



Suede and leather shirt jacket was made by model



Suede hooded coat trimmed and lined with caracul was first garment model made

Men, non-sewers do best in class

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

If Rosie Greer can do needle-point, area men can sew with leather and fur.

Judy Carmichael believes that and is prepared to teach not only men but women how to make garments with leather and fur in two pre-holiday workshops scheduled to start during the next two weeks.

"Men and non-sewers do best in my classes," Ms. Carmichael said recently. "They don't start with the biases fabric sewers do." Formerly a resident of Oregon, she currently is living in Bloomfield Hills.

The workshops are being offered through the Bloomfield Hills School District's Recreation-Community Education Department.

The four-session workshops will be offered from 7 to 10 p.m. starting Thursday (Nov. 14) at Bloomfield Hills Junior High School and from 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Monday, Nov. 18, at Lone Pine Elementary School.

Interested persons may register at the recreation department's new offices at Hickory Grove Elementary School, 2800 Lahser Road (334-3575) or at the first workshop session.

Ms. Carmichael has been teaching a variety of classes in leather and fur for the past 10 years. She took a pattern drafting and design course and decided she didn't like working with fabrics so switched to leather.

"FIRST I just made clothes for myself," she said, "and then for friends, but I got so busy I started teaching my friends how to do it."

She has taught classes in Alpine clothing, Eastern European clothing, suede with embroidery and others. She plans to teach additional classes in the area in the future.

One of the most successful classes she has taught has been one in the cutting up of old fur coats for fur-lined coats and parkas, Ms. Carmichael said.

At the first class in each workshop she will discuss different leathers, their weights and attributes. She will have samples of skins in 65 different colors from which persons in the workshops can order.

"I have available the same skins used by famous designers," she

said. "They are all silicone treated, 100 percent stain resistant and washable."

"Anyone taking the workshops can realize a savings of from one to 400 percent over the purchase price of a similar garment," Ms. Carmichael said.

"THERE IS a tremendous mystique associated with fur and leather clothing because it is high-styled and exceedingly expensive," she said.

"This is such an exciting area of home sewing because of the mystique and the 'impossible' aspect of it," Ms. Carmichael said, "but the class dissolves that mystique in the first lesson because it is so easy home sewers can do it."

She has taught in Massachusetts, Oregon, Michigan and Chile previously. In Chile wealthy women enrolled in her classes and brought their seamstresses along, she said.

Ms. Carmichael plans to open a shop in Franklin later in the winter where she will carry English woolsens, French fabrics, suede, leather, furs, hardware for garments, furniture kits, pottery and framed butterflies.

She described the shop as a "home sewers and decorators boutique."

Class to begin in bio-energetics

The Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies will offer a class in bio-energetics, the method of personal growth which combines analysis with direct work with the body, at Cranbrook beginning at 8 p.m. Monday.

The class will meet the second Monday of each month and will combine both the theory and the practice of bio-energetics. Dr. John Biersdorf, director of the institute will lead the sessions aimed toward an energized and liberated body self.

Bio-energetics has many connections with eastern religious disciplines such as yoga, Zen meditation, and Tai Chi Chuan.

Registrations are now being accepted at 646-9375.

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