

Malls & Mainstreets

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Rally 'round the flag, folks

By DONNA MULCAHY
SPECIAL WRITER

"You're a grand old flag, you're a high-flying flag," and I can't get this song out of my head, because my column this week is on the U.S. flag, and where to buy flags and flagpoles.

"Every heart beats true 'neath that red, white and blue," but what do you do when your flag is worn out? I'll cover that, too, in honor of Flag Day, which is June 14.

Whew! I think I finally got that tune out of my head (and into yours - sorry!) You may be wondering, what is Flag Day? Well, it's an annual national holiday that was created by Congress in 1949. It honors the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as our national flag by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777.

I hope that you'll celebrate the holiday by flying the flag at your home next Sunday. I know mine will be out.

If you're in the market for a new flag or flagpole, then here are some places to try:

- The Meijer store in Westland has a good selection of flags and flagpoles, and I assume it's the same at other Meijer stores, too. It carries everything from hand-held, 4-by-6-inch flags (\$1.50 for a package of four), to a 20-foot, free-standing, aluminum flagpole set for \$139.97. Most of the items are made by Bissell Outdoor Products of Grand Rapids. A Bissell American Flag set, including a 3-by-5-foot polyester flag with embroidered stars and sewn-on stripes, and a 6-foot, gold-colored anodized aluminum pole with a metal eagle ornament and a brass mounting bracket costs \$29.97. You can buy 3-by-5-foot U.S. flags without flagpoles for \$8.49 to \$24.97. Meijer also has fan-shaped red, white and blue cloth bunting for draping across porch railings. State of Michigan flags, U-M, MSU and Notre Dame flags, and a Bissell catalog from which you can order other state, college and national flags.

- Most free-standing flagpoles have a rope and pulley system for raising and lowering the flag. But the rope can get tangled and wind can cause the pulley system to clang against the pole. If you'd like to avoid that frustration and noise, but still want a tall, free-standing flagpole, then check out the ropeless, telescoping flagpoles that are sold by Tarnow Doors Inc. in Farmington Hills; (248) 478-9060. The poles come in two sizes, 18 feet and 20 feet. That's their height when fully extended. But with a press of a button they collapse to 6 feet tall. To raise and lower the flag, you raise and lower the flagpole, which fits inside a base and is detachable. The poles come in silver, black and bronze, and cost \$200-\$250.

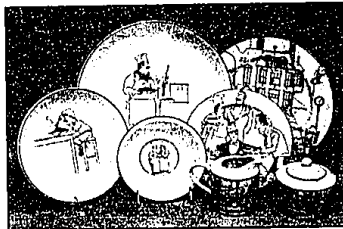
- American Flag & Banner Inc., located at 28 S. Main, just south of 14 Mile Road in Clawson, has the widest selection of flags, flagpoles and accessories around. It even has oak display cases for interment flags (flags that have been draped over a casket and then folded tightly into a smooth triangle). Whatever you want, American Flag & Banner probably has it in stock. And if they don't, they can order it or custom make it for you. I could go on and on about this company, but that pretty much sums it up. For more information, call (248) 288-3010.

Finally, what do you do with torn and tattered, worn-out U.S. flags? Don't throw them in the garbage. That would be disrespectful. Instead, take them to your local VFW or American Legion Post and they will dispose of them properly, said Dale Brubaker, chief of staff of the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the American Legion. VFW and American Legion posts accept worn-out flags all year long. On Flag Day they burn the flags in a private and dignified manner and then bury the ashes, Brubaker said. Other veterans organizations do the same, he said.

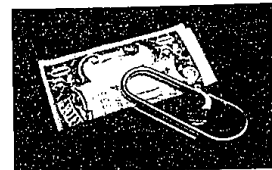
"Oh say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave?" Oh terrific. Now that song's in my head.



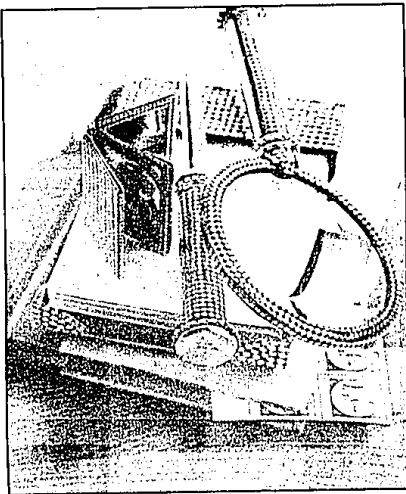
Here's to: Cartier wine cooler (\$795) and champagne flutes (\$140). Jules R. Schubot Jewellers, Troy.



Bistro-ware: Mix and match dinnerware from the Le Restaurant collection by Noritake (\$29.95-\$39.95. Sold in sets of four). Heslop's, 11 locations.



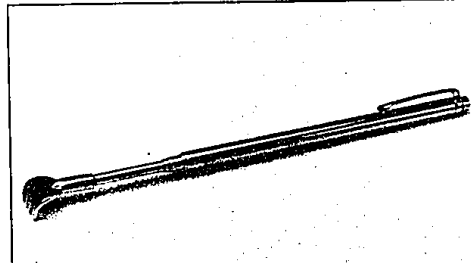
Cash in: Golf-motif money clip (\$65). Tiffany & Co., Somerset Collection, Troy.



Desk detail: John Hardy sterling silver desk accessories include picture frame (\$295), letter opener (\$350), magnifying glass (\$650) and notepad holder (\$550). Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Collection, Troy. Photo by Barry Lewis.



Dorm decor: Beaded picture frame (\$25) and candle lamp (\$39). Jacobson's.



Say aah: Silver telescoping back scratcher (\$15). Jacobson's.



Pocket it: He'll never miss a class with Armani's pocket watch (\$295). Jacobson's.

Celebrate!

June jammed with gift-giving occasions

And you thought December was the quintessential shopping month. In sheer numbers, December may win the award for gift-buying volume.

But June offers more occasions for gift-giving than any other month. There's Father's Day, graduations, oodles of June brides and, therefore, dozens of anniversary celebrations. No matter the occasion, identifying the perfect gift is always the goal and the dilemma. Finding just the right something for each recipient often is a stressful experience. Perhaps these suggestions from local experts will help you choose the gift that makes your friend or loved one feel special.

Grad Gifts

A strand of pearls or silver Elsa Peretti bracelets from Tiffany for her: a silver briefcase tag, cufflinks or Atlas collection watch for him. A college graduate deserves to celebrate this rite of passage in style with meaningful and lasting mementos. Says Leslie Pilling, owner of Presence II in Birmingham, "Personalize your gift; add some symbolism." For instance, she suggests an engraved business card case to which you might add some printed cards and a lucky penny. "It's the little extra thought that counts," she says.

Dad-Doy Discoveries

Beverly Rice, senior vice president of fashion and merchandising strategy for Jacobson, suggests giving dad a chuckle this Father's Day. "We're getting away from the traditional and into the whimsical," she says. Golf motif gifts are always popular, even if dad doesn't play. Transport him to Key West with a vibrant vintage-look Tommy Bahamas shirt and add a back scratcher to further the laid-back beach-bum theme. And for the new

kitchen-savvy, epicurean dad: fancy truffles, oils and vinegars and exotic condiments abound. Adds Pilling, "Traveling time is a hot new trend. Give dad a globe, hourglass or travel clock."

For The Bride and Groom

Kari Ziegler, purchasing manager at Heslop's, suggests first checking the bridal registry, then narrowing your selection by price. "A place setting of china is the number one gift," says Ziegler. If your budget permits, add a place setting of flatware and a piece of stemware. A teacup and saucer in the couple's pattern also makes a thoughtful gift. With today's trend toward home entertaining, fine china manufacturers are including more service pieces in popular china patterns. Pasta bowls and decorative casseroles make a beautiful presentation. Heirloom-quality crystal fits everyone's lifestyle and a piece of Waterford always is appreciated. Finally, alternative metals from Nambe, Wilton Armistead and Arthur Court make elegant, maintenance-free gifts.

Happy Anniversary

To commemorate a special anniversary, go for diamonds, says Lonnie Kanodo, director of Tiffany & Co. "Replace her original diamond with a larger diamond ring or express your love with a diamond eternity band." If you're going to an anniversary party, consider a gift of crystal candlesticks or a vase. For gardeners: a silver garden set or a pitcher from Tiffany's new nature collection. Leslie Pilling even recommends recapturing the age-old tradition of tussie-mussies - the original calling card that, when filled with flowers, symbolized a wedding proposal. Find tussie-mussies at Presence II in Birmingham.

News of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; or fax (248) 644-1314. Deadline: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publication on Sunday.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

Medicare giveaway
Mall walkers will get free giveaways and information during the Tel-Twelve Mall's Medicare Blue Promotional Giveaway. 8-10 a.m.
Tel-Twelve Mall, Telegraph/12 Mile roads, Southfield. (248) 353-4111.

Literature class
Book Manager and Literary Specialist Elaine More leads a contemporary literature discussion group on Correll's *Mandelstam*, by Louis de Bernieres. 7 p.m.
Borders Book Shop, 31150 Southfield Road, Birmingham. (248) 644-1516.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Armani collection
Jacobson's Birmingham store hosts Giorgio

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Armani Le Collezioni 1998 fall/winter collection
show. Armani representative Kirsten Peters will meet customers and introduce the new styles. International Department, Jacobson's. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Jacobson's, 336 W. Maple, Birmingham. (248) 644-6900.

Witch hunt

Michigan mystery writer Loren Estleman will discuss and sign copies of his new novel, *The Witchfinder* (Warner Books, \$23), at Borders Books & Music in Birmingham. Estleman lives in Whitmore Lake and writes detective novels set in Detroit. 7:30 p.m.
34300 Woodward, Birmingham. (248) 203-0005.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Shining examples
The "King of all jewelry trunk shows" comes to JC Penney in Troy. Sunglasses may be required at the Le Vian fine jewelry show where 18k gold settings dazzle with diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds. Limited edition designs include the new "Petite

Le Vian" collection of nature-inspired pins (\$89-\$399).
Oakland Mall, 412 W. 14 Mile Road, Troy. (248) 685-6000.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Lion king

Meet Detroit Lions cornerback Bryant Westbrook at Art Van Furniture in Southfield. Westbrook was the team's first-round draft pick in the 1997 NFL Draft. He'll be available for questions and will distribute autographed photos. 1-3 p.m.
Art Van Furniture, 22555 Greenfield Road, Southfield.

Golf gear

Visit Nordstrom to meet golf instructors Brian Liberman and Paul Biechki and view the latest styles in golf apparel and footwear. Look for prize drawings and golf activities. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Nordstrom, Somerset Collection, Troy. (248) 816-5100, ext. 1690.