

Japanese culture taught here

By LORAIN McCLISH

About a dozen area graduate students spent several summer weeks learning how to brush paint, Japanese

style, arrange flowers, Japanese ceremony and shop in an Oriental market. It was all part of the Japanese Art and Cultural Workshop, carried on in



Kathy Justus, whose husband heads Farmington Hills' Parks and Recreation Department, took the course to fulfill requirements for her bachelor's degree at Oakland Community College. Staff photo by Gary Friedman

Southfield's Adlai Stevenson Elementary School, led by Farmington residents George and Mary Bowman.

"Most of our students are teachers because there isn't a grade that you can't use the Oriental arts somewhere in your curriculum," Mrs. Bowman said. "But the course is designed for anybody who just wants to learn, or is interested, in Japanese things."

Graduate or undergraduate credits can be earned in the Southfield class through Central Michigan University. Others join the sessions to learn the money exchange, how to read maps, grow bonsai, or use chopsticks with aplomb.

The class is heavy on teachers, first because it was a group of Southfield teachers who coaxed the course into coming into the city.

Secondly, all teachers who take the course can petition their own education administration for a full tuition refund.

THE BOWMANS wound down their second class this week, and will have a month off before the next session begins Sept. 14 in Southfield. Meanwhile, Mrs. Bowman will prepare to expand her classes that zero in on Japanese brush painting in Farmington.

So far as she knows, she is the only full time professional sumi-e teachers in the Detroit area who has been trained in Japan.

Sumi-e is the style of painting which evolved from 14 centuries of classical traditions. Its essence is painting freely, yet with control.

"All brush strokes on the unforgiving rice paper must be made in complete harmony with the subject and movement of the brush," she said. "It may express the freshness of spring or the freedom of a bird."

Her own personalized sensitivity is found using any natural subject, and her pictures may be tinted with colors, although black, white and shades of gray are the general rule. Sumi-e focuses on quick and complete creations, enabling the artist to complete some paintings in less than a minute, and most within five minutes.

For the past several years Mrs. Bowman has concentrated most of her scheduled teaching in the Farm-

ington Community Center, but she lectures and demonstrates in sumi-e, flower arranging (ikebana), the tea ceremony and Japanese calligraphy, for art associations, civic and cultural groups, churches and schools.

She is regularly invited to exhibit at art fairs.

HER EXPERIENCE includes ten years of teaching sumi-e at colleges, community education departments, art centers, and even private homes.

Mrs. Bowman has a degree in fine arts from Antioch College, and has taken subsequent courses in water color, landscape painting and pastel portraiture.

She studied sumi-e in Japan during 1966, and has returned regularly, every three years since, to pursue her training with Beika Inada, a Zen painting master.

On her trips she includes private lessons in calligraphy, Oriental cooking, and the basic elements of Japanese reading, writing and conversation.

Her husband and partner in teaching joins her in her classes, taking over the Japanese history and music sessions. All classes include guest speakers and a couple of field trips.

The field trips for the fall classes are not nailed down yet, but Mrs. Bowman expects there will be outings to Oriental-style houses in the area, eating out Oriental style, shopping at an Oriental market, and a tour through the Oriental galleries in Detroit Institute of Arts.

MRS. BOWMAN moved her Sumi-e Studio from Ohio to Farmington Hills in 1974. Her paintings and her line of note papers and specialized art supplies are available at the studio.

Enrollments for the fall Japanese Art and Culture Workshop will be taken by writing to Mrs. Bowman, at 2823 Ridgebrook, Farmington Hills, 48018, or calling her at 553-4509. The class will run on Wednesday evenings, from 7-10 p.m. in Stevenson Elementary School, through Nov. 16.

Persons interested in her sumi-e classes in Farmington Community Center may enroll when registration begins there on Sept. 7, or by calling the center, at 477-8404. She will have two evening and two day classes in the center beginning the week of Sept. 24.



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(S.F.7A)



The scroll Mary Bowman shows to her class is one she completed when she was student in Japan. Her teacher thought the black and white sumi-e painting of bamboo was one of her best efforts during her stay there. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

NOW issues on their way to Washington

'I resent women's issues becoming so political. Our issues are human, they deal with emotions and economics and should be out of the realm of politics.'

—Shirley Monson
NOW delegate from Michigan

By LYNN ORR

Women's issues are heading for Washington D.C. via the National Women's Year conference in Houston, Tex. come November.

And Farmington Hills resident Shirley Monson, one of 49 visiting Michigan delegates, hopes the conference can realize its goals—getting the Washington wheels turning in the direction of women's rights.

"I'm interested in women really joining the mainstream of society," says Ms. Monson, a self-described homemaker and member of Oakland County chapter of National Organization for Women (NOW). Married for 34 years and the mother of two, Ms. Monson also teaches music part-time in the Oak Park school system.

As chairwoman of the nominating committee at the Michigan meeting in June, a prelude to the Houston convention, she found herself in a thankless job attempting to nominate a representative group from Michigan, but she's convinced her committee was successful.

"We'll have one of the most diverse groups going, including Indians, Chicanos, blacks, working women, family women and even women of different age groups," she says enthusiastically. One 17-year-old will be representing the youth of Michigan, she adds, and she's particularly proud that Michigan elected persons with diverse interests.

"ERA (THE EQUAL Rights Amendment) was not the burning issue," she explains. "We wanted delegates with a wide variety of interests." Unfortunately, she says, a vocal minority caused problems by bringing their opposition to ERA to the convention.

"There are vital issues that we want to discuss, but unfortunately, what is happening is that a kind of coalition is building up that's determined to discredit the whole intention. They're labeling it as a lobby attempt for ERA."

"I resent women's issues becoming so political," she explains. "Our issues are human; they deal with emo-



SHIRLEY MONSON

tions and economics and should be out of the realm of politics."

As a result of International Women's Year in 1976, a bill was passed in congress that allocated \$5 million to be divided among the 50 states and territories for the purpose of setting up meetings to discuss women's issues and elect delegates to the Houston convention.

"We were to investigate the causes and possible solutions in bringing women into the mainstream of society," Ms. Monson explains.

The Michigan meeting focused on workshops covering a wide range of subjects from women in the work place, to rural and farm women, teenage pregnancy, and violence against women. The voting delegates to Houston will take with them 14 resolutions, which came out of the workshops and were passed by the full session.

Resolutions passed in Houston will be forwarded to the appropriate congressional representatives, hopefully for further action, Ms. Monson adds.

She does expect problems in Houston, however, from the "vocal minority."

"The anti-ERA people are organized. They're convinced that the involvement of women is going to break up

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