

# MALLS & MAINSTREETS

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A10

## SHOPPING CENTERED



Linda Ann Chomin

## Women need custom ski fit

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
SPECIAL WRITER

During an appearance at Don Thomas Sporthaus in Bloomfield Hills last week, ski expert Jeannie Thoren told female skiers not to quit the sport if disappointed with their performance. It could all be a matter of ill-fitting boots and skis.

And the solution could be as simple as adjusting binding placement on skis and inserting heel lifts and orthotics in boots.

A member of the 1964 Junior National Ski Team and three-time winner of the Pin Binding Downhill in Sun Valley, Idaho, Thoren discusses equipment fit problems with women who ski at more than 50 clinics around the country every year.

"Women are dropping out of skiing at an alarming rate. It's a vicious circle. If equipment doesn't fit, she's no good at skiing," said Thoren, 50, who was inducted into The Women's Ski Hall of Fame last winter.

"Women are not small men. Proportions are different. Women are pear-shaped. Their weight is lower and further back on the skis. Thus, the need for equipment modification."

Since the late 70's, the Marquette-native has devoted her time to adapting ski equipment to better suit women's anatomy, focusing on her research of anatomical differences between the sexes and how this relates to skiing and equipment have been published in national magazines such as *Mademoiselle*, *Women's Sport and Fitness*, and *American Health*.

As a ski tester for *Skis for Women* magazine and a boot tester for *Ski Magazine*, she's tried all the brands during the 120 days a year she skis. To each clinic she brings 93 pairs of skis and 64 pairs of boots so that women will know how properly fitted equipment feels.

"In fact, it's only in the last ten years that skis have been designed for women," Thoren said. "And many boots still do not fit at the top because they don't take into account the calf muscle problem."

While not as important as well-fitted equipment, fashion takes its turn on the slopes to add pizzazz to those skis and boots. As equipment design advances, look for ski wear styles to take a step back in time. Bright colors along with a return of designs from the 50's to the 70's (including those worn by the ski teams of the 60's) are in. Look for 1950's-inspired fitted jackets with narrow shoulders and shorter waists.

"It's a retro/nostalgic look whether it's stretch or fitted wear," said Don Thomas Sporthaus merchandise manager Lynn Bay. "As with all fashion this season, the animal print continues to reign. Nils ultrasuede jacket with faux fur leopard collar (\$495) elegantly leads the pack."

For men, an orange pullover jacket with draw waist from Italy by Napapijri (\$450) will shine like a diamond on the downhill runs at Crystal Mountain.

"We're starting to see orange in ski wear as well as new strappy racing looks," Bay said.

Color is just as vivid at Bavarian Village Ski & Golf in Novi, Birmingham and Farmington Hills. "There's a lot of mango, bright yellow and red, hot pink, emerald green and royal blue as well as very elegant earth tones. And of course, brown is big in all segments of fashion this year," said Mary Curry, clothing manager at Bavarian Village's Novi store.

My favorite was a chocolate brown bomber jacket by Obermeyer, \$215.

Brown Bear offers all-down jackets starting at \$127 when warmth is more important than making a fashion statement. A one-piece suit from Bogner with a white top embroidered with flowers and deer and a cream bottom (from \$700) is a work of art.

"We're back again to the shorter jackets where you can see the woman's waist," said Curry.



**Ski lodge style:**  
Nils makes a feminine version of the bomber jacket available at the Don Thomas Sporthaus in the Bloomfield Plaza.

## Costume jeweler has heart of gold



BY JUDITH DONER BERNE  
SPECIAL WRITER

Detroit-born and bred costume jewelry designer Kenneth Lane returned to his metro-Detroit roots last week to sign his new book and show off his latest collection at several Jacobson stores. His fans crowded the aisles.

And, in fact, "Faking It" is the name of the book he's happy to sign for the steady stream of shoppers who stop to buy it on a recent Thursday at Jacobson's in downtown Birmingham. Stretched out along the store's jewelry counters are dozens of his signature pieces: bright and bold earrings, brooches and bracelets and, of course, three-strand faux pearl necklaces with art deco-style clasps made famous by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Yes, that's the necklace that sold for \$211,500 at Sotheby's, sky-rocketing over its estimated \$500-\$700 value. A total of 47 of Lane's special, but sexy, designs for Onassis went far over \$1 million at the auction. At Jacobson's his pieces are priced from slightly under \$50 to about \$200.

Jacobson's customers like Connie Upton of Bloomfield Hills grew up wearing vintage pieces of his they've owned for years.

"This is my favorite," Upton says of the gray pearlized hollow blown pear brooch studded with rhinestones on her lapel. "I bought it before he was famous."

He recognized the minute she walked in," says her friend and Bloomfield Hills neighbor Rosemarie Weedman.

In his book, Lane describes the 1966 brooch as "the most successful design of all my Renaissance endeavors."

Upton's book, "To a peach of a pear."

She purchases three more of Lane's pieces including a strawberry (for summer wear) and ladybug pins. She demonstrates how the ladybug is primarily bright and simple, but then slides opens its casing to reveal a cluster of "diamonds" for evening sparkle.

Lane insists he didn't invent costume jewelry - that honor goes to Coco Chanel

"Chanel legitimized costume jewelry to a very small group of women in the late 20's," he describes. "I revived it and legitimized it to a wider audience."

Not only was having Jackie as a client a boon to Lane's career, but he says she was also instrumental in his becoming an author. "Jackie Onassis when she was (an editor) at Doubleday always wanted me to do a book, he says. "I like to talk - to yap on."

He also likes to cook for his friends in his expensive, expansive New York apartment, go to theater, opera and the ballet. And he likes to work. As he details in his book, "Fortunately, I never dread going to my office. I really enjoy what I do and get an enormous thrill when a sample times for as long as a year, finally emerges in a state of perfection."

### Home fires burning

Lane's aunt, Florence Seyburn of Southfield, is not the least surprised by her nephew's success.

"He was always talented," she reports from behind a stack of books she's having him sign for friends. When he was 14, she relates, he won a city-wide contest for the design of the tuberculosis stamp. "When he made book reports, he illustrated them."

And although he has a reputation for living the glamorous lifestyle of the rich and famous people for

whom he creates one-of-a-kind designs, Seyburn says: "He also is very dear to the family. There is a warmth. We're proud."

Seyburn reveals that he signed her book: "Darling Florence, my second Mommy."



"I wear his jewelry a lot," she adds. A mother of pearl butterfly dates from the 60's. "We all have early 'Kennya'."

Lane gave up architecture studies at the University of Michigan in favor of the Rhode Island School of Design. He traded Detroit (which he often Frenchifies as "Dey-twah") for New York. And he obviously has never regretted it.

Travel around the globe provides inspiration. "I've brought back wonderful ideas for jewelry from everywhere I've traveled." But he does so with an eye for playfulness and excitement.

"Minimalism is not much fun. Jewelry should be fun."

## Local designer is a hit at Nordstrom

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
SPECIAL WRITER

Multi-cultural experiences combined with a historical perspective focused on ancient art, influence the batik of Chrystyna Nykorak.

Her work is so dramatic, it's come to the attention of Nordstrom and she will be the guest of a special show featuring her scarves from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23 at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

The Farmington artist studied the ancient craft of wax resist under British and Norwegian artists while living in Kampala, Uganda in the 1960s. Later, she lived in Saudi Arabia and other parts of the world including the Middle East. Today, Nykorak incorporates elements of these places along with a historical context into her batik silk scarves. African horns, camels, giraffe, zebra, Crete bulls, dragons, horses, butterflies, flowers, and birds such as cranes appear on the colorful scarves.

"They're from my experiences and imagination. Nature always inspires me. Egyptian influences can be seen in the birds. When I went on safaris in Africa I was influenced by the sky, the flight of the birds and flamingos filling the skies," Nykorak explained.

Using a charcoal stick, she sketches images such as sunflowers, irises, tropical fish, and Ukrainian folktales

figures she refers to as "fantasy people on white hand-hemmed scarves."

The word "batik" in Indonesian means wax writing. Nykorak brushes melted beeswax onto the silk then dips it into wet dyes or paints the dyes onto the fabric. This process is repeated several times with different dyes until the desired color scheme is achieved.

"Batik is based on the same technique as Ukrainian Easter eggs. The scarves each take about two weeks to complete due to a lengthy curing time for the dyes," said Nykorak, who is also membership director for the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

As a child raised in a Ukrainian home, Nykorak's roots run deep. Her large-scale batiks are currently on display in an exhibition celebrating the 5th anniversary of Ukraine's independence at the Biegas Gallery in downtown Detroit. One of the works deals with the death of her father at the battle of Brody in 1944. Shortly after his death, the family moved to Germany, until immigrating to Detroit in 1949.

Nykorak earned a bachelor of art degree at Wayne State University. After marrying her husband, an architect with the United Nations Development Commission, she traveled to Europe and lived in the Middle East sketching ornamental designs of pottery, ancient Persian



Chrystyna Nykorak

rugs and costumes. She has applied these to her batik, which contain primitive motifs influenced by Egyptian and African art as well as Ukrainian.

"We're really excited to introduce her beautiful work in the store for the first time," said Nordstrom spokeswoman Terri Rose.

Approached by Nykorak's representative Darlene McCoy of Fashion Unlimited Consulting to show the batik scarves, Rose and Nordstrom fashion accessories buyer Donna Paiva seized the opportunity. "The opportunity to discover local talent is exciting," said Rose.

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

p.m. through Nov. 16.  
LaBelle Provence. West Maple. Birmingham.  
1-800-555-9953.

**Shopping Night**  
JC Penney stores will close to the public 6-10 p.m. to host a special shopping event to raise funds for area schools. To enter the stores this night, buy a \$5 ticket anytime this week from school children manning booths at the store's entrance. The ticket entitles you to 25-percent off regular price merchandise and receive a coupon for \$5 off any single purchase of \$50 or more. The local school keeps the proceeds from ticket sales.  
(810) 669-2400.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 10**

**Santa arrival**  
Santa Claus comes to the mall at 2 p.m. through Dec. 24 for photos and visits with children. All kids receive "Journey to the Northstar" a free, coloring/story book based on the center's famous Marshall Frederick sculpture "The Boy and the Bear." Polestar station features stationary and desks to write letters to Santa. Animated postal service. 12-foot snow globe is highlight of holiday decor.  
Northland Center. Eight Mile/Greenfield.  
Southfield.  
(810) 569-8272.

**Ski pros visit**  
To promote Hudson's Ski Zone shops, world champ freestyle skier Julie Parisien greets guests and signs autographs for Columbus Sportswear, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Summit Place store in Waterford and from 3-4:30 p.m. at Somerset Collection North store in Troy. Slalom and downhill skier Phil Mahre signs autographs 1-3 p.m. at the Oakland Mall store in Troy. On

Nov. 17, see ski deck demonstration on Mogulscope simulator 2-5 p.m. Somerset North store in Troy.  
(810) 597-2200.

**Santa Claus visits**  
Wonderland welcomes Santa at a 7 p.m. performance of Holly Berry Christmas Show 7 p.m. Letters to Santa opportunity near photo operation. Train rides with rice krispies treat bars. Wonderland, Plymouth/Middlebelt, Livonia.  
(313) 522-4100.

**Asian holiday workshop**  
Lan Khoong is known as "Nice Old Father" in Asia. He takes care of the needy and brightens the holiday for others. In this spirit, children are invited to make an ornament and decorate a tree to benefit Children's Hospital. They can make another to keep for their own tree. 1 p.m.  
Tel-Twelve Mall.  
12 Mile/Telegraph. Southfield.  
(810) 353-4111.

**Holiday Open House**  
The Art Gallery hosts 4th annual open house 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments. All welcome.  
Great Oaks Mall.  
Livernois/Walton. Rochester Hills.  
(810) 651-8644.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 17**

**Lakeside Grand Opening**  
Hudson's marks the end of a year-long renovation of the Lakeside store, with a family party to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of southeast Michigan, 7-9 p.m. Tickets \$40 per adult, \$20 per child, event includes entertainment, food and fashion show.  
Tonight also marks week of special promotions and events at the store through Nov. 24.  
Lakeland M-59/Schoenherr. Sterling Heights.  
(810) 566-6516.

**News of special events of interest to shoppers is included in this calendar. Send promotion information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Birmingham Eccentric, 805 East Maple, #8002; or Fax (810) 644-1214. The deadline is Wednesday at 5 p.m. for publication on Monday.**

### MONDAY, NOV. 11

**Holiday exhibit**  
Hudson's 7th annual holiday walk-through exhibit, the fairy tale "Wind in the Willows," is open for complimentary viewing through Dec. 31. The exhibit features the story in 23 scenes, some animated, and takes about 20 minutes during regular mall hours. Groups may reserve tour time.  
Summit Place, southwest corridor.  
Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph. Waterford.  
(810) 683-6400.

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13

**Artisan/author visits**  
Melanie Falick of Knitting in America, visits Lisa Parks Knite. Call for details.  
244 East Maple. Birmingham.  
(810) 642-2876.  
**Native Americans workshop**  
Jim Miller teaches kids 7 and up, about Indian crafts, weapons, medicines and more. 7 p.m. Borders Books.  
13 Mile/Southfield. Birmingham.  
(810) 644-1615.

### THURSDAY, NOV. 14

**Seconds show**  
Paul Janssens, president of Quimper Faience, Inc. brings pieces for display and purchase. "Finds" from factory seconds store noon-5:30