

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1994

8A(F)

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

This gift list will benefit charities

Last minute shoppers take heart. Although it's getting close to the eleventh hour, your favorite shops still brim with wonderful gift ideas. Why not give something that benefits the recipient's preferred charity? These are the gifts that "keep on giving" and I think you'll discover some unique and imaginative goodies in the following list.

Budding artists and animators will marvel at the sculptures they can create with Claymation Clay Fun Packs (\$22). This is the same product used to sculpt the now-famous California Raisins. The one-pound fun pack includes four colors of Clay, a storage box, a workmat and two Claymation Clay tools. Parents Choice presented their coveted award to Will Vinton's "pound of imagination" this year and your child can form his own wacky characters while benefitting needy children around the world. A percentage of profits from all Claymation Clay products goes to children's charities. See the entire line at The First Gallery, 22003 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield.

For a newlywed couple or a single friend in her first home, consider giving a highly collectible Christopher Radko ornament. Radko's old fashioned, Eastern European, glass ornament designs are coveted by thousands. An enthusiastic mob gathered at Neiman Marcus recently to have him sign their selections. Many carried baskets full of delicate angels, nursery rhymes characters and merry Santas.

This year Radko introduced new charity ornaments: Frosty Cares to benefit AIDS organizations; A Gifted Santa to benefit pediatric cancer research and treatment; and Baby Day Friend, a Paddington bear ornament, to help pediatric AIDS research (\$25-\$27). These are also available at La Belle Provence in Birmingham, The Village Barn in Franklin, and Flair and Fancy in Rochester.

Ros & Sherm's expanded gift department is filled with heart-warming ideas. Included in the store's "boutique corner" are beanie tapers from "A Candle in the Window," an agency that helps the homeless (4/812); bath products packaged in palm leaves coconut shells and bamboo by Forest Essentials, a company that dedicates part of its proceeds to rain forest preservation (810-228); tribal collection dolls by Chicago-artist Julie Nodd whose folk art creations are actively assembled in handicraft workshops (\$52-\$92); and Gilde's Club plus (\$10), hats (\$10) and tees (\$10). You write your check directly to Gilde's Club which provides social and emotional support to cancer patients. Ros & Sherm is also donating all of its gift wrap proceeds to the Northwest Child Resource. Ros & Sherm is in Bloomfield Plaza, Maple at Telegraph.

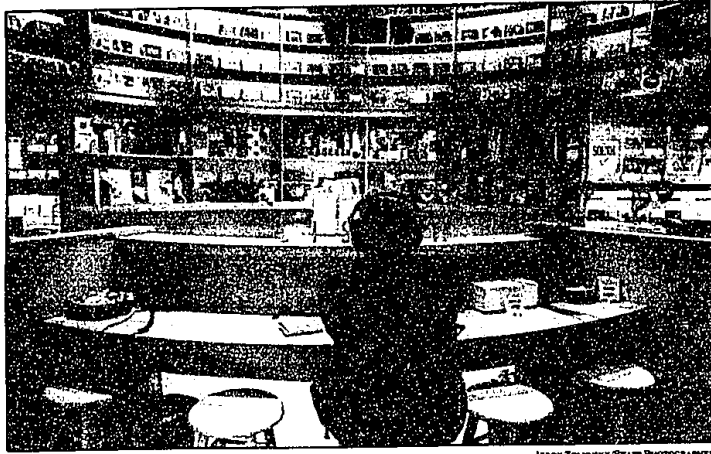
Epa special. You assure you know someone who would deeply appreciate a day at the spa. When you purchase one of Mira Linder's Christmas Spa Packages, she will donate \$100 in skin care products and cosmetics to The Haven, Oakland County's comprehensive shelter/counseling program for survivors of domestic violence. Linder's packages are available from \$225 to \$290. Call (810) 356-5810 for details. The Mira Linder Spa in the City is located in Applegate Square, Southfield. "The Greatest Table" is a remarkable collection of art by 18 regional book illustrators, brought to life by Michael Rosen's poem of grass and thanksgiving. It is a story of children and families who share a feast that is generous in spirit. The 12-foot-long "book banquet" is available at Halfway Down the Stairs in Rochester and area Borders Books (\$19.95). All proceeds aid Share Our Strength, a leading hunger relief organization.

Echoing Rosen's timeless invitation, befitting the season: "So if you're hungry, join me here, pull up another chair. We'll all feast over, make sure none of them's a sliver come in years."

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can find her column ideas at (313) 853-2047, mail her 1994, or fax them to her at (313) 644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to look for in Malls & Mainstreets next: Linda Bachrack looks home that help you pamper yourself when you're stressed.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Discovering new sounds: Barbara Widmer of Bloomfield Hills takes a shopping break to listen to a CD that caught her interest at the new Hear Music store in the Somerset Collection.

Matching kids' wear means it's time for holiday photos

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO  
STAFF WRITER

Smile. Say Cheese. Watch the Birds. It's that time of year again when moms and dads go nuts trying to capture their children's bewitching smiles on film for evermore.

To make sure her holiday pictures were extra special, Vicki Vlasic of Bloomfield Hills bought her three children matching dark blue velvet ensembles from Loretta Lorian's Children's Shop in Bloomfield.

"I wanted them to look elegant in this year's holiday photo," she said. "It will be a treasure in the years ahead."

Parents all around town have the same idea because children's shops in the area report sales of holiday finery to be brisk this season. At some locations, like Parisian at Laurel Park in Livonia, and The Gilded Rabbit in Rochester, much of the dressier, special occasion merchandise was gone by Thanksgiving.

"We still have some lovely outfits in our ready-to-wear lines by Petala, Small Treasures and Rapacillions," said owner Andrea Karp of the Gilded Rabbit. "From our custom clothing lines, Johnny Girl and Johnny B. Good for boys, shoppers can pick from very European-looking coat dresses and fully-lined suits with berets."

"The St. Ange Originals, made by Anita Micalski of Troy, feature heirloom ensembles with French seams and hand-smocking." The Gilded Rabbit also sells fine jewelry for children from Sydney Krandall Jewelers.

At Parisian Department store, customers looking for matching boy and girl outfits in toddler sizes should check out the Ashton Connor line. Rosey Kids and Patsy Alken also make charming outfits for holiday parties according to a store spokesperson.

At Carousel Kids in downtown Farmington, owner Sandy McCl-

land said designs from Good Lad, Pretty in Pink, Nicole and Sylvia White are popular with traditionalists. A new line, Cotton Collection, offers some very unusual looks for children.

Lorian said mothers are notorious for wanting to coordinate their children in matching outfits at the holidays.

"When they're small, children really get a kick out of matching their sisters and brothers," Lorian said. "We recently had a customer buy three little outfits for Gov. Engler's new triplets, so they might be wearing coordinating outfits too, for the holidays!"

Lorian carries top quality lines like Hollywood Babe, Lucy & Phoebe and Little Lulu, to name a few. Some clothes mimic adult designs, others have the conservative children's styles with capes, peplum jackets and velvet collars.

At Carousel Kids in downtown Farmington, owner Sandy McCl-

Hear Music tunes in

Serious shoppers have seen it all. So now it's a time to hear it all at a new kind of music store which opened in November at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

"If you're looking for that perfect Louis Armstrong record — great songs, great voice, great sound... This is it. From the very first track you can't help but be awed by the man who sang through his horn and played trumpet with his voice." Excerpt from Hear Music's catalog for the holidays. Louis Armstrong — The Best of the Decca Years, Vol. 1: The Singer. CD \$16.99 Tape \$10.99

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO  
STAFF WRITER

Dance music from the High Renaissance period. The soundtrack from the April 1695 coronation of Doge Marino Grimani of Venice. Reggae island tunes...

These recordings are not your run-of-the-mill pop top 10, but feature picks at the new Hear Music store next door to the Nature Company at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

See MUSIC, 9A



JOHN STORAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Snapshots: The Vlasics — Alexandra and John, 5, with Jack, 2½ — will remember Christmas in blue velvet outfits from Loretta Lorian's shop at Lahser and Maple.

See DRESSING, 9A

Retail businesses in local malls and Main Streets may submit news of upcoming special events for Added Attractions. The deadline is the Wednesday before publication on Monday. Send facts to: Malls & Mainstreets c/o The Observer & Eccentric News-papers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Or fax them to: (810) 644-1314.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

- MONDAY, DEC. 19
TWELVE OAKS SANTA: Santa sits in his Crystal Forest cottage...
WINDY HILLS SANTA: Animated Santa's Workshop...
PLYMOUTH SANTA: Santa's got a new house in the park...
TIL-TWELVE SANTA: Holidays Around the World...
WESTLAKE SANTA: Holiday Merry Bear theme...
MELBURY GARDENS: Holiday annual holiday event...
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21
BICKERS CAROLERS: Hear sounds of the season...
THURSDAY, DEC. 22
BARNBROOK QUARTET PREPARES: Today's Line-Up songs...
MERRY'S MERRY: Lucy Lingerie hosts a shopping night...
FRIEDLAND BOUTIQUE: Special occasion dresses...
SATURDAY, DEC. 24
DRESSING EVE: Hood, hat and main street stores close early...

- Discovery Kids perform daily...
LAKESIDE SANTA: International Holidays...
NORTHLAND SANTA: Kids receive a free growth chart...
OAKLAND SANTA: Sesame Street holiday decor...
LYONIA SANTA: Traditional holidays theme...
LAUREL PARK SANTA: Planet savanoras Fridays...
GREAT OAKS SANTA: Visits and photos...
FARMVILLE SANTA: Themed costumes...
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21
SANTA PHOTOS IN CENTER COURT...
SANTA BREAKFAST: Hudson's Restaurants host breakfasts...
SANTA PHOTOS IN CENTER COURT...
BICKERS CAROLERS...
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