

High standards to be met

U-M guild invites local artists to join festival

By LORAIN McCLISH

The University of Michigan Artists and Craftsmen Guild invites local artists and craftsmen to join its members in displaying works when a spring arts festival will be held on the grounds of the Farmington Community Center May 20-21.

It will be the third time the Guild has come to the center and the only festival the guild stages outside of Ann Arbor.

The outreach is promoted to bring a festival to another area that normally doesn't have such an outdoor show, and at the same time provide local artists and craftsmen with a market for their wares.

"But the non-member artist or craftsman who joins us must meet our standards," said Ruth Poris, speaking for the guild.

The guild rules for exhibiting number 17 and run from "all works shall be handcrafted and the work of the exhibiting artist" to "no drunkenness."

More rules are listed for those exhibiting specific crafts and pieces of art. "Combined, all of the rules are what make our shows the high quality that they are," said Mrs. Poris. "And they are also what attract highly talented people to become guild members."

THE FARMINGTON Hills potter went on to say that membership in the

guild is accepted simply because one states that they are a craftsman.

"There is no judge and jury. That's left to the public. If you sell, you sell. But you won't be exhibiting long if you fail to meet the standards. They simply won't tolerate the likes of copies, or reproductions or kits," she said.

Persons wishing copies of the rules for exhibiting artists, or information about the spring show, are invited to write to The University of Michigan Artists and Craftsmen Guild, Second Floor, Michigan Union, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 48109.

The guild was founded in 1971 by art students at U-M for a summer festival showing. It has 650 members now, both professionals and amateurs, and also a waiting list. Members, only, are accepted for showing their works at the three-times-a-year show in Ann Arbor.

"The guild was started," Mrs. Poris said, "to give the artist an outlet for his work, but just as important, it was meant to give the artist or craftsman a little bit of business sense: let him know how to go about selling his work."

Schools, she believes, don't zero in on helping the art student learn how to make a full-time profession as an artist.

"AN ART MAJOR can learn how to become creative, or innovative, or a teacher, but because no old-fashioned

apprenticeships are offered, he or she is generally left in limbo and goes off into another career," she said.

"The guild fills this void with all of the services it offers to its members," she said.

Mrs. Poris emphasized that all of the U-M guild shows are festivals.

The festivals include as many and as varied crafts and arts that the chairmen can gather. These are brought together with music, food and craft demonstrations. Right now the chairmen believe they will have a blacksmith as one of the demonstrators at the Farmington show.

In addition to this, there is always a children's area, that is a standard

built-in part of the festival, in keeping with the guild philosophy of promoting children's interest in art.

One of the guild services, for the shopper, is the publication and distribution of a new book called "Kaleidoscope."

"For 50 cents, it is a very easy guide to buying. You can learn very easily what to look for when you are buying pottery or leather or a painting, or what have you," Mrs. Poris said. The book is available by writing to the guild, and it will also be on sale at the festival in Farmington.

MRS. PORIS advocates all of the guild festivals as "an educational experience. At one of our shows when I should have been selling pottery I spent my time fascinated by one of our demonstrators making a totem pole out of a log."

She says to prospective exhibitors, "Don't be afraid of our rules and standards. They are excellently thought out for everyone's benefit, and they don't stop you from experimenting. They differ from other restrictions because they don't put any restrictions on the serious artist."

Chairmen of the spring show in Farmington have room for 150 artists. One hundred of these will be guild members.

Ann Roth, in Ann Arbor, will take inquiries by calling her at 763-4430.



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RUTH PORIS

Dancing junior miss takes another trophy

By LORAIN McCLISH

A 13-year-old from East Junior High School, who has been dancing for as long as she can remember, has taken the title of Junior Miss Deb Star.

Donna Plewa won a trophy, a crown, and a host of prizes, in an all-state competition among the 11- to 13-year-old set. It is the 12th trophy the young miss has amassed for dancing, eight of which are first place awards.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Plewa of 24843 Lakeland, Farmington Hills, was given tap dancing lessons for her birthday when she was 2. This summer, she will go into training to become an assistant teacher to her instructor, Carolyn Sowden, in Troy.

There were times during those interim years that she did little else but practice.

"She'd practice in a grocery store if a stereo was playing," her mother said.

HEAVY PRACTICE sessions still continue, but she now finds time to deliver the Farmington Observer to neighbors in Springbrook subdivision, babysit and roller skate.

As for babysitting, the new star, about to turn teacher, uses the time to teach her 2-year-old sister, Diane, to tap the same steps she learned at that age.

The title-winner's mother says she is becoming very proficient at picking contest winners, but the latest competition had her fooled completely.

"I don't think Donna has ever been up against that much competition," Mrs. Plewa said. "It was a beautiful contest, very professionally staged and extremely well run. She was up against some of the best dancers we've ever seen together in one place and she had to score high in many divisions to win."

Donna's obvious high scores came in with judging on appearance, personality, modeling, stage presentation, audience reaction, and a personal interview, as well as her talent.

"It was the first time she was ever put to that much," Mrs. Plewa said. "Most of the contests before this were concerned just with talent."

The young miss danced to "In the Mood" in a sparkling blue and silver costume with choreography she had studied for less than a month.

DONNA DESCRIBED her prizes as those "of the best possible kind."

She won a tape recorder, a modeling scholarship, a talent scholarship and certificates for costumes and dance practice clothes.

Her talent scholarship will go for ballet lessons and a jazz dance class she'll attend with her 12-year-old sis-

ter, Darlene, who also studies with Mrs. Sowden.

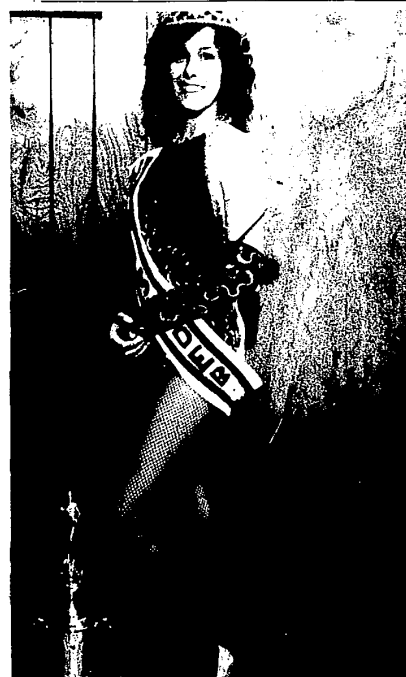
"But best of all," Donna said, "I have all kinds of dates this summer to dance all over (the metropolitan area). I'll be riding in the Farmington Founder's Day parade, in a Southfield parade, and be on Jerry Lewis's tele-

thon (given every September as a benefit for Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America)."

Donna has danced during Founder's Day festivities several years in the past, and last fall was an invited performer in Harrison High School's "All Sports and Variety Show."

"She was up against some of the best dancers we've ever seen together in one place and she had to score high in many divisions to win."

-Mrs. William Plewa



Donna Plewa poses with her newest trophy, the 12th she has won in her 12-year dancing career. This month she took the title of Junior Miss Deb Star.

Members of St. John American Lutheran Church release balloons carrying their anniversary message, "Congregate-Celebrate." The congregation was

formed 20 years ago this month. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

St. John congregation celebrates 20th year

Helium-filled balloons that filled the sky last Sunday came from the grounds of St. John American Lutheran Church, released as part of the special festival service which celebrated the 20th anniversary of its congregation.

The morning celebration at 23225 Gill, Farmington, carried the theme "1958-1978: Congregate-Celebrate." Dr. Robert L. Wetzelmann, bishop of the Michigan district of the American Lutheran Church, preached the sermon for the service, which was conducted by Rev. Charles Fox, pastor of St. John Church for the past 18 years.

At the conclusion of the service, a balloon procession, led by the choir, proceeded onto the church lawn to release their balloons, which carried the message of the event to far-away places.

Virginia Moore of 23147 Farmington Road, who is president of the congregation, called the festival service a dual celebration.

"WE ARE GIVING thanks not only for the 20 years of our congregation's existence and growth," she said, "but also for our pastor, who will this year observe the 20th anniversary of his ordination into the ministry."

She believed the day's theme was fitting as 200 members gathered together again late in the afternoon for an anniversary dinner and program. Al Charles of 23601 Wilmarth, Farmington, served as master of ceremonies for the program, which had been prepared by Ward Varns, 24081 Farmington Road, Farmington.

General chairman for the day was Harvey Maxcow of Northville, who recalled special events in the congregation's history.

Music by a barbershop quartet, made up of Roger Jones, Don Otto, Joel Pittaway and Daril Riley, and organ selections by church organist James Anderson, rounded out the program.

ST. JOHN CHURCH was officially

organized as a congregation of the American Lutheran Church on April 28, 1958. Sixty-one charter members signed the constitution at an organization service, in the gymnasium of what was then Farmington Junior High School.

Rev. Donald R. Good was the first pastor of the fledgling congregation.

The first worship service was given in November 1957, and continued to be conducted in the same gymnasium until the first portion of the church building was completed. The edifice was dedicated in November 1958.

During the anniversary events this week, much of the reminiscing had to do with the time Gill was a gravel and dirt road, the parking lot of the church was a sea of mud, and the day charter members chose for the church dedication was stormy and blustery.

Church facilities were enlarged in 1964, and now a special committee is studying plans for further expansion. Definite plans are expected to be made known next month.

sored by Concern Inc., East Michigan Environmental Action Council and the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers.

Drop off entries to one of the following offices:

*Plymouth Observer, 461 S. Main, Plymouth 48170.

*Livonia Garden City, Westland and Redford Observer office, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

*Southfield-Farmington office, 22170 W. Nine Mile, Southfield 48067.

*Birmingham, West Bloomfield and Troy office, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012.

*Rochester office, 410 N. Main, Rochester 48026.

Solar contest winners to star on TV show

Winners of the solar energy poster contest will not only be awarded some handsome prizes, but will become television stars as well.

The top three winners will be invited to appear on Vic Caputo's "Good Morning Detroit" show on Channel 2 on May 3. The winners will also get a 10 speed bicycle, skateboard donated by Don Thomas Sportsaus or a backpack donated by Benchmark.

The contest is designed to draw attention to solar energy—how it can be used to improve our quality of life. It also will spotlight Sun Day which will be a national celebration of the solar age on May 3.

Students in grades four through eight are invited to draw a picture depicting a current or future use of solar energy. Keep in mind that sunlight has the advantages of being free, available to different nations, its technology is understood and it is a clean energy source.

Drawings should measure 9 by 12 inches or 12 by 18. Each should have the contestant's name, address, phone number, school, grade and teacher written on the back.

The entries will be judged by a panel of artists and scientists and will be rated in terms of their artistic technique and ideas. The contest is spon-