

# Suburban Life

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## High tech seamstress

### New machines make creating an easy process for today's needlecrafter

By Lorraine McClellan  
staff writer

A sewing machine that can write complete sentences and a knitting machine that can turn out a complete sweater in six hours are the tools of the trade for Ardith Shishman.

She plies that trade in "The Magic Needle," a recently opened shop in Farmington, which takes its name from the newest high-tech equipment available for the needlecrafter.

Of the Superba Knitting Machine,



Ardith Shishman is both a tailor and a handicrafter who sees a big future for the knitting machines that carries out her instructions so perfectly. Working in The Magic Needle, she demonstrates a complicated pattern that requires two colors of yarn.

Shishman says, "Knitting machines are popular in both Europe and the Orient. The Japanese even have portable ones. I've seen pictures of them using while they were waiting for a bus. In the U.S. they're watching on the trend is growing."

Of the New Home Sewing Machine, she says, "With two alphabets, numbers, choice of three button holes, literally hundreds of stitches and a built-in computer with a memory, they do everything a regular machine does, but better."

Shishman is both a tailor and a crafter and uses both skills as a teacher for classes that will run continuously in the shop at 35125 Grand River.

"I AM A TAILOR first and want others to learn to enjoy that as much as I do. I teach the classes here but students don't have to own a computerized sewing machine to use what I teach. Tailoring is the most practical thing I have ever learned to do," she said.

One of the most practical classes she offers for those with minimal sewing knowledge is how to make tailor-made window shades. The attractive Roman-style shade, made in the color of the student's choice, completely seals the window and cuts heat loss by 81 percent.

On the lighter side, this fall's offering in the craft department is the creation of a "Little People's Pal," a soft sculpture work, which was the forerunner to the Cabbage Patch doll.



Beatrice Jones, here on vacation from New London, Ohio, stopped in The Magic Needle to see the shop's newest equipment while wearing a tri-colored vest knitted in about three hours' time. Putting the individual pieces together took about another three hours, she said.

Shishman has had sewing shops and has been a dealer for sewing machines in Illinois before moving to Redford, but can't remember ever being more enthusiastic about a product than she is about the Superba.

The machine holds two beds of needles and an optic reader. Designs traced on graph-type paper, either ready-made or those created by the do-it-yourselfer, are fed into the machine for the optic device that works like a camera to read. The machine accepts any thickness of yarn, will perform an infinite variety of stitches, and will

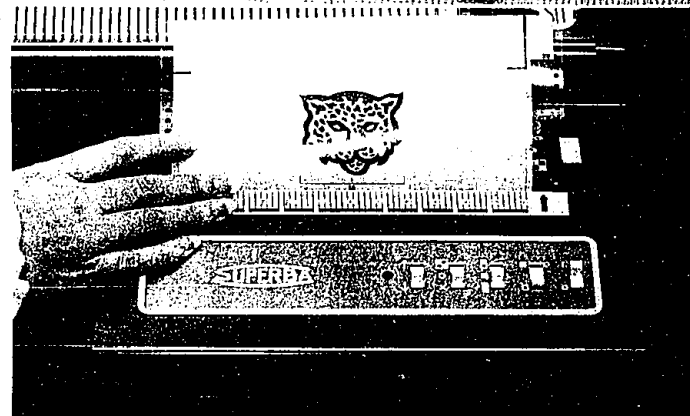
work with two colors at the same time.

SHISHMAN offers six free classes with the purchase of any machine in her shop, but says very often customers don't require that many.

"I can learn by reading directions

from a book. Some people need to be shown to learn best. But if you are going to invest in something this new I hope the buyer will want to know everything that machine can do and utilize all it has to offer. And they all can do really magic things," she said.

The pattern, printed on treated graph paper made especially for the machine, is fed into the knitting machine as shown below, which gives the machine its directions to knit the design at right. Knitters can buy patterns or make their own.



## Families of the critically ill aided with label collection

"You begin to learn the value of a pillow and blanket," says Jon Hornbeck of Kalamazoo, whose son, Sean, was hospitalized at the University of Michigan's Mott Children's Hospital for two weeks. "About 10 every night, you start casing out the waiting room and figuring out where you can sleep."

The plight of parents of critically ill children who require hospitalization is well known.

"There are almost 6,000 children ad-

mitted to our hospital every year," says Amnon Rosenthal, M.D., director of Mott's Division of Pediatric Cardiology. "Two-thirds of them live at least 50 miles from Ann Arbor. Their parents must stay in hotels or with relatives and friends — who themselves may live far away."

"Others sort of camp out in their child's room or waiting areas. These stays can be inconvenient, uncomfortable or expensive."

TO IMPROVE THE parents' stay in Ann Arbor, the U-M Division of Pediatric Cardiology and the Gerber Products Co. have joined in a Gerber label drive to raise funds for construction of a temporary residence for families of critically ill children being treated at Mott.

Gerber will pay eight cents for every Universal Products Code (UPC) from any Gerber product label, including baby foods, cereals, cookies, teething toys, plastic pants, bottles and breast pumps. The goal is \$10,000 from 125,000 labels.

The money will be donated to help build a Ronald MacDonald House near the U-M Medical Center to be known in Ann Arbor as Arbor House. Ronald MacDonald houses have been established across the country through efforts of local MacDonald franchises, community and parent organizations and supportive local hospitals. There is one other Ronald MacDonald House in Michigan.

Karen Uzark, R.N., a Mott clinical practitioner in pediatric cardiology, got the idea for the Gerber label drive.

"We wanted to help contribute to Arbor House," she says, "and I thought of Gerber's. They're a Michigan company and we use their products. We hope that by helping to get Arbor House built, we can reduce the emotional and financial burden of parents of our patients."

John Whitlock, Gerber director of public relations, stresses that this is the only Gerber label redemption project underway. "We have no national label redemption program," he says. "But we're familiar with Mott Hospital and the work they do and we thought the

Arbor House project sounded good. We're glad to assist."

As for seven-week-old Sean Hornbeck, whose recovery ended his parents' round-robin sharing of the "mother's bed" adjacent to his crib, he faces possible future rehospitalization for open-heart surgery.

HIS MOTHER, Kathy Hornbeck, is an intensive care nurse in Kalamazoo and has been through this ordeal before — from the staff side.

"Professional experience doesn't help prepare you for a long hospitalization when it's your baby," she says.

"We stayed here because we want to be here for Sean's feedings. Now I realize how an Arbor House would offer a way to interact with other parents. The experience telling your own story over and over — and hearing other parents' stories — is very therapeutic."

All Gerber labels with the UPC code on them can be mailed to: Division of Cardiology, C. S. Mott Children's Hospital, F1123, Box 65, Ann Arbor 48109. For more information, contact Karen Uzark or Diana Kuhl at 784-5176.

## Night out for women offered

"Women's Activity Night" is 8-9:30 p.m. every Thursday from Nov. 1 through Dec. 11 in Mercy Center, 11 Mile east of Middlebelt.

The women's night out includes softball, fitness exercises, volleyball, ping pong, running and swimming.

Registration information is given by calling 476-8010.

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- EAST DETROIT: 22301 KELLY RD. between 8 & 9 Mile 778-7020
- ANN ARBOR: 3336 WASHTEWAVE west of U.S. 23 773-3340
- FLINT: 4261 MILLER RD. across from Genesee Valley Mall 313-733-8880
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## Panel members take varying views of Central America

Central America will be the topic of a forum sponsored by Peace and Social Action Committee at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 4, in Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland.

A panel of speakers offers different perspectives of the peoples and countries of Central America.

The panel is composed of Col. Lawrence Tracy, a senior military advisor in the Office of Latin America, U.S. Department of State; Larry Cohen, director of Michigan Interchurch Committee on Central American Human Rights (MICAH); and Raul Gonzalez, a citizen of El Salvador now living in the metro area.

The event is free and open to the public. The audience will be invited to question panelists, and the forum will be taped for presentation on MetroVision Cable TV.

Col. Tracy has been involved in formulating U.S. policy in Central America since 1980 when he became the country's director for El Salvador at the U.S. Department of Defense. He is the senior advisor in the Office of Latin American Diplomacy at the Department of State and advises the coordinator on all security matters.

Before coming to MICAH, Cohen worked with United Nations' refugee programs in Central America. MICAH is an organization that promotes freedom and justice for the poor in Central America, with the church playing an increasing role in this effort. Gonzalez was a high school teacher in San Salvador before taking sanctuary in St. Rita's parish, Detroit, for himself, his wife and two children. He will talk about his life in El Salvador and his reasons for leaving that country.