

Suburban Life

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Culture and service

Chinese in the metro area open a meeting center in the Hills

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

AT LEAST 20,000 Chinese-Americans live in the metro area, and if Dr. Leo Ho has his way, they will all be meeting one another in Farmington Hills.

Ho is president of the 14-member board of directors that oversees the six-month-old Detroit Chinese Culture Service Center at 28521 Orchard Lake Road. The center acts as a base of operations for cultural exchange. Its newsletter — with 15,000 on the mailing list in Michigan — is the networker that pulls it all together.

"We want people to know we're here," Ho said. "We are a resource for the Chinese community first — but we are also here to share our culture. We can help you with a visa, help you plan a trip, teach you the language, share our library of books and tape, maybe help you with a problem. We have information on trade, manufacturing, the import-export business. We're open 50 hours a week."

IN THE area of cultural exchange, the center's executive director, Ding-Yung Li, expects a long list of classes will be offered — running from Chinese cooking to paper cutting or any of the Chinese folk arts.

Young people's services, gearing up now, will be headed by Lucy Lee, a West Bloomfield resident.

And in the area of introducing Chinese culture, the center hosted its first artist, Wang Shou-Shiun, one of the few Chinese brush painters who has mastered every style of the ancient art.

THE DETROIT Chinese Culture Service Center came into being through the work of approximately 10 people, and some individual and corporate money.

"We have about 1,600 square feet, about a third of what we expect to make it eventually," Ho said.

Raising money is still the foremost priority for the board, either

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— Dr. Leo Ho

through solicitations or fund-raising events, Ho said.

Another thing Ho expects is that the center will be scheduling approximately two art exhibits a year, each of them of the same high quality as Wang's work.

WANG SHOU-SHIUN was brought to the cultural center from Taipei, Taiwan Province, through a grant from the Chang Foundation, based in Flint. Wang was a student of the late Chang Ku-Nien, probably the most famous Chinese artist in memory, who lived in Michigan for approximately 20 years.

"All of her expenses were paid by the foundation which was set up to introduce Americans to Chinese art, provide chairs in universities here as well as in Taiwan, and give art scholarships," said Paul Tai, who acted as interpreter for Wang. Tai is a board member of the Chang Foundation, a consultant for the cultural center and director of the Asian Studies Program at the University of Detroit.

"She would not have been able to stop (on tour) here six months ago because there would have been no place to stop," Ho said of the artist and her exhibit, which brought more guests to the center than any other person or event in the center's short history.

Visitors can see one piece of the artist's work she left as a gift, now on display, which will be part of the center's permanent art collection.

DURING HER stay here, Wang gave frequent demonstrations of the quick and deft brush painting that

leaves no room for error in all four styles of the art.

Landscapes are the dominant style that goes back to the Sung Dynasty. Flowers, trees and shrubbery is another style; animals and birds is another style; and portraits are still another style, whether the painting is done on silk, paper, linen or canvas.

Through her interpreter Wang told her audience about brush painting techniques that were realistic, or told a story — maybe accompanied by a poem — or the simple abstract that revealed an idea.

"All of them had some philosophic or spiritual content," she said.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer



In the photo above Wang Shou-Shiun demonstrates the art of Chinese brush painting for guests in the Detroit Chinese Culture and Service Center. Shou-wen Li is on her left and Cecelia Lu is at her right. At left Dr. Leo C. Ho and Ding-Yung Li discuss plans for the center's future. Ho is president of the center and Li is its executive director.

Novemberfest

Womencenter services, programs, showcased in 4-day event

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

WOMENCENTER on Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College, will showcase itself with Novemberfest, a four-day event that focuses on women's personal and political struggle for growth and change.

It was a rollicking Halloween party

Dressed as a wicked witch with a pointed hat and a wart on her nose, 8-year-old Susie squealed with delight and hugged her friend when she won at musical chairs.

Susie couldn't enjoy the traditional Halloween trick or treating because she is living temporarily in St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. But that didn't stop her and 25 other children from celebrating Halloween at a rollicking party.

After pizza, chips, dip, pop and Halloween cookies the children bobbed for apples, drew faces on pumpkins, danced and had their faces painted.

To the beat of rap music one group of children broke out into a line dance. Their counselors and 10 employees from MCI Telecommunications Corp. from Southfield joined in. Other children played with the skeleton and spider decorations and jumped for helium-filled balloons.

The party was sponsored by MCI. The party was hosted at the suggestion of Chris Styes, MCI's branch manager of major accounts and a resident of Farmington Hills. She knew these children get attention at Christmas, but may be forgotten at Halloween.

Among the 10 MCI employees who volunteered to help with the party was Farmington resident Jill Roberts.

Activities that reflect Womencenter's services and programs are scheduled Nov. 6-9 on the campus in cooperation with the faculty of the college.

"We have to start out with a program for the women who love too much," said Mary White, director of Womencenter. "All of our programming at Womencenter is done to fill a need and these are the women who

are hurting the most these days. We have five Women Who Love Too Much groups going now and all of them are filled to capacity.

"This is the second year for the Women Who Love Too Much sessions and the next ones won't be starting up until January."

The program designed specifically for the women in the community who love too much is called "Code-

pendency and Addictive Relationships." The subject will be addressed by Sandy Park, a process therapist working with issues of addiction and recovery with children and adults, at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, in Smith Theatre on campus.

Four women will comprise a panel to tell of their personal relationship additions, and their recoveries, followed by a session of audience in-

teraction and then a question and answer period.

Tickets are \$8 at the door, or \$5 for students and seniors.

NOVEMBERFEST continues with Campus Open House from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7.

"This is for any one who wants to try college for a day — get a taste of what it is like," White said. "The entire faculty is opening up their classrooms so visitors can have 15 to 30 minutes in as many classes as they want to sit in on. They can eat lunch or supper with campus women and hear about the support services available to OCC students."

"The program is free and we've allotted 12 hours for this so you can come and go whenever your schedule permits."

It is suggested that guests who want to learn about financial aid available, or any other special service Womencenter or the college has to offer, bring their own bag lunch; then check in with Womencenter in J Building to get connected up to the person who can furnish the information needed.

"Visitors who stop in Womencenter will be seated for lunch with women who have returned to school so their experiences can be shared," White said.

"Who Will Take Care of My Children" is the subject for 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in Room 306, J Building.

The child care shortage has reached an almost-crisis situation in this country," White said. "It is probably the most critical issue facing women — and society at large — today."

A representative from Latch Key and a representative from a franchised child care center join a representative from the Orchard Ridge Campus Child Care Center and a woman who cares for children in her

home to give the audience an overview of what's available in the community.

Tickets are \$8, or \$5 for students and seniors at the door.

A FILM FESTIVAL of movies and videos depicting the social, political and historical aspects of women's lives runs continuously from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, in Smith Theatre.

"Isadora Duncan," a film about the controversial dancer is scheduled to be shown, and so is "The Sorceress," a film which traces religion from paganism to Christianity.

"One Woman Sings — The Other Doesn't" is a prize-winning foreign film with subtitles that covers abortion, inter-marriage and just about every other issue connected with the women's movement in the late '60s.

"Rose The Riveter" is a World War II documentary. "The Wash" tells the story of a Japanese-American couple who are getting a divorce while struggling with old traditions.

"Portraits in Courage" is just that, a documentary of several women's lives.

"Some of these films will be followed by commentary and discussion with the audience," White said. "People who want to see a specific film can call Womencenter any time after Monday, Nov. 6, and we will give them the schedule."

Admission is \$1 for each of the films on the schedule.

Free child care is available for all events by pre-registration only, with Womencenter. Children must be toilet trained and between 2-7 years old. Those who are attending the open house Tuesday must bring a lunch and drink for their child.

Womencenter is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The telephone number is 471-7602 or 471-7745.



MCI employee Sabrina Answorth helps Susie with her pumpkin painting when volunteers from the Southfield-based organization helped

a Halloween party for the children in St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center.