

# Suburban Life

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## Painting classes continue to lure senior adults

By Lorraine McClellan  
staff writer

Seniors who meet to paint in Mercy Center every Wednesday are putting the finishing touches on their best works now, getting ready for their annual open house and art show given every May.

The exhibit this spring marks a ten-year anniversary for the Farmington Art Foundation that has provided the volunteer teachers and the administration to give both beginners and the experienced the opportunity to improve their painting skills.

Currently the classes are given in Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center, in cooperation with Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department. Sessions run from 1-3 p.m. each week

### Artist volunteers give time, talent, money for 10th year

from September to May in the seniors facilities in Mercy Center complex and all corners are welcomed.

Class members are provided with palette, paper, brushes, oil, turpentine, retouch varnish, paint and the photographic matter for the painting subject

of the day without charge.

Some bring in their own canvas boards and some prefer to use their own brushes.

"AS A GROUP, our students are enthusiastic and are quite in command of their medium," said Nancy Mudloff, an award-winning artist and one of many members of the foundation who give of their know-how to support the seniors' classes. "They are eager to learn and very appreciative of the help given to them."

Shirley Sloano is the chairman of the classes this year, whose job is to arrange for the volunteers who assist regularly, as well as the artist-volunteers who once a month to give a demonstration on their particular expertise.

This year's regulars are Frank Bartl, Ken Kockwood, Jo Schmidt, Gerry Hyde, Kiki Stykes, and Helen and Bill Donnelly.

The foundation also considers Russell Farmer, maintenance man for Mercy Center, a regular volunteer.

"Because the supplies are stored at Mercy, it's his job to have them all out and ready for us at 1 p.m. every Wednesday," Mudloff said. "It takes all of us to work together on this because we never know how many are going to show up each week. But there is always room for more and we always have enough teachers on hand to make sure everyone gets their questions answered; everyone gets the help they want."

IN 1974, the Farmington Arts Council secured \$200 from the Michigan Council for the Arts to get the oil painting classes started for the seniors when they were meeting in the American Legion Hall.

Alice Nichols, who has since been named Artist-in-Residence for the Farmington area for her work as an art promoter here, assumed the responsibility of coordinating the classes, using manpower from the Farmington Art Foundation, which is the service arm of Farmington Artists Club.



Instructors KIKI Styke (left) and Ken Lockwood are provided to senior adults without charge by the Wednesday afternoon painting classes that members of Farmington Art Foundation.



Shirley Sloano (standing) is chairwoman for this year's painting season, whose job is to round up the volunteer teachers and arrange for a once-a-month demonstration by a prominent area artist for the class. Michael Fedeson, in foreground, is one of the students who will be showing his work during the annual spring exhibit, combined with an open house, in Farmington Hills Adult Senior Center.

At the time Nichols was forced to charge the participants a small fee to buy supplies. As the classes grew the foundation found itself in the position of having to beg donations or supplies from its members and solicit donations or supplies from merchants to accommodate the seniors who found enjoyment in painting.

That crisis passed when the program was declared a success by Michigan Council for the Arts so that more funding came each year from those quarters and the program expanded fairly smoothly in both size and scope.

"There is no cost whatsoever now to the seniors," Mudloff said. "The foundation provides all of the program's financial support."

A GOOD PART of the money that is needed to keep the classes going comes from a raffle the artists stage twice a year during the Farmington Artists Club's spring and fall art show and sale.

Each season anywhere from 10-15 artists will donate an original piece of work to be raffled off. The framed pieces are on display during the show days with NPS (Not For Sale) signs on them, indicating they are there only to

show the raffle-ticket buyers what they might win.

The spring show this year is set to run Friday through Sunday, April 13-15, in Mercy Center.

Meanwhile the foundation continues to sponsor the Picture Lady Program, an art appreciation class for elementary school youngsters in both public and private schools in Farmington and Farmington Hills. And it continues to sponsor the one-person shows displayed in both city libraries and the Art Rent-

al Galleries housed in both city libraries.

Seniors who wish to join the painting classes in Mercy Center do not need to pre-register and they do not need to sign up for a given number of weeks.

"They can just show up at 1 p.m. any Wednesday and see what we're doing here," Mudloff said.

Seniors are asked to enter the Mercy complex on 11 Mile, through Gate 4, east of Middlebelt, and follow the signs to the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center.

## Lenten series opens

First United Methodist Church of Farmington announces a series of Lenten programs. All events begin at 7:30 p.m. in the church at 3312 Grand River, and nursery service is provided for each of the services.

The speaker for Wednesday, March 21, is guest minister the Rev. Perry Thomas, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti who will display and interpret the arts. His subject is "The Arts as Evangelical and Prophetic."

Friday, March 30, singers Scott D. Wilkinson and W. Scott Wilkinson head up a concert called "Scott Free."

Friday, April 6 the guest minister is the Rev. Jack Lancaster, pastor of Clinton United Methodist Church, who gives his message in words, music and paintings.

Friday, April 13, guest minister is the Rev. Dr. William K. Quick, pastor of Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit, who speaks on "Methodist Heritage."

## Fashion first brings together area leaders of the industry

Michigan's top fashion industry leaders are the honorees at a champagne breakfast which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday in Fashion Institute of America. The institute is located at One Northlark Plaza, Suite 607, 20755 Greenfield, Southfield.

The event is open to the public and is a benefit for Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

The breakfast is a fashion first for Michigan and the forerunner of a seminar series called "Fashion Forum," which will feature local and national fashion authorities.

The institute's president, Diane Solomon, introduces her Fashion Forums with the breakfast for guests who will watch a fashion parade and meet today's fashion leaders in Michigan.

Guests of honor will be Denise Anton, entrepreneur of eight "Anton," men's haberdashery stores in the metro area and Bette Appel, one of the state's leading fashion designers and owner of retail operations in West Bloomfield and Pontiac.

Others are Pamela Schaufler, training director for Jacobson's; Greichen Snow, director of events for Hudson's;

and Kitty Wagner, owner of facial salons and spas in Farmington Hills and Boca Raton, Fla.

ALONG WITH launching Fashion Forum, Fashion Institute is also sponsoring two daylong programs this spring.

One in April is geared specifically to major retailers. One in May is the provision of a showcase for the premiere collections of local and national fashion designers.

Fashion Institute of America is an accredited fashion merchandising school, now celebrating its fifth year anniversary.

It trains and guides students into fashion merchandising and retailing careers. It serves the retailer as the answer to the needs of the fashion industry. And it serves as a forum of fashion concepts and ideas to the community.

Admission to the breakfast is \$15. Checks made payable to Fashion Institute of America must be received by March 21.

## Art of Solidarity comes to library

The Farmington Community Library co-sponsors an exhibit "The Art of Solidarity" with the Friends of Polish Art of Metropolitan Detroit and the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs.

The traveling exhibit of contemporary post-1956 Polish paintings is paid for through the Polish American Community Humanities Project, recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for Humanities. The public may view the exhibit during regular library hours March 21 through April 13 in the Farmington Hills Branch Library Auditorium.

To celebrate the opening of the art exhibit, a reception and lecture will start at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the library. Marian Owczarski, artist-in-residence at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake and director of the Galeria, will discuss Polish heritage and culture as presented in contemporary Polish art. Owczarski, internationally recog-

nized for his stainless-steel sculpture, first attracted notice in 1958 for his post-war restorations in Poland's heavily damaged churches.

By the time he completed his graduate work at the Academy of Fine Arts in 1961, he had already established a reputation as an expert restorer and gained Warsaw its first look at his high-impact emotionally charged sculpture made of iron which he personally reclaimed from Nazi tanks. Iron lacked the permanence of his later chosen medium, stainless steel.

In 1971 Owczarski emigrated to Canada where he continued to experiment in realistic forms of sculpture. He was awarded first prize in the Adam Styka Memorial Competition. In the same year, the Cranbrook Institute of Science acquired his portrait of Copernicus. His work is known worldwide.

## CROP meeting set March 25

A CROP hunger walk recruiter's meeting is planned for 4 p.m. Sunday, March 25 at the Southfield United Presbyterian Church, 21575 10 Mile, Southfield.

Each interested parish, church, or community group should send at least two recruiters to the meeting.

David Bower, state director of CROP, will be presented. The walk is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, May 20. Last year more than 250 walkers participated, netting over \$11,000. For more information call the church at 356-1430.

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