

YOFA M 2000 and National Craft Month observed

Skills Development Center lets you 'cherish the moment'

By Wendy Varhegyi
437th Services Squadron

How often do you have time to truly "cherish the moment," and focus just on yourself? The few moments I can spare from my busy life are quite important, and this past weekend I had the chance to do just that.

As part of YOFA M 2000 and National Craft Month, the Skills Development Center offered a free day of crafts and projects Saturday. Although a little reluctant, I signed up to participate in the ceramics and decoupage classes. I had so much fun!

The Skills Center made it easy. Ceramic pieces were already cleaned and fired, ready for painting. After selecting the paint colors, I went to work creating my masterpiece. The morning sped by, and I was so relaxed. I enjoyed focusing my attention on something other than work or home. It was the perfect way to de-stress my life.

I really don't think of myself as the creative type, but my ceramic thermometer turned out great. The experts at the Skills Center gave me easy tips to accomplish the project and made sure I left with the best possible piece. I was not disappointed. In fact, I'm entertaining the idea of going back to attend the ceramics class.

The afternoon afforded me the opportunity to create my own clay pot design with decoupage. Decoupage, derived from the French word *decouper*, meaning to



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cut out, is the creative art of assembling, pasting and varnishing paper cutouts for decorating objects.

The art of decoupage dates back to 12th century China, where peasants used paper cutouts to decorate lanterns, windows, boxes and much more. Since that time it has been used in many countries and in many different formats. As the National Guild of Decoupeurs says, "the decoupage artist is limited only by his or her imagination. Anyone who can use scissors and glue can decoupage."

By the end of the afternoon I was covered in "Mod Podge," the glue/varnish used in the decoupage process. I was messier than most of the kids in the class, but it was so much fun. It really is an easy and entertaining project for children of all ages.

I left the Center at 5 p.m. with two creative, professional looking projects. What a great feeling! I would highly recommend the Skills Center and the many crafts and projects they offer. I spent the day doing something for myself and enjoyed every moment.

In addition to the ceramics and decoupage, the Center offered classes in cedar birdhouse building, bicycle repair and painting, mailbox



photos by Wendy Varhegyi

Pam and Jennifer Linderman watch as O.B. O'Brien demonstrates the assembly process for a bird house.

huggies and scrapbook design. More than 50 people attended the sessions, and some made it truly a family affair, such as the Linderman family. They spent time at nearly all the classes and said they had a great time.

There was definitely something for everyone. The Center offers regular classes in a variety of areas, but may offer another free day in the near future. It is the best way to try out a project to determine if you want to go back for more.

For more information, call the Skills Center at 963-4936.



Kelly Linderman paints a mailbox frog huggie at the Skills Development Center.



Capt. Tracy Velino

CAFB observes Women's History events

Elmire Raven, executive director of My Sister's House, addresses a 50-person Team Charleston audience during the Women's History Month luncheon on Mar. 23 at the Charleston Club. My Sister's House in North Charleston serves and shelters victims of domestic violence and their children. Raven said, "I always tell people (victims) you can't change that other person, the only one you can change is you." In addition to the luncheon, a Women's History Month display will be available at the medical group health fair today at the clinic. It will feature information on service organizations in the Low Country focused on women's and family issues. Applications for volunteer opportunities will also be available.

Team Charleston Pride Day set for April 10

Team Charleston's first base Pride Day of 2000 will be April 10.

"This is our first chance this year to improve the appearance of the base and make it a better place to live and work," said Capt. Sarah Maynard of the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron. "For this Pride Day, we will concentrate on cleaning up the little things that have been neglected since the base appearance inspection last summer. We need to remove grass from cracks, weeds from parking lots and litter. This will make the base shine as we move into the spring months."

The benefits of an outstanding base could easily result in cash for quality of life improvements, Maynard said. "This summer, an Air Mobility Command Base Appearance

Competition will be held. In the past, Charleston AFB received \$200,000 of quality of life money improvement funds by winning the AMC Base Appearance Competition. The base competed against Fairchild AFB, Wash., Scott AFB, Ill., and Andrews AFB, Washington, D.C. Funds from winning went to a variety of base quality of life programs and agencies. For example, new fitness equipment was purchased for the Fitness and Sports Center. Funds were also used to build playgrounds in base housing.

"Quality of life money is used to improve the base in ways that benefit the entire populace: active-duty, reservists, dependents, retirees, everyone," Maynard said. (Submitted by the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron)

Group POCs

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963-2326

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Staff Sgt. Brit Yocum
963-6740

Operations group
Executive officer
963-3385

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