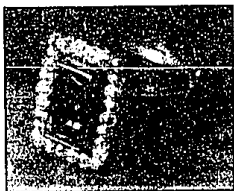


Malls & Mainstreets

Page 6, Section C

Linda Bachnick, Editor 248-901-2567 lbachnick@ee.homedm.net on the web: http://observer-ecentric.com Sunday, November 1, 1998



Very Victorian: An English pearl and amethyst ring, part of the collection of Bernard Cohen at Saks Fifth Avenue. See Retail Details, next page.

The Jewelry Lady polishes your gem queries

The Jewelry Lady returns to this space to answer your pressing bauble and bangle question. She is an expert on all aspects of fine jewelry — diamonds and fine gems, colored gemstones, gold, silver, platinum, fashion trends, suitability, insurance, care and cleaning, birthstones, anniversary gems, history, legend, lore and more.

The Jewelry Lady gained her wealth of knowledge by growing up in a family of jewelers, working the counter, cleaning customers' rings, designing remounts, buying from vendors and continuing on to a more formal education through correspondence courses with the Gemological Institute of America and the American Gem Society. She keeps her ring finger on the pulse of what is happening in the world, jewelry-wise. She shares her wisdom, expertise and opinions with you in this guest column.

Dear Jewelry Lady (J.L.),
I just purchased a strand of pearls and the jeweler told me that I need to restring them once a year. Is this true?

Cultured, but Confused in Rochester Hills

Dear Cultured,
Did you ever notice how much toothpaste supposit y normal adults put on their toothbrushes on TV commercials? (No, the Jewelry Lady is not losing her grip. This is the beginning of your answer.) Most people don't use that much toothpaste unless they like decorating their sink and floor with it. The same principal holds true with pearl restringing. (Ah, here is the connection!) Unless you are in the habit of wearing your pearls daily, twisting them in knots while you speak, and pulling on them as you liberally apply hairspray and cosmetics, chances are you can restring your cultured lovelies every few years or so. If your pearls feel at all loose on their cord, if the cord looks a bit discolored or frayed, don't look back. Run to your nearest jeweler for restringing.

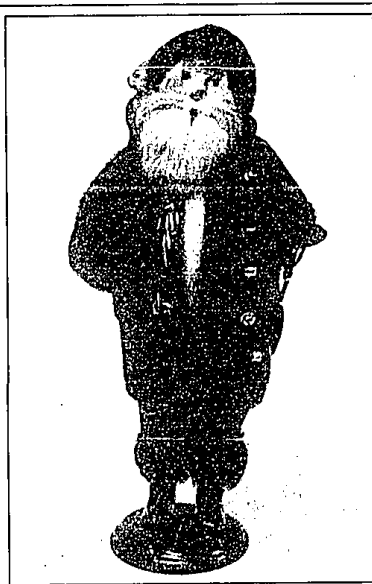
Dear J.L.,
I've heard my jeweler use the term "girdle" when discussing my diamond. What was he talking about?

Squeezed in Troy

Dear Squeezed,
Before we get into the nitty gritty of girdles and all the other important facets of diamonds, the Jewelry Lady has to say that it is an absolute blessing that women of our generation are not expected to wear those torture devices our mothers endured for generations. We even wear comfortable shoes without hearing aids. (It's a great time to be alive!)

But about your diamond's girdle, be assured that your jeweler wasn't making any snide comments about your diamond's weight — or yours. He was referring to the outermost edge of the stone. When you look down at a diamond, the outline of the stone is the girdle. Diamond cutters get headaches when cutting this part of a rough diamond. Too thick, the diamond looks klutzy. Too thin, and this "forever" gem can crack at a most inconvenient time. A girdle that is just right increases the value of the stone, as it should. So loosen your belt, and enjoy your next visit to your jeweler.

The Jewelry Lady is available to answer all your urgent jewelry questions. You may reach her at fax number (248) 582-9223 or at roddgers@nich.com.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JEFF KUSSEL

Byers aware: The Belsnickle, a Byers' Choice carol. Below: John Hardy's silver ball ornament at Neiman Marcus.

BY LINDA BACHNICK
STAFF WRITER

Twenty years ago, a former fashion designer named Joyce Byers sat at her kitchen table in a small Pennsylvania village and meticulously crafted Christmas carolers out of clothing hangers, tissue and papier mache. Her first figurines were characters from Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, complete with Victorian-inspired clothing, O-shaped mouths and hand-printed faces. Byers' "Christmas pin money" hobby gradually evolved into a manufacturing empire that produces more than 500,000 holiday carolers annually.

But the Byerses keep the spirit of old St. Nick alive year-round by caring about their employees, their community and those less fortunate. They established a foundation in 1986 that donates about 20 percent of the company's annual profits to charities and nonprofit cultural organizations. Benefactors include The Salvation Army and Meals-on-Wheels. The Salvation Army has received over \$320,000 from the Byerses since 1992. "We're glad to share with as many people as we can," says Joyce. For the Byerses, Joyce and her husband Bob, charitable acts seem as essential as a healthy bottom line.

Sandy Barr, owner of The Village Barn in Franklin, caters to Byers' Choice caroler collectors with a special event on Saturday, Nov. 7. "A representative will informally discuss past and present carolers," says Barr. She will exhibit the new carolers, including The Belsnickle, a 20th anniversary commemorative Santa,

as well as retired favorites.

INSPIRED ORNAMENTS

Though it's easy to be blinded by the glitter and tinsel that dominate several other holiday collectible manufacturers who give back to charitable organizations, you may already be familiar with these philanthropic designers. If not, you may want to consider adding their creations to your tree or mantel.

Christopher Radko is world renowned for his mouth-blown glass ornaments. This year, he has designed four limited-edition collector's pieces that directly benefit the charities for which they were created. "Sugar Holiday" was inspired by Elizabeth Taylor's Maltese named Sugar. Profits from sales will be used by the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation to support other organizations in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Radko's "Elfin Magic" was created exclusively to benefit foundations across his country, Poland, that support the fight against pediatric cancer. The little purple elf is reminiscent of an old-world European storybook character. Feline lovers will purr over "Feline's Heart," Radko's contribution to the cause of breast cancer. All of the profits from this ornament will be divided among organizations

Deck the halls with holiday spirit of giving



Heartfelt haven: Department 56 contributes millions to Ronald McDonald Houses across the country.

that further breast cancer research. "Cozykins" is the first in a three-part bear series that benefits the international Christopher Radko Foundation for Children. "Cozykins" awaits Christmas morning tucked into a glittery red stocking.

All of the Radko ornaments can be found at The Village Barn and can be viewed, along with scores of new and retired Radko creations, at a special event at the store on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 1-4 p.m. The shop has its own Collectors Club.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Those folks who transform their homes into entire Christmas villages are intimately familiar with Department 56. The holiday decor manufacturer makes finely crafted lighted villages, collectibles and trim. Dept. 56 offers seven village series within The Original Snow Village and The Heritage Village collections. Each is handcrafted of ceramic or porcelain.

Collectors may not be aware, however, of the Department 56 commitment to Ronald McDonald House. For the past three years, Ronald McDonald House locations across the country have been the recipients of over \$2 million from Department 56's Homes for the Holidays fund-raisers. Last year, Dept. 56 was the holiday decorator for Ronald McDonald House interiors. This year, the com-

pany will provide ornaments to families staying at the houses. The House that Heart Built is limited to 5,600 created nationally. Participating merchants include the Canterbury Village Always Christmas store, English Gardens garden centers, Hudson's, Plain and Fancy in Rochester and M.T. Hunter in Birmingham and Northville.

ALTRUISTIC DESIGNS

Accessories designer John Hardy, known for his sterling silver jewelry, has created a limited-edition holiday ornament exclusively for the NM Foundation, an organization established by Neiman Marcus to award a deserving, under-funded nonprofit group with significant funds to dramatically affect its operation. The Hardy ornament is a 4-inch silver-plated ball pierced in intricate shapes by an Indonesian cutwork technique. The effect is dazzling, giving it a reflective quality. The ornament retails for \$55 at Neiman Marcus in the Somerset Collection.

A special Pink Ribbon Ornament to benefit the American Cancer Society's breast cancer programs, services and research is available at English Gardens for \$5.98. The handcrafted glass wreath is topped by a matte pink ribbon. Also at English Gardens, look for a white ball ornament with red and green lettering. The garden centers teamed with WNIC radio to create this ornament to benefit Toys for Tots.



With love: Christopher Radko's 1998 limited-edition collector's ornaments are (left to right) Feline's Heart, Cozykins, Elfin Magic and Sugar Holiday. All proceeds benefit charities. The Village Barn in Franklin plans a special Radko event on Saturday, Nov. 21.

News of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 305 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; or fax (248) 644-1214. Deadline: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publication on Sunday.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

MORE BEANIES

The Plymouth Beanie Baby Show returns to the Plymouth Cultural Center, 625 Farmer Street. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$4, \$2 ages 4-12.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

HOLIDAY CRAFTS

The Global Gifts and Crafts Shop and the UNICEF Card Shop, both non-profit holiday stores, open today in the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, corner of Willits and Bates streets. The Shops are open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. All profits go to third-world craftspeople who make the products. Both stores remain open through Dec. 19.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

IN FINE FASHION

The Michigan Lupus Foundation sponsors its first annual Fashion Show Benefit, featuring fashions from the Somerset Collection. The evening includes door prizes, a silent auction, dinner and the fashion show. 6 p.m. Doubletree Hotel, Novi. \$50. Call (810) 775-8330.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

ARTFUL FRIDAYS

Hudson's initiates First Fridays at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The Hudson's sponsorship will allow the DIA to keep its doors open during evening hours on the first Friday of every month. Events will be offered for the entire family.

ZANY CELEBRATION

ZYZYX celebrates its first anniversary with chances to win shopping spree, jewelry and dolls. Hot cider and candy will be served. ZYZYX features arts, crafts and jewelry for the holiday season. Event continues on Saturday. The Boardwalk, 6885 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

NATIVE CRAFTS

Woodlands Indians Trading Co. presents an Indian Corn Necklace Workshop hosted by Joyce Tinkham. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. \$5. 26161 West Six Mile Road, Redford; (313) 357-5930.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

AUTUMN ARTS

The South Oakland Art Association presents Fall Art-Fest, with an opening reception from 2-4 p.m. at the American Center Building, 27777 Franklin Road, Southfield.