

## Lee's Specialty is Always Creating Something Special

Special is the word to remember when thinking of Lee's Specialty at 4076 W. Maple in Bloomfield Hills. Solange Messelian, owner of the 20 year old stationery, invitation and gift store, is dedicated to helping each customer create a new and exciting invitation or special stationery. "We offer invitations for any occasion in any budget from birth announcements to weddings and everything in between," says Messelian. "Our stationery selections range from personal to corporate."

"Solange aims to satisfy a wide range of tastes with over 200 books of stock to choose from. She also works with customers to customize items so that they can create something unique. The staff of Lee's Specialty can produce custom orders in house or will assist customers in assembling their work at home. "If customers are willing to do some of the work themselves such as mounting parts together or tying and wrapping," explains Messelian, "we show them how, which saves them money and they have fun doing it."

The staff at Lee's Specialty takes time to sit down and help clients think through their goals and plans for the special event. In this way they help to come up with the best ideas for invitations and other stationery to make sure everything is well coordinated

and the special event is unique, exciting and a great success.

Messelian has been the owner of Lee's Specialty for nine years, with the help of daughters Kristen Keolian and Lauren Messelian. Just two weeks ago, they doubled their showroom space, moving next door to the original location. With the new showroom space, Lee's Specialty is able to show off a great variety of these gifts. Wonderful hostess gifts are available in every price range so that you always have something that "looks nice" when visiting friends and relatives. Lee's Specialty offer gift wrapping at no charge.

The specially trained staff at Lee's Specialty are equipped to handle the finishing touches for their customers from managing the guest list to hand cancelling and mailing the invitation. They also offer the services of hand calligraphers and a calligraphy machine.

"Special occasions are happy times but also very stressful times. We try to be as helpful as we can. We help find sources for other services our customers need for the occasions. We follow through so they don't have to. Actually we worry for them," says Solange.

Lee's Specialty is open 9:30-5 Monday through Friday and 10-4 Saturday. Call 810-646-6700.

## Kiddlywinks, High Fashion for Kids At the At Home Store

Cindy Obron Kahn, former teacher, former New York children's retailer, and mom, has brought the perfect blend of experience to the extremely popular Kiddlywinks, children's apparel store, at 286 W. Maple in downtown Birmingham. Now in its 10th year, Kiddlywinks moved to a new, larger location 8 months ago from its former home just down the street on Maple. Though double in size, at 1,200 sq. ft., Kiddlywinks has stuck to Kahn's philosophy for being a comfortable, at home, kind of place to shop. In fact the couch is right there to plop down on and watch the large screen TV equipped with VCR. The decor

strikes a balance between California open and airy and yet charmingly nostalgic; every spare nook housing not only apparel but wooden toys, bookends, clocks, picture frames, etc. "I've always wanted to make people feel like they could come right in and sit on the floor if they wanted to, and we were careful to keep that atmosphere in the new store," she says.

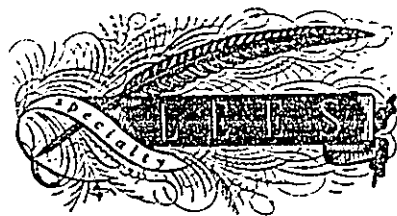
Kahn shows clothes and specialty items from Europe, New York and the West Coast, focusing on what is the most unusual right now and then she quickly moves on. She's known for being ahead of everyone else with new styles for kids. "I buy not what I like but what I absolutely love," she says. "If something doesn't strike me the first time, I don't buy it. If I wouldn't put it on my kids (8 and 3), I don't buy it."

Her theory equates to a cross section of moderate and upscale lines including 100% cotton and mix and match. Sizes range from newborn to 14, while prices, she says, are "completely across the board."

"We're very friendly to everyone who comes in here," says Kahn. A significant part of making customers comfortable according to Kahn is treating them equally. "Whether it's someone who spends \$1,000 or \$20," she says, "we treat them the same way. Every customer is important."



Former teacher, former N.Y. children's retailer & mom, Cindy Obron Kahn, owner of Kiddlywinks knows kids clothes.



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