

Help others help themselves

Ready for an unusual shopping spree? Margot Fleguth is holding an open house at 99 Veronica Drive featuring handmade items from different countries on Thursday, Oct. 4, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. This is a self-help program sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee.

The non-profit program provides poor families in less developed areas with a new way to earn a living.

Margot says special attention is given to make sure the producers are given a good wage and are treated fairly.

Crafts will include jute items from Bangladesh, baskets, plates and trays from Haiti, North American Indian crafts, and nativity scenes carved in olive wood from the Middle East.



GORM LARSEN/THE TIMES

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| <p>"MATTEL" JIMMY OSMOND DOLL</p> <p>DEPT. STORE PRICE WAS \$6.99</p> <p>2.99</p> | <p>"MATTEL" PRE-SCHOOL TALKING TELEPHONE</p> <p>DEPT. STORE PRICE \$8.99</p> <p>5.99</p> |
| <p>"PARKER" CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND BROS.</p> <p>BOARD GAME</p> <p>DEPT. STORE PRICE \$7.99</p> <p>3.99</p> | |
| <p>CRAYOLA CRAYONS GIANT BOX OF 64 W/SHARPENER</p> <p>2.49</p> | <p>COLOUR BOOKS 4 for \$1.00</p> |
| <p>TONKA TRUCKS FROM \$1.79</p> | <p>GAMES FROM \$1.49</p> |
| <p>LAY AWAY NOW FOR XMAS</p> | <p>21 QUEEN ST. N. MISSISSAUGA ROAD ½ MILE SOUTH OF 401 STREETSVILLE (IN DOMINION STORE PLAZA)</p> |
| <p>8 KENNEDY RD. S. AT #7 HWY (QUEEN ST.) BRAMPTON (IN DOMINION STORE PLAZA)</p> | <p>OPEN DAILY TILL 6 P.M. THUR. FRI. — 9 P.M.</p> |

90 years

Four generations were represented when friends and family gathered to wish Lillie Pallett a happy 90th birthday last Wednesday. Shown with her are daughter Laura Eubank, (right) granddaughter Susan Williams and great granddaughter Katie.

Moms share babysitting

MOTHERS — Attention! A babysitting co-op is being set up in the Sherway Park Public School area. There's no money involved only an exchange of service. For information call Marian at 276-5294.

By MARY LOUISE BIRKS
Times staff writer

A young Mississauga mother who's founded a babysitting co-op in her neighborhood said it's easy to do and it doesn't cost the members a cent.

"The co-op idea works because it's damn difficult to find a babysitter these days," said co-op founder 31-year-old Marian McInroy of Sherway Drive. "And there are other mothers, like myself, who prefer to leave their kids with another mother rather than with an older person or a young person who doesn't have children."

The co-op works best for mothers of preschoolers and newborns who need to get out for a few hours during the day, said McInroy, a mother of two small children.

It's a babysitting service, not a day care, she said. "You leave your kids with one other mother in her home and not for any great length of time."

The Sherway Park area co-op numbers about four families, but that's enough to start. McInroy hopes the co-op will grow to include about 15 families.

The mechanics are simple, explained McInroy who says in the two years she was involved with a babysitting co-op in High Park she had no problems.

Each mother that joins has a list of the other members. When she needs a babysitter she phones around until she finds another member who will sit. Mothers take their children to the sitters' homes so they have a chance to see where their child is being left.

When a mother joins the Sherway Park area co-op she receives 10 one-hour tokens and 10 half-hour tokens at no charge. The tokens are used like money. Members accumulate tokens by sitting for others.

Each member serves a three-month term as co-op secretary (the group's only executive office). The members meet once a month in the secretary's home to get to know each other better.

"Once I find out how many other mothers are interested in my neighborhood, I intend to hold a meeting so we can meet each other," said McInroy. "No mother wants to leave her children with strangers."

The Sherway area co-op will run Monday through Friday on a 9 to 5 basis, but many others operate nights and weekends as well.

To be eligible to join the Sherway co-op a family must live in the area bounded by Dixie Road to Etobicoke Creek and the QEW north to the Queensway.

If other Mississauga mothers would like advice about how to set up their own babysitting co-op, McInroy suggests they call her.