

In search of:

Bottom line prices on top notch goods

By SHIRLEE IDEN

It's nice to look like a million dollars, but even nicer to achieve that look at bargain prices.

Three Oakland County women are dedicated to helping others get that good feeling, and also to furnish their "own" luxuries, pay for materials and surround themselves with greenery all at discount prices.

Linda Robinson, Maryann Zukosky, and Wendy Dunn logged over 12,000 calls and visited more than 3,000 stores in the metropolitan area to help locate these items.

"We did this to work to research for the 'Underground Shopper'," Susan Publications, \$2.95, which lists and contains on more than 300 items of goods.

These 300 items are not into the discount, but being legitimate discount stores, which means discounting at a minimum rate of 20 per cent," Mrs. Dunn said.

She said the booklet tells the shopper to always check the stores listed, because they can't see the size range, the style or credit they will extend and then their policy on returning merchandise.

It can be used to shop in Southfield, but can just look under Southfield and Southfield a long list of stores right in your neighborhood who can offer better prices than Mrs. Zukosky.

THE BOOKLET is the first edition of

"The Underground Shopper" in this area, but the publication has been issued previously in 11 other cities across the country.

It's the brainchild of former Detroit Sue Goldstein, who is the editor and publisher of Susan Publications in Dallas. She said the idea for discount shopping came to her as she listened to cocktail party conversation in Dallas and gazed at lavishly dressed women, dripping in jewels.

She started the "Underground Shopper" in Dallas, having left this area in the midst of the 1977 newspaper strike.

The rationale is that not everyone can casually pay out top prices to look good and there are many people who want to look good but must scrutinize prices carefully.

"The booklet only costs \$2.95 and you can save much more than that on your first shopping trip," Mrs. Dunn said.

"We look at all sorts of things when we shop: quality, variety, courtesy and store atmosphere. The people in this book don't mark things up and then price them down. They're legitimate."

"If it's not a terrific store, the writer won't be excited."

Mrs. Dunn did the writing for the Detroit area edition and it's the third one she has done. Since her husband's job requires that she travels, she has researched and written an "Underground Shopper" each time they moved.

MS. GOLDSTEIN and Mrs. Dunn are sisters. Mrs. Zukosky and Mrs. Robinson encountered Mrs. Dunn when she was surveying the area planning for the publication-to-come.

All three women contribute to the research and rating of the stores, but Mrs. Dunn does the writing. Stores are rated with stars from one to four with ratings based on quality, quantity, price, store atmosphere and services offered.

"At no time did these merchants know we were doing research," said Mrs. Dunn. "We go in just like any other shopper. For the stores, it's terrific. Most of them are small places that can't afford to advertise on their own."

She said there are no fees for being listed in the booklet.

"What it boils down to is, we don't think anyone should pay full price for anything," Mrs. Zukosky said. "I don't have anything in my house we paid full price for."

Ms. Goldstein said when her sister moved to Huntington Woods and wanted to research for a new "Underground Shopper" she was skeptical.

"Wendy is a superb commander in the field and a good administrator," Ms. Goldstein said. "But I knew the Detroit area and didn't think there was much potential for true discount shopping."



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The 500 listings that were amassed proved the possibilities were there and each of the women has stories about the designer dress at great reduction or the out-of-season children's clothing they have found for their children.

STORES listed include more than 60 cities, over 30 outlets in Southfield, 11 in Birmingham, 10 in Farmington, three in Garden City, 17 in Livonia, 12 in Rochester, more than 20 in Oak Park and five in Redford.

To get the listings, the women spent many hours driving, talking, examining merchandise and braving one of the roughest winters in recent years to find bargains for others.

Their reward is a share in the royalties and a keen sense of satisfaction. Already they are planning the next edition of "Underground Shopper" and other projects as well.

"We are planning to offer fashion shows for conventions and men's and women's groups at a small fee," said

Mrs. Robinson. "We can also advise on home decor and repairs."

At the front of the booklet is an inscription which reads: "Dedicated with love to seven little reasons why we bargain shop for all seasons." The seven reasons are the Dunn, Robinson and Zukosky children: Adam and Tina, Marlowe, Blake and Spencer and Derek and Jason.

An earlier success of "Underground Shopper" made Ms. Goldstein the very first woman publisher in Texas. She said she represents several authors and is considering expanding the shopping booklet to other cities.

"We've established a stringent criterion for a consumer publisher," she said. "But we basically just shop for a living and love it."

Y classes begin week of Sept. 18

All fall classes offered by the Farmington Area YMCA begin the week of Sept. 18. More than 100 classes are offered, but space is limited, and registrations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Carol Green heads a staff of certified instructors who will teach swimming seven days a week, with a variety of times and skill levels available for those from 6 months old to adult.

Special Y fitness classes in 12 different varieties improve cardiovascular fitness, tone and strengthen skeletal muscles, improve flexibility, balance, coordination and mental attitudes. There is even a program for the early birds, offered from 6:30-7:30 a.m.

A new concept in fitness comes through DanceFit, designed to obtain fitness to the rhythm of music. Kathy Rozewski will lead classes in First Presbyterian Church, Bonaventure Roller Rink and Novi Middle School.

Kay Burns, a fitness specialist, will teach a Y's Way to a Healthy Back. It's a mild form of exercise performed to stretch and strengthen muscle groups and done in a medically approved program.

PRESCHOOLERS, through 6 years

old, can join the Preschool Variety Show which offers art, gym, swim, stories and games with Sheila Wade in Mercy Center and Novi Methodist Church.

Henry Van Der Woven, with nine years of professional experience and a certified staff, will teach A.K.C. commands to dogs of at least four months of age on Thursday evenings. With this class, the Y provides a no-fail policy.

Coe karate and judo are taught by Ray Thibodeau. Indoor tennis is taught in small group sessions, and indoor horseback riding will be available at Haverhill Farms through the Y.

Gymnastics classes on seven levels of expertise is taught at Kenbrook Elementary School. Y instructors point out with pride that their gymnastic team, the Gym J's, are the reigning Metro Y champions.

On Monday evenings, the disco dance set takes over at Mercy Center for both singles and couples, and Ellen Graves teaches guitar chords and songs on Tuesdays and Thursdays there.

For more information, call 553-4020.

Oakway auditions Mondays

Oakway Symphony Orchestra is scheduling auditions for all strings, choir, bassoon, French horn and trumpet players.

Persons with symphonic or equivalent experience, or highly talented high school students, may arrange an audition by calling Conductor Francesco DiBiasi at 425-8610 or writing him at Box 171, Farmington 48024.

Regular rehearsals are Monday evenings at 7:30 in Harrison High School, Twelve Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. They begin Sept. 11.

Musicians from throughout Wayne and Oakland counties perform in the Oakway Symphony, now in its sixth season. Copies of the season's program may be obtained by writing to the box number.



MARYANN ZUKOSKY



WENDY DUNN



LINDA ROBINSON

Credits earned

Art created, tea served in Japanese workshops

By LORRAINE McCLISH

The Japanese art and culture workshop taught by George and Mary Bowman of Farmington Hills returns to Southfield's Stevenson Elementary School beginning Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Participants can earn three hours of graduate credit in the workshop that includes brush painting, flower arranging, history, cook cooking, tea ceremony, calligraphy, pronunciation and culture.

Classes run from 6-9 p.m. and field trips are a standard part of the course.

Mary Bowman, who is owner of the Sumi-e Studio in Farmington Hills, has taught sumi-e art to more than 100 students each year since coming to Michigan in 1974.

Her paintings are of delicate bamboo, cat-tails, orchids and other natural subjects, done in the oriental manner with Zen simplicity.

The ancient Japanese style of sumi-e is one of mood painting in a brief time span. The creations are quick and complete. Some are finished in less than a minute and most within five minutes.

They usually have a simple asymmetrical composition, using various dilutions of Japanese ink with a feather-light bamboo-handled brush on sensitive rice paper.

"IT IS A ZEN Buddhist art rooted deep in the subconscious and the beauty found here and now," Mrs. Bowman says. "Students of this art form in Western cultures have found it to be relevant here. Most of our students are teachers because there

isn't a grade that you can't use the Oriental arts somewhere in your curriculum."

She adds, "But the course is designed for anyone who just wants to learn or is interested in Japanese things."

As far as she knows, she is the only full time professional sumi-e teacher in the Detroit area who has been trained in Japan.

When she lived in Japan 12 years ago, Mrs. Bowman took private lessons in kaisei style calligraphy, urasenke tea ceremony, and Japanese cooking.

She also studied other aspects of the culture and has learned the basic elements of reading, writing and conversation.

Her husband, Dr. George Bowman, is on the staff of Central Michigan University and is her teaching partner for the workshops, handling the Japanese history and music sessions.

THE GRADUATE and undergraduate credits that can be earned are transferable. The fee is \$120 for the three credits, plus a \$12 lab fee. High school students can audit the course for half price and receive credits later.

Mrs. Bowman regularly teaches sumi-e classes in Farmington Community Center, where they have been among the most popular classes since she started in the winter of 1975.

In addition, she gives programs on sumi-e, Japanese tea ceremony and flower arranging for art association, garden clubs, schools and other groups.

She exhibits at art

fairs, and her line of note paper is available in several local gift shops.

Her fall agenda, in addition to the credit classes in Southfield, includes

classes in Village Woman's Club in Bloomfield Hills, the Pontiac Art Center and Farmington Community Center.

Persons interested in the credit course may make registrations by calling either Dr. or Mrs. Bowman at 553-4509.



Team teachers Mary and George Bowman begin their Japanese Culture Workshop in Southfield's Stevenson Elementary School this week. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey)

fall SHOWS COLLECTION

GIORGIO SANT'ANGELO

Thursday, September 14

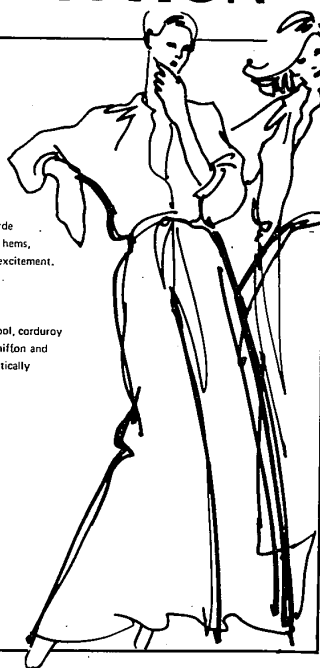
From the tamed lion of the avant-garde come butterfly sleeves, handkerchief hems, and a something-is-about-to-happen excitement.

OSCAR DE LA RENTA

Monday, September 25

Soft, splendid blendings of velvet, wool, corduroy and paisley chailis for day — silk, chiffon and lame glow by night. Fall arrives romantically with Oscar de la Renta.

10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.



Jacobson's

BIRMINGHAM