

# Suburban Life

Lorraine McCallah editor/477-5450



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## Schubot Jewelers

### Creating gifts to delight the eye for generations to come

ONE OF SANTA'S most creative helpers is Douglas Schubot, the second-generation owner of Jules R. Schubot Jewelers. But, instead of a sack full of toys, Schubot specializes in delighting the eye with carat-size diamonds and emeralds that he tucks in his pockets, and tiny platinum and jewel beads, birds and animals pinned to his lapels.

Schubot believes in giving "The real thing." "That's my motto," says Schubot, who with his wife, Sydel, does all the major buying and selling of the jewels that make the family name synonymous with unusual and fine quality gems.

THE BUSINESS, which is on Big Beaver Road across from Somerset Mall in Troy, was started more than 50 years ago in downtown Detroit by Jules R. Schubot and his wife, Baraga, who

still joins her son every day at the office. The family operation has a new star these days. Brian, a son, has been working at the shop, but will be attending the Gemological Institute of America in San Diego, Calif., for the next six months.

Besides selling fine modern jewelry, Schubot buys jewelry across the United States from the families of people who have died. People sell such jewelry for several reasons, he said.

"The estate may need some extra

money. Another reason is that settings of the past may seem unattractive to modern-day wearers. Or, the pieces bring back family memories and are 'too emotional' to wear."

WHEN BUYING estate jewelry, Schubot says he has to be "highly selective." "What may look fabulous to an owner — usually because of sentimentality — may actually be a piece that is not marketable."

When buying estate jewelry, some

people request that it not be sold in Michigan, he said. Such requests usually are made so that if they go to a social affair, they will not be shocked by seeing someone wearing "Grandma's necklace," he said.

"Being very discreet is part of selling estate jewelry properly."

Asked what types of previously owned jewelry are being sought these days, he responded, "The art deco period is very popular right now."

Examples of this period feature lily designs and interesting filigree and gallery work.

VICTORIAN JEWELRY is identifiable through the use of silver and diamonds together in an "old mine" cut. This method was used before diamond cutting reached the sophistication of the 1950s, he said. The value of Victorian jewelry is basically "old value," for a person who likes that period of dressing and jewelry, Schubot said.

Victorian pieces should have decades of tarnish on them, he said. This adds to the beauty and value of each piece. He tells a story about one such piece that was brought in for cleaning. The owner was astonished to learn that she had almost made an irreversible error.

Tiffany jewelry from the 1920s is known for superb craftsmanship, Schubot said. Cartier jewelry from the same era is in great demand because the workmen were brought from Paris to create magnificent gems.

IN THE 1930s, synthetic gems were beginning to be produced. That's why even after extensive testing of stones, which the Schubots do themselves, it's important to obtain a history of each important piece.

One period gem that passed the rigorous Schubot test is a dazzling golden sapphire, known throughout the orient in 1625 as "The Rajah." The stone originally weighed 125 carats. When it was first cut by a native cutter it was reduced to 93 carats, Schubot said.

The stone was then taken to London

and recut to 74.66 carats. The yellow-amber stone is set in a necklace surrounded by diamonds and was at one time considered the finest of its kind in the world. Another special piece is a magnificent Cartier vintage necklace set with rubies and diamonds.

SYDEL SCHUBOT also has a warning for owners of vintage jewelry. She produced a box filled with filigree mountings. She can't bear to melt down mountings for pins and rings from which customers have removed the stones, she said. The fine old work remains empty because the anchoring prongs were destroyed when the stones were removed.

There is a fashion trend in fine gems, Schubot said. "Pins are coming back because of the nature of clothes."

A decade ago, blue jeans dictated a style of jewelry for people who dressed in a very relaxed manner. Jewelry buyers wanted gems to match the style.

"We created small platinum bracelets and single-diamond necklaces for everyday living from exercise clips to marketing."

PEARLS, ESPECIALLY South Sea pearls, are popular now. Jules R. Schubot was buying the irregularly shaped pearls more than 30 years ago when no one realized their value or saleability, he said.

The husband-and-wife team run the business, from writing invoices to locking the specially designed vault every night. Baraga Schubot helps out by answering telephones and doing some bookkeeping.

One of the philosophies for buying a gift, Schubot said, is that the pleasure of giving can be enhanced by a lifetime's worth of memories to be shared with family and succeeding generations.

"We get incredible satisfaction from our business," Sydel Schubot said. "This is the best time of the year. With every gift, we know there will be kisses, praise and a lasting memory."

## Nailing down glamour for the holidays

By Richard Lech staff writer

SOME WOMEN will have the Christmas spirit at their fingertips throughout the holiday season.

They'll keep the yuletide feeling on hand with little Christmas pictures, hand painted on their fingernails.

They might start with a thumbnail sketch of Santa Claus, followed perhaps by a Christmas stocking on the forefinger, a snowman on the middle finger, a wreath on the ring finger, and an elf on the pinky.

Such holiday designs are an example of how fingernail decorators are turning nails into little "canvases" for their increasingly popular form of decorative art.

THE WIDE RANGE of nail art was on display at a recent exhibition and competition at the IBA State College of Beauty campus in Wayne. Forty-five contestants from the school's various campuses displayed more than 400 false nail tips decorated with wit, imagination and acrylic paint.

Cartoon character Betty Boop "boop, boop-a-dooped" across one set of nails.

On another, lions, tigers and other wild animals stared warily outward. Another featured flappers and their male counterparts from the Roaring '20s — complete with real plumes jutting out from the women's fancy hats.

"Some of them you really wouldn't wear" — at least on all 10 fingers, conceded Mary DeHayes, the college's director of education. A handful of plumed flappers, for instance, could make using that hand an adventure in itself.

STILL, more and more women seem to be taking to the idea that decorating their nails can mean more than just dabbling on the polish.

And to meet the demand, a whole corps of nail-painting experts is spring-

ing up.

"A lot of students are coming in to be trained as nail technicians rather than cosmetologists," DeHayes said.

The decorations take all forms, including abstract designs. In one popular style, costume jewelry is glued to the nail to form a colorful pattern.

"The ones with jewels are almost as decorative as jewelry," DeHayes said. "They are becoming almost like a

piece of jewelry."

THE NAIL artist hand paints the picture or pattern in acrylic paint. The design can be made on the woman's real fingernail, if it's long enough, on a sculptured nail that has been built up with acrylics and powder, or on a nail cap that can be glued over the real nail.

The full, sculptured-nail process

takes anywhere from two to three hours, depending upon the intricacy of the design.

The design must be touched up at least once a month to eliminate the gap caused by the growing nail and to make any necessary repairs.

The school charges \$20 for a set of sculptured nails, \$10 for a set of painted plastic tips that glue on, and from \$1 to \$5 for a single painted nail.



Levonda Browning shows off some of the hand-painted fingernails that were on display recently at the IBA State College of Beauty. At right is one

of the Christmas designs that won first place in the school's nail-art competition for Karen O'Dell of the college's Royal Oak campus.

ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

## Traditional service set at Bushnell Church

Sunday morning Dec. 23, the Chancel Choir of Bushnell Congregation Church, soloists Cheryl Barnes and Rosemarie Murch, and harpist Mary McNeil will join in offering various selections from "Ceremony of Carols" by 20th century composer Benjamin Britten. The harp will also be used to accompany carols by the congregation along with the organ.

The traditional Christmas Eve service and Nativity pageant begins at 5

p.m. in the church at 21355 Meadowbrook Road in Novi.

The Christmas Eve music will feature the children of the church school, the solo "O Holy Night" by Adams sung by baritone Timothy Lentz, and the Chancel Choir singing "Once in Royal David's City." The latter work is featured annually in the traditional "Service of Lessons and Carols" in the Chapel at King's College, Cambridge University, England.

## Church holds satellite videoconference

For the first time Christian Scientists on four continents gathered simultaneously for a satellite-transmitted video conference. Farmington Christian Scientists congregated in Detroit for the December event.

In announcing the meeting only two months ago, church directors referred to the urgent needs facing humanity and the necessity for specifically facing and bringing healing to these challenges. "To live for all mankind," the meeting's theme, was taken from the writings of Mary Baker Eddy who founded the denomination in 1878.

It was 9 a.m. in Honolulu, Hawaii,

and 10 p.m. in Nairobi, Kenya, as church members from some 3,000 congregations gathered simultaneously in churches and convention centers in 140 cities. The denomination's historic Mother Church in Boston, Mass., was the focal point for the meeting.

"It's 19th century stained glass windows depicting Biblical scenes provide an interesting contrast to the space-age satellite receiver parked outside," said Lillian Hallock, speaking for the Farmington contingent.

IN INTRODUCING the video conference, Harvey W. Wood, from the

church's five-member board of directors, explained: "This meeting is about lives. It's about the Christ speaking to human consciousness through individuals who are living truth. It's about hearts speaking to hearts." He also spoke of the "spiritual urgency to address the needs of our fellow man at the deepest possible levels."

A panel of reporters from The Christian Science Monitor joined the meeting via satellite from the Old Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England. In keeping with the Monitor's 75-year tradition of in-depth coverage of social,

economic, political and cultural affairs, the panel discussed a broad range of pressing challenges, from the nuclear arms race to what one panel member termed "the saturation point of materialism in some of the western world."

"The very urgency of today's problems," said veteran European reporter Elizabeth Pond, "reminds us that our personal lives aren't here somewhere and world problems out there somewhere else."

IN BOSTON, the panel was joined by Monitor editor Katherine W. Fanning and Allison W. Phinney, Jr., editor of the monthly Christian Science Journal and other church publications.

Phinney addressed the question of the Christian's relation to the world and responsibility toward the solutions to contemporary challenges.

He noted Christ Jesus' prayer at one point when, as Phinney put it, Jesus was "talking with God and thinking ahead beyond the crucifixion and resurrection, thinking about the future of his disciples."

Jesus' prayer, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil," indicates his conviction that a "spiritual perspective" makes a "tremendous practical difference in our own lives, and in human consciousness as a whole," Phinney said.

Christian Scientists in Australia and New Zealand heard the program the following day. And Asian church members went videotapes at the close of the meeting.

Simultaneous translation of the video conference was handled by church and United Nations translators in Spanish, German, Danish, French, Swedish, Italian, and Portuguese.



MONTE NAELER

## Splrited fashions and gifts

Sandra Stadler and Shanya Selby, both members of Fairlane Town Center's Teen Fashion Panel and both Farmington Hills residents, showed holiday fashions together with suggestions for gift giving in one of the latest shows in the pre-holiday season. The teens wear spirited new sweaters from Gantoe with "Chocolate by the Yard" and flavored popcorn from Sake Fifth Avenue.



At a worldwide satellite video-conference of Christian Scientists, Allison Phinney, editor of The Christian Science Journal, and Katherine

Fanning, editor of The Christian Science Monitor, discuss the meeting's theme, "Live for All Mankind."