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Suburban Life

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Ethnic groups gather to share their culture

By LORAINNE MCCLISH

Dozens of groups representing nationalities from Europe, Asia, Africa and Central and South America will gather at the Farmington Community Center Friday-Sunday. They bring the food, crafts, artifacts and entertainment of their heritage, to make up the center's fourth annual International Ethnic Festival.

The successful format of past years will be repeated, with many and varied activities taking place under colorful tents on the center's grounds and also inside of the historic 100-year-old Longacre House on Farmington Road, north of Ten Mile.

The one new feature is a children's pavilion for the youth who are invited to take a whack at a Mexican piñata, meet crafters or try their hand at games of skill.

Authentic ethnic foods, from snacks to full meals, come this spring from the countries of Lebanon, Finland, Greece, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Bulgaria, India, Norway, Chile and Peru.

HANDCRAFTED items and imports come from Norway, France, Denmark, Africa, England, China, Japan, Korea, India and the Ukraine.

Craft workers will be on the site, demonstrating the techniques involved in the art forms of pysanky from the Ukraine; Indian batik and jewelry, Korean calligraphy and Swedish strawcraft.

Entertainment will go on almost continuously, rain or shine, with provisions to house entertainers and audience under cover.

The festival gates open at 5 p.m. Friday, and entertainment begins at 6 p.m. with a nationality dress parade and the introduction of invited foreign consuls.

The entertainment line-up follows with Sylvia Naljib's Russian belly dancers; the Finland Male Chorus; Italian singer Marie Louise Eller; Dorothy Attarian and her Armenian Dancers; and the Mexican Folk Dancers from St. Anne Church in Detroit.

YOUTH WHO have studied in the center's dramatics classes this year take the stage Saturday for two performances of "Flags, Bags and Buttered Popcorn."

More entertainment on Saturday's agenda comes from the Irish Dancers, from Butler Academy; "Aljuni," a Palestinian group of folk dancers; Scottish dancers and bagpipers; Scotch

Dancers; Latvian dancers and their instrumentalists; Maria Durante, a Spanish dancer who will bring her guitarist; the German Starline Dancers and many more.

Sunday's line-up has Kimberly Price and her bagpipers; the Finnish Dancers; the Italian Choir from the Church of St. Francesco; the Croatian Zagreb Kolo Dancers and musicians; Uri Segal, an Israeli dancer; Polish dancers; Estonian dancers; the Ukrainian Instrumentalists and the Ukrainian Dancers.

Parking is without charge on the west end of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, at Eleven Mile and Farmington Road. The center's free shuttle buses will carry festival-goers to and from the center in less than five minutes.

Admission is 75 cents for children; \$1 for adults, or \$3 for a family.

The festival runs to 10 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday hours are from noon to 10 p.m.



The Lithuanian folk dancers ensemble is called Silaine, and will perform Saturday afternoon under the direction of Galina Gobis.



Handcrafts from India are shown by Kamlesh Sheomen who will operate her booth dressed in her native sari.



Erika Hundt offers pottery and porcelain from the Deutschland in an array from fine china to sturdy beer steins.



Authentic recipes from Lebanon are used for food served by Soroya Akouri.



The German folk dancers (above) are the Schuhplattlers who study in Detroit's Carpathia Club. At right, Jane Kernicky shows wooden handcrafts from Sweden.



Yul Lee is one of the demonstrators coming to the festival to write for fair-goers, Oriental style.

Bob Martin does the Ukrainian Sait Dance as a soloist with the Ukrainian Dancers.