

Plant Parties

A blooming new idea takes root in suburbia

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Loree Partrich and Karen Nelson are plant pushers.

The two friends have parlayed a love of plants and expertise about them into a fun business.

The women bring a display of house plants, terrariums and novelties to a hostess' home where prospective customers gather.

"AT THE FIRST party we ever gave, we got dates for four more parties," Loree said.

In addition to exhibiting their plants and creations, the women give a lecture on plants and plant care.

They average about three parties a week.

They said they spend about seven additional hours each week preparing for the parties.

"WE MAKE about two trips to the wholesale greenhouse each week," Karen said. "We deal only with hardy plants that are easy to care for but will take special orders on more exotic things."

They make their own terrariums for sale. Their wares include floor plants and hanging baskets and the two do re-potting for customers.

"We teach how to provide for plants when on vacation and how to deal with plant diseases too," Loree said.

The women illustrate their lectures with posters which show just how much plants can warm up a room.

"WE READ a lot of books, ask a lot of questions and we have homes just packed with plants," they said.

In the fall, when Karen goes back to teaching English at Southfield High School, the two will limit their parties to just two a week.

"We have it down to a system now," Loree said, "and it's quite profitable."

"We got into it for fun and for fun it is. It's worked out well."

August and September parties are already heavily booked.

HOSTESSES AT the "Plantasia" parties get a commission in plants according to sales. And everyone gets a 20 percent discount.

The women carefully label each plant they exhibit for care, water and light requirements and other special tips.

THE PLANTS are delivered sprayed for bugs, polished and thoroughly cleaned.

"You have to love your plants and treat them as individuals for them to thrive," Karen said.

"It takes special knowledge of the atmosphere of your own house and each separate kind of plant."

For fun and profit the two are promoting what seems to be a "big thing right now" — an active interest in growing greenery.

They can be reached at 354-6396 or 357-3144.



m.m.memos

Our recent vacation brought us a new pastime—composing double-croctic puzzles.

Several members of our clan have been hooked for quite a while on these mind-twisters that require figuring out definitions and fitting their letters into a quotation spelled out in blanks.

I have to admit we're slightly at odds as to the honorable way to work such puzzles. The man of our house feels it borders on cheating to use a dictionary or atlas or reference book to get a definition, whereas I contend all's fair in love, war and especially double-croctics.

ANYWAY, WHILE enjoying the rare pleasure of having time to work some, I started wondering how you would put one together. My spouse announced he would make one.

He scribbled for a few hours and then handed us a paper complete with numbered squares and lettered blanks.

When the girls and I set out to solve it, we found it also was filled with pretty bad puns, a specialty in our family. But solve it we did, with just a bit of moaning and groaning.

MISS 15 AND MISS 12 and their mother decided it couldn't be all that hard and we'd make some too.

They labored for a while and finally found themselves bogged down in morasses of letters P, I and C, with nary an N or G.

I struggled on and at length had a quotation, a set of definitions and nothing left over but an N, a W, an F, an O and a C. One more definition seemed in order—New Workers Fellowship of Canada.

When our double-croctic champ set out to solve the puzzle he wouldn't believe that one. How could I use an organization he'd never heard of?

A FEW OF THE DEFINITIONS from those puzzles are on their way to becoming conversational by-words.

Like "The mayor of Troutville" (official). And "What the man of our house won't tell his daughters (cantaloupe)."

And "What the girls do when the music's right (undulate). A good word, that one. It used up two Us."

Another vacation's coming and we'll see quotations and definitions come out of this one. What I need is a word that uses D-P-P-R-R-R-J-U-I-I-T.

—Margaret Miller



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Community Calendar

USED BOOK SALE

Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 26-29: Used Book Sale, sponsored by the Farmington Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Livonia Mall, during regular shopping hours of the mall.

BAZAAR

Thursday and Friday, Sept. 26-27: Bazaar, sponsored by the Women of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, in the Farmington Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington Road. Bazaar features baked goods, needlework, yarn crafts, plaques and Christmas decorations. Lunch and dinner, all homemade Greek foods, served both days.

RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday and Friday, Sept. 26-27: Rummage sale, sponsored by The Women of St. Fabian, in the church social hall, Twelve Mile Road, between Farmington Road and Orchard Lake, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

HOMEOWNERS OPEN MEET

Thursday, Sept. 26: Section 36 Homeowners Association of Farmington Hills open meeting in Edgewood Elementary School, 21225 St. Francis St., 8 p.m. Agenda includes election of officers and revision of the by-laws.

RUMMAGE SALE

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 27-28: Rummage sale, sponsored by the United Methodist Women in the First United Methodist Church, Grand River and Warner from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

BRAILLE NIGHT

Friday, Sept. 27: Braille Night, from 6-8 p.m. in Downtown Farmington Shopping Center. All purchases made in the Bon Ton Shoppe, Bel Crest Photo and Town Toggery will benefit the Nardin Park Braille Transcribers of Farmington. Braille transcribers will give demonstrations and answer questions from shoppers.

CLOSET SALE

Friday, Sept. 27: Closet sale, sponsored by the United Methodist Women of Orchard United Methodist Church on Farmington Road, north of Thirteen Mile, at the church from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER SERENADE

Friday, Sept. 27: September Serenade, dance, sponsored by seven chapters of Parents Without Partners, in Bonnie Brook Country Club, Telegraph Road, south of Eight Mile, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. with music by the Escorts. Open to all single persons who are parents. Members \$3; prospective members, \$5.50.

TAKE AN ANIMAL TO LUNCH

Saturday, Sept. 28: Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary members will be at all major shopping centers in the city, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. soliciting for the "Take An Animal to Lunch" program to benefit the Detroit Zoo.

QUILLING

Monday, Sept. 30: Quilling workshop, giving instructions in the ancient art of filigree paper, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. led by Mary Whiteford in the Farmington Community Center. Fee is \$7 plus materials. Registrations are necessary, through the center.

SWISTRAW

Tuesday, Oct. 1: Swistraw three-part workshop begins this date from 1-3 p.m. in the Farmington Community Center led by Katherine Lembo. Fee is \$10 plus materials. Registrations are necessary, through the center.

TOWN HALL

Thursday, Oct. 3: Town Hall Lecture Series leads off with Jolie Gabor at 11 a.m. in Northland Theatre followed by celebrity lunch in Michigan Inn. Series tickets are \$12 and may be secured by writing Farmington Supertopist Club, P. O. Box 504, Farmington 48024.

You are invited to attend
an informal showing of the
Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche
Boutique collection for fall

Friday, September 27
10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

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