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The 41-year-old designer formed his own company in 1986, after working with Ralph Lauren as an associate director of menswear design. Intriguingly, Abboud holds a degree in English and French literature and has a keen ability to express himself poetically. He also looks at fashion with great sensitivity and vision.

"It's about understanding lifestyles," says Abboud. "My complex color palette is like the blending of oils in a painting. I feel the spirit of color... peaceful, warm, happy colors."

Saks Fifth Avenue-Troy hosted a luncheon and runway showcase highlighting Joseph Abboud's fall womenswear collection. Runway colors spotted were cinnamon, quartz, amber, goldenrod, moss, redwood, red clay, charcoal, gray and, for evening, that of black magic.

Voted the favorite was Abboud's "ode to Barbara Stanwyck," a full-skirted heather gray jumper, topped with a chestnut suede cropped jacket cinched at the waist with a chestnut suede belt.

Abboud was the exclusive wardrobe designer of the 1992 Winter Olympics male TV announcers.

Lunching at the Saks show were Lena Oskanian of West Bloomfield, Samar Ajluni of West Bloomfield and Southfield financial consultant Denise Nouhan, who are working on an American Heart Association auction scheduled for February, Julie Weyand, who is on

the committee for the upcoming Bloomfield Open Hunt Polo match; Judie Sherman, co-chair of the Event in the Tent for Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall; Dana Chapman of Waterford; Raja Faris of West Bloomfield; and charity cross-trainer Lorraine Schultz, who was bursting with excitement anticipating her upcoming trip to attend the Hollywood Emmy Awards show. The Schultzes purchased the tickets at a recent charity auction.

Coming up

Help and hope for the homeless and addicted is coming with "Rhythym," a benefit for Detroit's Mariners Inn on Friday, Aug. 28.

"Admirals" will cruise on boarding a yacht at the Roostertail, for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing, \$150. Or be a "Captain" and arrive at the Roostertail at 7 p.m. for dinner and dancing. "Ensigns" will have dancing and treats for \$40, arriving at 9 p.m. A silent auction will take place 7-9:30 p.m. For reservations, call 962-9446.

Golf alert

Mercy High School's second annual Meg Mallon Golf Outing and Tribute Dinner will be held Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Edgewood Country Club in Commerce Township. Honorees are Merrill Dean Baker and Mel Farr. Honorary co-chairmen and co-chairwomen are Lou and Mary Margaret Bosco, Wayne and Aella Inman and Tony and Rosann Nagorsen.



Parkinson's party: Dr. Don Austin (top left), John Bloom of Southfield, Dale Austin (bottom left) and Helen Lerner of West Bloomfield anticipate auctioneer David Hermelin's antics.



Host and hostess: John and Marlene Ball with two guests with their lakeside mansion and formal gardens at the MPF garden party benefit.



Viewing fashion: Denise Nouhan (left) of Shearson Lehman in Southfield, Samar Ajluni of West Bloomfield, Lena Oskanian of West Bloomfield and Dina Letay attend Joseph Abboud fashion show.



American designer: Joseph Abboud thrills local fashion seekers with his Hollywood-like looks and classic designs.

Runway at Saks: Model shows Joseph Abboud suit, which has unique attention to details. Note alpaca shawl, belted jacket and side-slit skirt.



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Now item: Auto dealer Ken Meade, former Michigan Parkinson's Foundation president, and Deborah Fisher of West Bloomfield attend the MPF auction and dinner.

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