

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1994

Local bard makes poetry fun, not hard

Holding it Together

We're the ones who get up when others slumber on;
Who drive to sitters' houses,
sometimes at break of dawn.

We wash our hair, we shave our legs,
use eyeliner and blush,
While trying to remind our men
before they leave to flush.

We love each doggie bag we get;
we take it home and save it.
Because at dinner time that night,
we know we'll microwave it.

We do not like a kitchen floor,
if we have to wax it;
And when it comes to ironing,
we hope someday to fax it!

Stress and settling kiddies' fights
we can do without;
Saving time is what this life
of ours is all about.

'Women's Work is Never Done' —
To this we say 'Amen.'
When we've covered all the bases,
it's time to run again.

We get upset because we have
to spread ourselves so thin,
Although we're happy to live in
this High Tech Age we're in.

Where Yogi Bear and Barney,
their buddy Scooby-doo,
With hot tubs, ear plugs, 'binkies,'
help working mommies thru.

Without our contributions
society would flop.
Hands that rock the cradle also
drive and cook and shop!

Vive Les Verses

Some ladies like to golf and bowl,
play tennis with the bunch.
Trump partners' aces, gab with pals,
munch a quiche for lunch.

Then there's the dolly born to shop,
shopping's her endeavor.
Salespeople pray to patron saints,
"Please keep her well forever."

Let's not forget the muses who
don't mess with all this stuff.
I'm the one who likes to make words rhyme —
for me that's the thrill enough.

So, poets-of-the world, unite!
Let our 'iams be heard!
Bear with the moans we utter while
we seek the perfect word.

Through centuries we've persevered,
to overcome's been hard.
We've hoped that mortals would proclaim,
"There's nothing like a bard!"

Now, when we reach the Big Press Room
up yonder in the sky —
May our demise be toasted with
"Here's Chaucer in your eye!"

Trudi Blake has been named Michigan's
Ode-maker by governors James Blanchard and
John Engler.

Blake, a Farmington Hills resident, almost
seems to have been destined to take this poetic
path. Her middle name is ODElla. She also
has an ODES license plate. And her work is
on display at various locations throughout
Farmington and Farmington Hills, including
the Botsford Inn and restaurants like, Steak
and Ale and Big Boy. Her work, "Forever
Grand and Glorious," is also on display in the
Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. There's no
telling where Blake's work will show up next.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in the Farmington
Observer next week:

■ Derek Nelson, a Farmington High School
senior, won a modeling contest in New York
City. To find out more, turn to the second A
section front of Thursday's Farmington
Observer.



JOHN STORMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fantastic fashions: Volunteers Jan Hankins, Debbie Muncey and Kathie Markiewicz will be among the models showing off fashions during Fall Fantasia.

Community Center benefit Fall Fantasia features fall fashions



From a fabulous stage show to gift certificates, picking up ideas for your fall fashion wardrobe should be easy with all the pointers available at this years Fall Fantasia.

BY DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

If you're tired of browsing magazines and newspaper articles about what's hot for fall fashions, set aside a couple of hours later this month for Fall Fantasia and get a few pointers.

And while you're picking up some ideas, you'll also help the Community Center, Farmington, Farmington Hills, which is celebrating

its 25th anniversary this year.

All proceeds from Fall Fantasia on Monday, Sept. 26, at the Novi Hilton, on Haggerty Road north of Eight Mile, will go to the center.

Instead of professional models making their way down the runway, Fall Fantasia will present fashions on volunteers who have agreed to help the Community Center volunteer guild stage the show. Talbot's in Livonia's Laurel Park will present

outfits during the program that begins at 10 a.m. and ends about 3 p.m. The afternoon will include a boutique with crafts and a mini-art show sponsored by the volunteer guild and will feature items ranging from bird houses to jewelry to contemporary sweat outfits. A cash bar opens at 11 a.m., lunch will be served at noon and a 50/50 raffle will be held.

Prizes, including hotel packages and gift certificates to stores and boutiques, will also be given away during the day, according to Tina Jensen, Community Center Fall Fantasia chairperson.

Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at the Community Center, which is in the process of changing

its name to The Longacre House. Fall Fantasia is part of a string of events that is under way during the center's 25th anniversary.

Fall Fantasia is a mainstay in the community and has been ongoing for more than 20 years old, Jensen said. "We hope to sell 500 tickets," Jensen said. "We hope that even working women can take a half a day and still see most of the event."

The daytime format of Fall Fantasia was reinstated this year, because the center received a number of calls from people who wanted to attend the 1993 evening show but couldn't make it, Jensen said.

For more information about tickets call Jensen at 478-7017 or the Community Center at 477-8404.

Blanket maker plans future one stitch at a time

BY DIANE HAYSON
SPECIAL WRITER

When the treadle lifts the heddles and the web slides through the warp, beautiful creations emerge one colorful strand at a time.

Ancient Egyptians did it thousands of years ago. Even today, countries in the Middle and Far East produce a fair share of handwoven products. While handweaving was common in this country during pioneer times, the household loom gradually gave way to automation and textile factories, but not entirely.

There is still a group among the handcrafters of America dedicated to the art of weaving.

"I just love it," said Elaine Wedge, a Farmington resident, who is among the most recent additions to those dedicated to the ancient art. "I've only been doing this for a little over a year, but I've been in fiber arts forever."

When she was 6, Wedge's grandmother taught her to sew on an old treadle Singer sewing machine. By 12, she entered a Singer sewing contest at Northland Mall with a complex plaid jumper and silk blouse combination for which she captured first place in her age group.

About a year and a half ago, Wedge, who enjoys working with her hands and with various types of fibers, decided she wanted to try weaving. She remembered visiting a store with her parents in Northville that was run by a woman who taught the craft.

"Where is the weaving woman?" she asked the Northville Chamber of Commerce. The shop had closed but Wedge was given the name of Gloria Teeter who had subsequently started teaching out of her home.

Teeter's patient teaching methods made Wedge feel like, "Hey, I can do this." And indeed she could. Things haven't been the same since.

Two looms now occupy the back room of Wedge's home. Her first, small loom sits to one side while the impressive 50-inch, Michigan-made, cherry loom occupies nearly a third of the floor space and sees a great deal of activity.

Blankets and throws throughout the house in a myriad of colors, textures, weaves and fibers from cotton to cashmere, alpaca to wool, testify to the



ANN HALE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ancient art: Elaine Wedge weaves a wonderful story about how she began making her handwoven blankets.

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