



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Happy Shinnenkai!

What's a Shinnenkai? In Japan, a Shinnenkai is a company party held early in the year for co-workers. Such a social gathering includes a pep talk by the company president. A few years ago, the chambers of commerce of Farmington/Farmington Hills, Livonia, Novi and Plymouth started the Shinnenkai tradition to welcome Japanese business people to the De-

troit area. The latest party was Jan. 17 at the Farmington Holiday Inn. At the gathering, Toshio Kinoshita (left) of Coopers & Lybrand; interpreter Izumi Suzuki; Steve Faine of Botsford Hospital; and Edward Hodges III, Botsford's chairman of the board, get to know each other. More than 88 attended, a local chamber official said.

Group works to aid troops in the Gulf

THE GULF WAR

Hitting Home

The western Wayne County chapter of Friends of Freedom continues to work for troops stationed in the Persian Gulf.

And that work has been made easier by the donation of a packaging center by an area businessperson and by the creation of a logo.

The government has asked that Americans temporarily stop sending packages to the Middle East, said Yvonne Zapinski, Friends of Freedom chapter chair, but that order is expected to be lifted shortly and the chapter will resume sending packages.

"Donations of cash and food/non-food items are being collected," said Zapinski. "Our troops need our support now more than ever. Mail is an important part of their morale needs."

"Each service person I write to tells me you can't imagine how they hate not getting mail from home."

IN LATE December the Friends of Freedom was displaced when the warehouse it was using in Livonia was sold.

Although the sale did not stop the operation, being displaced did hinder

packing efforts. But the organization now has a new home thanks to Walter Sznajda, owner of the Student Center at Farmington and Plymouth roads in Livonia, who donated use of a 2,800 square foot building.

The chapter has moved to 15000 Westland Blvd., Suite 100, Livonia, Michigan 48150. The chapter is currently in search of people who can help with these needs. Call to call Friends of Freedom at 422-2936.

The chapter needed a special logo so the public could recognize its work.

Individuals interested in writing troops in the Persian Gulf may send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a note requesting a pen pal to Friends of Freedom, P.O. Box 9508, Livonia, MI 48151 and a name will be furnished.

Hills executive gets Junior Achievement post

Thomas H. Norman, a Chrysler executive from Farmington Hills, is Unit III chairman for Junior Achievement of Detroit and Southeastern Michigan, which will launch a \$1 million fund drive Jan. 24.

This is the first year as unit chairman for Norman, although he has been involved in Junior Achievement for the past 19 years.

He is director of Procurement Services for Chrysler Corp., where he is responsible for facilitating materials purchasing, service parts purchasing, purchase value analysis, and procure-

ment and supply administrative operations.

Since joining Chrysler in 1980, Norman has held a number of positions within the Procurement and Supply organization.

Before coming to Chrysler, he held various purchasing-related positions with the Ford Motor Company.

Norman is a member of the Board of Directors for Detroit BICMA, a publicly-held investment corporation, and the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

He also serves on the executive advisory com-

mittee of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his work for Junior Achievement, Norman is involved in fund-raising activities for the Boy Scouts of America, Meadowbrook, the United Consortium for Human Development and the United Way.

Norman earned a bachelor of science degree with majors in mathematics and business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse. He also holds an MBA degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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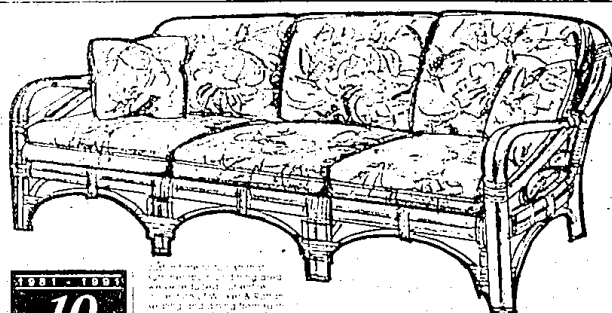
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