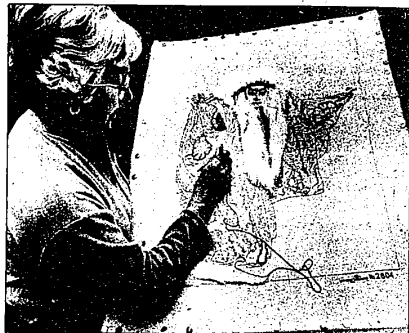


Century old art thrives

By SHIRLEE IDEN

With a punch needle and nylon thread, Ursula Olsen-Madden does oil painting in yarn.

That's what many people call the stitchery craft of Japanese bunka embroidery.



Joan Dickerson Peters' of Lathrup Village's Kubuki or lion dancer has its own flowing mane.

Community Chorus stages first concert

The Farmington Area Community Chorus, formed last fall under the direction of Jim Whitten and underwritten by Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, stages its first concert Sunday, Dec. 21.

The curtain goes up for "That Extra Special Season" at 2:30 p.m. in Harrison Centre for the Performing Arts, in Harrison High School, 2995 12 Mile Road.

Admission is \$2 for adults, or \$1 for children and seniors, at the door.

Whitten is former director for The Kendallakis, who brought the seasoned and talented members of that group to form the nucleus of the new chorus.

"We'll have about 35 on stage," Whitten said. "They are a variety of ages running from young teens to retired grandparents."

WHITTEN'S format and philosophy for the new group is the same as it was when he directed The Kendallakis, who were known for making "fun music."

"The secret was always on bringing together people who enjoyed making music for people who enjoyed hearing good music," he said.

Though much of the concert will be devoted to traditional holiday music.

Actually, the "needle" is a hollow metal tube with an apparatus at the end by which the craftsman manipulates the buoyant nylon thread.

Mrs. Olsen-Madden has been manipulating those tools and materials for five years now. She is the only bunka

embroidery instructor in the state of Michigan.

"I learned it in upper state New York," she explains.

"You have to be sponsored by your teacher and have 60 pictures judged. Only then can you get a license to teach bunka."

All of the needed materials can be purchased locally, but they are imported from Japan.

"The art is only 50 years old in this country, but in Japan it's centuries old," she says.

"The instructions are all in Japanese," she said. "My husband can read Japanese and I can decipher the instructions because I have done so many many pictures."

ANOTHER requirement for getting her instructor's license was that Mrs. Olsen-Madden had to design an original pattern for a bunka embroidery piece.

"You get a certificate and a stamp when you are accepted as an instructor," she says.

Teaching for about one year, she already has about 100 students including men, women and young people.

She conducts classes at McDonnell Towers and at the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Mrs. Olsen-Madden also will teach small groups of five to 10 persons privately by special arrangement.

A Southfield resident, she was born in the Black Forest of Germany. Her husband, Joseph, is retired from the U.S. Air Force. They have two teenagers, Erica and Michael.

"Unlike regular embroidery, you can't put it on wearing apparel and have to be very careful not to get it wet."

"Both my daughter and my husband do bunka embroidery," she said.

"It's not just for women at all."

Mrs. Olsen-Madden says the craft is not hard to learn at all.

"It's very easy to correct mistakes, but the finished pictures must be framed under glass," she says.



Rhea Bass works on her bunka embroidery pattern as Ursula Olsen-Madden, the state's only bunka teacher, comments.

club circuit

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS, Farmington Hills Chapter, meets for a holiday party at 1:30 p.m. Friday in the downstairs room of Farmington Hills Community Library on 12 Mile Road. Entertainment for the afternoon will come from the Dancing Grandmothers from Dearborn.

DETROIT STORY LEAGUE is hosted by Farmington resident Dugby Sharp when the group meets at noon, Saturday, Dec. 20.

The members invite guests to join them for an afternoon of seasonal stories by calling Linda Aldrich, 420-2588.

"Shop Windows" is the theme for the day in keeping with the group's 1980-81 season theme of windows.

Workshop for the day will be led by the hostess, called "Peeping into Shop Windows Brings Visions of St. Nicholas."

THE GATHERING PLACE hosts two holiday parties before the month is

out in Mercy Center on 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt Road. The events are open to all senior adults, who are asked to enter the center from Gate 4.

"A Holiday Party" begins at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23 and includes entertainment from The Twelve Tones of Farmington High School, treats from Santa Claus, door prizes and surprises.

Reservations must be made in person for guests who will be staying for dinner.

The New Year's Eve party runs from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. There is no charge, and reservations are not required for seniors to drop in, listen or dance to the Farmington Senior Adult Band, and sample from the hors d'oeuvres and sweet tables.

Another special holiday afternoon of entertainment in The Gathering Place is provided by Ivan Westover, who makes up Smiley's One Man Band. Smiley is back by popular demand, at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22.

The Gathering Place is open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. All events scheduled are listed in "The Senior

Messenger," which can be picked up in The Gathering Place without charge.

BECH ACHIM SISTERHOOD announces plans for Institute Day, a morning of Jewish art, music and literature, which begins at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19 in the synagogue, 21100 12 Mile Road.

Reservations are necessary and are being taken now by calling Millie Rosenbloom, 357-6575.

Committeewomen for the day have lined up three speakers.

Ruth Lefkowitz, a docent at the Detroit Institute of Art, will talk on "The Jewish Connection at the Detroit Institute of Art."

Cantor Chaim Najman of Congregation Shaarey Zedek will discuss Jewish music and sing some cantorial melodies.

Dr. Lila Goldman, professor of English at Wayne State University, will

speak on Jewish literature.

Lillian Katz, chairman of the luncheon, invites all sisterhood members and guests to enjoy lunch, followed by the afternoon program, "Amateur Night at Littman's Theatre." The original musical comedy was written by Lil Sklar, directed by Gera Oliva, and features guest performers along with members of the sisterhood's drama and choral groups.

Jackie Drapkin and Mrs. Rosenbaum are co-chairmen of the sisterhood's Adult Education Committee.

Esther Rosenbloom is vice president of education and Judy Phillips is the sisterhood president.

ALL CLUB news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48024, and must arrive on the Monday prior to Thursday publication.

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