

Gifted students taught to stretch imagination

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Natalie Halpern, who has been teaching adults how to activate their creativity potential for the past several years, designs a new class this season to train gifted and talented teens in stretching their imagination.

Mrs. Halpern, whose class is based in the philosophy that creativity is a skill that can be learned, heads the session from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 28, in Oakland Community College (OCC) Orchard Ridge Campus. The course is designed to develop attitudes that will meet challenges in a

creative manner, and is based on research which indicates that creativity can be developed, then improved through practice.

"Techniques can be used to generate and implement ideas that break through the mind-sets," the West Bloomfield resident says. "The class is a natural for anyone who wishes to stretch the boundaries of his or her imagination and habitual thought patterns."

MS. HALPERN has been studying techniques to stimulate the imagination for the past six years, notably with

attendance in classes, seminars and workshops at Creative Problem Solving Institute, State University College at Buffalo, N.Y.

Each year, the students she teaches are the beneficiaries of more techniques she has learned to bring to more alternatives and options in making a decision.

"When we are confronted with a challenge or a problem, we generally go with the first or second responses that come to us. I teach how to generate new ideas and new responses so that we need never be at the mercy of what befalls us."

"If we can generate new options for ourselves, we can find new ways to live more effective lives," she said. She teaches in what she calls "a learn-by-doing atmosphere," her own five-step creative problem-solving

techniques that may be applied to situations in career, personal, community or governmental life.

"OCC ASKED me to design a special class for the academically gifted," Mrs. Halpern said, "but I don't want to exclude the students' parents from attending with them."

"From past experience, I know that two people who attend my classes from the same family get more out of these studies because they've got one another to practice with, they can bounce these ideas off one another."

"I am sure that if a parent accompanied the teen to the classes, the two could go by leaps and bounds finding creative solutions to any problem or challenge."

Participants in former classes have included men and women from 18-70

who have come from all walks of life. Ms. Halpern has taught workshops on the subject to professional, educational and community groups.

Her classes are taught in regional centers of University of Michigan in Grand Rapids and in Dearborn, and at OCC.

Ms. Halpern is a Detroit-based writer and artist. She is a member of Women In Communications, Inc., the International Association of Business Communicators and American Marketing Association.

Fee for "Activate Your Creativity Potential: Stretch the Boundaries of Your Imagination" is \$31. Registrations are being taken now by mail or in person on the campus at 27055 Orchard Lake Road.

Inquiries will be taken by calling the college, 476-9400, ext. 226.



NATALIE HALPERN

Jaycettes meet

Farmington Area Jaycettes invite guests and potential new members to their meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Farmington Community Center. Membership in the organization is open to women ages 18-35.

Jennifer Moore, co-anchor women for Channel 4 will be the guest speaker. Her topic is "Working Women."

Membership inquiries will be taken by calling Marian Bliznik, 477-6826.

Framing taught here

Students will learn tips to frame prized pictures, needlework or collections from Margarita Ibarlueza in her Farmington Community Center class this winter.

Miss Ibarlueza will teach the proper methods of cutting, covering mats, cut-

ting glass, assembling frames, stretching canvas and needlework as well as the technique of antiquing.

Class begins at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23, for eight sessions.

Fee is \$34 plus materials. In-person registration is necessary.

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 Monday & Wednesday • 5:30 & 7:00 p.m.
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