Suburban Life

Thursday, October 13, 1988 O&E



Mary MacDonald, guest speaker for Women of North Farmington, holds a miniscule part of her large collection of teddy bears. Mary

Knight on her left arranges the programs for the 50-member club this year, and Mary Bertsch is the club president.

Teddy bears

Typical is non-typical for Women of North Farmington

of the second se

MacDonald is assistant curator for Dearborn Historical Society, which houses the bulk of her 200-300 — she said she never counted — teddy bear collection that began when she was a child and fell in love with A. A. Milne's "Winnle the Pooh."

"DON'T THINK that teddy bear with his sawdust falling out in your attic is junk," MacDonald said. "If it has glass eyes it wouldn't pass the requirements to be sold as a child's toy today, but those resales are bringing fantastic amounts of money."

Another way to tell if an old teddy bear has some value is if it has embroidered paws.

MacDonald told of a Gund-manu-factured bear she was offered for

'We don't have one meeting place. We have lunch in different places — or different cities. We might go to the theater or on a tour or hear a speaker.'

—Joyce Hutchinson

\$150. She hestitated to even look at it because many of the bears in her collection came as gifts or from rummage or garage sales. But one year later her purchase was valued at \$500, and a few years after that she learned that one of its same kind was sold at an auction in Dallas for \$1,500.

She named a Stielff manaufac-tured bear as "cream of the bear

She sugggested a Gund-manufac-tured bear or a Snuffles as a gift for a child for "it's cuddlability and wearability."

Teddy bears, once known only for their value as a child's security blanket, have now moved into the teaching-tool arena. In this area her favorite is Paddington Bear, which comes with books and cassettes.

For collectors, she cites "the bears that didn't make it."

"One example," MacDonald said, holding up a bear wearing a belt made of the Olympic-circle symbols, "is this bear manufactured specifically for the Olympic games — on the year we didn't go. He's dated. But he didn't sell. The manufacturers stopped short, and these are now rare bears."

JANICE HUTCHINSON said Mac Donaid's talk on the history of teddy bears was not necessarily typical of the type of programs Women of North Farmington offer its mem-bers, because no program offered can be called typical. "We started as a civic social club

"We started as a civic social club (In 1837) for the women who lived in Kendalwood Farms and the program to the training the state of the training training the state of the training traini

the theater or on a tour or hear a speaker.
"I know that I never would have dreamed of going to Windsor to abop all by myself—or never would have learned the history of teddy bears for that matter—if I wasn't a mem-ber."

ber."

Some time along in the history of the club, memberahip was opened to-women who lived anywhere in North Farmington, and a change again in the bylaws now draws members from several surrounding communities.

And for as long as memory serves, its one big fund-raiser of the year staged to raise money to support agencies or charittes in the community has been a Millionaire's Party.

"Other than the one fund-raiser, our programs are social, giving us places to go and things to see we might not ever do on our own," Hutchinson said.

In October the members will spend a day in Mason's Antique Mali and Market in Mason, Mich., and see "Shenandoah" in Marquis Theatre, Northville.

Members come and go, but mem-bership has remained pretty steadily through the years at 50.

President of the club for the season is Mary Bertsh. Other officers are Ann Oppenhauser, Arlene Sudamp, Jackie Greit and Norma Rudziensky.

New members are welcomed into ne club at any time. For informa-ion, call Bertsh, 553-7189.

Mother Daughter

The collaborating artists work in media that are worlds apart

Edee Joppich can paint, but she can't sew, her daughter, J.J. Brown can't paint but combines embroidery with fabric and beads to make original, wearable art.

For the mother and daughter who make their imprints in the world of art, but in media are world sapart, the realization of their need for creative expression is a special bond.

In a two woman show called "Mother Daughter," Joppich and Brown will exhibit their versatility



J.J. Brown, a resident of Redford, joins with her mother, Edee Joppich, who was named artist-in-resident by the Farmington Area Arts Commission in 1979, for Mother Daughter, a two-woman show that opens this month in Southfield.

BROWN USES a sketchbook to work out the designs and colors of her wearable art pieces, working out the combination of beads, ultra seude and a various-shaped embroi-dery.

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Brown said the time necessary to
complete a piece varies from a week
to much longer.

In a sense, watching her daughter
develop as a fine cratisperson and
designer indefe to us for Joppich, as
she watches the sags of an artist
carving out time from domestic demandats to fullil herself.

"Most of my time has been spent
on commissions and building my
clientiels," Brown said.

She has exhibited her work locally
in the Troy and Nawara Galleries as
well as the Cratischier Gallery in
Beaufort, South Carolina, and Jop-

pich's by Street Gallery, a family business in Northport, Mich.
"Art to wear becomes a fine art when each pice is original and has its own feeling," said Joppich, proud mother, painter and collagist.

Born in Windsor, she was brought up in Detroit and attended Marygrove College and Wayne State University. "Acting was a family activity for me since I was about 7 years old and art always an interest."

MARRIED TO Ed Joppleh, she is the mother of five, all living close by. The Jopplehes enjoy their two young grandoaughters, and eagerly anticipate the birth of another. "While the kids were young I, taught classes at the University of Detroit and Marygrove and did architectural renderings," she said. "I borned do the did were I started out doing oil paintings." Joppleh said she is one of the few painters who became allergic to the oil paints and subsequently decided to go into water colors. "For me, watercolor is exciting and adventurous," she said. "I began to evolve a collage and watercolor combination." She had a watercolor combination. "Art is the constant," she said. "A began to evolve a reading problem them. "Art is the constant," she said. "A reading problem them are colored to the constant of the

IN HER WORK can be found all sorts of whimsy: a unicorn, an an-Piesse turn to Page 2



Beads, embroidery and ultra suede are used to create the wearable art by J.J. Brown that will be on display in the Mother Daughter exhibit.