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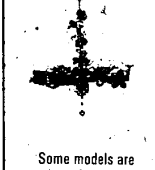
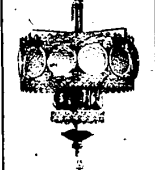
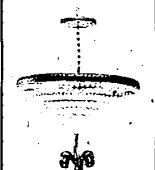
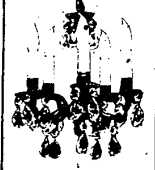
By MARGARET MILLER

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Women on the Go
Her Art Upholds An Old Tradition



KELEN KULCHINSKY, and some of her eggs (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Through the centuries, women of Eastern Europe have marked the season of spring and Easter with a special type of art. It's called Pysanky, and it involves designing and decorating eggs with symbols that express the joy of the Resurrection. Peasants in the Ukraine, Russia and other Eastern countries used to put blessed eggs on their rooftops to ward off evil spirits, says Kelen Kulchinsky of Westland, and sometimes churches were built on spots where eggs had been buried.

"PYSANKY was part of the culture," Miss Kulchinsky said, "and it's a tradition I want to uphold. So every year at this time Miss Kulchinsky, a registered nurse at Wayne County General Hospital and a skilled artist in many media, spends as much time as possible teaching others the time-honored art of decorating eggs.

She schedules classes in her home Thursday evenings in February and March, and finds she often has to teach at other times to meet the needs of those interested.

"One woman wanted her two teenaged daughters to learn," Miss Kulchinsky said, and they could come only on Sunday.

"So I scheduled a Sunday afternoon class. It's the young people I want to reach to carry out my aim of upholding tradition."

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course, produces a particular sort of decorated egg. Miss Kulchinsky has an assortment of dyes. "Chemical dyes now," she says, "but they used to be made of roots and vegetables."

She has her students start with a white egg—not hard-boiled for this kind of decorating—and shows them how to put on designs with a stylus dipped in beeswax.

"The lines you put on the eggs are called writing rather than drawing," she said. "Pysanky comes from the word 'write.'"

In decorating, the artist starts with the lightest color

to be used and works up to the darker ones, each time covering with wax the part that is not to be dyed. Finally she has a dark, waxy, rather grubby looking egg, with an assortment of lines on it.

"Then it's time for the unveiling," says Miss Kulchinsky. "She does this by putting lighter fluid on a clean white cloth and rubbing the egg gently. The black wax comes off, and the carefully-executed design shows in brilliant color. "It's always kind of a surprise to see the finished product," this artist said.

HELEN KULCHINSKY is a native Detroit, but her parents both were born in Russia. Her mother has decorated a few eggs, but isn't an expert.

"But she says there's an aunt who didn't come to this country who decorates eggs beautifully," Miss Kulchinsky says.

In teaching her classes—which cost \$1 for a two-hour session and students are invited to register by calling her at 422-4070 after 5 p.m.—Helen Kulchinsky shows her students the ancient symbols used to give meaning to the eggs.

Symbols like the triangle for the Holy Trinity, bright dots for the Virgin's tears, a fir tree for health, a house for wealth, a reindeer for prosperity, a rose for love and circuletes for eternity.

SHE ALSO tells them traditions of pysanky and some of its history, complete with anecdotes about the famed Russian goldsmith and jeweler Faberge who designed and created fabulous eggs each Easter for the Czarina of Russia on commission by her husband, Czar Alexander III.

The first of those eggs, this admiring artist said, looked like a plain egg on the outside but within was a yoke of gold, a chicken in a brighter gold and a model of the imperial crown.

"After that he did a different surprise egg each Easter," Miss Kulchinsky said. "There were 54 altogether,



NANCY FISCHER

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Fischer of Haynes Street, Farmington, announce the engagement of their daughter, Nancy Lee, to Adam John Gay, son of Mrs. Evelyn Gay of Southfield and Lester Gay of Sizerock, Ky. The bride-elect is a 1967 graduate of Farmington High School and her fiance graduated from Southfield High School in 1961. They plan to be married Sept. 3.



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