

Monday, February 11, 1980

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Turning youth into art lovers

By LORAIN McCLISH

A group of art lovers, who want that same love to be passed on to the area's youth, are in mid-school season now, carrying out an enrichment program for children in nine elementary schools. "Our goal is to get the program in every school in town," said Nancy Mudloff who assumed chairmanship of the Picture Ladies program in the fall of 1978.

"Being an artist isn't necessary to be a picture lady. The only requirement is an interest in art and children," she said.

Picture ladies take a portfolio of four art reproductions to four classrooms of the school they are assigned and leads a discussion concerning the prints. The prints are left for hanging for a month. Portfolios are exchanged between the picture ladies and the entire process is repeated the next month.

"We make our visits as pleasant as possible so the children will look forward to our next visit," Ms. Mudloff said, "and we know we've done this by how they greet us the next time around."

Class time might vary from one month to the next working with the teacher to dovetail the enrichment classes into the regular curriculum.

THE PICTURE lady program is sponsored by the Farmington Art Foundation, the service arm of Farmington Artists Club, and conceived by Alice Nichols with some assistance from Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association (BBA).

The first such program was given in Longacre Elementary School in 1975, with the same format in effect now. The participating school is obligated to a one-time fee which purchases one new portfolio that goes into the ever-expanding program. The bill is generally picked up by the school's PTO or PTA.

There is no profit involved. The fee guarantees that the portfolio belongs to all participating schools and is shared with all schools within the program.

The over-all philosophy is sharing from an enjoyment level, rather than a lecture level. With this approach, the

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child can criticize freely.

Portfolios are made up of pictures of one given subject so class discussion centers around how several artists might view a circus, or a city, or royalty, perhaps. Portfolios come equipped with biographical material on the artists involved and suggestions so the picture ladies can do their homework and better open up points of reference to rev up class discussion.

TAPED COMMENTS from the students have been described "as absolutely charming."

Sue Ebel, a professional calligrapher, juggles her picture lady time handling the programs at both Highmeadow and Eagle schools.

Marge Chellstorp, a co-owner of Garret Galleries and Studios in Farmington with Mrs. Nichols, handles the program at Forest Elementary. Celi Surbrook, whose work can be seen in the highly juried Sholem Aleichem Institute's show and sale that runs Feb. 8-10 in Shenandoah Country Club, handles the program at Middlebelt School.

Sharon Rosenberg is the picture Lady at Beechview; Shirley Popp at Gill; Marge Stock at Flanders and Erika Ayala heads up the program at William Grace, most recent school to enter the program.

Mrs. Mudloff is an award-winning pen and ink artist who has just been recently commissioned by the Farmington Hills Historical Commission to produce drawings for that group's brochure, scheduled for printing and distribution before the end of the year.

She will take inquiries about the program by calling her at 477-3734.



Nancy Mudloff, a prize-winning pen and ink artist, volunteers a good part of her time acting as chairwoman of The Picture Ladies. The art enrichment program is sponsored by Farmington Art Foundation.



Alice Nichols, who brought The Picture Ladies program into Farmington and Farmington Hills schools in 1975, now acts as consultant to the women who oversee the sessions in nine elementary schools. Mrs. Nichols is a long-time member of Farmington Artists Club and a co-owner of Garret Galleries.



Marge Stock is The Picture Lady who visits art classes every month in Flanders Elementary School.

Staff photos by Randy Bors



Sharon Rosenberg checks each portfolio coming and going as The Picture Ladies switch so new artists and new subjects are introduced to students every month. Ms. Rosenberg is the monthly visitor to art classes in Beechview Elementary School.

New members sought

National Jaycette Week celebrated Feb. 11-16

Jaycettes across the nation reach out to citizens in more than 4,000 communities seeking new members during National Jaycette Week, Feb. 11-16.

The U.S. Jaycettes is an organization of 55,000 women providing its members with individual development and leadership training. Members must be between the ages of 18 and 35.

The Farmington Area Jaycettes celebrate the week locally by giving an open invitation to young women to attend its next meeting, set to begin at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in Farmington Community Center.

The community-oriented service club supports programs here for Sarah Fisher Home, Marillac Hall and Oak Hill Nursing Home.

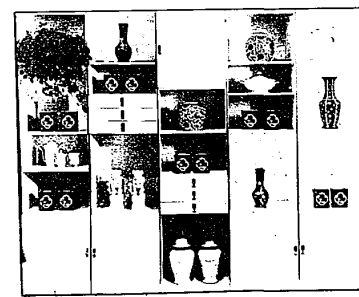
Members respond to requests for food baskets from the needy and are involved in "Adopt a Grandmother" program.

The local club sponsors an annual arts and crafts sale every November to give local crafts a market for their creations and each year gives scholarships to high school seniors who are headed for a vocational career.

Some of the club's funds comes from assisting the Farmington Area Jaycettes with the Jaycette Haunted House and Summer Time Festivals.

The Jaycettes were originally formed as an auxiliary to the Jaycees and a membership requirement then was that Jaycettes had to be married to a Jaycee. This has since been changed. The only requirement now is age.

Prospective members are invited to the February meeting by just dropping in, though if more information is desired, Barb Kenerson will take inquiries by calling her at 478-2822.



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