

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

This spring it's dresses, dresses!

Dresses made a comeback last spring. But the style pickings were slim — bare little slipdresses and schoolgirl jumpers dominated the runways. This year, designers offer a wardrobe of dress silhouettes, from '40s-inspired shirtdresses with skinny bows to '70s wrap dresses, ala Diane VonFurstenburg. The best dresses of the season have two things in common. They flatter most shapes and they impart an elegant sophistication.

Annette Mueller and Judy Gardner had little trouble finding complimentary dress ensembles to wear to Cranbrook Schools' Le Gala de Cuisine. As chairpersons of the May 7 event, they hoped to signal spring in bright pastels, befitting their cherry, pink, yellow and kelly green invitation design. Fortunately, Annette is a fashion consultant for Distinctively Doncaster, a collection of clothing that now has a permanent studio location at 303 Main, suite 200 in downtown Rochester.

Annette chose her raspberry silk and linen separates from the custom line. She picked the color and fabric from a wide range of swatches and finished the outfit with a Chanel-look multi-color plaid tuxedo jacket with ribbon and braided trim. Judy's dress with matching jacket reflects one of this season's best dress styles. The spring green silk sleeveless sheath buttons down the back and features a mandarin collar. The three-quarter length jacket completes the look. Doncaster's spring dresses and suits entice in Newport colors — julep, blue fort, peridot and blush. Prices start at \$200. Call (610) 650-0597 for a private consultation.

Something for everyone

I asked Sally Victor, marketing director for the Somerset Collection in Troy, for her top 10 trends in spring dresses. I included some examples of dresses found while window-shopping at Somerset.

- Shift dress with matching jacket as detailed above. Talbot's window features a coral shift with short sleeve jacket and shiny gold buttons (\$185).
- Halter dress for play and evening. Laundry's ivory floral-print rayon halter dress is perfect for a garden wedding (\$176 at Neiman Marcus).
- Fitted bodice dress with bell collar, both long and short hemlines. Laura Ashley has a number of these empire waist dresses in romantic florals.
- For a sporty look, consider Body Action Design's black knit dress with white nautical braided trim (\$88 at Neiman's).
- The wrap dress. My favorite for evening is a black silk organza and lycra wrap by Laundry at Neiman Marcus (\$165).

The hourglass dress. Check out all the dresses at Talbot, probably the best selection around.

- '40s-style dresses that tie in the back. Floaty feminine prints at Ann Taylor fill the bill (\$148).
- Cardigans over dresses. Adrienne Vittadini's wonderful navy cotton knit sleeveless cardigan and matching white-trimmed cardigan (\$240) works for both office and charity luncheon.
- Wide straps. Spaghetti straps are out, broad straps are in.
- Color, color, color. Look for faded and bright pastels and lots of pink.
- Bold floral prints.

Hudson's dress trends also include the new Grace Kelly jacket, dressmaker shapes and icy pastels. In addition, Hudson's experts predict the popularity of polo collar dresses, denim dresses and belted suits. Pictured is a Donna Ricco tuxedo jacket in honey crepe (\$165).

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her merchandise suggestions and ideas for this column at (313) 853-2047, mailbox 1680, or fax them to her at (610) 644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- Linda Bachrack shops for closet organizers.
- Added Attractions lists special events at area shopping centers.
- Retail Details describes the newest retail establishments and merchandise.

Shoppers break for coffee bar treats

Coffee bars are perking up everywhere these days. Retailers are more than willing to dispense java inside their stores to keep customers happy — and longer.

By LINDA BACHRACK

SPECIAL WRITER  
It's 3 p.m. and you can feel the fatigue starting to creep through your body. Bleary-eyed, your head begins to sag and your feet ache. Time for a coffee break.

No matter where you are, that jolt of java is probably just steps away. The new coffee bar dispenses bursts of energy inside department stores, bookstores, art galleries, grocery stores, even movie theaters.

Coffeehouses have gone beyond Main Street and strip malls. Today retailers want a cappuccino bar in-



JERRY ZOLNITZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Time out: Milena Umanskaya and Igor Fruman of Oak Park enjoy a cup of coffee at Jacobson's new espresso cafe/counter in the Birmingham store's lower level.

side their stores. The "satellite" location is the emerging trend in coffee retailing, according to JoAnne Shaw, president and co-founder of The Coffee Beanery.

Diana Dimitroff is the franchisee for the Coffee Beanery's Laurel Park

Place locations in Livonia. Her coffee bar inside the Paridian store complements the larger cafe/store inside the mall.

"The emphasis of the in-store location is to provide refreshment and a break from shopping," Dimitroff

said. Conveniently located between a main entrance and Paridian's landmark shoe department, the coffee bar enjoys high visibility.

The mid-afternoon pick-me-up is

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Area thrift shops aid school's costume hunt

By LINDA BACHRACK

SPECIAL WRITER

The assignment: Find a restored 1930s wedding gown in a size 4, and spend as little money as possible.

Out of the question? Not when Seaholm High School assistant principal and veteran garage-saler John Schuster set his mind to the task. With estate sale addresses in hand, he scoured the community for the perfect gown to adorn freshman Lauren Spodarek in the school's production of *Colt Porter's* "Anything Goes."

Schuster completed the assignment with flying colors and his \$25 purchase earned him the prestigious "Edith Head Award for Best Costume Find."

"It's almost eerie, like the dress was custom made for me," Spodarek said. Staff members tease Schuster about his failure to find shoes to match.

This year's spring musical poses a special challenge for costume coordinators at the Hall of Waterford. Working on a shoe-string budget, she must revamp,



TRACY EDENHOFER

Stage bride: Seaholm's Lauren Spodarek plays her part in the antique gown that assistant principal John Schuster found at an estate sale for the school's spring musical "Anything Goes."

See COSTUMES, Next Page

Where can I find?

We found it! Now hear this "Darryl" of Farmington Hills: You're not the only one who enjoys pizza topped with shrimp!

A dozen Malls & Mainstreets readers called to inform you of their favorite restaurants serving shrimp pizza. Thank you to all the readers who offered these suggestions!

Two readers nominated Kruse & Muer on Main Street in downtown Rochester. They enjoy "Rocky's Creation," a pizza topped with shrimp and artichokes.

Another reader suggested the shrimp and crab pizza at Pizze Papalis, on Northwestern Hwy. just south of 14 Mile in Farmington Hills. A small pizza starts at \$16 but "it's worth it," according to the source.

E.G. Nickas in West Bloomfield serves a great shrimp pizza testified a West Bloomfield resident.

"Don't forget the American Pizze Cafe," several readers urged. Their pizzas can be ordered topped with just about anything.

A hostess from the Golden Mushroom called to say that execu-

tive chef Steven Allen, "has no problem with putting shrimp on top of a pizza for a customer." She said the Mushroom Cakes in the restaurant's lower level makes custom pizzas its specialty. The Golden Mushroom is at 10 Mile and Southfield Roads in Southfield.

Here is the next challenge. It comes from Barbara Wolf.

"I am looking for an appraiser who does collectible appraising. I have several Franklin Mint collections that were given to me. I would really like to sell them, but I need to have them appraised first. I have been unable to find anyone who can do this. If you have any information that you or your readers could offer, I would be eternally grateful."

If you know someone who could assist Ms. Wolf, please give Malls & Mainstreets a call at (610) 901-2567. You can fax a response to (610) 644-1314. Or write Where Can I Find, c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. New shopping challenges are also welcome through these avenues.

Retail businesses in local malls and Main Streets may submit news of upcoming special events for Added Attractions. The deadline is the Wednesday before publication on Monday. Send facts to: Malls & Mainstreets, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Or fax them to: (610) 644-1314.

MONDAY, MARCH 6

SENIOR DANCE

Live band, refreshments. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Newcomers welcome to dance or watch. Complimentary. Lower level conference room. Westland Center, Wayne/Warren. (313) 425-5001.

ARMOR DISPLAY

Watch 18th Antiques presents a collection of European antique country armors through March. Armors from Austria, Germany and France in room settings with tables and small pine furnishings. Monday-Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday until 8 p.m. 332 East Maple, Birmingham. (610) 644-7445. 329 Main St. Rochester. (610) 650-5463.

CAR SHOW

See Dodge Stratus and Avengers on display throughout the shopping center until March 12. Regular business hours. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. (313) 462-1100.

PUPPET SHOWS

"Weddies" performed through March. Monday-Friday 7 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday 1 and 3 p.m. Free performances 20 minutes long. Meadowbrook Village, Wadsworth/Adams. Rochester Hills. (610) 375-9451.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

LOOK-UP BEHIND

Put someone behind bars for \$25 and a good cause

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

— the American Cancer Society benefits from the "ball" they raise. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Through March 10 in the mall's office building. Also held March 7-10 at Summit Place Mall, Elizabeth Lake and Telegraph. Waterford. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. 1-800-543-3442.

BUSINESS WOMEN

Author Connie Glasser, "Swim With The Dolphins: How women can succeed in corporate America on their own terms," signs her book and answers questions during mini seminar. 7:30 p.m. No charge. No reservations. Borders Book Shop, 31150 Southfield Road, Birmingham. (610) 644-1515.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

WALKERS MEETING

9:30 a.m. Lower level auditorium. Newcomers welcome. Health care professional discusses topics related to good health. Free. Westland Center, Wayne/Warren. (313) 425-5001.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

INFORMAL SHOPPING

See the latest looks from Chico's casual boutique Noon on 2 p.m. Stage & Co. Restaurant. The Boardwalk, Orchard Lakes/Maple. (610) 855-6622.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

DRAFT SHOW

Arts and crafts for show and sale by local artisans.

Through March 12. Regular mall hours. Crafters can call management office to rent a table. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. (610) 475-1100.

LINE DANCING

Senior citizens invited to learn line dancing with country class 2-3:30 p.m. Stage near Crowley's. Free lessons begin on April 12 and 26 at 2 p.m. and May 10 and 24 at 2 p.m. in Sears Court. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Addebbelt. (610) 476-1160.

HEALTH TESTS

American Heart Association offers free blood pressure screenings. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Montgomery Woods court area. Woodland Mall, Plymouth/Addebbelt, Livonia. (313) 522-4100.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

CLASSICS BRUNCH

Brunch catered by Sebastian's Grill while shoppers enjoy area musicians performing the classics. Noon to 2 p.m. Rotunda. Tickets \$25 each, available at Concierge Desk. Proceeds benefit Interchurch and Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestras. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. (610) 643-6300.

STORYBOOK SUNDAY

Jim Harper of WRIC radio reads "Happy Birthday To You," 1 p.m. Center court. Children can redeem completed book report forms for discount mall tokens. Visits by Fergie the Dragon. 99-cent kids meals at participating mall restaurants. Fairlane Town Center, Hubbard/Michigan Ave. Dearborn. (313) 593-1370.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

HEALTH TESTS

St. Mary's Hospital offers the blood pressure screenings. 8-10 a.m. Information Center. Woodland Mall, Plymouth/Addebbelt, Livonia. (313) 522-4100.