

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

★ (F)98

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1992

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

Take a holiday break — yule feel a lot better

I know. You're exhausted, stressed and generally wiped out. It's that time of year — the weather and the constant pace of the holiday season combine to overwhelm us.

Relax. Time to take a moment for yourself and enjoy a few of life's simple pleasures like a cup of tea, a bubble bath or a beautiful new fragrance. Indulge. You deserve it.

■ Schedule a break in your shopping day for a manicure and pedicure from I Natural Cosmetics at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Just drop your packages and sink into a comfortable chair for a bit of pampering from Nina and her expert staff.

"I treat myself every other week," said Evelyn Lennon of Livonia as she surrendered her hands to Maria, her favorite technician. The holiday package includes a manicure and pedicure for \$30 anytime Monday through Wednesday. Skin care, makeup and mini-facials are also provided.

■ A long luxurious bath is an indulgence that always helps soothe the psyche. Add mounds of fragrant bubbles and feel your body relax. Caswell-Massey in Birmingham recommends this foaming bath gel (\$12)



from its best-selling almond and aloe line. The long-lasting bubbles and refreshing scent are sure to revitalize your spirit.

"I've been a Caswell-Massey shopper for years," said Sally Rubiner of West Bloomfield. "I had to shop by catalogue until they opened this beautiful store." Rubiner selected soaps and a cobalt blue perfume bottle (\$45) for special stocking stuffers. Also available, tucked among the oils and lotions, is Alexandra Stoddard's delightful book, "Living A Beautiful Life" (\$19.50). Keep it at your bedside as a reference to the importance of daily rituals.

■ Pounding the pavement in Plymouth? Take a few minutes for a cup of cappuccino at the Outback Cappuccino Bar. For non-coffee drinkers, they make a sinfully rich hot chocolate with whipped cream. And the classical background music is a lovely departure from Christmas carols.

■ I received a call from a Bloomfield Hills reader, raving about a French beauty collection called Comptoir Sud Pacific, available at Lori Karhal, 554 N. Woodward in Birmingham. We picture the

enclosed in glass with a hand-crafted wooden base and lid (\$75). The slow-burning candle releases the delectable aroma of vanilla. Put your feet up and grab a good book and let the essence from this candle carry you away to the island of Tahiti.

Also pictured, a customized scents box containing three personally selected miniature fragrances (\$68) and an eau de toilette in a silver metallic bottle (\$68). I agree with Melonie Griffith and Princess Caroline, these exotic scents are "the best."

Lori Karhal, open only three weeks, offers other exclusive lines, including L'Artisan Parfumeur and Essential Elements aromatherapy body-care products. She especially likes the therapeutic face and body mists (\$20) and Wake Up Rosemary bath salts (\$20) for quick pick-me-ups this time of year. Kiehl's moisturizing lip balm (\$4.50) is also a great little winter gift to yourself.

■ If you really want to lift your spirits and light up your looks, visit Anita Willis at the YSI cosmetic counter in Saks at Fairlane Town Center. Yves Saint Laurent's lip color #80, called Poinsettia, is the perfect holiday accessory and the ideal small indulgence (\$20).

■ While at Fairlane, run into The Body Shop and treat yourself to one of their top 10 sellers worldwide, Peppermint Foot Lotion (\$3.40-\$25.50). Rich and cooling, I can't think of anything more fitting for the



season. Developed for London marathon runners, this lotion works just as well on sore, swollen holiday feet. Hudson's employees are known to massage the miracle cream into their weary soles throughout the day. After pampering, invigorate with Pumice Foot Scrub (\$6.25).

■ One last simple pleasure — tea and scones at Nelman-Marcus in the Somerset Collection. The afternoon tea in Nelman's cafe features chocolate-covered strawberries, lemon squares, sandwiches and jams (\$6.95). No reservations necessary.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can give her column ideas by calling 953-2047. Ext. 1889, from your touch-tone phone.

Unwrapping the secret to giving the right gift

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO

STAFF WRITER

The question was: What do you want for Christmas that you know you're not going to get?

Donald Roberts of Garden City answered, "A Caribbean cruise for my wife Carolyn and I."

Timothy Maloney of Canton Township responded, "a '57 T-Bird, classic car."

Richard Jablonski of Plymouth laughed and said, "I just told my brother that I wanted a B-17. I love airplanes. I fly. So, if I owned a B-17 I could take it around to shows and just enjoy it."

When Jablonski explained that the plane retails for about a million dollars, it was understandable that his family might not be rushing off to have it wrapped in time for Christmas.

Kathleen Oberheiser of Livonia refused to play the wish game.

"I don't ask for anything, that way I won't be disappointed," she said.

But Mary Stefan, owner of The Great American Basket Company in Farmington Hills, has a plan for giving to none of these folks have to be disappointed.

"If you have a hard-to-please or already-has-everything person on your list, it's time to start thinking," she said. "What are their likes? Dislikes? Hobbies? Interests? Are they a golfer? Tennis player? Classic music buff?"

"This kind of consideration makes our company successful," she said.

"We put together customized baskets of gifts which are tailor-made for special people. For example, for the person who has everything, we package chocolate-covered potato chips, or chocolate-covered popcorn. We might

also suggest a replica of a Dom Perignon bottle of champagne filled with chocolate corks. The golfer might get a bucketful of golf items and chocolate tees. These are some of our best sellers."

So, if Jablonski's brother is reading this, he should collect a book on vintage aircraft, a B-17 model airplane kit, and a coffee mug with planes painted on it, put them all in a basket and present it on Christmas Day as a substitute for the real B-17.

And remember Richard, it's the thought that counts . . .

HOLDING

The bag

Shoppers, collectors get handle on unusual works of art



A shopping riddle: What comes in all shapes and sizes? What can hold 50 pounds before it snaps? And what is fast-becoming a favorite with collectors? If you guessed the shopping bag, score 10 points and ride to the top of the escalator.

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO

STAFF WRITER

Shopping bags are hot. Especially during the holidays.

When bringing packages home or transporting gifts to a party, nothing beats an elegantly designed flat-bottom bag with a twisted cord handle from a department store.

"Hudson's distributes 2.3 million shopping bags annually," reported Karen Kleinfelt, a spokeswoman for the department store. "During November and December we come out with a limited number of special holiday-design bags that are available at the store entrances and near the escalators. This year we have 400,000 to distribute. They are very pretty and colorful, picturing our Santa Bear blowing a horn."

Hudson's requests 30 cents for each bag, and the money is donated to the United Way, according to Kleinfelt. JC Penney charges 25 cents for its large-size holiday bag, this year featuring Santa Claus sitting in a rocking chair painting a face on a toy doll.

The Neiman Marcus bag is a rich, laminated red with the store's name across the center of the bag in gold script. The handle is a shiny gold braid which matches the color of the type. This bag is used year-round. No change for the holidays.

The bag is a gift to the customer who makes a purchase, according to Karen Emde of Neiman's.

Retailers wishing to be politically correct use shopping bags made from "recycled material containing post consumer waste" said Diane Pierok, marketing director for the Durobag Company of Kentucky, the largest do-

mestic manufacturer of retail shopping bags in the United States.

Environmentally sound

"Even Bloomingdale's switched to bags made from recycled materials this year," she said. "We make bags for hundreds of the nation's retailers at two plants in Kentucky and Mexico."

Durobag usually creates the bags from designs submitted by a retailer's advertising department, Pierok said. Each bag costs between 20 cents and \$1 to manufacture, depending on size, weight of paper, printing and type of handle.

The company's tests show that its average bag can hold up to 50 pounds before it rips or the handle breaks away.

"Some bags are very fancy these days," Pierok said. "Retailers want bottom boards, eyelets around the handle fastening, windows in the bag. We made a bag for the Coach Company that had a leather handle, very customized."

"My favorite was a Halloween bag for one of the greeting card companies that read, 'Yo! Candy, NOW! We deal with bags every day yet some of them are so neat our staff keeps a few around.'"

Bags as art

Durobag employees aren't the only collectors of unusual shopping bags. They're art to some keen-eyed shoppers who delight in showing off their collections, using them in home decor, in the lunchroom, and the classroom.

"I had hundreds of shopping bags



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN STORMZLAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

No bag lady jokes, please! Diane Kendall of Troy helps us show off some of the prettiest shopping bags of the season.

from stores around the world," Chris Smiley of Rochester said. "Collecting them was a practical and fun hobby. I'd use them to carry things to school when I was involved with a big project. I used them to bring things back and forth for parties. Friends and relatives loved to surprise me with new bags from their travels, and I really appreciated acquiring new ones."

There's no doubt that shopping bags are cost-effective advertising for retailers. They show up at airports, charity auctions, banquets and luncheons filled with whatever, but always carrying a message.

"My favorite shopping bag makes

me happy whenever I see it," Mary Lou Parsons of Livonia said. "It's the Sak's December bag. Every holiday season the calendar is printed on the outside of the bag. It symbolizes all the glitter and glamour of the holidays — the shopping, the parties. I honestly break into a grin whenever I see that bag!"

Patricia Grossman of Madison Heights likes to collect shopping bags. She has them hanging on the wall around her dressing table.

"My husband teases me with lines like, 'Can't we afford a painting?' she said with a laugh. "But, hey, some of these are works of art to me. They're just on bags not in frames!"

MONDAY, DEC. 14

BRIDAL FAIR TICKETS

Hosted by Hudson's Northland. Event includes, brunch, guest speaker, fashions, information, gifts and entertainment. Tickets on sale through Jan. 23. Bridal fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 23. Inexpensive for heating included. \$12.50 per person. Northland, Eight Mile/Greenfield. 443-6332.

TUESDAY, DEC. 15

ART SALE

Portrait artist Nancy Uwang available. Pontiac Oakland Society of Artists display and sell. All media. Through December. Great Oaks Mall, Walton/Livemore. 651-6000.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

MEN'S NIGHT

Special events, advice and refreshments for male shoppers. 5-10 p.m. Gifts wrapped free. Pictures available with Mrs. Santa. Hot dogs and pop. Woodland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt. 522-4100.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

LIVE BROADCAST

WNIC Toys for Tots Breakfast Club. 6-10 a.m. Winchester Mall, Rochester/Avon. 652-1152.

SANTA BREAKFAST

Ruby Tuesday's. 9 a.m. First-come, first-served basis. Lakeside Mall. M-59/Schoenherr. 247-0762.

THURSDAY, DEC. 17

CHORAL CONCERT

Livonia Civic Chorus. 7 p.m. Laurel Park Place. W. Six Mile/Newburgh. 462-1100.

RADIO BREAKFAST

WOMC Toys for Tots Breakfast Club. Co-sponsored by U.S. Marine Corps. 6-10 a.m. Orchard Mall, Maple/Orchard Lake. 651-7727.

CHOIR PERFORMS

Plymouth Baptist Church Choir. 7 p.m. East court. Somerset Collection. Big Beaver/Coolidge. 425-5001.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

VOCALIST PERFORMS

Joseph Pokorski sings holiday tunes. 7:30 p.m. Center court. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Walton/Adams. 375-9451.

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

STORIES DRAMATIZED

Acting troupe performs holiday tales. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Performing Arts Court. Repeated Sunday 2 p.m. "Around the World at Christmas" includes classic stories from Christmas, Hanukkah and Greek mythology. Lakeside Mall. M-59/Schoenherr. 247-1744.

BRASS QUINTET

Performs holiday music. 1 p.m. Center court. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Walton/Adams. 375-9451.

SWEET ADLINES

Spirit of Detroit branch performs. Noon. Laurel Park Place. W. Six Mile/Newburgh. 462-1100.

SANTA BREAKFAST

9 a.m. Neiman Marcus Cafe. Repeated Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Level Three. Somerset Collection. Big Beaver/Coolidge. 643-3300.