

Dancing azama dolls

Jaycee art show to feature Japanese works

Playful nail figures will rub elbows with elegant Japanese actors at the Farmington Jaycee Auxiliary art show in Farmington High School's cafeteria. The annual fund raiser for the group is scheduled for Dec. 9, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., in the high school at 32000 Shawasssee. Coffee and doughnuts will help browsers refresh themselves as they wander through the various displays.

Among the crafts and art work shown will be aristocratic Japanese figures from kabuki theater called azama dolls.

The figures represent characters in

a lion dance. The azama doll is caught in mid-dance. She holds a small golden mask of Father Lion as she prepares to make a graceful sweep around the floor, the long wide sleeves of her kimono look as if they are ready to sway with her movements.

Next to her stands a demure princess—royally ignoring the dancer. The two dolls are the work of Setsuko Geier of Farmington Hills.

While she purchases the forms for the dolls' bodies, the clothes are made by hand.

In the case of the dolls from the theater, some have a little story attached to them. For instance, the dancer with

the lion mask is dancing against her will.

MUCH LIKE THE DANCER in the red shoes, she is being forced to continue dancing. In this case, the lion's spirit is forcing her to continue.

Mrs. Geier learned to make the dolls when her husband was transferred to Japan. She has been making them for 12 years.

Another set of dolls she is offering for sale on Dec. 9 is smaller, more whimsical. They are figures of little children made of sawdust and glue.

Their colorful kimonos are glued onto them. One carries a balloon. Another shy little boy looks quietly down at his slippers. They are called kimikomi dolls.

From Eastern arts the auxiliary's show will switch to American metal crafts, as Frank Lohan of Farmington Hills presents his metal sculptures and Christmas ornaments.

Sports figures and musicians made from horseshoe nails will be on sale. Lohan started making the playful figures using his own imagination, but

his friends and customers supplied him with their own ideas.

Horseshoe nails have their limits as an artistic medium. Ballet dancers can't be rendered in the bulky nails and still look graceful.

But tennis players, football players, golfers and bowlers can adapt to the bulky iron nails.

SOME OF HIS figures play a balancing act on shelves and counters.

In addition, he is making brass Christmas ornaments. The trains have

been painted wheels and the name of the owner can be inserted into the design. Wall plaques featuring owls and leaves can also be purchased.

Proceeds from the Jaycee Auxiliary show go toward the group's projects, such as donating items to the Farmington Community Center, Marillac Hall, Sarah Fisher Home and Oak Hill Nursing Home.

Tables have been rented to the crafters at \$15 for a single and \$25 for a double table. All 55 tables available have been rented.



Setsuko Geier smooths down the hair of Father Lion, one of the dolls she has made in her 12 years at the craft. Father Lion, a character from kabuki theater won't be available at the Jaycee Auxiliary art sale but other figures from the theater will be on sale. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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