

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1994

3A(F)

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACH

Golden treasures warm the season

All that glitters is gold. Gilded flourishes guarantee a festive look for the holidays. However, the shimmer of gold also gives sparkle to everyday accessories and its patina has captured the attention of the design world. According to the editors of "Metropolitan Home," people are giving up the shiny, the neutral and the understated. The color wheel has spun, and bold gold is "in."

I scouted the malls and mainstreets for those treasures that gladden with a Midas Touch.

The Markopoulos Collection of ornaments are handcrafted worldwide from original designs of archived antique models. Andrew Markopoulos is senior vice president of Visual Presentation and Design for Hudson's and his limited edition collection is culled from his extensive travels. The collection is available exclusively at Hudson's.

Oakland Mall store in Troy. More than 50 designs are featured, from hand-blown glass woodpeckers (\$7.50) to giant balls and striped candy canes (\$20). Metallic and matte gold, silver and matte white dominate the color scheme.

Some of my favorite golden ornaments include bunches of grape clusters (\$30), spinning tops (\$9), tiny horns (\$6), chestnuts with beaded crowns (\$5), starbursts (\$10) and bells that dangle from stars of beading (\$25). The oversized balls are braided or glittered, striped or etched, and when massed, the effect is stunning. Envision several balls reflected in a crystal bowl — a memorable centerpiece!

Tables of Gold

Crate & Barrel in the Somerset Collection, Troy, provides the accents for a gleaming holiday table. Drape the table in a Cellini brocade runner in a green and gold leaf pattern with gold tassels (\$39.95-\$44.95). Center it with an antiqued gold terracotta urn (\$17.95-\$26.95) filled with white roses and ivy. Surround the vase with gold pinecone candles (\$5.50) and gold leaf fruit (\$2.50).

Set the table with gold rim porcelain dinnerware (\$135/\$16 piece) atop lacquered chargers (\$24.95). Finally, circle gold-bordered napkins (\$15.95 for 4) with a gold tone maple leaf napkin ring (\$7.95). To scent the buffet, scatter dried leaves, berries, wood chips and pinecone potpourri (\$9.95). The unusual shapes of Troy's matte gold picture frames set them apart from all others (\$42-\$50). A thoughtful gift any time of year, these graceful frames join an endless selection of must-haves at Truly Gifted, 515 S. Washington in Royal Oak. Miniature sculpted hand mirrors in individual pouches by Meryl Waits are like intricate jewelry designs, and scented pillows entice with golden images from the Sistine Chapel (\$13-\$22).



Go for the gold

For a special party favor or hostess gift, consider shiny gold pagarmarks from Ribbons, 239 S. Woodward in Birmingham. The flowers, fish and butterfly are enchanting (\$15).

Jacobson's goes for the gold with a porcelain "rubi bud vase" (\$55) Two's Co. (\$11) and a red and white fringed damask accent pillow (\$60). Stars and angels decorate stationery and invitations, while a shiny gold box holds an exclusive cherub and star-adorned chocolate pinata filled with chocolate covered toffee bits by Gayles (\$25).

Hudson's Kresland & Sons, Jewelers in Troy, adds a golden glow to your home with brass coffee table and mantle clocks by Blum. Choose from a miniature grandfather clock (\$300), a French shelf clock with marble columns (\$100) or a suspended grandmother clock (\$185).

Linda Bachrach is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her column ideas at (313) 955-2047, mab@bbs.com, or fax them to her at (313) 644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- More Than You Bargained For introduces you to another shopping neighborhood.
- Linda Bachrach goes shopping for holiday greeting cards.
- Added Attractions lists special holiday events at area shopping centers.

Peaceful kingdom rules center court



BY SUSAN DeMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

It all began in August around the kitchen table. Then it grew to fill the garage. Next, it moved outside along a neighbor's circular driveway. Finally, it came to rest at a warehouse outside the city of Plymouth.

Ann Arbor-artist Ira Imbras-Jansen took a break from spray-painting the spots on an 18-foot-tall giraffe in the rebarn, to tell the story of how her kingdom of crafted wild animals will come to inhabit the twinkling Crystal Forest at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20.

The exhibit's debut is a benefit for the Detroit Zoological Society featuring a Holiday Laser Light Show, musical entertainment, desserts, refreshments, photos with Santa, and a chance to meet the artist.

"After taking on the mall's project in the summer, I started making little carolinas, acquiras, and racoons from pictures in nature books I had," explained Imbras-Jansen whose specialty is fashioning animals from fabric. "I studied rear, front and side views of the animals, then I designed a pattern on brown paper. I cut faux fur to fit, stitched the animal, and then stuffed it with Dacron poly-

ter. The little guys were easy, but I needed some engineering help with the bigger ones."

George Fisher, a carpenter friend, built wooden frames for the giraffe, camels, ostrich, zebras, moose and reindeer quickly filling Imbras-Jansen's garage. The fabric fur skins were sewn onto the wooden frames and then hand-stuffed by the artist.

"I would like to say this was a labor of love," she explained, "but, it was actually very hard, physical work. I cracked a rib one night while stuffing one of the animal's long necks. My arms would get so tired. I had a lot of stress, after all, I'm a grandmother of 62 years!"

Ira Christine Imbras-Jansen was born in Kedainiai, Lithuania. In 1947, when she was 15, she immigrated to the United States as an orphan of the war. She left Lithuania at 9, and spent the following years in a German concentration camp.

Many years later, when her two children were toddlers, she became a soft-sculpturist to make them something "to cuddle up with." Her first order was for a fish and a turtle! Her artistic nature found an outlet in creating animals for children and later, libraries, offices

See FOREST, next page



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BREKLER

Queen of the beasts: Ira Imbras-Jansen poses with some of the life-like animals she created for the holiday exhibit at Twelve Oaks Mall.

Laurel Park seeks groups for gift of trees

Nothing lights up the holiday season like a tall, sturdy tree decorated with things that sparkle, glitter and twinkle.

Laurel Park Place in Livonia wants to donate the holidays for a local non-profit organization by giving

away six beautifully decorated and lighted white trees valued at \$50,000.

The shopping center has four 16-foot trees, and two 30-foot trees, to donate. These trees were used to decorate the mall over the past two

years as part of the Victorian holiday theme.

"We are asking non-profit organizations to tell us, in 100 words or less, how they exemplify the holiday spirit 365 days a year," said Mike Burescher, assistant manager at Lau-

rel Park Place. "We would also like to know how one or more of these trees would brighten their organization's holiday season."

In addition to the brief essay, Inter-

See TREES, next page

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

guided tour and museum admission. Next trip: Dec. 26.

Twelve Oaks, 12 Mile/Novi, Novi.

(313) 833-1719.

WESTLAWN MADNESS

Annual Birmingham Junior League fundraiser, 7-10 p.m. Saks Fifth Avenue, Gourmet samples, fashion show, entertainment, photo shopping. Tickets \$35 advance, \$45 at the door. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. (910) 646-2613.

THURSDAY, NOV. 17

OAKLAND SANTA ARRIVAL

Santa Claus arrives after a parade through the mall lead by the Troy Athens High School Marching Band. 6:30 p.m. Evans and Downs help host a sing-a-long. Gordon and Susan from Sesame Street, center's holiday decor theme, visit Nov. 19 and 20, noon to 3 p.m. Center court. Oakland Mall, 14 Mile/John R. Troy. (313) 545-5002.

WINE TASTING

Meet Alan Gordon, Hudson's wine buyer, 6-8 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts served during wine tasting in Hudson's Restaurant. Guests must be 21 years and older. Tickets \$20. Reservations required. Repeated Nov. 19, 6-8 p.m. at Fattoria in Dearborn. Twelve Oaks, 12 Mile/Novi, Novi. (313) 443-6332.

FRIDAY, NOV. 18

LAUREL PARK SANTA'S ARRIVAL

Homes-drawn sleigh brings Santa Claus to the Six Mile entrance near D. Denison's at 6:30 p.m. Children receive treats. Keepsake photos through Dec. 24. Repeated Dec. 18, visits to Santa yield "Miracle On 34th Street" giveaway. Animated, live-size music box. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. (313) 452-1100.

DESIGN VISITS

Ron Leaf previews his self-proclaimed "sassy, urbane, sensual" collection of Spring separates, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jacobson's Collection Sportswear. Also, Nov. 19, "Taste of Jacobson's" 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Store for the Home, 330 W. Maple, Downtown Birmingham. (313) 644-6000.

SATURDAY, NOV. 19

FANTASY PARADE

Livonia Mall and the City of Livonia present the annual Holiday Parade, 9 a.m. down Middlebelt from Six Mile to Seven Mile. Pro engines, floats, marching bands, costumed characters. Free hot chocolate at

entrance at the mall. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. (810) 476-1166.

WONDERLAND SANTA

"Holiday Hound," the tale of a puppy who wants to be a reindeer, performed in center court, 10 a.m., 1, 4 and 6 p.m. Santa arrives during 10 a.m. show. Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt, Livonia. (313) 522-4100.

TEL-TWELVE SANTA'S ARRIVAL

Mrs. Claus welcomes Santa beginning at 10:30 a.m. MacArthur Elementary School Choir performs. Face painting, balloon designs. Holiday decor has international theme. Polish Roman Catholic Union dancers perform 2 p.m. Southfield Community Center's Country Line Dancers perform 3 p.m. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (810) 353-4111.

WESTLAWN SANTA'S ARRIVAL

Horse and carriage delivers Santa outside Entrance 6 at 11 a.m. John Glenn High School Marching Band leads parade to center court. Children receive Christmas stocking while supplies last. Westlawn Holiday Bear poses for pictures. Children can join Holiday Bear Club for coloring sticker book, T-shirt and button. Westlawn Shopping Center, Wayne/Warren. (313) 425-5001.

FOOD COLLECTION

Today, bring in can of food for needy to Lynn's Hallmark and receive 10-percent off purchase. Co-sponsored by the Salvation Army. Needed: canned meats and vegetables, microwaveable foods, baby items, diapers. Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt, Livonia. (313) 425-5858.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Four Seasons Garden Center hosts indoor decorating workshop 11 a.m. Repeated Nov. 20. Preview latest holiday products. Outdoor decorating seminar 2 p.m. both days. Gift baskets for gardeners. Children make pinecone ornaments, pose for photos with Santa, receive complimentary goody bags. Older, coffee and cookies. Reservations suggested. 14471 W. I I Mile, Oak Park. (810) 643-4400.

BEFOREALL MODELING

Local teens model latest styles from Hannah Rose Boutique at Lone Star Coffee Company from 9-11 p.m. 207 N. Woodward, Downtown Birmingham. (810) 352-7777.

SUNDAY, NOV. 20

PLYMOUTH PARTY

Merchants host open houses noon-5 p.m. Holiday gift specials. Santa arrives at Mallory Park at 5 p.m. Downtown Plymouth. (313) 455-1453.

CLASSICS DEBUTS

Nov. 20 to 2 p.m. Rotunda. Local musicians perform the classics over brunch catered by Sebastian's Grill. Tickets available at Concourse Desk. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. (810) 643-7440.