

William James Association Is Unique Because Of Diversity

The William James Association is a persistent, community oriented organization, unique because of its diversity of interest and endeavors.

Its support and drive have ranged in fields from youth employment, art and lectures to free home repairs for low-income seniors.

According to a report prepared by Louise Chiatovich, career counselor, its community projects revolve around the idea of enhancing the individual's sense of participation as a community member and work service.

One of the best-known of these is the Community Garden Project. There are individual plots throughout the county and free gardening classes to begin in April.

A newly created Landscape Development Project will add ornamental and edibles to existing garden sites.

There are existing community garden plots in Highland County Park near Ben Lomond; one at the end of Paget Street in Live Oak; and at Jade Park in Capitola. The idea is to make them generally more pleasant for the public.

Four more garden plots will be established next month. If you would like your own vegetable or flower 10-by-20-foot plot, call 426-2474. They will be at various locations in the county.

Another program: The William James Work Company is providing free employment information, job counseling and jobs to the membership.

Members of the company cooperative attend skill training seminars and gain experience in community service by volunteer contributions.

They increase their employment potential through work experience and sharing job resources.

Chiatovich said the company

includes people with diverse skills. One member has done woodworking and furniture design in Europe and Central America.

Another as taught English in Japan; another has been a licensed contractor and now does freelance repair work.

One woman member was a corporate accountant several years, but now wishes to learn gardening and light carpentry.

When the phone rings at the office, the job work requests will take a wide range: scuba divers required, someone is needed to interview long-shoremen in San Francisco, a home caretaker is needed, can anyone there type?

Jobs involve remodeling homes, clearing land, hauling or house painting.

There is considerable digging for work, said Chiatovich. These efforts bring the members about 100 jobs per week.

Another program launched recently by the Association is the Senior Home Improvement Program (SHIP), which provides free home maintenance and repair services to residents 60 years or older.

Seniors on fixed incomes are eligible for this service and already about 160 orders have been received. More than 60 projects have been completed in its six weeks of operation.

Education is important to the William James concept.

The Penny University has been existing at the Cafe Pergolesi for four years, and has offered more than 50 different topics.

There is no charge. Recent lecture topics have been "Age and Youth," and "Sin and Virtue," discussed by Page Smith and Mary Holmes.

Art is another activity.

The association has received several grants for a Prison Arts Program at Vacaville.

The project builds on and enriches the arts and crafts program initiated and developed by the inmates, according to Louise.

Instruction in workshops are conducted by artist/teachers at the prison. The program also includes a video documentation which will be available to those interested in similar programs nationwide.

Also, in the planning stages at William James is a County Conservation Corps.

It would involve youth in the community through work services projects that would benefit the public and business and develop careers through contacts with various occupations, she said.

Funding for the various programs comes from CETA, Revenue Sharing and from foundation grants.

For general information call 426-2474, or write to the association at 108 Locust St., No. 9, Santa Cruz.

Scouts Cite Kite Winners

Winners in a recent kite contests for cub and webelos scouts from the Santa Cruz District has been announced as follows:

Largest: Sean Balke, pack 681; Travis Bigelow, Robert Pinkham, both of 682.

Smallest: Mike Carson and Doug Elliott, both of 682; and Brian Hand, 608.

Most colors used: Augie Webber, pack 681; George Bigelow, 604; Todd Langley, 653.

Most comical: Curtis Reed and Ken Pinkham, 682; and Brian Hand, 608.

Most original: Eli Rowe, 682; Pat Sullivan, 694; and Pinkham, 682.