

MAILS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1993

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SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

Heavenly praise for angel shop

It's a heavenly day in Royal Oak," sang Denny Dahlmann, as he answered the phone at his newly opened boutique, Dahlmann is convinced that angels were watching over him when he conceived the idea for his heavenly shop, Angel Treasures, 401 N. Main, in Royal Oak.

The former developer turned "angel broker" opened his doors just days after finding the space and has had nothing but good luck ever since. Customer response has been beyond his expectations. The store displays 2,000 angelic gifts and



collectibles, including designs by local artists and exclusive one-of-a-kind. Dreamscapes, for example, are handcrafted angel sculptures, accented with

dried flowers and cherished as treasures by collectors. So too are the folk art angels of La Palma, a town of peasant-artists in the mountains of El Salvador.

There's a certain lifting of the spirit and a personal connection that is made when you enter Angel Treasures. "I'm going to be hanging out here," said Cheryl Bartleman of Royal Oak. "People need the inspiration of angels. They evoke a positive image that has special meaning." Cheryl plans to give an angel gift to everyone on her list. She began with a musical snow globe enclosing a golden Victorian angel (\$18.50).

Look for Old-World angel prints, vintage coat pins, candle holders (from \$5), mirrored music boxes (\$16-\$32), dream catchers and handcrafted angel babies. Whimsical animal angels include cats, cows and sheep dressed in antique fabrics and crocheted lace (\$34).

"We're not about any religion. We're a gift store for all seasons," Dahlmann said.

Angel images appear on garden ornaments, wind chimes, birdhouses, planters, greeting cards and chiffon scarves. As you browse, the atmosphere soothes, enveloping you with music from tapes with names like "Where Angels Dance" and "Music from the Heart." Dahlmann is betting that after a visit to his cherubic emporium, you too, will become a believer. Archives A.D., 114 W. Third, in



Rochester, abounds with cement and plaster architectural elements, including baby-faced cherubs (\$36-\$38). The intricately sculpted angels sit on pedestals or preside over

gardens. Some of the images are carved into brackets and overdoors and some adorn planters.

The artful store also displays handpainted furniture and pottery, gargoyles, unusual candles, musician busts and mouthblown Jordan glass.

"To grace your mantel or top your tree, check out Pacific Rim's jewelline and ivory angels draped in velvet and brocade fabrics at Heslop's. The elegant figures are available in three sizes and priced from \$34.95 to \$99.95. Heslop's is at Oakland Mall in Troy. Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield, Meadowbrook Village Mall in Rochester Hills and Merrill-5 Plaza in Livonia.

Angels are so universally loved that the White House Christmas tree is adorned this year in an angelic motif. Celebrating the "Year of the American Craft," artisans from across the country were commissioned to donate original angel-themed ornaments.

Jewelry artist Jacqueline LaToon of West Bloomfield was chosen to submit an angelic design. Her contribution is an intricate trumpet angel sculpted of Fimo and painted with gold leaf. The wings are crafted of feathers and the trumpet spilla a myriad of fine jewels. See a complete collection of LaToon's work at Saks Fifth Avenue at The Somerset Collection in Troy and the Riki Schaffer Gallery at the Boardwalk in West Bloomfield. Her custom jewelry company is called Joie De Vivre.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her column ideas at 953-2047, mailbox 1889, or fax them to her at 644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Mails & Mainstreets next week:

- Conversations with Santa about all the crazy things he's asked to do this time of the year.
- Shopping for last-minute gift ideas.
- Linda Bachrack visits the pamper parlours.

Potpourri sales keep registers ringing

Crystal bowls filled with scented potpourri will greet holiday guests in hallways across America this season. One manufacturer of home fragrance expects 1993 sales to top \$70 million.

Editor's note: According to Webster's Dictionary, "potpourri" comes from a combination of French words, pot, the noun meaning a pot, and the verb, pourrir, to rot. It was originally given to stews. Today, potpourri means a mixture of dried flower petals with spices, kept in a jar for its fragrance.

BY SUSAN DeMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

It's what the well-dressed home is wearing.

People are scenting their dwellings the same way they scent themselves, filling their airspace with comforting, pleasing, even enticing aromas wafting from bags of potpourri, fragrance candles, sachets, room sprays and fragrance-soaked lamp rings.

At this time of year, it's the essence of evergreen, cedar, cinnamon, almonds and vanilla. At other times of the year, citrus, florals and woody fragrances are in demand.

The Aromatic Co. of Heber Springs, Ark., leads the competition in the sale of holiday home fragrance. Last year, it sold \$62 million worth of The Scent of Christmas and The Scent of the Tree. This year, with its new The Scent of Amaretto, the company expects sales to top \$70 million.

"We have our fragrances in all 50 states and 38 countries," said Peggy Harris, Aromatic spokeswoman. "A bag of our potpourri is a wonderful product. It's visually pleasing and aromatically spectacular. The assortment of colorful, dried materials

See POTPOURRI, 7A



ART EMANUEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPH

Fragrant gifts: From potpourris to perfumes, shoppers have hundreds of name brand products to choose from when selecting a personal fragrance or scent for their home.

Retail decorators give holiday tips

BY SUSAN DeMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Ugh! It's a Charlie Brown tree! There are bare spots between branches. The light cords show through. There's not enough garland. The cat just ate all the tinsel from the bottom. The ornaments keep falling off. What's a body to do?

"Every holiday season, customers call us with home decorating job offers for our store professionals," said Chris Morrisroe, Hudson's spokeswoman. "But it's a no-no. These guys are so busy working 12-hour days, seven days a week, decorating stores for holidays, they probably wouldn't have time to do homes if they wanted to."

Ray Boley, regional group manager of visual presentation at Hudson's,

said it's really so. So many trees, mantles, foyers, so little time . . .

But Boley and a few other retail visual professionals, offered their tips to readers, along with happy holiday wishes:

■ Use evergreen-fragranced potpourri underneath or sprinkled throughout an artificial tree. Visitors will go home insisting the tree was a real one.

■ Spray Styrofoam balls with glue and roll in potpourri. Add ribbon, lace or trimmings and hang wherever you want fragrance.

■ Hang the lights like the experts do. Wrap the branches with lights, then go up and down around the tree to fill in. Use lots of lights.

■ Create lifestyle trees. Make the tree a part of your home's decor. No mat-

ter if you're contemporary, traditional or homespun, your tree should reflect the style of your life.

■ Don't stop at a tree and a wreath. Carry the decorating theme onto wall sconces, chandeliers, mantles, hall tables.

■ Bring the color scheme of your home onto your tree either through ribbons, garland or tiny gift boxes covered with coordinating fabric. Red and green are traditional, but purple, pink, gold, blue and silver are the new traditions.

— Ray Boley, Hudson's

■ Think unique. Look around your home and see what objects could be

See HOLIDAY, 7A

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

JEWEL OF A HOLIDAY

Boxes, ornaments, ribbons and bows glitter and sparkle through mail. Jewel-tone exhibits featured in visit with Santa. Photos. Fairlane Town Center. Michigan/Hubbard. Dearborn. 593-1370.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Dickens characters and animated surprises. Photos with Santa. Center court. Toys for Tots program soliciting new, unwrapped toys during live broadcasts by WJ Country through Dec. 24. Drop box for Gift of Reading Program near Sander's center court. Livonia Mall. Seven Mile/Middlebelt. 476-1166.

SHOW OESSE

Center court children's events include musical performances and Mother Goose story hours daily 1, 3, and 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 and 6 p.m. through Dec. 24. Photos with Santa. Choral groups perform near Garden Court through Dec. 17. Summit Place. Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph. Waterford. 682-0123.

INTERNATIONAL SANTA

Santa photos in high-tech North Pole setting. Breakfasts with Santa 9 a.m. various mall restaurants to Dec. 24. First-come, first served basis. \$3 per person. Contact mall for complete schedule. Lakeside. M-59/Schoenherr. Sterling Heights. 247-1744.

MUSICAL NOTES

Large musical instruments with jolly faces decorate the center. Magic mailbox wishes letters off Santa at Twelve Oaks. Photos with Santa. Twelve Oaks. Twelve Mile/Novi. 348-5432.

SANTA AND SCOUTS

Giving Tree benefits 800 wards of the state in need of holiday gifts. Coordinated by local boy scouts through Dec. 24. Fountain coins will also go to Dept. of Social Services for needy children. Gift wrap station benefits Rainbow Connection. Santa photos. Choral groups interested in performing at the mall call Cathy Smith. Meadowbrook Village Mall. Adams/Watson. Rochester Hills. 375-9451.

SESAME SANTA

Sesame Street theme throughout mall. Santa photos. Interactive displays for preschoolers. Oakland Mall. 14 Mile/John R. Troy 555-6000.

PINOCCHIO

Hudson's annual animated exhibit tells the story of puppet who becomes real boy. Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. No charge. About 20 minutes to walk through. Santa's workshop features animated elves building toys. Photos. Lower level exhibit hall, Through Dec. Westland Center. Eight Mile/Greenfield. Southfield. 443-6263.

HOMELESS BENEFIT

Bicker-Tunis Furs will collect coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks for the homeless through Dec. 24. Orchard Mall. Orchard Lake/Maple. West Bloomfield. 855-9200.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14

KID'S CLUB

Music, magic and puppet shows for children ages 5 and younger. 11 a.m. Mini mall. Free by registering in monthly Kid's Club at the event or any play area store. Newburgh Plaza. Six Mile/Newburgh. Livonia. 649-6500.

BRIDAL FAIR

Information for engaged couples and bridal parties at annual Hudson's Bridal Fair. Includes brunch, visits with manufacturer's reps, and fashion show Saturday, Jan. 22 beginning 9:30 a.m. Southfield Pavilion. \$15 per person. Tickets on sale now through date of event. 443-6334.

CHORUS PERFORMS

Livonia Civic Chorus in holiday concert. 7:30 p.m. Laurel Park Place. Six Mile/Newburgh. Livonia. 462-1100.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16

REMOTE BROADCAST

WNIC broadcasts live from mallcenter court to benefit Toys For Tots U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Campaign. 6-10 a.m. Free coffee and Danish compliments of Sand Dely of Chesapeake Cafe. New, unwrapped toys will be collected. Orchard Mall. Orchard Lake/Maple. West Bloomfield. 461-7727.

SANTA'S HOUSE

Santa's got a new house in Kellag Park. Kids welcome to visit and pose for pictures. Thursdays and Fridays 4-9 p.m. Saturdays noon to 6 p.m. Sundays noon-5 p.m. \$3.50. Main St./Ann Arbor Trail. Downtown Plymouth. 453-1540.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17

CHILDREN'S BENEFIT

"Christmas is for Kids" hosted by WDMC radio to raise money for Children's Hospital of Michigan. Noon-6 p.m. Laurel Park Place. Six Mile/Newburgh. Livonia. 462-1100.

CURIOUS GEORGE

Storybook monkey visits Jacobson's Children's Dept. Noon-4 p.m. Repeated Saturday. Laurel Park Place. Six Mile/Newburgh. Livonia. 591-7696.

OPEN LATE

Late night for shoppers to 11 p.m. tonight only. Santa photos. Entertainment. Tree of Memories in J.C. Penney Court benefits Garden City and Plymouth Hospice through Dec. 19. Free shopping bags, \$5 off coupons. Chance to win \$500 shopping spree. Westland Shopping Center. Wayne/Warren. 425-5001.