

Vartan's Daughters display Armenian treasures

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Each February when Americans celebrate the birthdays of Washington and Lincoln, those of Armenian descent pay tribute to a hero of their own. This great hero of Armenian history was Vartan, who valiantly fought the pagan Persians back in 451 A.D. The issue was religious freedom, a theme vital to all of Armenian history. "Armenians have always been persecuted because of adherence to our religion," said Zabelle Atesian of Bingham Farms. "Before the Emperor Constantine accepted Christianity in 312 A.D., Armenians had already embraced it in 301."

In the fifth century, when the Persians tried to force the Ar-



Ann Haktzian models an authentic costume from Drabizon while Shoushan Donikian's dress is from Sassoon (above). Another treasured Armenian costume to be modeled at the Feb. 25 event is the costume (right) from Yevoglia worn by Shoushan Donikian. (Staff Photos by Mindy Saunders)

menian people to worship pagan gods, Vartan was one of the leaders of a protracted fight. "They expected to lose," Mrs. Atesian said. "They fought 30 years of guerrilla warfare and, finally, the Persians relented and said they could remain Christian."

Vartan is still venerated for what he accomplished at great odds. Centuries later, the Daughters of Vartan at St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield do their charitable works in his name.

MRS. ATESIAN is chairwoman of the annual Daughters of Vartan fundraiser, this year a dinner and exposition of antique Armenian costumes called "The Armenian Heritage Collection."

(Continued on Page 4B)



Technician cautions against unsafe tanning procedures

By LORAINNE McCLISH

Gerri Larson, who has spent the last few years trying to get sun tanning centers licensed in the state for the user's protection, has simultaneously become a one-woman crusade dispensing public consumer information on the dangers of using unsafe tanning procedures and equipment.

"Especially for the person who needs the warmth of the sun in the winter as a relief from arthritis," the tanning technician said. "Or the psoriasis sufferers. Or those who are sent to us by their dermatologists."

"They have enough trouble without worrying about side-effect they can get while they are trying to get relief for another problem."

Together with her partner at SunGlo, a tanning center in Farmington Hills, the two get sanction for the equipment they use from Dr. Frederick Urbach, a director of the skin and cancer institute at Temple University in Philadelphia.

"OUR BULBS will not result in chronic changes, such as aging or skin cancer, even with repeated or prolonged use over a number of years," Ms. Larson said.

"Whether you're sunning for cosmetic or therapeutic reasons, we're back up by a testimony from Dr. Urbach. I wish every tanning center in the state possessed. We've all read and heard enough about what over-exposure from the sun can do to those who go about it the wrong way."

While tanning with the natural sun, the skin is exposed to the whole spectrum of ultraviolet rays: A, B and C.

Ultraviolet A rays are responsible for activating the color pigmentation, and creating a tan. These rays can be absorbed by the body in large quantities without harm. The B rays will increase the deep color pigments for additional tanning. The C rays are harmful.

The ultraviolet A combined with correct minimal amounts of B gives optimal tanning without sunburn or skin damage.

All of the bulbs that have ever been used in SunGlo are manufactured by General Electric with this combination of ultraviolet A and B.

"THE BULBS were a great breakthrough and we've used them for our tanning beds every since we opened SunGlo," Ms. Larson said.

"Now we're the first ones in the country to have the HEX, another breakthrough in safe tanning, the safest on the market."

The HEX takes its name from the hexagon. It is a six-sided booth manufactured by International Tanning Equipment.

"We've already nick-named it 'The Perfect 10,'" Ms. Larson said. "That's for the clients who want to stand in the HEX and come out looking like they just got off a cruise ship."

"You are surrounded by a maze of lights, knowing that it's safe and you are getting all the benefits that the vitamins it gives has to offer. It is double intensity of the beds, and produces color twice as fast," she said.

Clients who prefer the tanner-bed spend 30 minutes a session for their tan. Those who choose the booth spend from 10-20 minutes in the HEX, predicated on recommendations from the tanning technician.

"We've heard there is another HEX that's been installed now in Talahassee (Tenn.), but we are the first to have it in operation," Ms. Larson said.

SunGlo is located at 38245 10 Mile Road. Ms. Larson will take inquiries by calling her at 477-0600.



A suntan can be achieved in a short amount of time using the HEX. It uses the safest and most effective tanning rays.

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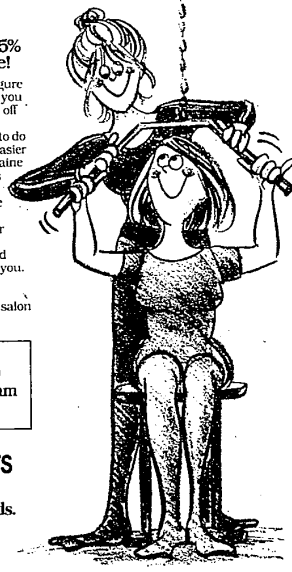
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