

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

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SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

It's your wedding day: put on perfection

The ceremonies of life require special attention to detail and intricate planning. Few occasions allow us the luxury of expressing our dreams and fantasies. Our wedding day is one of those rare times when we can "put on perfection," as poet John Donne bids brides-to-be.

If you are joyously planning an upcoming wedding, you know this to be true. You've undoubtedly spent countless hours debating china and crystal patterns, selecting linens and silver serving pieces, in hopes that your choices will endure.

And on the day itself, nothing less than perfect will suffice. The dresses, the flowers, the music and the cake, are all seemingly endless details that will transform the sacred ceremony into an expression of your tastes and of your heart.

Luckily, there are some local merchants and experts who can guide you through this arduous process and can even provide you with some cherished keepsakes.

One such woman is Sandi Burchart who opened her shop, Victorian Lace Elegance, in Farmington to showcase her selection of Victorian-era memorabilia and handcrafted bridal accessories.

"I want brides to be able to get something unique that they won't see again," said Burchart of her heirloom beaded garter belts and lace umbrellas. The hand-beaded garter belts are embellished with your choice of ribbons and flowers and require 7-10 days to complete (\$45).

Godiva Chocolatier at Fairlane Town Center presents elegant chocolate remembrances for a wedding, bridal shower or rehearsal dinner favor. Choose from the Demitasse Collection of chocolate wafers wrapped in foil (\$2), the Mini Ballotin which holds two sculpted pieces of candy (\$3.25), or the Gold Ballotin in a signature Godiva box (\$5).

Gifts for attendants



Brides often ponder an appropriate token of appreciation and love to give to the members of the wedding party. Rene Haeffner of Farmington Hills discovered the exquisite perfume bottle (\$42.75) pictured, and shared her discovery with me.

The Genie Bottle, as it is called, is displayed prominently at the Bon-Ton Shoppe, 23320 Farmington Road in Farmington. This hand-blown iridescent glass decanter is reminiscent of the ancient Egyptian bottles created for their magical scented oils. Today, the delicate collectibles are swirled with color, engraved and embossed with gold.

The legendary genie is said to make all your wishes come true as he transports you to a land of bliss and romance. Thus, a fitting gift for those you cherish.

Gift-giving is, of course, an integral part of the wedding ceremony, but it begins long before the wedding day. Showers are held to provide the bride and groom with those necessities of house and home that all of us eventually accumulate over years of marriage.

Fondue, anyone?



How many fondue pots have you sold in long-forgotten garage sales? Someone was a lucky recipient of your faddish '60s discard. Fondue is "in" again, according to the folks at Crate & Barrel in the Somerset Collection. The fondue set pictured (\$39.95) is requested by a majority of the 50,000 brides-to-be in the Crate & Barrel registry. This set features a white enamel pot with six forks and ceramic dipping bowls. The addition of a beechwood lazy Susan ups the price to \$84.95. Perfect for a casual newlywed get-together.

I encountered Kathy Sheridan of Troy while browsing the multi-level Crate & Barrel store. Kathy especially liked the white-on-white ivy embossed ceramic bowls and platters newly featured in a large display.

"White serving pieces always make great gifts," she said. "They can be formal or casual." Her mother, Anne Daly of Rochester Hills, agreed. "You never tire of white and it will go with any color china the bride may have chosen."

I hope that some of these ideas will add to the perfection of your wedding day. Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. To give her your column ideas, call 953-2047, Ext. 1889 from your touch-tone phone.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAK

Poised for pictures: Bridesmaids and flower girls want dresses they can wear again after the wedding day. Floral chintzes fit the bill.

Bridal fair

Reining in on getting hitched

Today's bride still wants something old, new, borrowed and blue at her wedding, but she also wants style, value and the little extras.

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

The sold-out crowd at the Southfield Pavilion Jan. 23 consisted mostly of engaged couples, maids of honor, and mothers-in-law-to-be — all on a fact-finding mission.

Hudson's third annual Bridal Fair had promised them answers.

More than 800 listeners nibbled at their chicken salad, heard a guest speaker joyfully discuss communication differences between the sexes,

See winter bridal supplement Thursday

oohed and ahhed through an hour-long bridal fashion show, and then met with 75 different manufacturers representatives to discuss crystal patterns, beads, bouquets and honeymoon lingerie.

Elegant Bride editor Jaclyn Barrett-Hirschhaus, also a recent bride, urged them come up with "special touches."

"Think about all the special touches you can incorporate into your wedding day to keep the memory alive," she said. "Include the reading of a poem. Print a program for guests that includes personal information about the couple and wedding party members. Select unique favors for guests to take home. Give some thought to special music you want played. Look



Maybe that one! Stacy Welch of Rochester (left) and Kristen Carroll of Waterford (right) admire the wedding gowns crossing the runway before them.

for ways to make the day vivid."

Weddings are the ultimate celebrations of tradition and rightly so, she said. However, modern brides look for bridal party dresses that can be used again, like two-piece dresses, suits and tea-length florals.

David Haight and Michelle Letasier plan a September wedding in Ferndale where the bride-to-be grew up.

"We came to the bridal fair to get some ideas," she said. "Also, my mother recommended we hear the speaker on communicating with your spouse. It was an excellent program."

Rick Bratke and Sharon Put plan a November wedding in Warren. "I enjoyed Hudson's program," Bratke said. "We've attended a few other bridal fairs, but this one was special. We plan to register together afterwards."

"I want Rick's input on the selections we make for our home," Put said.

Lisa Schulte of Clarkston, attended the fair with members of her wedding party.

"I'm having a July wedding at Addison Oaks in the (Oakland) county park," she said. "I love the outdoors. Since my party comes from all over Michigan we got together today to look for dresses we can wear again. We need ideas."

Ideas came from designer Vera Wang, exclusive to Hudson's, whose bridal line was modeled in three acts to music from classic love songs. Gowns by Ursula, Lanz and Sylvia White were also presented. Groomsmen, ring bearers and fathers were attired in tuxedos from Perry Ellis, Christian Dior and Pierre Cardin, courtesy of President Tuxedo.

Registry system goes high-tech

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Judy Bauer of Troy mentally compiled a bridal registry of her own and she accompanied her daughter-in-law-to-be, Debbie Eate, around Hudson's Marketplace.

"I knew I would. I warned my husband that I might spend some money before we left the house this morning," she said with a laugh. "There are so many more beautiful home furnishings than when I was a bride years ago."

The bridal registry business itself has changed through the years as Phyllis Mick, gift registry consultant with Hudson's at Lakeside, points out.

"We are computerized now and soon a customer can receive information about a registered bride's selections from Hudson's, Dayton's or Marshall Field's by calling 1-800-2-DO-I-DO," she said. "Through our scan system, purchases are recorded the same day and time they are made."

To keep the system foolproof, brides and customers must report gifts bought.

Mick suggests couples make appointments to register so staff can be available for consultations.

"Brides should also consider pattern choices before coming in to register," she said. "This saves time and also regrets. Many items purchased become heirlooms so a couple should be completely satisfied with a pattern or style they select."

Charles Coleman, vice president of Tiffany & Co. in the Somerset Collection, cautions couples against "over-registering."

"This results in a potpourri of items, none of which complete a set," he said. "On the other hand, some couples under-register, leaving invited guests with limited options, both in regard to price point and taste level. Couples should take into consideration the guest list's pocket-book."

Bridal registries are also provided by several other metro-Detroit retailers. Brides can register at Cargo Express, Crate & Barrel, Jacobson's, Heeslops, Neiman Marcus, Service Merchandise and Williams-Sonoma.

Registries were discontinued at J.C. Penney, Saks Fifth Avenue and Crowley's.

Locally, Mitzel's in the downtown Rochester, Horn Of Plenty in downtown Birmingham, Studio 330 in the Bloomfield Plaza, and Slade's in Southfield's Applegate Square, have gift registry services.

3 tips for wedded bliss

Communications specialist Loretta Malaga offers couples three suggestions for a successful marriage:

- You must give up the need to always be right.
- You must give up the need to be in control.
- You must replace the phrase, "I'll try," with actual commitment.

MONDAY, FEB. 1

AMATEUR ART CONTEST

Entries accepted now through Friday, Feb. 12, for Feb. 23-28 show. Entries must be suitable for hanging, no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet. No limit to number of entries. Best in show wins \$250. First, second- and third-place winners receive gift certificates. Entry fee \$4 per entry. Forms available at mall management office.

Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt, 476-1166.

FASHION GROUP CLUB

Registration through Feb. 19 in mall management office, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members will participate in fashion events, retail seminars. Interested men and women must be at least 16 years old.

Laurel Park Place, W. Six Mile/Newburgh, 462-1100.

WARHOL COLLECTION

Exhibited in Rotunda. Prints of endangered species series. Through Wednesday, Feb. 10. Detroit Zoological Society's memberships available at exhibit.

Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Cookidge, 643-6360.

THURSDAY, FEB. 4

SPRING HOME SHOW

Through Feb. 7 with 200 exhibitors, including 40 from Twelve Oaks Mall. Sponsored by Builders Association of Southeast Michigan. Admission \$5 adults, \$3 seniors, Children 6-12 \$3, under 6, free. Thursday and Friday 2-10 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. Free. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Waterford/Adams, 375-9451.

SUNDAY, FEB. 7

GENERAL HOSPITAL VISIT

Meet Jason Quartermaine from the popular daytime soap. He will answer questions and pose for pictures. 1-4 p.m. Center court. Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt, 522-4100.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Ticket includes dinner and entertainment. Beginning at 8 p.m. \$25 per person. Oceania Inn wing inside mall. Benefit for the homeless. Call Maria Weeng for reservations. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Waterford/Adams, 651-4608.

JAZZ CONCERT

Platist Bess Bonnier performs in north court. Fashionably modeled during the concert. 1-2:30 p.m. Laurel Park Place, W. Six Mile/Newburgh, 462-1100.

CLASSICS AND CROSSBARS

Co-sponsored by WQRS. Noon to 2 p.m. Classics concert on Rotunda stage. Brunch catered by Sebastian's Grill. Tickets \$20 per person. Proceeds benefit DIA and Center for Creative Studies. Tickets available at congregate desks. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Cookidge, 643-6360.

NOV 400 CENTER. 1-96/NOVI ROAD. 737-4477.

FRIDAY, FEB. 5

ROCK CONCERT

E.Z. Bang plays, 7 p.m. West Court, Free. Southland Mall, Eureka/Pardee, 474-2800.

LOVER'S CONTEST

Win a romantic getaway to L'Yonia's Marriott Hotel, plus dinner for two at Max & Erma's. Entry blanks in center court. Laurel Park Place, W. Six Mile/Newburgh, 462-1100.

SATURDAY, FEB. 6

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBITS

Through Saturday, Feb. 13. Events vary at all Hudson's stores. Call for dates and times. Highlights include jazz concerts, art shows, African cooking demonstrations. Northland, Oakland and Fairlane, 443-6263.

PUPPET SHOW

Cinderella performed by Village Players, 11 a.m. and 1, 3, and 7 p.m. Also Mondays through Fridays at 7