmington Hills Library on Twelve Mile.

While the meeting is in session, entries for the Farmington Artists Club's Spring Art Show will be juried by Kenneth R. Gross, director of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association.

The show is scheduled for April 21-23.

Drawing from life

Marjorie Chellstrop, who teaches oil painting and watercolor classes in Farmington Community Center, adds a new class this spring called "Drawing From Life." She advocates the skill as one that all painters should cultivate, and has scheduled the spring session to begin April 6. Registration is necessary, by calling the center at 477-8404.

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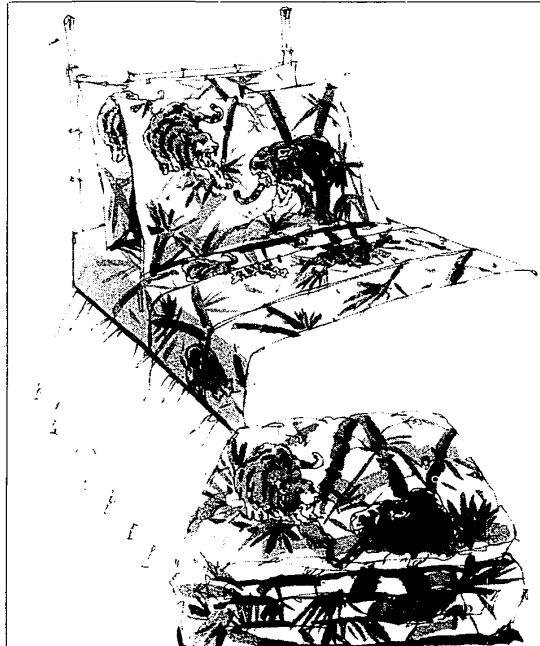
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