

Jewelry designer is retail merchant at The Gold Loft

The Gold Loft is not just another pretty jewelry store in Oakland County.

First of all, it's located on the top floor of a downtown Farmington building that dates back to 1872. Secondly, its owner, Howard Lazar, is involved with every piece of jewelry that's designed, made, repaired and sold in his store. Thirdly, customers can see the work processes of the jewelry business, since the store design is done in glass.

"Customers can look into the back of the store and watch us working," explained Lazar, who's at the store daily. "We encourage people to come in and talk to us. We want them to ask questions. They have the advantage here of shopping at a store where they actually meet the craftsman, not just a salesperson."

Lazar stressed the importance of people knowing that if The Gold Loft doesn't stock what the customer wants, he'll get it. "If it's not made, we can design it for you," he added. "We can even use your old gold."

Unlike the trend towards people working in their homes, Lazar left the comfort of his abode to open his first store. He spent seven years designing jewelry at home before opening a retail business.

And his customers are glad he did. "Things have improved since day one,"

he said of his three-year-old shop. Part of its success is the services it provides. It has a gift registry, layaways, cash refunds, free gift wrapping and repair services.

Lazar is interested in making The Gold Loft as important to the community as it is to his devoted customers. "I'm pro-active and I want to get even more involved." The Gold Loft supports Farmington Families in Action and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The shop cleaned 3,000 rings for each of the past three Founders Festivals and any donations made went to Make-A-Wish Foundation. Lazar also is active with the Farmington Downtown Development Authority and the Downtown Farmington Business Association.



Howard Lazar

Youngsters, parents happy with 'Pathways' Children's Centers

When parents enroll their children at a Pathways to Learning Children's Center, they are leaving them at a licensed child care center that strives to provide each child with a happy, healthy, safe and stimulating environment. Its staff endeavors to meet the young child's individual cognitive, emotional, social, physical and creative needs through experiences in different areas. These include circle time, dramatic play, music and movement, science, literature and language, creative art and large and small muscle experiences.

A unique child care center, Pathways to Learning allows children to try things at their own pace. It offers a semi-structured program so the youngsters can work independently and participate in constructive group activities.

Pathways to Learning has five locations serving Oakland and Wayne counties. These are at 28650 West Eleven Mile Road and 35300 West Eight Mile Road in Farmington Hills, 21900 Meadowbrook in Novi, 42290 Five Mile Road in Plymouth and 27350 West Chicago in Redford Township. The centers are open all year, Mon - Fri from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and offer morning and afternoon preschool, half day, full day and summer programs for children ages 2-1/2 to six years of age. Children also get the

benefit of in-school field trips from a variety of community helpers and special visitors.

The people responsible for Pathways to Learning Children's Centers are Linda West and Barbara Engerer, co-administrative directors. Both are certified in early childhood education. Mrs. West has 20 years experience in the field; Mrs. Engerer 28 years.

They are active in many local, state and national associations associated with the education of young children and in many community preschool activities. They, along with their staff, continually update their knowledge of educating children by participating in early childhood classes, conferences, workshops, CPR and first aid training.



Co-administrative directors, Barbara Engerer & Linda West

Enroll Now

Pathways To Learning Children's Center

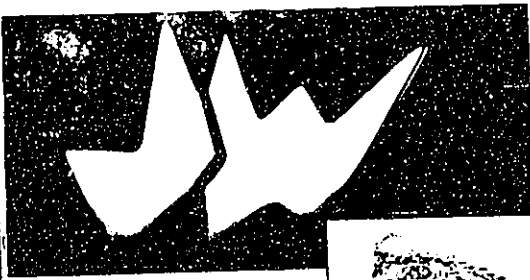
Pre-school/Full Day
Before and After Kindergarten
Open Year Round
7am-6pm

• **Farmington Hills** (next to the Ice Arena)
Servicing Gill Elementary School
35300 W. 8 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills
(810)478-6560

• **Farmington Hills** (in the Mercy Center, gate 4)
Servicing Alameda & Beechview Elementary
(810)473-1860

Other Locations: Novi • Plymouth • Redford Twp.

HIDDEN TREASURES



"Renew those old, broken or outdated pieces into a handcrafted treasure. Start your New Year with a sparkling, new piece of jewelry. Whether it's your design or ours...you'll find what you want at The Gold Loft. The Gold Loft...where you meet with the craftsman...not a salesperson!" **Howard Lazar**



The GOLD LOFT

33316 Grand River, Farmington
(810) 478-0400

Store Hours: Mon. by appointment; Tues., Wed., Fri. 10 am-6 pm;
Th. 10 am-8 pm; Sat. 10 am-5 pm

Always remember to check! Just down the road from the Village Shop Center FREE PARKING IN BACK