



CRAFTNOTES

By
Betty Rigby

Open house a success

Markham Guild of Village Crafts open house and registration last week went very well. The displays were excellent and 50 people came to see what we had to offer. It was a fun two days. For those of you who didn't manage to make it last week there are still a few openings in the following classes:

Bunka Embroidery, (Teacher) Ann Bell, 757-5467, starting Jan. 27; Calligraphy 1, 2 and 3, (Teacher) Gayle Fehr, 294-4272, starting Jan. 13 and in March; Crochet, (Teacher) Lukie deWaard, 294-6925, starting Jan. 21; Cut and Pierce Lampshades, (Teacher) Karen Grimes, 474-1726, starting January 21; Patchwork and Quilting, (Teacher) Fern Keith, 887-5540, starting March; Large Quick Quilts, (Teacher) M. McKinnon, 294-1755, starting Jan. 20; Papier Tole (3-D Decoupage), (Teacher) Kathy McLeod, 294-9580, starting Feb. 18; Porcelain Dolls, (Teacher) Ingrid Folkers, 471-1633, starting March; Pottery, (Teacher) Sally Sherman, 477-2576, starting Jan. 21; Rug Hooking, (Teacher) Lesley Wooton, 477-2952, starting Jan.

16; Wheat Weaving, (Teacher) Andrea Lee, 294-7142, starting Jan. 27.

Most of these are evening classes and if you are interested please call the teacher named and speak to her. She may still have room for you.

It seems we are going to have hectic Spring session and the building at 98 Church St. will be a beehive of activity. Not only will those who signed up for the classes be learning a new craft, but they will be meeting a whole new set of people. What a great way to start the New Year!

I have always been interested in crafts of all kinds, but being a Canadian, one of my biggest bugbears has always been the craft magazines on the stands.

They are mostly American, so when one wishes to order anything it has been necessary to go the Post Office (and spend half an hour in the line-up) to get a money order in U.S. Funds, then wait and wait for the order to come.

No more! I discovered Hands—a purely Canadian Magazine. Not

only does it portray Canadian crafts people, their creations, seminars and events, but imagine — all the ads are for companies in Canada!

They go from sea to sea, literally, but the biggest plus for me was to discover the names and addresses of many, many suppliers right in Toronto!

RRSP seminars helpful to plan for retirement

Income tax time is approaching but Markham and Stouffville residents have the opportunity to learn the advantages of registered retirement savings plans at upcoming seminars.

fund, U.S. dollar RSP, gold fund RSP and best rate guaranteed investment certificates.

Tilcan Financial Corp. is sponsoring seminars Thursday, Jan. 23 in Stouffville and Thursday, Jan. 30 in Markham.

In Stouffville the meeting will be held in the public library's Latham Gallery, 65 Main St. W. Markham Community Library is the location of the Markham course. There is no charge to attend but those interested are asked to call 787-0647 for reservations.

Topics to be discussed will include industrial money

You should know...
That 75.3% of adults in Unionville and Milliken receive the Economist & Sun. (Source: Kubas & Associates study, Spring 1985.)

Green N' Growing



Elaine Gordon

Cacti, succulents easy to care for

If you're hooked on greenery, but your lifestyle is a busy one or there have been hit 'n' miss attempts at growing thriving foliage plants, why not consider sharing your home with cooperative cacti and succulents?

They actually flourish in the dry air of heated apartments and homes. Care is minimal and the only problems you may encounter would be from overwatering or insufficient light.

One can't help but marvel at the unique shapes of these low-maintenance delights. They are decorative in dish gardens where their peculiarities are offset nicely or for cheerily landscaping brightly lit windowsills.

Large varieties can dramatize the sides of steps and exotic ones can be exploited as casual room dividers, when grouped. (An umbrella stand takes on a new function when used as a container for a specimen size columnar cactus.) Cactus seeds are easy and fun to grow, too.

Windowsill succulents like the rosette-shaped Zebra Haworthia, Baby Toes, Plover Eggs or a velvety Panda Plant are popular. They grow well in very bright light or an eastern exposure where morning sun is received. The almost indestructible Snake Plant, a favorite of our grandmothers, gets along nicely in shade or bright light and can live for decades.

The attractive Aloe Vera is not only one of the easiest plants to grow but it is of medicinal value. The sap has been used for centuries to help soothe and heal minor burns and cuts.

I've applied it many times to get relief from insect bites, too. (Just snip off a small piece of leaf and squeeze the gel-like contents on the affected area.) Steam or heat won't bother this one so it will do well in a sunny kitchen.

You'll no doubt derive as much pleasure as I do from the easy-blooming types of Mammillaria Cacti. For little effort, they will delight you with exciting spring flowers growing in a ring around the top of their bodies.

Keeping them happy is a simple matter. Give direct sun all year 'round, feed monthly spring through summer (Shultz 10-15-10 liquid fertilizer is ideal) and allow the soil to partially dry before re-watering.

In autumn and winter, to encourage flowering, give them a cool 50-55 degree F winter nap (I leave ours on a south kitchen sill all year 'round) and keep nearly dry.

HELPFUL HINTS:
Save bits 'n' pieces of string, yarn, etc., and help our wild bird's in nest building. Place on fences, shrubs or near the feeder this spring.

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