

# Fun Stuff

## Farmington jewelry designer makes a commitment to her art

By Loraine McClish  
staff writer

**SALLY MARTILA** will be showing her "Fun Stuff" when Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans hosts its Holiday Art Fair this weekend on Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College.

The jewelry designer is fussy about where her pieces are shown. She wants a discriminating clientele. She wants shoppers to appreciate her originally created work.

The guild, which showcases only juried fine art, draws the crowds that want to buy from the finest of the professional artists and artisans that come for the show from a dozen surrounding states, she said.

Martila has just recently made a commitment to becoming a full-time designer of the large variety of leather, suede, semiprecious stones, antique beads, and crystals that she twists, cuts, braids, paints, sews and glues into necklaces, scarves, belts, brooches, wrist cuffs, bolos and earrings.

"It isn't easy," she says from her home studio in downtown Farmington. "I majored in art and art education and never was a teacher. I should have majored in art and business administration."

"What with shopping a couple of times a year in New York, doing my own displays for boutiques and galleries, being my own salesperson and

agent, learning the game of the whole marketing business, it's been a do-it-yourself education for me and takes up a lot of time.

"It would be so nice to just be able to design and create in my studio and the stuff sold itself. But it doesn't work that way."

**MARTILA GREW** up here, graduated from North Farmington High School and Western Michigan University, then headed for New York to "get some ideas and figure out what I wanted to do. Just looking around in New York is a real feast," she said.

The idea she got that led to Fun Stuff came from leather buttons she found on a coat.

"I could have taken them right off the coat and made them into a set of earrings. Leather is very versatile. Most of the artists I know that work with leather make belts and bags. My first attempt at making leather earrings was a success, and I'm still selling earrings from that first design," she said.

Martila does very little designing on paper.

"I'm a hands-on person," she said. "I start playing with the leather and new designs will come from it. When I start manipulating the leather the natural design of the materials naturally leads to a design. It's working with the creative process so that creativity is not likely to stop. All of

my pieces are one of a kind, and Fun Stuff is a line that has something for everyone. I have pieces that are meant to be worn with jeans, to the office, to the most formal affairs. Most of the pieces, especially the suede scarves, are one size fits all.

"They are pieces with personality. At my very first show with the guild I got a Merit Award for my work in leather."

**MARTILA GOT** Fun Stuff into boutiques and galleries along the East Coast and then headed back to Kalamazoo where she set up shop to introduce her work in the Midwest through the arts and crafts show circuit.

She was tumbling her own stones and glass to give them a frosted look. She was putting her leather, suede and snakeskin through a foiling process that gives it a metallic look. Both were new additions to expanding the originality of Fun Stuff. She was her own marketing agent. And she was making the bulk of her income working full time in a pastry shop creating edible art.

"It was time to go back home and make a commitment to the jewelry," she said. Martila wants it known that she is environment-conscious. She uses no plastic. Nor does she use the skins of any endangered species.

"I am very committed to the preservation of wild life, and I buy only



Sally Martila talks about her work as a jewelry designer and the work of marketing that jewelry hereafter from her home studio in Farmington.

from sources where the entire animal is consumed — a completion of the cycle. I also recycle glass," she said.

Show hours for the Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans Holiday Art Fair is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday in H Building on the campus at Orchard Lake Road and I-696. Admis-

sion to the show is \$3, or \$2 for seniors. Children under 12 are admitted free. Write to Martila in care of P.O. Box 245, Farmington 48332.

## Music is theme of bar mitzvah party

Michael Millman, who plays stand-up bass for East Middle School's orchestra, will be bar mitzvahed Sunday, Dec. 9, in services officiated by Rabbi Craig Allen in Livonia Jewish Congregation.

Millman loves music so much, especially heavy metal, that music will be the theme for his bar mitzvah party. His love of music is evident in school where he voluntarily plays for the performances of all three grades, and takes on the extra work of learning whatever music is required for those performances.

Outside of school he plays baseball for South Farmington Little League and basketball for Farmington Parks and Recreation.

He is the son of Gary and Sandra Millman of Farmington Hills, and the grandson of Charles and Yetta Glass of Orlando, Fla. and Irv and Rita Millman of Southfield.

His grandparents will be here for the ceremony and party, as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins from New York, California, Florida and Michigan.

## Hospital received quilt from Hillel Day students

Sinai Hospital was presented with a six-foot-square "creation quilt" made by the children of Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills to commemorate Chanuka.

The colorful quilt was given by Howard Tapper, president of Hillel Day School and Barbra Chaiten and Susan Shlom, coordinators of the quilt project.

Called the "creation quilt," the work of art is based on the Torah's story of creation and depicts everything from abstract designs to specific vignettes of animals, families, the stars and the oceans. Students used beads, sequin, buttons and a variety of fabrics in their creation. The mothers of Hillel students sewed the quilt together.

The quilt was originally created by the students in 1987 to celebrate that year's art show but had been in storage at the school since that time. Organizers decided to donate the quilt to Sinai to mark the special relationship between the school and the health care institution.

"Creating the quilt was a great project for the children," Shlom said. "It was a very positive delightful ex-

perience for them. The quilt depicts everything wonderful about creation."

The quilt was hung in Sinai to celebrate the sixth annual Sinai-Hillel Art Show, sponsored by the Sinai Hospital Guild. The art show on exhibit through Jan. 7 in the hospital, is a display of approximately 400 works of art of Hillel kindergarten to eighth grade students.

During the art show, Sinai will host its annual Latke Party, a traditional Chanuka meal with a potato pancake, or latke, served with accompaniments Dec. 9 in the hospi-

tal's Zuckerman Dining Room and cafeteria.

Sinai Hospital, one of 11 facilities in the Sinai Health Care System, is a

615-bed tertiary care facility on a 36-acre campus in northwest Detroit. Since 1953, it has provided health services to southeastern Michigan.



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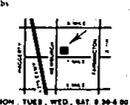
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