

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

# THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

Your Award-Winning Hometown Weekly Newspaper

## Mask making class Civitan helps special needs

Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 3, the Civitan Foundation, a non-profit organization, will bring its enrichment classes to Fountain Hills on a weekly basis.

Classes will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Kiwanis Activity Center.

Spearheading these programs is Merilee Adams, program coordinator and a seasoned innovator with more than 30 years experience as a professional artist whose commissioned works hang in private collections around the world.

Each class uses three hours of respite per week for four weeks plus a \$25 activity fee.

Civitan is a qualified vendor of the state's DDD/DES Program, utilizing respite and habilitation hours provided to consumers with special needs.

The first class offered will be mask making, where plaster masks are created right on the faces of students.

They are carefully removed, dried, then students sand, paint, adorn them with headdresses, and finally decorate them with beads, jewels, wood pieces and whatever their creative hearts desire.

This class has been an extraordinary success in Phoenix, Glendale and Avondale. The executives at Grady Gammage Auditorium at Arizona State



Patrice, a Civitan Foundation client, shows off the colorful mask she made at a recent Civitan class. Similar classes are being organized in Fountain Hills.

University were so impressed they invited the students to display a collection of these masks there during the production of "Phantom of the Opera."

At the end of the class each participant goes home with a one-of-a-kind mask to hang on their wall, but more importantly they go home feeling empowered by their unique accomplishment.

Each month a different class is offered. March will be a Gourmet Cooking Class where the students learn how to cook cuisines from "around the world," how to set a formal dining table, use appropriate manners while dining and

are taught the history of the country where the food originated.

As the months go on other classes offered will be Photography, Yoga, Guitar Making, Scrapbooking, Ballroom Dancing and an Introduction to Performing and Entertainment.

Civitan Foundation will also offer habilitation services to people with special needs in the Fountain Hills community.

For information or reservations concerning these programs, call Merilee Adams, program coordinator, 602-953-2944. Space is limited and classes are filled on a first come basis.

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Civitan Foundation offers mask making. Patrice (pictured) shows off her work. See Page 6B

