

Suburban Life

Loralne McClish editor/477-5450

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Jackie Meyer of Ulica is a member of the Lakeside team board. For warm weather ahead she chooses a floral print dress, \$51, and necklace, \$22, from Contempo Casuals at Lakeside Mall.

It's hot news!

Our wishful thinking comes true

By Jeanne Whittaker
staff writer

WHEN WE began making preparations for the Spring Fashion supplement there was a lot of wishful thinking as we talked about warm weather fabrics at a time when most of us were bundled up to our eyebrows in cold weather clothing.

After months of heavy coats, our shoulder muscles weary from pulling on and off salt-stained boots, and our hands showing reddened evidence of the severe temperatures outside, talking about color, cotton, linen, and sunshine boosted everyone's spirits immeasurably.

One of our favorite topics was the type of clothing one will wear on those hot, sultry summer days when a bathing suit provides the most comfort and a tall glass of lemonade or iced tea or coffee chock full of ice cubes is the perfect cooler.

As the clothes began arriving, some by air from New York, others from Houston and Dallas, we began to see a

pattern toward easy, natural looks that can be dressed up with whimsical, colorful accessories or worn simple and uncluttered.

This year's newest offerings are the easy, natural looks, some of which are spruced up with a lavish layering of colors applied with broad brush strokes or corraled in finely detailed reinterpretations of classic wall paper prints and patterns. The most notable colorings are absolutely brilliant, technicolor tributes to South Seas sunsets. Blues, oranges, reds and yellows pulse with vibrance. Whites are the whitest; and greens are all the shades one associates with rain forests.

THIS SEASON is one of vigorous colors, but it is also noted for surprising patterns. Fun is obviously an important part of the thinking that went into these designs. Elongated tank tops are belted with brilliant slashes of color that is carried through to the stockings, shoes and intricately wrapped headscarves that our ancestors once called "headache bands."

Also out of the past, carolsa brights not seen since Carmen Miranda oogled her way across the Hollywood screen are bringing a smile to everyone who sees them.

Femininity is another important influence, but it is never overshadowed by all this color and patterning. Delicate coloring and patterning also receive important exposure. Cotton and linen blend fabrics, as well as silk are cut above and below the knee, full and fitted, giving each design its own purpose in the life of a multi-faceted lifestyle. Taken apart and worn separately the sheer versatility of this season's offerings provide some of the best opportunities for mixing and pairing in years.

After months of bundling up in layers of fabric women will welcome the freedom that the summer fashions offer them. Longer length "shorts" with full skirt styling, scoop necklines, silk t-shirts, sleeveless and strapless dresses, and loose big shirt or pajama top jackets over pleated skirts allow a freedom of body movement that will make the

wearer want to jump for joy.

Shirts are in this season, and the fuller, longer and less structured the better. Midcalf or above the knee, the rule of thumb is that they must move gracefully from the office to the beach, business to the cocktail party or disco. Comfort and adaptability are by-words of these looks, with dolman sleeved, generous shirts or the big jacket over a 100 percent silk tank or t-shirt topping off a generous list of finishing touches.

For her multi-faceted lifestyle the woman-on-the-go will be spicing up her all-purpose wardrobe with acquisitions that reveal her total confidence.

It is a "I can dress it up or down" season noted for rich opulent fabrications, gimmick free designs, and an unpretentious, totally at ease approach toward carefree dressing.

We hope that you will enjoy the fashions that have been selected for the Spring Fashion supplement included in this issue of the Eccentric and Observer newspapers. We think these are some of the best fabrics, colors and clothes that we have seen in years.



Lisa Wendrick of Livonia looks forward to the hot, exclusive, \$138, the dress is available at Saks Fifth Avenue summer season for which she will wear a strapless, nude, Fairlane floral print with a retro flavor from the '50s. A SFA ex-



Monica Katz of Bloomfield Hills wasn't too sure about her Norma Kamali tropical print umbrella skirt, \$84, and top, \$45, until she tried them on. Crowley's.



Kathy Lenish of Bloomfield Hills also liked the retro appeal of the '50s which influenced the Bill Bliss Collections III evening dress in shades of lilac, \$450.



Terry Rakolta of Bloomfield Hills serves on the board of trustees of the Detroit Artists Market. Her halter top, \$74, skirt, \$118, and big shirt, \$50, are by Danny Noble, who used a lavish palette of blue and yellow to create the tropical print. Hudson's.

Photos by Gary Caskey, David Frank