

community calendar

● ONE-WOMAN SHOWS

Monday, Aug. 12: Elsie Fisher shows her work in Farmington Hills Branch Library and Lois Witt exhibits her work in Farmington Branch Library through Aug. 31.

● "THE GAY DESPERADO"

Monday, Aug. 12: "The Gay Desperado," starring Ida Lupino and Leo Carillo, concludes Summer Film Classics Series at 7:30 p.m. in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile. No charge.

● SONSHINE CLUB

Monday-Friday, Aug. 12-16: Sonshine Club, Bible School for kindergartners through sixth graders, 9:30-11:45 a.m. daily in Faith Covenant Church, 35415 14 Mile. Fee is \$2 per child. Bible study for parents runs concurrently with children's classes. Registration taken by calling the church, 661-9191.

● THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE?

Monday, Aug. 12: "Thinking About College?" program designed for adults contemplating going back to school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room B, Liberal Arts Building, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road. No charge. Lunch at \$2 is optional. Reservations are requested by calling the college's Women's Resource Center, 591-6400, Ext. 430.

● PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Monday, Aug. 12: Registrations for 3-5 year-olds who will enter Alameda Early Childhood Center next fall taken until classes begin Sept. 9. Information given by calling the school, 478-1470.

● IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

Wednesday, Aug. 14: Free immunization clinic from 9 a.m. to noon in Ten Mile Community School, 32789 10 Mile. Parents or guardian must accompany those under 18 years of age.

● SENIOR OLYMPICS

Saturday, Aug. 17: Sixth Annual Michigan Senior Olympics from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College. Admission is free.

● COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 17-18: Country Fair, to benefit St. Vincent-

Sarah Fisher Center from noon to 8 p.m. each day on the center's grounds, corner of 12 Mile and Inkster Road. Fair offers games, food, handicrafts and live entertainment. Free admission to the grounds.

● AUTHORITY

Sunday, Aug. 18: "Authority: Hope for a Talk-Back Fight-Back World," continues Strengthening Your Grip film series at 7 p.m. in Forest Park Baptist Church, 28805 Farmington Road. No charge.

● OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Aug. 18: Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Waldorf Kinder-Home, 25205 Code Road, north of 10 Mile Road, east of Lahser in Southfield. The preschool and kindergarten for 3- to 6-year-olds is based on the Waldorf pedagogy will be explained and demonstrated by the staff.

● ARTSTART OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, Aug. 20: The staff of Artstart Preschool and Kindergarten host open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in location, 31195 13 Mile. Parents and their children are invited to tour the facility and meet the staff.

● COLLAGEN IMPLANTS

Wednesday, Aug. 31: "Collagen Implants," lecture by Dr. Herb Cohen who tells about the technique that removes wrinkles and gives the benefits of a face lift without surgery, at 7 p.m. in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile. No charge.

● KARATE CLINIC

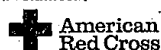
Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24-25: Karate clinic for all styles and all ranks from noon to 8 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in Madonna College, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, led by Hidetaka Nishiyama. Registration information given by James Monroe, chairman of Japanese Shotokan Karate Do Association, 637-2926. Spectator fee is \$5, at the door.

● COMIC BOOKS AND BASEBALL CARDS

Sunday, Aug. 25: Comic Book and Baseball Card Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in American Legion Hall, 29500 Nine Mile, corner of Middlebelt. Admission is \$1.50 at the door.

COMMIT YOURSELF.

Be a volunteer.



Honda Couch is self appointed mayor and overseer of Luchenbach, Texas. He takes people to the town he bought through a Want Ad by using events such as Luchenbach's Home Movies Film Festival and Hell Hath No Fury Women's World Chili Cook Off.

Threads of history woven into batiks

"BATIK: Fabled Cloth of Java" Inger McCabe Elliott, Clarkson N. Potter Inc./Publishers, \$45

By Corinne Abett
staff writer

The beautiful color photos of batik in this oversize book will attract the "lookers," but reader/lookers will discover that batik and the history of Java are tightly woven.

The colors, designs and, in some instances, even the way the production was organized, were affected by who held the power and influence — political and religious.

Elliott traces the influence of the Chinese, the Muslims, the Dutch and the Japanese, along with Hinduism and Buddhism which were there prior to Islam.

And this varied considerably, depending on location on the island. The

review

Chinese, for instance, with their love of color, had a strong influence on the north coast. The two-color batiks with an overall pattern of Arabic script, proclaiming "there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger," come from around Demak in Eastern Java.

WITHOUT HEADING the book and the description of how batik is made it is almost impossible to believe that these designs and colors were created by a painstaking technique of wax resist. Depending on how many colors are used, the wax is applied, the dye applied, the wax scraped off, applied again and another dye added. It may take months and months to complete

one intricate piece.

Since Java is an overcrowded island of many villages and batik is a cottage industry with dye recipes, designs and techniques passed down through generations of families, pieces not signed can often be identified by village.

This would have made Elliott's cataloging task reasonably logical, but for the many outside influences which entered into the development.

But she waded into the confusion with a great sense of adventure and dedication and produced this treasure. All of the photographs of batik are color and all of those of the people at work, the villages, the harbors and the village life are black and white.

THE READER is introduced to Java's great batik artists, Oey Soen King, her daughter, Oey Kok Sing, and granddaughter, Liem Siok Kie, also known as Jane Hendromartono. The latter's work is no fine that it may take her 14 months to complete a two to three-yard piece. Her designs of birds, delicate flowers and animals are as intricately shaded as a fine watercolor.

The most outstanding batik artist, whose work has a beautiful painterly quality, was Oey Soen Tjoen who died in 1975. His wife, son and daughter-in-law continue in the business.

Batik making through the years was a sweatshop operation, those who were able to work outdoors were among the fortunate. Much of the finest work was produced from 1850 to 1930.

It is still being made in Java and while today there are some 250,000 makers on the island, that is less than half of what there were 15 years ago.

Special interest video collection initiated

A special interest video collection has been started in Wayne Oakland Library Federation (WOLF)'s film-video library containing information, instruction and other videotapes not readily available from other sources.

Video collections are not a new addition to public library services; several libraries have been circulating feature

videos for many years. This collection is new in focus and will be growing from the current 100 titles in half-inch VHS format which cover subjects such as cooking, foreign language, sports, first aid and business management.

Among the more popular titles are "Megatrends," "The One Minute Manager," "The 1984 World Series" and

"Wines of California." A \$4 service fee per title is collected at the time the video is borrowed from the WOLF library.

Videos are available to individuals and organizations in Wayne and Oakland county communities served by a member library of WOLF and can be

ordered from and delivered to a local WOLF library.

In addition to videotapes, the library has the largest public library 16mm film collection in the state with more than 12,000 films.

For information, contact the library at 326-8823. The library is headquartered in Wayne, Mich.

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