

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClellan editor/477-5450



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Jewelry design

Michigan's top artists bring 1,500 pieces for show and sale

By Lorraine McClellan
staff writer

JEWELRY MAKER and designer Ruth Poris, whose art work has gone from one transition to another over the past 15 years, is among the 125 finest artists in Michigan chosen to show their work in Sholem Aleichem Institute's Art Show and Sale this weekend in Shenandoah Country Club.

"Sholem Aleichem's show is the oldest in the area and still the best, with the most variation to offer," Poris said. "I've been invited back for about 10 years now, and my work has taken so many turns, I'll be showing something new again this year."

Poris' "something new" is bead stringing, an art she perfected and then wrote about in her book called "Step by Step Bead Stringing." It is the only book of its kind on the market, and now in its third printing.

The bead stringing is done around maybe an antique ivory figurine, an antique cigarette lighter, a coin, a belt buckle, all out-of-the-way unusual pieces designed into a one-of-a-kind piece of jewelry.

She shops at antique shows and gem shows for "anything that's becoming extinct," she said. But her favorite work is done when someone brings her a no-longer-usable heirloom she can salvage by redesigning it into a new distinctive piece of jewelry.

"I just got a string of grandma's crystals that had been sitting in a drawer for years and it's such a pleasure being able to bring that back to life for somebody," she said.

THE FARMINGTON HILLS artist came to Sholem Aleichem's first art show as a potter.

The pottery took a variety of shapes and for a long while Poris was engrossed in producing ceramic jewelry. Mass marketing of original one-of-a-kind pendants and strung ceramic beads for better stores consumed a great deal of time. And it was during this time she created the entire ceramic line for Mariam Haskell Jewelry in New York.

"But it was a killer," she said. "Every bead was hand-rolled and had to be glazed and fired about six times. And I was developing the first symptoms of emphysema."

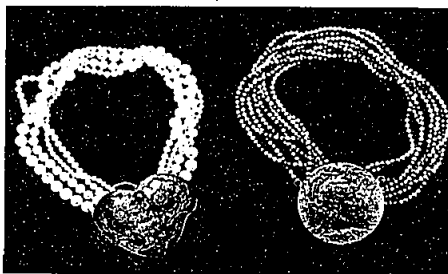
Poris said that even though her backyard studio was ventilated to conform to safety standards for the artist who fire glazes, or uses blow torches, or drills or any of the health hazard materials the work requires, she was just spending too much time on the job.

The show this weekend will include about 1,500 works of art in all price ranges.

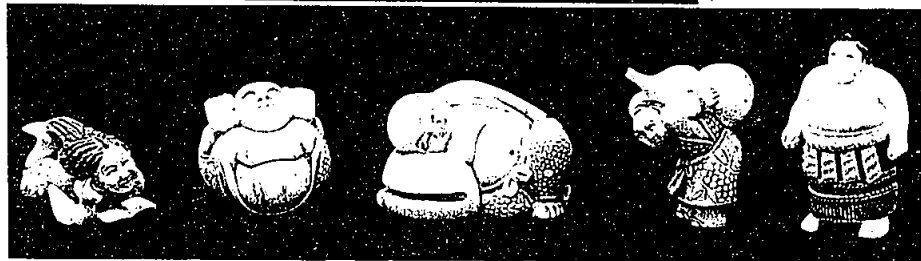
Show hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Shenandoah Country Club, 5600 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

A donation is asked at the door. Sholem Aleichem Institute, 27600

Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is a cultural and educational organization.



Twisted pearls (at left) are used to set off an antique belt buckle and unilike beads are used with a keepsake commemorative coin to make a distinctive piece of jewelry by designer Ruth Poris. Below hand carved ivory pieces called Netsuke, once worn with kimonos, will be used as the focal point for new pieces yet to be created by the designer.



Ruth Poris works in her work room (above) and shows her jewelry in her show room (above right) both in her Farmington Hills home. The designer also has a home office and a back yard studio to carry on all the many facets of her work.



Staff photos
by Randy Borst

Heart of Gold

Volunteer's career consumes 60-70 hours a week

By Lorraine McClellan
staff writer

Ida Krandle began her long career of volunteerism as a young mother in PTAs and Brownies and within a very short time realized her forte was fund raising.

"Money is the bottom line. That's what keeps things moving, keeps them going," said the Farmington Hills resident who was given "The Heart of

Gold" for outstanding volunteerism by the United Foundation.

Krandle was nominated for the award by Women's Association for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, but the list of associations for which she directs fund-raising efforts is staggering.

To single out preferences was not easy.

"The symphony probably takes the most time. Cultural activities are im-

portant to Detroit. A trip to hear the symphony is always on the list when we host foreign visitors to experience our culture here," Krandle said, referring to her membership as a volunteer in the International Visitors Council.

"For humanitarianism I guess I'd have to say the Salvation Army is my preference. I get involved in that on a very personal level," she said.

She is president of the Salvation Army Auxiliary, where she provides leadership, is working in many facets of staging a spring fashion show, and at the same time is involved personally with prisoners, the needy and residents in the Edwin Denby Home for Children.

MEANWHILE she singles out her presidency of Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary, and its sponsorship of numerous goodwill projects, as the volunteer job that commands the most travel.

These volunteer jobs, along with being membership chairman of The Art of Poland Associates Founders Society, past president of American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan, treasurer for Women's Division of Project Hope, active with March of Dimes and the League of Catholic Women, and most recently serving on the board of Schoolcraft College, make up a 60-70 hour a week job.

She jokes that her next project will be the congressional enactment of an expanded 24-hour a day.

But she is serious when she says, "I don't drink coffee. I don't smoke. I don't watch TV. And I'm very organized. All of these things need doing and I am dedicated to getting them done."

Krandle's paperwork is done in her favorite room, the kitchen, out of any-

where 12-18 briefcases depending on the current projects at hand.

"Telephone calls at midnight are commonplace. My friends know I'm up until at least 2 or 3 a.m. Thank goodness I don't require a lot of sleep," she said.

"Nothing is done two weeks ahead of time," she said. "Whatever has to be done for tomorrow is done the night before. There is just too much to do, to do it any other way, and everything is done to perfection."

AN EXAMPLE of Krandle's perfection was when she set out to boost the local lung association. During her tenure as president the organization realized its largest fund-raising results ever and added a record 100 new members.

And while her administrative talents are evident, so is the personal touch.

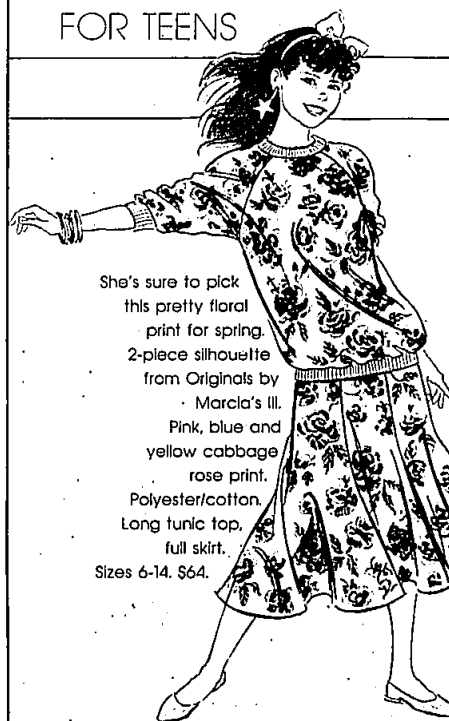
The women who were addressing envelopes for the Salvation Army's fashion show this spring all received chocolate roses she had molded herself the night before.

"I did a lot of stuffing of envelopes. It's a tedious job, and I want to let those women know that work is necessary and we appreciate it," she said.

Krandle's newest piece of jewelry is the gold heart-shaped charm, bearing the "Spirit of Detroit" emblem in recognition of voluntary services performed through cultural and civic activities.

The honor of being cited as a "Heart of Gold" winner is given to call attention to the importance of voluntary citizen participation in community affairs as a bulwark to the American way of life.

EASTER TIME FOR TEENS



She's sure to pick this pretty floral print for spring. 2-piece silhouette from Originals by Marcia's III. Pink, blue and yellow cabbage rose print. Polyester/cotton. Long tunic top. full skirt. Sizes 6-14. \$64.

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— Ida Krandle