

Suburban Life

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Originals Ltd.

Farmington Community Center opens gallery of fine gifts

By Lorraine McEllish
staff writer

Originals Ltd. has been open about a month now and the women who run the gift gallery on the second floor of Farmington Community Center have already put out a call for more consignees to help stock the shelves.

"At the rate we're going we anticipate we're going to be low on merchandise before the Christmas rush," said Janet Minehart who works with Penny Sage in coordinating the comings and goings of the volunteers who operate the center's latest enterprise.

The one-room shop, aimed to bring an extra bit of revenue into the center's coffers, was about two years in the planning stage and according to Betty Paine, the center's executive director, has no competition within the two cities.

"We refer to it as a gift gallery, rather than a craft shop, because we accept only the one-of-a-kind items that are the highest quality of the fine arts in all media that we can find. There just is no other gallery of its kind here," Paine said.

A standing committee who get together every year to juror merchandise for the center's annual fall Arts & Crafts Show, are called together every month now to jury pieces for Originals Ltd.

"The criteria is the same; the piece must be original and of the highest quality, but maybe a little higher quality for Originals Ltd.," Paine said.

PRICES RANGE from \$3, for note-paper by Sumi-E artist Mary Bowman, to a \$400 watercolor by Eddie Joppich, who was named Farmington's Artist-in-Residence in 1978.

Both women are have worked as instructors for the center who were among the first artists to be invited to submit their work for sale in Originals Ltd.

Other invited artists have come from Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association, the Pottery Guild at Oakland Community College, Farmington Artists Club and the Weaver's Guild.

"We have names from 75 different communities who have worked with at one time or another so it wasn't hard to get the word out, and it didn't hurt one bit when the center was given the 'Service to the Arts Award' from Farmington Area Art Commission last spring," Paine said. "The award coincides very well with the purpose of the gallery."

The twofold purpose of the gallery is to give a market to the contributing

artists as well as raise money for the center.

The center asks 20 percent of the purchase price of the item, which is well below the commission most galleries charge, but is offset by the fact that Originals Ltd. is only open 18 hours a week.

"Extra hours are added when we know the house is going to be full; when some special event is taking place and we know there is a good chance people will come earlier or stay later to browse," Sage said.

SAGE AND Minehart handle these schedules, drawing from the membership of the center's Volunteer Guild who take shifts as volunteers.

"No trouble there," Minehart said. "We have about 300 members in the guild now and they've all gotten behind it. Besides our regular (one shift a week) workers we have a long list of substitutes to call on and Anna Harnden is in charge of replenishing the inventory."

As for the inventory, Sage says, "We set a date for our opening and just went with what we had."

Early on the volunteers as well as the staff would advertise that merchandise by maybe wearing a hand-painted scarf, or an out-sized onyx necklace with the price tag still on it through the house hoping to call attention to the item so they could talk about Originals Ltd.

Now it is not uncommon to find groups in the shop who work in nearby office buildings using some of their lunch hour to shop in the gallery, or persons who are coming to a class in the center arrive early to spend time there.

"And they keep coming back because our aim is to always have a fresh look. Handling only one of a kind items there is something new there all the time," Sage said.

The two women singled out works by award winners, such as Scott Smith, a Greenfield Village basketmaker, and Frank Yanke, who creates original gold jewelry, as only two of the high quality producers who contribute to the fresh look.

ORIGINALS Ltd. is the second commercial venture established by the center's Volunteer Guild to bring in revenue to help maintain the center.

The Second Edition, a clothing resale shop that occupies another room on the second floor, got under way a few years ago and is operated much the same as Originals Ltd., staffed with volunteers who work shifts. Second

Edition is now generating \$1,000 a month.

Sage and Minehart have no goal for the fledgling enterprise.

"We just hope for the best, and want to make enough money so it will be well worth the best possible use of our volunteers' time," Sage said.

Minehart has a background in retailing, and as served as chairman for the center's Arts & Crafts Show in the past.

Sage has a background in bookkeeping and with a bit of help from the center's bookkeeper, set up the books for the 40 artists who continually have items coming in and being sold now.

Most recently Sage began work on a card file concerning some information about each of the contributing artists.

"It was something we hadn't even thought of when we opened and learned within the first week that it was something we should have. Too many shoppers were asking to know something about our artists and we had no quick reference for our salespeople to



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

June Correll made Originals Ltd. a lunch-hour stop with a group of co-workers from Manufacturers Hanover. The display of merchandise is

give them," she said. The two women said that extended hours for the shop are another facet of their jobs that

will have to be given consideration, especially for the Christmas season.

Shopping hours now stand at 11:30

only a small selection offered for sale on the second floor of the Farmington Community Center.

a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 6:30-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Coming up: One baby to order

By Shirlee Rose Iden
staff writer

A Lathrup Village physician, who chose to practice obstetrics-gynecology because "it's the one place in the hospital where people smile," may be dealing with more smiling faces soon.

Dr. Ronald Zack and associates in the Midwest Fertility and Sex Selection Center have recently begun to work with parents determined to have a child of the sex of their choosing.

The clinic uses a technique perfected by Ronald Ericsson, who has licensed a number of clinics in the United States and nine other countries.

According to Zack, "People always say, can you get me a boy? Can you get me a girl?"

"I read about Dr. Ericsson's OP-GYN practice, his affiliation with four university medical centers, and I decided to look into this."

Zack says he is very impressed with the methodology and with the results Ericsson has achieved. "At this point there has been an 80 percent success rate for boys," he says.

"We have patients who have amniocentesis to determine the sex of their unborn child and then may choose to terminate the pregnancy. I won't do terminations."

Like most practicing obstetricians, Zack has worked with infertile patients using insemination. "I've also done surrogate inseminations, working with attorney Noel Keane," he said.

"WHEN I started to think about sex determination, I realized that everyone is attuned to having this all-American family of one boy and one girl."

"The middle class still follow that basic American tradition."

Zack, a West Bloomfield resident who has only been married a short time himself and hasn't any children yet, believes he can help those who really want another child and want it to be specifically male or female.

"The couple must really want another child," he says. "In the initial interview of the parents, I try not to moralize, but in some cases, after the consultation, I wouldn't encourage it."

"They must both want another child."

The clinic charges a \$100 consulting fee at the beginning which is applied to the first insemination if they go ahead with the procedure.

This procedure is quite cheap compared to In Vitro Fertilization which may have to be repeated several times," Zack says.

Ericsson, a Wyoming rancher who has a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology, depends on his theory that sperm carrying Y chromosomes are male, faster, and stronger than those with the X chromosomes.

"Sperm goes through an obstacle course and the seminal fluid gets denser and denser," he explains.

"The stronger and faster, usually males are separated out."

"TO GET GIRLS there's a different protocol," Zack says.

"The women are given clomid to stimulate ovulation. Then we inseminate them with prepared collections of sperm rich with X-bearing chromosomes."

To date, six of seven pregnant women treated this way have given birth to girls with five more still waiting.

"And female-oriented families are now producing males," Zack says, citing figures of 187 baby boys born out of 210 births to parents using the technique.

At the Lathrup clinic, all parents are informed there are no guarantees, that what they are getting is much better odds on determining the sex of their child.

Lots of old wives tales abound about how to produce a male heir or a female child. Some call for eating special foods, or using specific positions during intercourse. Myths, magical potions and folk remedies have been offered through the ages.

Theories about when in the fertile period one is apt to produce a boy or girl have been bandied

about through the generations.

Zack bets on a more scientific method and soon

may be able to prove it too. When that time comes, he'll be smiling right along with the new parents.

Girl Scouts 'Come to My Town'

About 600 Girl Scouts and 30 of their adult volunteers will gather for an old-fashioned picnic Saturday, Oct. 19, at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

The picnic is one of the Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council events in its "Come to My Town" program, designed to capture the special character of each local community.

The get-together is one of many offered to 26,000 girls in Wayne and southern Oakland counties, and that number is expected to rise at least five percent during the council's 1985 membership campaign.

The council expects to attract these new members by emphasizing the personal gratification of joining Girl Scouts.

"Girl exchange insights and ideas while gaining the practical experience of participating in Space Camp, Computer Camp, the Career Exploration program," said Joanne Gibson, council spokesperson. "Membership enrollment will continue throughout the year in the new Daisy troops for 5-

year-olds, through the future direction of Girl Scouting, which is volunteerism."

Slogan for the year's membership campaign is "The Best Part's the Fun."

Fun will be mixed with re-enacting history when the scouts take wheelbarrow rides, run sack races and search for treasures in saw dust, all reminiscent of picnicks in bygone days.

The Rev. Vaughn Quinn of Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center in Detroit is bringing a collection of antique cars and an antique fire engine to add to the old-fashioned theme. And Sweet Adelines will entertain, barbershop style.

The event is one of many made possible by the council's annual cookie sale which added \$1.3 million to the council's budget and \$800,000 to troop treasuries this year.

Persons wishing information about scouting, either as a participant or an adult volunteer, may call the metro council, 964-4478.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jean Henry uses the fine wooden chest made by cabinetmaker Jack Stiles to display sprays of dried flowers and handpainted gift wrappings in Originals Ltd. The gallery is stocked with high quality one-of-a-kind handmade items and manned by members of Farmington Community Center Volunteer Guild.

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