



Personal Eyes

Change your look or mood with another pair of eyeglasses

By Loraine McClash
staff writer

GONE ARE the days when men seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses.

Gone are the days when wearing glasses encouraged cries of "four eyes."

Eyewear has become the ultimate fashion expression.

"An eyeglass frame is not just a device for vision correction. It's your most important fashion accessory," said Grace Gluskin who operates an eyewear selection service called "Personal Eyes."

"Your eyeglasses cover one third of your face, so it has to be your most important fashion accessory, the first item of your wardrobe that people notice when they meet you."

With the average cost of a pair of prescription eyeglasses hovering around the \$200 range, help with selecting the right pair for the right purpose is a service whose time has come, Gluskin believes, who operates her business at 31154 Orchard Lake Road.

"Taking the guesswork out of selecting appropriate frames and lenses is the purpose of Personal Eyes," Gluskin said, who gives a professional approach to finding just the right accessory for one's eyes, mankind's most expressive human feature.

DO YOU WANT a look of power? A little mystery? Do you want to add a little drama? Do you want to look efficient and successful, funky or sexy or preppy?

Gluskin demonstrates a myriad of looks as she switches from one pair of glasses to the next taken from her own wardrobe of frames.

"One pair of glasses just doesn't do it anymore," she said. "I can enhance your appearance or change your appearance with frames. Or,

you can change your mood by changing to another pair of frames.

"I think every designer of just about anything has put his or her name to eyeglass frames these days — even Porsche. See these catalogs," she says. "They change three or four times a year. There once was a time when you had a choice of black or brown, round or square. Today there are literally hundreds of choices of sizes, shapes, materials, colors and tints. I think there must be as many choices as there are people."

"People need a little help in learning what's out there, and they need help in finding what is right for them."

Gluskin credits the success of her new business to two factors. One is that ultimately 90 percent of all Americans are going to need some kind of visual help. The second factor is the baby boomers.

"There are 76 million of them," Gluskin said of Americans born between 1946 and 1964. "The first of them are over 45 now and many are well on their way building up their eyeglass frame wardrobe."

"They buy frames for daily wear and evening wear, for being out in the sun, for their particular sport, or occupation."

GLUSKIN LEARNED her trade by working part-time for her husband, an optometrist with offices in both Farmington Hills and Livonia, while she was going to school to get a degree in gerontology. Part of that job was ordering frames.

"My husband just didn't have the time to help his clients select frames — neither do most doctors — so I started doing it, and it does take time."

"I call my business Personal Eyes, because it is very personal. I work with the client's coloring, occupa-



Grace Gluskin is surrounded by the eyeglass frames that she works with every day. For those who want a dramatic look, a

look of power, or a look of mystery, by a change of glasses, she'll supply it.

SHARON LEHUEK/staff photographer

tion, lifestyle, every factor that comes into play to make the look exactly right.

"Even if you pay \$200 for another set of glasses, divide that by 365 days that you'll wear them. Now

we're talking pennies," she said.

Gluskin's fee is \$25, which is refundable if the client decides to buy

the next set of eyeglasses from her. The telephone number for Personal Eyes is 626-8029.

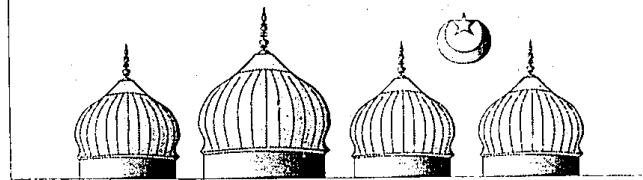
The first house of God

Muslims prepare to make the pilgrimage to Mecca next week

ONE OF THE five pillars of Islam is the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. It is a journey every Muslim takes at least once in a lifetime if he or she can afford it. This year the pilgrimage will take place the last week in June.

Dr. Syed Razvi, a resident of Farmington Hills who devotes a great deal of his time to promote ecumenism among monotheistic religions, tells the story he calls "The First House of God" to promote more understanding among Americans about Islam, Arabia and the pilgrimage itself.

Angels built the First House of God, called Ka'aba, centuries ago in the city of Makkah (Mecca) in Arabia," Razvi said. "The prophet Abraham was led by the will of God to leave his wife Hager and their son Ismael on the mount of Safa, but Hager couldn't find any water for the baby. After a long search between the mounts of Safa and Marwa she discovered a miracle: a



JAMMIE GRAYES/Observer Art Center

fountain had sprung up at the heels of the baby."

Abraham erected Ka'aba on that site. Today large metropolitan areas surround it.

"The word Ka'aba is a symbol of unification and discipline," Razvi said. "Muslims do not worship Ka'aba, they face toward it while praying for the sake of unity and discipline."

The fountain is called Zamzam. Its water is ever-lasting and is used by some enthusiasts for therapeutic reasons, by some for spiritual strength.

FOR A LONG while pagan rulers placed idols inside Ka'aba. When Prophet Muhammad started preaching against idolatry, the ruling tribesmen were threatened with the loss of gold, jewelry and other reve-

nues generated from the devotees.

Muhammad, called the Prophet of Monotheism, along with his followers was tortured for their outcry against idolatry to such a degree they sought and were given refuge with a Christian king, Nagas, of Abyssinia. It was 10 years before Muhammad was able to return to Mecca, but when he did, all the idols were destroyed and general amnesty

was granted to all Mecca inhabitants, pagans, Jews and Christians.

When Islam was established, the pilgrimage to Mecca was incorporated as one of its five basic tenets.

"Currently over 1.5 million Muslims pay their homage every year to Ka'aba," Razvi said. "They come by bus, train, plane, ship, boat, some even walk or ride camels. Religious rituals remain the same as the first pilgrimage, but the places and facilities there have been improved considerably."

Razvi continued by saying, "Islam equates all human beings. There is no discrimination regarding race, color, social status or nationality. There is no such thing as the Hindu caste system. All pilgrims wear similar robes and say the same prayers in the same language."

"Such a gathering is unequalled in any other religion. Such a massive congregation is unparalleled in any other faith."

THE PILGRIMAGE, called Hajj,

is considered an occasion to perform certain rituals, to earn points from God, and as an obligation that each Muslim is to perform once in a lifetime.

"What a waste of such a wonderful gathering if it is not used to the full extent of its intent," Razvi said. "The institution of Hajj reveals to Muslims their combined unity and strength amidst a variety of national origin, race, color and languages."

"What a sight to behold. Millions of Muslims in similar robes for a common purpose, and all with harmony and discipline."

It is Razvi's hope that the occasion create and strengthen international ties of Islamic Brotherhood, reduce tension, eliminate hostilities and misunderstanding, exchange views, enhance trade, arrange barriers, exchange resources and services between different countries.

Razvi founded and is president of Monotheistic Congregations of Metro-West, which has a membership of about 40 families.

Changing times

Local consultant encourages charity groups to alter outlook on volunteerism

By Brenda Dooley
staff writer

FACED WITH gloomy economic times, non-profit groups must re-evaluate the way they're recruiting and using volunteers, according to marketing consultant Karen Lewis.

"Non-profit groups have similar problems — they have a shortness of resources, money and time. We know the government is starting to cut and it's going to get worse," Lewis said. As state funding is reduced, non-profit groups will be forced to rely more and more on volunteer workers. But at the same time, most people are trying to exert greater control over how their time is spent. Lewis urged leaders of non-profit

groups — large and small — to keep current on social, economic, political, technological and philanthropic trends. Such trends, she said, point to "where the future is heading" and ultimately have an impact on non-profit organizations.

"Non-profits oftentimes tend to operate in a vacuum," Lewis told a group of about 30 workshop participants. "They forget there's a world out there because they're so focused on what they have to do. You have to be very aware of what's going on out there."

FOR EXAMPLE, the average median age of today's volunteers is growing older. In 1988, the average age was 32.3. In the year 2000, it's expected to reach 36.3 and in 2020,

39.3, Lewis said. "That tells you the older person is going to be the one who volunteers," she added.

But older people have different needs and many non-profit group members don't know how to train them or relate to them. The same is true of youths, Lewis said.

Many local school districts are requiring high school students to do a certain amount of community service before graduating, offering non-profit groups a ready pool of volunteers. Because they require more training and supervision, some groups don't know what kinds of jobs to offer youths, Lewis said.

She encouraged groups not to ignore any source of potential volunteers.

When recruiting volunteers, Lewis offered the following tips to non-profit groups:

- Make sure you're using the right techniques in asking people to volunteer. Many groups don't realize that people are now more willing to give time than money so when you ask for monetary contributions also ask for contributions of time.

- PROVIDE CONVENIENT volunteer opportunities. Ask for help on evenings and weekends rather than limiting volunteer work to weekdays, when most people work. Also offer short-term volunteer opportunities instead of asking people for long-term commitments. Be willing to offer transportation to older volunteers.

- Make yourself accessible to

people who want to volunteer. Some people are willing to volunteer but don't know who to contact. The Center for Volunteerism in Detroit offers a service called "Volunteer Connect," which matches volunteers to groups who need them. Call 226-9429 for more information.

- Ask for recommendations from current volunteers or clients who benefit from your services. These people often have friends or acquaintances who may be willing to volunteer.

- Be sure to point out the advantages of volunteering.

- Provide information about your organization, including a list of services and funding sources.

profit groups also must treat them like employees.

"You have to treat them professionally, with respect. You have to make them feel valued," Lewis said about volunteers. "But you also have to be able to sit down with them and discuss problems. Occasionally you may have to terminate them."

To ensure volunteers know what's expected of them, Lewis urged non-profit group leaders to write job descriptions and offer adequate training.

She also told group organizers to develop a written plan, detailing what they're trying to accomplish, how they'll accomplish it and how much it will cost in time and resources.