

She teaches the business of being an artist

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Teaching artists to be pragmatic in the market place appears to be a tall order.

And yet, that's the task that Nancy LeBeau Thayer has set for herself.

Mrs. Thayer, a resident of Lathrup Village and an artist married to another artist, will teach a course for Oakland Community College this fall called "The Business of Being an Artist."

A Michigan native, Mrs. Thayer lived in Royal Oak, moved to Saginaw for a

time, and now is a new resident of Lathrup Village. She is married to Russell Thayer, a successful sculptor. They are parents of Adam, 2, and David, 9.

In addition to the course at OCC, Mrs. Thayer will teach a course in anatomy for artists at the Center for Creative Studies.

She earned a BA degree in math from Michigan State University and then a master of fine arts degree in painting and drawing.

"Artists taking my OCC course will get a lot of marketing know-how," she

said. "They'll get lists of galleries and art fairs nationally and internationally.

Primarily, each person will go through steps to clarify where they ultimately want their art to go. Students artists often believe that New York is the only place to be and getting your work into museum is the only place to go."

"OF COURSE, that's not true. The class will describe alternatives and choices and I also give the method to get to prescribed goals."

"It's not who you know but what you know and how effectively one goes about their business."

The course will also touch on portfolios and resume. Each student will do a portfolio and their personal resume which will be critiqued by Mrs. Thayer.

The course will run for eight weeks and will focus on the important questions that face artists such as: What does it mean to be an artist? And: How can an artist most effectively market his or her own work?

Some of the weekly topics will concern

personal goals, how to achieve them, how to create a reputation, 10 alternatives to galleries, and how to create growth and progress.

Each class session, at the Orchard Ridge Campus, will be two hours long. Two classes are planned. First, a morning class from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and an evening course from 7-9 p.m. Thursdays.

MRS. THAYER is widely recognized for her innovative approaches to personal growth and creativity through art. She has taught, lectured and served as a consultant.

Her paintings have appeared in more than 30 individual and invitational exhibitions in galleries and museum in this country and in Mexico.

They can also be found in numerous corporate collections.

Mrs. Thayer said the OCC course grows purely out of her own experience.

"Going to a gallery to try to get your work in can be humiliating and degrading," she said. "But it doesn't have to be. It can be a dignified experience if you present yourself properly."

"I know. I've done it both ways," she said.



NANCY L. THAYER

Classes begin on Tuesday, Sept. 11 and registration is open now.

To get more information or to register, call Oakland Community College at 476-9400, Ext. 226 or Mrs. Thayer at 569-2178.

Young parents program pioneered at Marillac

Marillac Hall, long known in the community for its pre-natal residential program for pregnant teens, begins a pilot project this fall designed for young single mothers.

The new "Mother and Child Program" is in honor of International Year of the Child, proclaimed by the United Nations to concentrate on the needs of children.

Marillac's traditional pre-natal programs and the pilot program will both be carried out in the newly renovated spacious home next to the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher

Center, which has been located on Inkster and 12 Mile Roads in Farmington Hills for 25 years.

The Mother and Child Program is a small pilot project designed to examine ways to best meet the needs of young single mothers who are in need of adult help in learning to become more effective and loving parents.

It is open to all young parents in the community who have not had the benefit of other helping programs.

"Young parents," said Gail Cycone, of Marillac Hall, "who are struggling to care for a baby alone, find that they need not only actual teaching in

the specifics of child care but emotional support as well."

THE MARILLAC staff, composed of nurses, social workers, teachers and child care specialists, will offer training in a wide range of topics to prepare for effective parenting.

The licensed child care program will provide a laboratory in which infant stimulation, child development and physical care can be observed and learned.

Presentations will cover budgeting, food purchasing and preparation, and nutrition.

Persons interested in

Igolochkoy demonstrated

The Russian art of igolochkoy will be demonstrated by Gail Bird from noon-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9, in Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth.

Igolochkoy is the Russian word for "with a little needle."

The embroidery is created by using a miniature punch needle working from the wrong side of the fabric, resulting in a plus pile design.

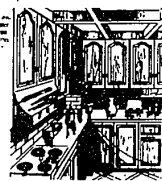
Mrs. Bird will come from New York to visit the museum, demonstrating the many kinds of fabrics and many types of thread that can be used to create igolochkoy.

She says the technique is fast, easy, portable, and fairly inexpensive.

The craft resembles punch crafts of other cultures, including early American punch rugs, but Mrs. Bird believes the Russians are the only people to have used it on a miniature scale suitable to decorate clothing.

The craft was taken up by craftsmen in America only about eight years ago. Ladies Home Journal Needle and Crafts will feature a dress decorated with igolochkoy on its January cover.

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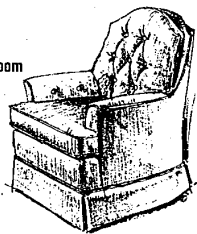
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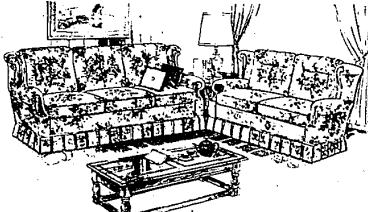
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