

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Designer from page 8A

"Eleven years ago, when I was 24 years old, I decided to go into the fine jewelry business for myself because working for an established jewelry company, Charles Warren, I didn't have the opportunity to be as creative as I wanted to be. I used my credentials and experience from Warren's as the opportunity to go it alone. I've been growing steadily ever since and most of my business is with repeat customers."

Meyer decided to name her company Amalgamations, from the verb amalgamate, to unite or combine complementary materi-

als. That's her design style, combining precious and semi-precious stones with unique components from around the world using custom 14K gold and sterling silver, both antique and contemporary.

Meyer's creations are not faddish, but classic and fashionable. The price range is \$250 to \$3,600. Following her precise sketches, a close-knit staff of three creates one-of-a-kind necklaces and earrings using amber, jades, turquoise, peridot, gems, tapis, pearls and onyx.

"I offer the discriminating

jewelry lover value," Meyer explained. "I'm a wholesaler in beads. I buy my own components from all over the world. The way I string them produces a fashion look, a rich look, but without the high price tag. I love to use color. I love to combine black with color."

Meyer graduated from Troy High School, taking every art class available, including metalsmithing, pottery and macrame. She said her jewelry career grew out of an appreciation for beautiful jewelry, her desire to work with her hands and the fact she was "not good at drawing or

painting."

Jacobson's spokeswoman Janice Hayes said the company has done very well with Meyer's line of fine jewelry. "She represents the kind of unique talent we strive to feature," Hayes said.

Meyer said Amalgamations takes her energies every day of the week because she is always contemplating a new design, a new component purchase, a better way to do something. To relax, she sews and spends time with her two young children, "who also love to string beads," she said with a wide smile.

She hopes Amalgamations will continue to grow slowly so she can control the quality and uniqueness of each piece. But expansion awaits as a new sales representative is pitching the collection on the west coast and museum business is increasing.

"One of the best features of my business is that because we are small and personal, I can design whatever a customer has in mind. This works at Jacobson's where sales people put me in touch with clients so I can transform a button earring into something designed for someone with a round-

face, or tailor-make a colored stone piece to go with a shopper's latest outfit. That inspires me."

Meyer said she doesn't have any mentors or heroes, "I just go with my own inspirations." She plans a fall "trunk" show at area Jacobson's. Currently, her ethnic-looking necklaces are in demand to go with the light tones of summer.

"Fashion dictates whether beads will be long or choker-length," Meyer said. "But the Amalgamations Look will always make sure they're classical."

Shue from page 8A

Shue became a teen heart throb for his portrayal of aspiring writer Billy Campbell on the Fox Television series "Melrose Place." His film credits include "The Karate Kid" and "Adventures in Babysitting."

He attended Dartmouth College where he majored in history

and played soccer on the Ivy League championship team. With his coach's encouragement, he went to Africa to teach math at a government school. He played soccer for the Bulawayo Highlanders, an all-African league.

When Shue played in Zimbabwe before a cheering crowd of

70,000 fans, he was named "Man of the Match." His team went on to win the national championship. Shue went on with a deepened social consciousness, which led to Do Something.

Special gift
Sister-in-laws Mary Dickow

and Marilyn George of West Bloomfield thought an autographed T-shirt would be a perfect birthday gift for their daughters. "And, of course, we support the cause," Dickow said. "It's a great idea."

Nicole Nance and Kelly Soles of Rochester came for an auto-

graphed T-shirt because "we see him on Melrose Place and we also like soccer," they chimed while waiting their turn in a line that extended across the store from the Men's Shop to the credit department.

The sole two men in the audi-

ence reported that they came to get the scoop on next season's plot.

"Will Allison come back to marry Billy? That's what I want to know," said Ron Harris of Troy.

RETAIL DETAILS

Retail Details features the latest openings, closings, new merchandise lines, personnel changes, and other news around the Malls & Mainstreets community. Mail submissions to: Retail Details, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Or fax them to: (313) 591-7279.

MS. HARLEY VISITS
Gina Galligan, Ms. Harley Davidson, meets Hudson's shoppers to promote the HD merchandise line available in the Textiles Department of most Hudson's stores. Galligan, 31, of Mississippi, comes to Twelve Oaks in Novi 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, June 18 and 4-5 p.m. at Oakland Mall in Troy.

HELP FIGHT CANCER
A collection of gently used clothing, household items, furniture, books and toys is available in downtown Farmington at The Discovery Shop run by volunteers from the American Cancer

Society. For more information, call (810) 477-1081.

POWER PARTIES
PartiGiant, a division of F & M Distributors, has a complete line of Power Rangers-themed party goods now in stock. PartiGiant has locations in Rochester, Westland, Farmington, Roseville and Taylor.

FAIRLANE CYCLISTS
Fairlane Town Center and the Dearborn police have added bicycle patrols to the shopping center's security force. The patrols will run throughout the summer and autumn during daylight hours.

While on patrol, the radio-equipped officers will monitor the center's parking lots and provide a range of assistance to customers — everything from helping locate cars to giving travel directions. The bike patrol officers wear uniform shirts and short pants with regular uniform gear. They will be patrolling on 18-speed

mountain bikes — two were donated by Bear's at Fairlane. The Fairlane Center joins Twelve Oaks in Novi, in utilizing bike patrols.

BRIDAL TEAS
A Bridal Trousseau Tea program begins this month at Jacobson's in the Laurel Park Place in Livonia. The first Tea is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, June 25. Brides-to-be are invited to make a complimentary reservation for the monthly event where proper etiquette and table settings will be discussed during a formal tea with Registry Coordinator Orestia Pierce. For more details call (313) 591-7696, ext. 312.

YOUTH GRANT
Hudson's Westland store manager Mike Gilligan recently presented a \$15,000 grant to the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Foundation. The association plans to use the money for their peer support programs that focus

on developing self-esteem in high-risk teens.

TEEN SKINCARE
The General Nutrition Center (GNC) at Twelve Oaks in Novi has put together a natural Teen Skin Care Kit (\$18.99). The kit contains astringent, cleanser, tone and vitamins.

Also at Twelve Oaks, Trade Secrets is featuring a line of Freeman Aromaceuticals that includes stress-relieving aroma therapy body scrubs, facial masks and gel cleansers (all \$3.25).



Mall cyclists: David Robinson (left) and Christopher Mertoian patrol the Fairlane Town Center on their new 18-speed mountain bikes.

HOW TO USE THE BATHROOM.

Quite probably saying to yourself, any four-year-old knows how to use the bathroom. But you may not know that you use more water in the bathroom than any place else in your home. In fact, between the toilet, the shower and the sink you can use up to 55 gallons a day. Multiply that by the number of homes in the world, and that's a lot of natural resources going down the drain. Now, we're not saying you should stop taking showers or brushing your teeth. We're just suggesting some simple bathroom training. For instance, when you're brushing your teeth, turn off the water. Do the same when

you're shaving. And just because your shower sounds like an opera hall, don't feel the need to sing one. Shorter songs make for shorter showers. And for the biggest culprit of them all, the toilet, try patting a weighted jug in the tank. It will help save water every time you flush. Plus, don't forget to turn out the lights when you leave. You'll be helping to conserve electricity.

Save up to 15% more water by installing a weighted jug in your toilet tank. And oh yeah, if you don't think you'll remember these things, take this newspaper with you the next time you go. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND THIS CALL 1-800-MY-SHARE. Turning off your water while shaving or brushing your teeth can save 2 gallons of water each time.

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