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Jewelry: Necklace and earrings made by Liddle-Lameti enhance one of her outfits. Her jewelry is sold in the Detroit area and is priced affordably.

Liddle-Lameti favors offbeat separates or dresses, with unusual jewelry and accessories. "Wearing a suit just couldn't cut it for me," she said.

With her husband Richard (who is comptroller at the Detroit College of Law) and their children, Andrew, 7, and Katie, 21 months, she lives in a contemporary home she has tried to make look old. "My love is historic preservation. A brand-new house, with all white walls. This is not me!"

"I worked at painting it all," Liddle-Lameti explained, pointing out she was doing wall painting techniques six years ago that are popular now.

In this setting, with antique or collectible furnishings, she is comfortable whether designing clothing or jewelry.

Both in her business and her personal style, "I always have to be creative," she said. "I started to do one-of-a-kind clothing designs. These took off real well." She made knitwear, including sweaters, coats, hats and capes, which she sold at art shows and boutiques.

"When the business was peaking, we decided to have another child," Liddle-Lameti said. Now she only does knitting for her family. But she took the advice of friends who said, "Why don't you do some jewelry?" She has found designing jewelry is an outlet for creativity that still allows her time to spend with the children.

"I do every one individually," she said of her colorful, unique and inexpensive jewelry. "Everybody can afford to have a piece for \$22 to \$38."

Liddle-Lameti said earrings are the most popular. "I do pins, and this year I'm getting into necklaces — one of a kind, that are more expensive."



Denim decoration: Liddle-Lameti decorated a readymade sweater with denim and other fabric and created one of her halo hats to go with it.

'Fashion is in my blood. I look at it as an expression of art. It should be a statement of who you are.'

Martha Liddle-Lameti

"My aunt said, 'It brings joy to other people.' I think that's great!" She showed a readymade sweater she had decorated with denim pieces, lace and fiber. "I made a halo hat to match," she said, donning one of the adorable creations. "They don't scratch the hair."

Another "costume" pairs a deep-brown suede skirt she bought at the Ann Arbor Art Fair with a silk blouse, cowboy boots and a vest. For dress up, she may wear a white dress with cropped leggings and lace-up ankle boots and a white hat. She appears in this at a wedding, the symphony, graduation party or church.

Liddle-Lameti doesn't worry about being seen in the same outfit, "twice." She said, "If you have a few really nice pieces, wear them and enjoy them. With jewelry, 'A wonderful pair of earrings is all you need.' In sum, 'Fashion should be easy. It shouldn't be something you labor over.'"

Helpful agencies: toll-free numbers

- A number of agencies and government departments offer free information or advice on a wide variety of subjects of interest and service to older adults and their families. Following is a list of toll-free numbers. Operators will be happy to answer your questions or direct you to other proper information sources.
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| AT&T Special Needs Center 800-233-1232 | 292-4204 | 800-292-7852 |
| Alzheimer's & Related Disorders Center 800-621-0379 | Cancer Information Center 800-422-6237 | Physically Impaired Association of Michigan 800-274-7426 |
| American Cancer Society 800-ACS-2345 | Center for Independent Living 800-482-0222 | Prescription Drug Credit (form) 800-367-6263 |
| American Council for the Blind 800-124-8666 | Energy Assistance 800-292-5650 | Social Security 800-234-5772 |
| American Diabetes Association 800-252-4372 | Hospice 800-331-1620 | Taxpayers Assistance (State) 800-487-7000 |
| American Parkinson's Disease Association 800-224-2732 | Housing Discrimination, HUD 800-424-6500 | Taxpayers Information (Federal) 800-829-1040 |
| Arthritis Foundation 800-283-7800 | Lawyer Referral 800-968-0738 | Utilities (Public Service Commission) 800-292-9555 |
| Auto Repairs Complaints 800- | Legal Hotline for Seniors 800-347-LAWS | |
| | Medicaid Information (Social Services) 800-638-6414 | |
| | Medicare Appeals 800-365-5899 | |
| | Medicare Inquiry (Part B) 800-482-4045 | |
| | Medicare Inquiry/Part A (Hospital) 800-872-2556 | |
| | Michigan Bell Special Needs Center 800-482-8254 | |
| | Nursing Home/Long Term Care | |

Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communications and admissions at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. She is a member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging. Send your questions to her at Observer & Enterprise, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

In local shop

Her work has been carried at Charlotte's Boutique. Other shops featuring her designs include Elle in Dearborn, K Tyson in Ann Arbor, and locations in Traverse City and Glen Arbor, as well as in Vermont and New Hampshire.

The jewelry, which she has been doing for about two years, includes

big, hand-painted paper earrings. "They're lightweight and indestructible," she said.

In her own wardrobe, she looks for things that express her artistic sense. "Sometimes it's kind of nutty."

She loves hats and accessories. She may buy a couple of pieces from the Limited Express that are "sort of nondescript, like a top, and continue with a wonderful jacket."

Detailing one of her other outfits, Liddle-Lameti said she combines a denim blue and green jacket with green cowboy boots and leggings.

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Platinum

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