

Mexican Fiesta begins with tortillas

By SUE ROSIEK

A Mexican fiesta wouldn't be complete without a delicious assortment of tortillas, enchiladas, refried beans and other spicy, ethnic favorites.

In conjunction with the Plymouth Community Arts Council's presentation of the National Dance Company of Mexico in "Fiesta Folklorico," on Saturday at Plymouth-Salem High School, Miriam Waterhouse of Plymouth decided to plan a dinner party a la Mexicana. It also was a good opportunity to enlist the help of her friend, Esperanza Barreiro, a native of Mexico City, who is presently living in Farmington Hills.

Mrs. Barreiro's husband is on assignment with Ford Motor Company, and the family expects to be in the United States for about two years. The two women met while Mrs. Waterhouse's husband was working in Mexico for Ford Motor Company.

Before the dance company's performance, the Waterhouse and Barreiro clans, and a few neighbors and friends, will enjoy an assortment of Mexican cuisine including guacamole, tacos, enchiladas, Sangria and a variety of desserts.

For the Barreiro family the dinner is a special treat. Mrs. Barreiro says she seldom serves her family the traditional Mexican dishes.

"We generally eat a lot of meats, salads and vegetables, much like the typical American family."

She adds, while living in Mexico the family's diet was much the same as it is now, with the exception of the tortilla—a thin, flat, corn meal pancake.

"In Mexico tortillas are made and sold fresh every morning at the local corner shops," explains Mrs. Barreiro. "It is the basic staple from which a lot of Mexican dishes begin."

The tortilla recipe used by Mrs. Waterhouse and Mrs. Barreiro includes Masa Harina (special corn flour, available at specialty stores), warm water, salt and some all-purpose flour. Mrs. Barreiro uses a tortilla press, which she purchased in Mexico City, to insure a perfect tortilla.

While living in Mexico City, Mrs. Waterhouse's family developed a taste for many Mexican dishes, in particular Enchilada Suiza, a tortilla pastry stuffed with chicken and baked in a cream and cheese sauce.

The family also enjoys a variety of tacos, tortilla pastry filled with any combination of meats, chopped tomatoes, shredded lettuce and cheese, and either chicken and cheese enchiladas.

Mrs. Waterhouse never runs out of recipe ideas because while living in Mexico she invested in a collection of cookbooks and stocked up on Mexican delicacies not available in this country.

Besides the ethnic fare Mrs. Waterhouse has planned several decorations to add to the international flavor. Menus in Spanish and English will be placed on bark prints next to each table setting. A pinata and the Mexican "Tree of Life," a candelabra type of ornament will grace the dinner table.

For dessert Mrs. Barreiro will prepare a special Mexican rice pudding, served with a sweetened Mexican coffee.

What will the fiesta be like?

"Muy gusta" (very good) Mrs. Barreiro says with a smile.

ENCHILADAS SUIZA Tortilla Dough

2 cups Masa Harina (special corn flour) available in specialty stores
1 and one-third cups warm water
Pinch of salt
1 teaspoon all-purpose flour

Combine the ingredients and round into a ball. Take a piece of dough, about walnut size, and place between two pieces of plastic in a tortilla press.

Or use frozen tortilla dough available in many local stores.

Heat frying pan and place tortilla in pan, turn and cook on both sides until pastry puffs up and is very soft and pliable.

To continue with enchilada recipe: Place tortilla in a frying pan with heated oil. Turn tortilla once, then dip in either coffee cream or whipping cream to coat the pastry. Place cooked cubed chicken in tortilla and roll up.

Place tortilla with folded side down in baking dish and pour Mexican green sauce (also available in gourmet or specialty stores) over the top. Green sauce is very spicy and made from green tomatoes.

Shred mozzarella cheese and onion over top of tortillas. Pour remaining cream over the top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until bubbly. Serve with a green salad or refried beans.

MRS. BARRIEIRO'S MEXICAN RICE PUDDING

Boil 2 cups regular long grain rice. Cover and cook for about 20 minutes.

Add 2 quarts of milk and 1 stick of cinnamon and 1 tablespoon of vanilla, and bring ingredients to a boil.

Put enough sugar to taste while cooking so that sugar has a chance to dissolve.

Mix ingredients and place in a casserole dish. Sprinkle powdered cinnamon and top with about 1 cup of raisins. Prepare this dish in the morning so it has a chance to set. Serve pudding cold.



Mrs. Barreiro mixes tortilla dough as Mrs. Waterhouse observes. A Mexican grinding bowl and tortilla basket are in the background. (Photographed by Art Emanuel)

Where There's Life

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See Children's Choice also

Through Feb. 9—American Art Deco Architecture. Through Feb. 15—Art in Architecture: The Works of Jerry Stankis. Through March 2—Drawings by Contemporary American Artists. At Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Admission charge.

Through Feb. 28—Linda Smith, pastels and charcoal. At Troy Public Library, 510 W. Big Beaver Road.

Through February—Planetarium Demonstrations, topic "Around the World in 80 Minutes," view of night skies as seen from equator and North Pole, at Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. At 4 p.m. Wednesdays; 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Sundays. Admission charge.

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27—First Adult Organ Lessons every Thursday at 7 p.m. in boutique section of Orchard Mall, Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

Feb. 8 and 9—Bizarre Bazaar benefit for Common Ground featuring 30 booths selling antiques, furniture, knickknacks, leather goods, original arts and crafts, stained glass, clothing, unusual garage sale items and what-have-you, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 8 and noon till 6 p.m. Feb. 9 at Birmingham Masonic Temple, 357 Woodward, just north of Big Beaver. Sponsored by Friends of Common Ground.

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Feb. 9—Celebrity Sundays. Channel 7 newscaster Jack Goff will greet guests at tours of 100-room Tudor mansion, Meadow Brook Hall, on campus of Oakland University, Rochester. Hours 1 to 5 p.m. Admission priced for adults and children or seniors. Hall located on Adams Road about one-third mile south of Walton Boulevard.

Feb. 14 through 24—"Book Fair," special exhibit of the many science books available at gift shop of Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Feb. 15—"Host Out," an outing to "talk" to the owls, led by Cranbrook Institute of Science naturalist David Radcliffe from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Participants should dress warmly and wear boots. Free with science institute admission.

Feb. 15 through March 1—Southeastern Michigan Scholastic Art Awards sponsored by Tel-Twelve Mall, displays award winners' projects. Works are by students in grades seven through twelve throughout Southeastern Michigan.

CHILDREN'S CHOICE

Feb. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27—Pre-School Story Hour at

10:30 a.m. at Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road.

Feb. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27—Pre-School Story Hour at 10 a.m. at Baldwin Public Library, 351 Martin, Birmingham. Also at 2 p.m. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.

Feb. 8—Christopher Ballet in Children's Concert, "Peter and the Wolf," performed with Rochester Symphony at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Rochester High School Auditorium.

Feb. 8—Saturday Cinema—"The Day the Colors Went Away," "The Snow Day," "Wheel on the Chimney" and "The Three Robbers," from 2 to 2:45 p.m. at Troy Public Library, 510 W. Big Beaver Road. Free tickets should be picked up ahead of time at library.

Feb. 8—"Second Saturdays," Films for Elementary Grades, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham. Features include "Frog Went A-Courting," "Easy Street" and "What on Earth."

Feb. 8—Children's Show Series, "Androcles and the Lion," presented by Southfield Repertory Theatre, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at The Community House, Bates and Townsend, Birmingham.

Feb. 12—Valentine's Day Story Hour special at 7:30 p.m. at Bloomfield Township Public Library.

Feb. 15—"The Little Mermaid," presented by the Popcorn Players of the American Association of University Women's Children's Theatre, at Groves High School auditorium, Birmingham. Call Groves for performance times.

Feb. 15—Saturday Cinema, "Yellow Submarine," from 2 to 2:45 p.m. at Troy Public Library, 510 W. Big Beaver

Road. Free tickets should be picked up ahead of time at library.



Feb. 5—Noon Film Luncheon Program, featuring "Sense of Wonder" based on works of author Rachel Carson, from noon to 1 p.m. in second floor Jeanne Lloyd Lounge of Baldwin Public Library, Martin at Bates, Birmingham.

Feb. 7—Travel Film Series, "The Paris of the Parisians," narrated by Doug Jones, at 8 p.m. at The Community House, Bates and Townsend, Birmingham. Pre-film ethnic dinner by reservations.

Through Feb. 23—"The Misanthrope" by Moliere at Meadow Brook Theatre, Oakland University, Rochester.

TALKING

Feb. 5—Organizational meeting for Southfield Civic Theater at 8 p.m. at Thompson Junior High School, 16300 W. Lincoln (10 1/2 Mile), Southfield.

Feb. 5—Lecture at 8 p.m. at Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum features department head Gerhardt Knodel explaining the worldwide interest in fiber and its leaders, significance, future and its art. Tickets are available at the museum sales desk from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays.

Feb. 7—John W. Deas, chief witness for the prosecution in

Watergate trial, will speak for 40 minutes at 8 p.m. in Oakland University's Sports and Recreation Building, Rochester. Questions from the floor will follow for about an hour. Tickets for general public and students from Oakland Center ticket office.

Feb. 9—First in a series of free lectures on films being shown by the American Film Theatre. Professor Brian Murphy, former film critic for the British Film Journal: Films and Filmmaking, will speak on David Storey's "In Celebration," from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Gold Room C, Oakland Center, Oakland University, Rochester. Sponsored by Department of English.

Feb. 12—Lecture at 8 p.m. at Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum features department head Richard Thomas speaking on "The Metalsmith in North America," a survey from the Colonial period to the present. Tickets available at the museum sales desk from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays.

curtain time

Feb. 7—"The Fantasticks," musical presented by Cranbrook School's Ergasterion at 8 p.m. at Cranbrook School Auditorium, Bloomfield Hills.

Feb. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28—"The Taming of the Shrew," by William Shakespeare at 8 p.m. at Will-O-Way Theatre, 785 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Feb. 10, 11, 12—Open Auditions for "The Odd Couple" at 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Thompson Junior High School,

for production by Southfield Civic Theater.

Feb. 12 through 22—"After the Fall" drama by Arthur Miller at Academy of Dramatic Art at Oakland University, Rochester. Call theater for performance times.

Feb. 14, 15, 21, 22—Dunstan's Guild presents Jean Anouilh's comedy "The Waltz of the Toreadors" at 9 p.m. in St. Dunstan's Playhouse, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. For tickets, call box office within a week of the performance.

CONCERTS

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26—Folk Music, professional performers entertain around the fireplace in the Southfield Civic Center Sports Arena lounge from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. during adult skating season. Admission priced for adults and teens.

Feb. 11—Cranbrook Music Guild presents Young Artists Concert, featuring soprano Ashley Putnam and pianist Richard Reed at 8:30 p.m. in the Cranbrook House library, 380 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Reserve tickets by calling 646-0394.

for listings...

For area event(s) to be considered for listing, send at least one week ahead of publication to: Ethel Simmons, Good Life Editor, The Observer & Eccentric, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012.