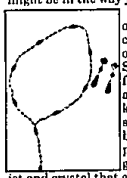
SHOPPING CENTERED

LINDA BACHRACK

Accentuate positive with accessories

If you're still undecided about what to wear this New Year's Eve, maybe these tips from local retailers will help you choose among the timeless black tank dress, the sexy tuxedo or the ankle-length halter. The key to the success of your outfit might be in the way you accessorize.



The dramatic combination of black and gold is a classic choice for a festive evening out. Debbie Markzon of Sherri's in West Bloomfield's Orchard Mall suggests an elegant and simple black knit column given definition of shape with this beaded chain belt by St. John ($125). Complete the outfit with glamourously long earrings of jet and crystal that add sparkle to a subtle look ($25). Your basic black dress is hardly basic anymore.

St. John jewelry is crafted of 24 karat gold overlay and the company will refinish any piece that loses its luster, making it a wise investment.

What could be more distinctive for a formal occasion than a feminine version of the tuxedo? If you don't own a traditional tuxedo, you can still create the look with a velvet jacket and pleated or unconstructed satin pants. Tuxedo dresses are another popular option.

To give this classic a fresh and sensuous look, forget the starched white shirt and bow tie. Slip on this dazzling faux tie made of Austrian crystals ($60) from Accessories by Ann, also at Orchard Mall. Wow! This will take the stuffiness out of formalwear.

Owner Ann Wallach adds more sizzle with these sparkling crystal earrings ($55). Sounds like a knockout ensemble.

Of course, if you're really dressing to the nines, you have to dress right down to your toes. Donna Karan's glitter tulle hosiery in black and silver creates light effects as you move, giving your legs an alluring shine. Available at Hudson's, this fancy legwear is priced at $14.

Another simple, but lovely addition to your holiday finery could be a luxurious velvet scarf from Neiman Marcus. Generously fringed and shown in shades of rich chocolate brown and midnight black, the warmth of this accessory matches its style and elegance.

Sometimes evening attire calls for a stunning little bag to make the look party perfect. We picture an exquisitely shaped gold metal and leather minaudiere from Accessories by Ann. Accented with crystals, it would be a striking addition to any nighttime look for years to come ($120).

Festive doesn't always mean formal. Sabrina Felton of Farmington Hills opts for the ease of a special jeweled sweater atop black leggings. Her tunic sweater from Hudson's sparkles with multicolor rhinestones and is a brilliant, yet relaxed choice for this soon-to-be mom.

If you're looking to be a trendsetter this New Year's Eve, then your wardrobe must include something nautically inspired. "Military styling has a tailored look that really can't go out of style," says Christie Brinkley in the December issue of Glamour magazine.

All of the merchants I spoke to mentioned the new nautical rage. A sales associate at The Icing in Lakeside Mall, emphasized the dressy end of this look. She pointed to a rhinestone-studded admiral's cap trimmed with gold beads and authentic braiding ($42). Paired with gold and diamond star-shaped earrings ($29), these accessories alone could enliven a ho-hum navy or red jacket.

To get the complete nautical outfit, splurge on a one-of-a-kind suit by Criscione, available at Sherri's. Kathie Lee Crosby and Joan Lunden are often seen in Crisciones and any of the styles would be gorgeous for a holiday party. They are both classic and sexy, a dynamite combination. Prices are upwards of $400.

Whether lounging by the fire in jeans and a sweatshirt or out on the town in your most dazzling dress-up clothes, I wish you a safe and happy New Year's Eve. And more good wishes for all of '93.

Though the busiest shopping season has come to an end, we're always intrigued by new and unusual stores. Next week don't miss an introduction to the area's newest and trendiest merchants. I took your suggestions and added some favorite finds of my own.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. To give her your column ideas, call 953-2047, Ext. 1889 from your touch-tone phone.

Steppin' out in Style

Malls make New Year's magic happen

Malls aren't just for shopping anymore. You can walk in looking like Greta Garbage and spin out like Cher. You can book yourself a cruise through the Caribbean. Tote home a gourmet meal. Get a massage.

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Need a little glitz, glamour, pampering?

Have you considered a fashion high? Retail therapy? Well, chaaarge (it)!

Malls and mainstreets offer head-to-toe services which are especially appreciated during the holiday season.

How does *The Cleopatra Day of Pampering* sound? The Calla Victoria Egyptian Spa in the Fairlane Mall also offers *A King Tut Day of Relaxation* for men.

"It's our top-of-the-line treatment program," said Calla Victoria, owner of the new spa inside Heidi's Salon. "For $200, through six hours, a customer will receive an hour-long massage, full-body paraffin treatment, facial, pedicure, manicure, make over, hairstyle and lunch! It's a popular gift and we're very busy this holiday."

Shoppers who want to get away from it all, can book cruises to Alaska, the Bahamas, Russia and Scandinavia through Hudson's Travel Service. A summer tour through European capitals also sounds inviting.

Hudson's Market Place Foods make entertaining simple with party trays, deli dips, appetizers and desserts that are carefully packaged for convenient pick up. Gourmet food and wine baskets help a busy guest make a hit with the hostess. Spokeswoman Chris Morrisroe also points out that Hudson's offers optical and hearing services to shoppers. When stopping by Laurel Park Place in Livonia shoppers can relax at the United Health Spa, get a tan at United Tan, and use the services of a tailor, photographer and florist in the adjacent office building.

"The Marriott Hotel is attached to the center so visitors can dine, have a drink, or enjoy the hotel's entertainment after shopping," said Michael Buescher, marketing director.

At the Livonia Mall customers can have shoes and jewelry repaired, order new glasses, visit a doctor in the medical center, see a movie, have a portrait taken, take home dinner entrees, in addition to having their hair cut and styled at one of several salons.

"You don't have to leave the mall as the same person you entered," said Janice Morrow, assistant marketing director.

Men: Don't sing the blues, wear them

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Most men will be glad to know that blue is back.

"For 1993, blues and grays will dominate men's business dressing," forecasts Robert Butler, regional manager of Anton's. "Earth tones have been popular for the past few seasons, but you'll see the return of the blue dress shirt and suit this year."

Anton's has shops in the Fairlane Town Center, Oakland Mall, Lakeside and Meadowbrook Village Mall. They are affiliated with the Graham and Gunn shop in the Somerset Collection.

Butler also describes a new category of menswear, *Business Casual* that will premiere in the new year.

"These items will be dressy sportswear that men can wear to the office and look better dressed than in a pair of dockers and polo shirt," he said. "We plan to set up special departments to handle this clothing. The fabrication will be wool-cotton blends of a more constructed type. Shirts will have stripes and patterns. The pieces can be topped with a sportcoat to complete the look."

Butler pointed out that unlike other menswear markets in the United States. Detroit-area men are big on double-breasted suits.

"Double-breasted suits account for 30 percent of our suit sales here," he said. "And many of these are in all-season wool and gabardine fabrics."

Butler said men can look for suit jackets and pants to be sold separately soon.

"This way, the customer can pick out pants with a waist size that fits, and a coat that fits. I think most men will appreciate these trends. We're very excited about them at Anton's."

Tone up your wardrobe with '93 fashion fads

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Five wardrobe trends will separate the well-dressed from the just-dressed, according to Kerry Whitaker, fashion consultant and spokeswoman for Express.

"First trend: Long over lean," she reported from her headquarters in New York. "Wear a long sweater over a slim, ankle-length knit skirt. Tres chic!"

"Second, pull an outfit together using a monochromatic color scheme," she said. "We call this tonal dressing. Pick one color, say teal blue or hunter green, and dress head to shoes in it. The pieces don't have to match exactly, but the look will be exactly right for 1993."

The third trend is animal patterns.

"Wear an animal print with neutrals for a look that is classy, sexy," she said. "Leopard is really chic.

"If you like denim," she said, "the fourth trend is toward dyed, colored denim which is really hot right now! The youngsters are quickly picking up on this. Orange, dark pink and green jeans are on the racks for both sexes."

Two belts worn at the same time make the fifth fashion fad.

"Most women can get this look without going shopping," Whitaker said. "Just wear an old chain belt, loose under a regular belt and you'll be ready for the New Year in style."

Whitaker also offered some dressing tips on what NOT to wear.

"It's OK to wear opaque hose during the day, but sheer are preferred for night," she said. "And when wearing leggings or tights, make sure your sweater is not too tight and always covers the crotch.

"So many women I see on the streets are careless with this look. They just don't get it right. You should never wear high heels with leggings or tights. Flats are best.

"If your budget just allows for one new item, make it something with fringe," she said. "Or a ribbed, poor-boy sweater with a scoop neck. Sandwashed silk blouses are another smart buy. This new fabric is real silk but much easier to care for than a traditional silk blouse.

Double belted: *Wearing two belts adds a classic touch that is very chic for 1993. The look is completed with a sandwashed silk shirt and a long, slim skirt from Express.*

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

MONDAY, DEC. 28

PUPPET SHOWS
Marionettes perform *The Little Pigs* now through Dec. 31. Added shows: 11 a.m., 1, 3, and 7 p.m. (No 7 p.m. show on Thursday). Mall closed on Friday. Shows resume Saturday 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. and Sunday 1 and 3 p.m.
Meadowbrook Village Mall. Walton/Adams. 375-9451.

PINOCCHIO EXHIBIT
20 vignettes for the whole family. Through Dec. 31. Animated figures tell the story of a marionette who becomes a real boy. Open during Hudson's hours. Lower level. Complimentary.
Northland Mall. Eight Mile/Greenfield. 443-6263

FOR ENGAGED COUPLES
Tickets on sale for Hudson's annual Bridal Fair now through Jan. 23. $12.50 admission includes brunch, lecture, fashion show, bridal registry seminar, entertainment and gifts. Begins Saturday, Jan. 23, at 10 a.m. Southfield Pavilion.
Northland Mall. Eight Mile/Greenfield. 443-6332.

CANDLELIGHT TOURS
Through Dec. 30. Explore Fair Lane glowing in Christmas finery. Light refreshments. Henry Ford Estate near Fairlane Town Center. 6-8 p.m. $10. Reservations required. Daytime tours also.
Evergreen Road. Between Michigan and Ford Roads. 593-5590.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30

ANTIQUE SHOW
Antique dealers from across U.S. display and sell wares. Includes furniture, bronzes, art glass, jewelry, comic books, cards and household items. Repair services available. Throughout mall. Through Jan. 3.
Summit Place Mall. Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph. 682-0123.

MALLWIDE CLEARANCE
All stores participating. Through Dec. 31.
Meadowbrook Village Mall. Walton/Adams. 375-9451.

THURSDAY, DEC. 31

HOLIDAY HOURS
New Year's Eve hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Most malls and downtowns.

PARTY AND DINNER
Variety of New Year's celebrations featuring music from 96.3 FM at Westin Ballroom. Overnight packages available.
Renaissance Center. Jefferson/Beaubien. 567-XMAS.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY
Martin Scot Kosins trio will perform at Sebastian's Grill. Dinner does not include entertainment cover charge. Midnight celebration. Reservations required.
Somerset Collection. Big Beaver/Coolidge. 649-6625.

FRIDAY, JAN. 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY.
Most malls open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call ahead to verify hours of operation. Malls resume pre-holiday schedules beginning Jan. 2.

SUNDAY, JAN. 3

HORSEBACK PATROLS
Last day for the Oakland County Sheriff's Mounted Division to ride around shopping center's parking lot. Noon-5 p.m.
Northland Mall. Eight Mile/Greenfield. 569-6272.