

Suburban Life

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Monday, February 6, 1984 O&E

'Adventures in Growth'

Series designed to enlighten and energize today's woman

Oakland Community College's Womencenter's new series, "Adventures in Growth," leads off with "Breakfast Past Noon," a one-act play to be staged by the Fourth Street Players at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, in Building 10 on Orchard Ridge Campus.

"Breakfast Past Noon is a 1970s feminist play about a bizarre but all-too-familiar situation between a mother and her daughter," said Rosalie Cardella, speaking for the Royal Oak company.

Written by Ursula Moninaro, the black drama, which reveals the conflicts a well-meaning Everywoman evokes, ran for two months in Fourth Street Playhouse before going on tour.

At the end of the play, the actors step down from the stage and begin discussing the play's subject with the audience and producer.

"We expect to be moving into the biggest room in the building for this one," said Sadie Davis, acting director for Womencenter, who helped to put together the late winter series.

"We're deviating from our usual one-lecture-a-week series this season and offering three 'adventures' that are designed to enlighten and energize today's woman," she said.

THE SERIES is made up of plays and musicals of social significance, discussions on personal issues and lectures on pertinent political topics.

"We're risking some money on this, but if anybody at all gets some good out of the series our risk will be worth it," Davis said.

One gain already assured is that the entire series will be produced on Continental Cablevision (Channel 18) and

Booth Communications (Channel 11) by Barbara Wood for a show called "Insight on Success."

The series continues March 14 for an International Women's Day celebration with Doris Biscoe, news anchor woman for Channel 7, and Pam Sisson, a feminist attorney and musician from Flint.

The series concludes with a program called "Women's Vote in 1984," headed up by Nancy Humphrey, dean of social work at Michigan State University.

Most of the women we're invited for the series are women of great stature," she said. "Each has acquired prominence within her field."

"We are all so pleased with the line-up I think every volunteer we have at Womencenter is going to be involved some way in helping us make this a success."

"Our whole philosophy is wrapped

around continuing to grow until every vestige of sexism and racism is eliminated. And we intend to strive to understand the barriers created by social, political and economical factors so we can work to eliminate them."

BISCOE JOINED the Channel 7 News team in 1973. Since then, she has received numerous honors for reporting excellence, including the Mayor's Award of Merit and the Detroit City Council's Distinguished Service Award.

Biscoe hosted a documentary on Alzheimers Disease. It won her a 1983 Broadcast Media Award for weekly "Gift of Love" broadcasts with a local child who is available for adoption won her a special award in 1982 from the Child Welfare League of America.

In 1980, the local chapter of American Women in Radio and Television

named her the "Outstanding Woman in News." Her 1977 documentary on breast surgery received both an Emmy and a Gold Milk award.

Biscoe's topic for the Women's Day Celebration is "What's Ahead for Women in the '80s."

She shares the podium that day with Sisson, who is sometimes known as "the woman who sings for the '80s."

Most of the songs she sings she has written herself and all of them carry a message for women as she accompanies herself with guitar, banjo, piano or synthesizer.

She is adamant that political songs not be boring and that the message is given, leaving no doubt in the listeners' minds about her strong views on women in today's society, society in the '80s, and personal relationships.

Among her most popular songs are

"A Lesbian Mother's Defense," which is a ballad on child custody, and "Politically Incorrect," a satire on the pressures to conform.

IN ADDITION to her work at MSU, Dr. Humphrey is immediate past president of the National Association of Social Workers and is serving as a chairman of that organization's PACE (Political Action Candidate Election) committee.

She is longtime critic of current federal policies and has been one of the leading spokeswomen for social workers' concerns over these policies.

She was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve on his National Advisory Committee on Women's Issues. She also co-chaired the subcommittee on human services.

Waldorf hosts open forum

"Can High Schools Prepare Adolescents for the 21st Century?" will be the subject of an open forum led by David Roriat, former Michigan state senator and currently Chairman of its economic analysis. Parents, teachers and any person interested in the major issues confronting secondary schools today are invited to join in the discussion at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5 in Waldorf Institute of Mercy College, 23399 Evergreen Road, Southfield.

Among the issues to be discussed are academic excellence, concepts of discipline and freedom, teacher training and the role of private schools.

Guest panelists who will participate in the question-and-answer discussion with Roriat are Dr. Stephen Edelglass, adjunct professor of science and engineering, Cooper Union, N.Y.C.; Dr. Werner

Glas, of Mercy College of Detroit; Dr. Yates Hafner, of Wayne State University; professor Anthony Taft, of Albion College; Karen Duffy, foreign languages high school teacher; Jolie Jackunas, student spokesperson presently attending the University of Detroit.

The forum is sponsored by Waldorf High School as part of its community action program. The discussion will be opened and offered to educational organizations in Michigan. Waldorf is an independent, non-sectarian, non-profit, co-ed day school serving students in the tri-county area at 2555 Burns, Indi Village, Detroit.

Also scheduled for the afternoon are student artistic exhibits and the Waldorf High School drama club in a one-act play, "The Transferred Ghost," at 4:15 p.m.



Cindi Fischel of Lathrup Village (left) and her partner, Terri Shapiro of Farmington Hills, have temporarily moved their cottage industry business to a local hotel

following a fire in the Fischel home. The women design and manufacture leather accessories.

Happiness

A business to call your own

By Shirley Rose Idon
staff writer

What do you do when you're making it in a cottage industry and the cottage burns?

Cindi Fischel and Terri Shapiro decided they would stay in there and keep plugging. The two women run Ronit, a home-based leather manufacturing business, from their homes.

When the Fischel home in Lathrup Village was damaged by a fire early one morning this month, the family, Cindy, her husband, Bill, and children, Rebecca, 4, and David, 3, moved to a local hotel.

Weeks later, only the remodeling contractor knows for sure when the house will be ready for the family to move back.

So their cottage industry is now hotel-based, but the work goes on.

Shapiro, who lives in Farmington Hills, spends three working sessions a week with her partner in the hotel. They may make embellished suede bags or painted bags and create earrings or shoulder-drape pieces with designs in the leather.

Fischel's baby-sitter has just about moved into the hotel to supervise trips to the swimming pool and other outings for the Fischel and Shapiro children.

"The female word for happiness in Hebrew is Ronit," says Shapiro. And for the two happiness is designing and marketing their own accessories.

THE TWO WOMEN met at an ORT meeting in 1982. They struck up a long conversation and made plans later to attend a convention together nearby.

The convention was switched to Cleveland and at the last minute we decided to go," Fischel says. "We spent 24 hours together and our friendship was kicked off."

Both women had been designing sweatshirts and decided it was getting too competitive. Coincidentally, they both visited California and became interested in leather accessories.

"First we said we'd try belts," Shapiro says. "So we designed a line of belts."

From there, their line expanded, and changes every time one of them gets a creative notion. "Cindy is apt to design a new pair of earrings for the outfit she's wearing. And she can do it in a few minutes," says Shapiro.

Fischel, a native Detroit, was graduated from Southfield-Lathrup High School and Olivet College, which she attended on a creative arts scholarship.

She met her husband on summer break when her boss, an orthodontist, fixed them up. "We met in January and were married in September," she says.

BORN IN BUFFALO, Shapiro came to Detroit at 6 months of age. Her husband, David, is a toy buyer. They have one daughter, Lindsey, 3.

She attended Groves High School, then graduated from West Bloomfield High School and attended Eastern Michigan University.

"My husband's parents lived around the block from my parents," she says. "He also went to EMU and, once we met, it was just the two of us."

Both partners have been designers since they toddled from their cradles and both studied in the arts area.

Shapiro's grandmother taught her to knit and she can do every kind of handwork. Fischel says she can't knit but does tatting and sewing and has made her own clothing for years.

"Both of us were looking for something to take off with," Shapiro says. "Our primary responsibility is the kids, our families, so we enjoy working at home."

Fischel explains "neither Terri nor I are into the Suze Housecleaner role."

LAST NOVEMBER they started their collaboration in earnest. Since then they have been their own sales personnel and have placed designs at Lynn Portnoy's shop and with Cinderella's Attic and others.

"We'd like to design custom things for storekeepers," says Fischel. "Some fashion people have said our things are really artistic and galleries say they're fashion."

Presently, they have a supplier who sells them suede leathers, but they may try to find more contacts in New York.

Exotic leathers they use include frog skin, lizard skin, and snake skin. "We had a bag with a lizard's head on it," says Shapiro.

Working with a single skin, they try to get maximum use making a scarf first and, then from scraps, two belts and small accessories such as earrings or beads.

"We try to keep our things feminine and stay away from the cowboy or motorcycle gang looks," says Fischel. "We do ruffled edges, lots of different style earrings, and good colors."

Both women believe that while their children are small, a cottage industry is to way to go. They enjoy being creative while being busy with family, but have no desire to have to juggle to take care of both.

The recent fire staggered the Fischel family and the women of Ronit, but no one was hurt, and they're on their feet forging ahead now.

FEBRUARY CLEARANCE

Now is the perfect time to fill-in your linen needs, select serving pieces for home entertaining, accessorize your rooms with decorative accents.

BEDDING

Percale sheets, flannel sheets, pillow cases, mattress pads, blankets, bedspreads, down comforters.

BATH

Towels, bath rugs, wall-to-wall bath carpeting, shower curtains.

TABLE LINENS

Table cloths, place mats, napkins.

GIFTS FOR THE HOME

Serving pieces, barware, planters, boxes, candles, decorative owls, country accessories, vases.

KITCHEN SHOP

Canister sets, baking tins, garlic cellars, jam jars, spice jars.

CHINA

Casual and fine china, stemware.

ACCESSORIES

A selection of brass and porcelain table

lamps, clocks, custom-framed prints in modern and traditional styles/subjects.

Imported table accessories.

Jacobson's

Birmingham