

Woman finds craft work a year-round job

by JUDE RAMSAY JENSEN

For Vikky Martell, floral arranging and crafting are year-round jobs she enjoys.

Martell, a former bookkeeper and self-admitted "football mom," has lived in Pleasant Home for three years with her husband, Barry, and their 14-year-old son, Josh. She operates her new business, Floral Designs by The Sterling Rose, from her home workshop, creating floral displays for restaurants year-round. But she admits, "Christmas is my favorite time of year. This year, I would like to do interior floral designs for Christmas time."

Martell's crafting is an offshoot of floral arranging. Raised on a philosophy of "waste not, want not," she began making potpourri, a combination of flower petals, fragrant leaves, spices and essential oils, from the dried bouquets of her restaurant arrangements.

"I make a lot of potpourri," she said, pointing to a small trunk filled with the fragrant efforts of her labor. "I mix my own, using dead flower

petals from the restaurant displays, from my own flower garden and from cuttings my husband brings home." Barry works for Sunshine Landscape Co. "I also prune roses for friends for the petals," she said.

Besides rose petals or whole roses, Martell chooses honeysuckle, hibiscus, statice, yarrow, carnations and mums for flower fillers in the potpourri. She adds mints, lavender blossoms, lemon verbena, cloves, allspice, cinnamon, orange and lemon peel, rosemary, bay leaves, herbal teas and essential oils for fragrance.

She uses the potpourri in a variety of craft items. For room fresheners, she fills attractive, old canning jars with the mixture, and makes small, fragrant wall hangings, fashioned from potpourri-stuffed doilies mounted on embroidery hoops. Party favors and drawer fresheners are made of small bags of netting, stuffed with potpourri and tied with ribbon.

Using a hot glue gun, and working in 2-inch square sections at a time,

she covers styrofoam wreath and animal forms with the potpourri, constructing long-lasting holiday wreaths and aromatic ducks and bunnies for Easter gifts. All the

crafts are attractively finished with satin ribbons, lace and silk or dried flowers.

The most unusual project in her workshop was a custom-made closet

freshener: a pair of pantyhose, both legs stuffed with the dried flower mixture, decorated around the waistband with with silk flowers and ribbon, to hang among the clothing in her customer's closet.

Martell sells her crafts at the Sandy Barr Flea Market in the Portland Sports Arena, and at the Multnomah Kennel Club Flea Market in Troutdale. "I enjoy the whole atmosphere of flea markets," she said. "It's kind of a carnival atmosphere. The wheeling and dealing and people are fun." She does custom orders at home, and invites people to call her at 663-1854 for floral designs, potpourri crafts, Christmas wreaths and swags.

Martell has worked part-time for the past year at The Flower Garden in Sandy. "I decided to try doing floral arrangements for restaurants about a year and a half ago," she said.

Her work has led her to some decisions about the future, and she has entered a two-year community college program. "I'm enrolled part-time at Mt. Hood in the floristry program," she said. "I'm learning a whole lot. Someday, I want to own my own shop in a small town atmosphere."

Vikky Martell's formula for drying whole roses: Hang upside down near a heat source, or in a warm room with lots of fresh air.



Vikky Martell

Photo by Jude Ramsay Jensen

PSAT offered to juniors

This fall the nearly 1.5 million students across the United States who take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will have a special opportunity to familiarize

themselves with the testing format also used on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

College-bound juniors will be taking the test at Sandy High School on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 8 a.m., according to Debbie Borge, counselor.

Senior Center news

Visit to Hood River is planned

The center is planning a fall foliage trip to Hood River on Friday, Oct. 18. In addition to viewing the beautiful fall colors on the mountain passes, the trip will include a stop at the Rasmussen Farm in Hood River, where one may purchase fall fruits and vegetables. Lunch will be in Hood River. For additional information, call the Senior Center at 668-5569.

The annual clinic for flu shots will be held Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. Joyce Kramer, RN, will conduct the clinic. Cost will be \$3 per person. People may register in advance at the Senior Center. The clinic will be open to seniors 60 years of age and older, and their spouses, who reside in the Sandy and Boring areas.

The Hoodview Academy third grade class will begin its regular monthly visits on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 12:30 p.m. The class is interested in arranging an "Adopt a Grandparent" program where the children will have a specific senior they will spend time with each visit. All seniors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The humanities class will begin the fall term with class scheduled for

each Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. Tom Ten Eyck will be the instructor. The sessions will be under the sponsorship of Mt. Hood Community College and will be offered free of charge. For more information call the Senior Center at 668-5569.

The ceramics class will meet each Tuesday at 1 p.m. Now is the time to join the class and get an early start on holiday gifts. Verona Gardner, class instructor, will be available to help beginners.

The quilting circle meets each Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. They will be starting a new project and extra help would be welcome.

Beginning calligraphy on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. begins on Oct. 9. The beginning class will cover the basic italic lower case forms and the chancery italic capitals. A list of needed materials will be available at registration.

For the early bird, morning stretch is held every Monday, Thursday and

Friday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. Gayle Geisler leads the class in general aerobic and stretch routines for the beginner. The class is open to adults of all ages, but special attention is available for seniors with limited abilities and experience. Seniors interested in taking the class for the first time are encouraged to check with their physician before enrolling.

Activities Oct. 10-17

Thursday, Oct. 10
9 a.m.: Morning stretch
Noon: Golden Age Club potluck
Friday, Oct. 11
8 a.m.: Depart for Florence
9 a.m.: Morning stretch
Noon: L & F meal
7 p.m.: Community cards

Tuesday, Oct. 15
9 a.m.: SSC Advisory Committee
Noon: L & F meal

12:30 p.m.: SDA third grade class
1 p.m.: Ceramics
Wednesday, Oct. 16
Noon: L & F meal
12:30 p.m.: Blood pressure clinic
1 p.m.: Calligraphy
1 p.m.: Quilting
1 p.m.: Flu shot clinic
Thursday, Oct. 17
9 a.m.: Morning stretch
10 a.m.: Jeff Right/antique postcards
Noon: L & F meal
1 p.m.: Bunco

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