

Demonstrations scheduled

Indigo blue and white quilts star in 3rd annual show/sale

The third annual quilt show at Somerset Mall, May 11-16, will have a variety of quilt-oriented activities. There will be an exhibition for students and collectors, technique-oriented workshops for quilt makers and information lectures and slide presentations for all.

Indigo-blue and white quilts will dominate the exhibition section. These are on loan from private collectors and museums from all over the United States. Originally, most of the blue and white quilts were made in the Great Lakes States, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania between 1850 and 1880. They are particularly desirable since natural indigo blue dyes were abandoned during the industrial revolution in favor of the much less expensive chemically based dyes. Indigo is often considered the

"mystery dye" because there is no trace of blue in the indigo plant. The color appeared after removal from the dye vat, the plant itself is green and gray with pink blossoms. It was undesirable to work with because of the dreadful stench and taste and workers believed it caused a variety of physical impairments. Another mystery is that while the plant is believed to have originated in England, there is no evidence that blue resist fabrics, made from the plant were ever made in Europe.

According to Merry Silber and Sandra Mitchell, show coordinators, it took almost a year to gather the group of blue and white quilts, the first of its kind to their knowledge. In addition, there will be more than 500 quilts for sale along with hand-crafted items, quilt supplies and books by some 30 dealers from across the country.

A first for this area will be a Quilt Film Festival with a different film each day and premiering "Quilts in Women's Lives," a multi-award winning film commissioned by the Oakland Museum in California.

Ten workshops will be given by Jinny Beyer, Jeannie Spears, Annamie Kelly, Pepper Corey, Sarah Deasy and Veralyn Davis. Pre-registration is necessary and there is a fee for the workshops. All workshops will be held in the community room at Saks Fifth Avenue. For more information, call 849-8388 or 842-4371.

Several lectures will be presented on the lower level of the mall beginning with George Bird, "The Henry Ford Museum Quilt and Coverlet Collections"; Darwin Bearley, "Ohio Amish Quilts"; Jinny Beyer, "Explorations in Quilt Design"; Julie Silber, "American Quilts: A Handmade Legacy"; Sandra

Mitchell, appraisals; and Merry Silber, "Bring-Your-Own-Quilt." A poster commemorating the quilt exhibit will be on sale during the show. The daily events are:

Monday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jinny Beyer workshop, "Quilting"; 11 a.m.-noon, George Bird, slide lecture, Henry Ford Museum collection; 1:30-2 p.m., film, "Quilts in Women's Lives"; 2:30-4 p.m., Jinny Beyer lecture, "Explorations in Quilt Design"; 4-8 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. James Hopper, quilting demonstration; 5-9 p.m. Jinny Beyer workshop, "Patchwork Pattern Drafting"; and 7-9 p.m. Darwin Bearley lecture, "Ohio Amish Quilts."

Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jinny Beyer workshop, "Color and Fabric Coordination"; 10:30 a.m.-noon, Julie Silber slide lecture, "Quilts: A Handmade Legacy"; 2-6 p.m., Jinny Beyer

workshop, "Medallion Quilts"; and 3-4 p.m., Merry Silber, "Bring-Your-Own-Quilt" and Sandra Mitchell, appraisals.

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jeannie M. Spears, "Teaching Workshop for Instructors"; 11 a.m.-noon, Yvonne Ham, demonstration of machine quilting; 1-2 p.m. Mrs. Southwell, "Recycling," demonstration; and 2-3 p.m., Yvonne Ham, machine quilting.

Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Annamie Kelly, "Making a Winner," workshop; 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Julie Silber, slide lecture, "American Quilts: A Handmade Legacy"; 2:30-3:30 p.m., three quilt films, 2-5 p.m. Annamie Kelly workshop, "Traditional Patterns Used in a New Way"; and 4-9 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. James Hopper, quilting demonstration.

Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Pepper Corey workshop, "Log Cabin Variations"; 11 a.m.-noon, "Quilts in Women's Lives," film; 2-6 p.m. Sarah Deasy workshop, "Quilting as an Art Form"; and 4-9 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. James Hopper, quilting demonstration.

Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Veralyn Davis workshop, "Quilting from Scratch"; 1-2:30 p.m., Merry Silber, "Bring-Your-Own-Quilt," and Sandra Mitchell, appraisals; and 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jeannie M. Spears workshop, quilting skills.

Ongoing demonstrations will be held throughout the event at individual booths. The exhibit is open to the public at no charge, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday until 9 p.m.

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suburban life

Loraine McClish editor/477-5450

Montessori school expands with push from parents

By Loraine McClish staff writer

Maria Montessori School, operating now in North Farmington Baptist Church, will expand to include children up to 8 years old or in the third grade in September.

Classes for the 2-1/2 to 6-year-olds will remain in Farmington Hills, while the first- to third-graders will be in sessions next fall in West Bloomfield's Church of Our Savior on Maple and Middlebelt roads.

"We've been blessed," said Tom Kerbawy. Kerbawy opened the first Montessori school in the Farmington-West Bloomfield area that is affiliated with Association Montessori Internationale with his co-teacher Shamella Gunwardana less than a year ago.

"We knew we had a good idea even though economically it wasn't the best of times to open a private school," he said. "But a good portion of the children here ready for first grade will be continuing with us because their parents have asked for it."

"We know we're good, but it sure is nice to be appreciated with that much support from the parents."

KERBAWY and Ms. Gunwardana work with an assistant, Meher Khan, overseeing 37 youngsters who at any one time are involved in almost as many projects.

Some attend morning, some attend afternoon and some all-day sessions.

Children are given a choice of three activities to work on as they choose for their time there in keeping with the Montessori approach to education, which involves a high degree of freedom.

All materials used are standard, imported, Montessori equipment which dovetails into the prearranged and prepared environment, which possesses a certain order. The combination of equipment and environment aims to dispose the child to develop his capabilities at his own speed, according to his own capacities, in a non-competitive atmosphere.

The child learns to work alone, enjoying the presence of other children

but not working necessarily with them. Meanwhile, the Montessori teacher instructs individually and fosters competence in the child as an independent learner.

"Immediate feedback is tantamount in Montessori schools," Kerbawy said.

"At every step of learning, the teaching material is designed to test the student's understanding and to correct errors. Every learning apparatus has a built-in control of error."

DR. MARIA MONTESSEORI based her educational philosophy on the principle that the only valid impulse to learning is the self-motivation of the child; that the child moves him or herself toward learning. The teacher functions as the catalytic agent.

Kerbawy became interested in Montessori schools through a psychologist who was a student of his while he was teaching guitar.

It was the psychologist's belief that he wouldn't have so many troubled patients if, as youngsters, they were instilled with more self-confidence and more respect for themselves and others.

"It was the seed that started me on my way to investigate Montessori schools, which adhere to the same belief," Kerbawy said.

After Montessori training in the U.S. and then teaching here for two years with schools affiliated with American Montessori Society, Kerbawy left to study in Italy with the international association.

"I was working with very little children, and there was very little here that could tell me if what we were doing did in fact lead to the independent thinker, the person with a positive self-image, the success-oriented person our methods are aimed to develop. "Now I am fully convinced that they do."

SUBSEQUENT co-teaching with Ms. Gunwardana led the two to open the international-affiliated school here less than a year ago.

"We worked like crazy all last summer, ordering equipment or making it ourselves," he said, "and every step of



Tom Kerbawy, co-director of Maria Montessori School, checks on 5-year-old Lara Gale who is learning mathematical concepts from Montessori equipment that is imported from Italy, Holland and India.



Setting her own rate of academic progress, 6-year-old Amina Abrahams has mastered the multiplication tables, addition and subtraction with the Montessori mathematical learning materials.



When the first chord is heard from Tom Kerbawy's guitar, youngsters roll up their mats, put their materials away and form a circle for song.



When their teacher forgot the words, Megan and Matthew helped the class in singing "Yellow Submarine." When the class sang "Yankee Doodle Dandy," it was preceded with a bit of history.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

The session is wind-down time while lunch pails are rolled out in preparation for the noon break.