

Malls & Mainstreets

Some tips on gifts for mom

By DONNA MULCAHY
SPECIAL WRITER

A fist full of dandelions, a big hug and a kiss. That's what I'd like for Mother's Day from my 2-year-old. But if she were older and had the money to spend, I might ask for a new shirt or even a lawn swing. After all, I carried her for nine months, changed all those messy diapers, watched "Barney and Friends"...

Anyway, that's what that I'd like for Mother's Day. If you're wondering what to get your mom (or the mother of your child), ask her. And if she won't tell you, then here are some ideas. If she enjoys wearing perfume, how about a bottle of her favorite fragrance or one you think she might like?

Nordstrom, at the Somerset Collection in Troy, is offering four fragrances that were inspired by mothers: Laila, Jacqueline, White Camellia and Zaharoff. The price for a 1.7-ounce bottle ranges from \$48 to \$65.

Laila, created by Gair Neas for his mother, has a fresh clean scent of Norwegian mountain flowers. Jacqueline, a warm and inviting fragrance featuring White Lily, Chinese Orchid and Indian Waterlily, was created by Jean-Jacques Diener, in honor of his wife and daughter.

White Camellia, inspired by the founder of the House of St. John and her daughter, includes notes of natural jasmine, Bulgarian Rose, peony and amber. Zaharoff, featuring jasmine, other floral and Oriental notes, was developed by George Zaharoff as a tribute to the undying love his grandfather had for a beautiful woman.

This time of year, you can find some great cosmetic gift packages. They usually start over \$20. If you don't know who carries your mom's favorite make-up, this may help. Hudson's carries Borghese, Cardeux, Clinique, Elizabeth Arden, Esteé Lauder and Lancome. Jacobson's carries Clinique, Esteé Lauder, Chanel, Lancome, Guerlain, Trish McEvoy, Erno Zela, Clarins and YSO.

Why not pamper your mom with scented soaps, moisturizing lotions and other such things from The Body Shop, which has locations in Birmingham, the Somerset Collection and Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. Custom-made gift baskets start at about \$25. You also can get stylish chrome caddies, filled with an assortment of shower gels or soaps, for \$12 to \$15.

For the mom-to-be, you could get bust-firming gel, stretch-mark tonic oil or aromatherapy products from \$12 to \$69.50 at A Pea in the Pod in Birmingham, or a gift certificate that's good there and at Mimi Maternity/Maternity locations at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, Twelve Oaks and the Somerset Collection.

Jewelry is always nice, especially when it comes from, say, Bully Banks & Biddle in Birmingham or Tiffany & Co. at the Somerset Collection. At Bully Banks & Biddle, you can get a birthstone ring from \$160 on up and collectibles such as Lladro figurines and Waterford crystal, which are popular Mother's Day gifts, said sales consultants Timothy C. Hanks and Lisa Marie Van Hoesen.

At Blossoms in Birmingham, you can get beautiful silk floral arrangements, indoor table-top water fountains, topiaries, fresh cut bouquets featuring exotic flowers and more. Mother's Day is one of the busiest days of the year at Clyde Smith & Sons Greenhouses and Garden Center in Westland, said Barbara (Smith) Strong, one of the managers of the six-acre farm, which has been in her family since 1834.

"People make a day of it. They take their mothers shopping here and then feel the bill for the plants that their mothers pick out," she said. Some of the more popular gift items there include colorful hanging baskets of geraniums and other flowers, regularly priced \$12.99 to \$15.99; and potted Jackson & Perkins rose bushes, regularly priced from \$12.99 to \$16.99. Watch for discount coupons in the Observer & Excelsior.

You also could make a date to take your mom shopping in downtown Birmingham, Rochester, Plymouth or at the Somerset Collection.

Whatever you give your mom, present it with a big hug and kiss — and maybe some dandelions, for old times' sake.



Edge of a trend: David Wetsman of Birmingham's ARTICLE II, stocks all of the levels of "casual" attire for the 20-to-30-somethings crowd.

Relaxed fashions

Casual Fridays spill over to 'just about any day'

Dressing for success isn't such a formal process anymore.

Yes, the dark suits and power ties are still visible, but more and more workplaces are finding happier employees and increased productivity with a simple, relaxed casual dress code — it's all part of what the 20- or 30-somethings are demanding in today's workplace as they impose their own standards of "dressing for success."

"Casual Fridays, have spilled over to just about any day in the workplace," says David Wetsman, owner of ARTICLE II in Birmingham.

Wetsman is capitalizing on what he sees as more than a fashion trend. He believes sales of the casual stylings of men's sportswear is in the beginning stages of a huge upward spiral, with a trend away from the strictly formal in workday settings as well as in relaxed after-hours dining and entertainment activities.

His store, ARTICLE II, offers only the coolly casual styles of men's shirts, pants, sweaters, jackets, shoes

and belts by American and European designers in a hassle-free buying environment.

Wetsman, 32, is in the forefront, according to Valeria Steele, editor of *Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body and Culture*, who sees men and women happiest when dressing in their own kind of look. The trend to casual has seen menswear sales go up 21%

across the country over the last 7 years.

More than just a proponent of the casual look, Wetsman gave up his law practice to practice what he preached when he opened his own Birmingham store six months ago.

"There was no place where I, as a customer, could buy these clothes," he said. "I gave up wearing suits and ties to work and stocked the store with the quality, affordable clothing that I prefer to wear."

He has an enlarged definition of what is "casual" that is reflected in the choices available at his store: "Relaxed doesn't mean it's not stylish," he points out.

"Mixing and matching sports coats, blazers, sweaters, can provide just about any appropriate level of informality for the casual dresser — right up to, but not quite, formal."

ARTICLE II (the "uniform commercial code" — a name stemming from Wetsman's legal background), is at 138 W. Maple Rd. Open M-S, 10-6, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Phone: (248) 645-6858.

David Wetsman
Article II owner

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

News of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: *Malls & Mainstreets*, c/o *The Observer & Excelsior Newspapers*, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48008; or fax (248) 644-1314. Deadline: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publication on Sunday.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Law Fair Day
Free legal advice for families, sponsored by Oakland County Bar Association with more than 100 volunteers on hand. Booths, displays and law-related demonstrations.
Tel: Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (248) 353-4111.

MONDAY, MAY 4

Senior dance
Great fun and exercise for senior citizens 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Music, dancing and refreshments. Newcomers welcome.
Westland Center: Wayne/Warren. (313) 425-5001.

Designer shopping

Eachday Spring '98 special order collection at an informal modeling with a special representative. Saks Fifth Avenue, Designer Sportswear, second floor. Monday and Tuesday, May 4-5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Somerset Collection South, Big Beaver/Coolidge. Troy. (248) 643-9000.

Music, music, music

National Federation of Music Clubs will present a weeklong musical celebration during national music week. Live performances daily by local school and community groups at Center Court.
Tel: Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (248) 353-4111.

Trunk show

View the Spring 1998 Collection at the Heidi Weissel Trunk Show. Neiman Marcus, Couture Salon on 8. Monday and Tuesday, May 4-5. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Somerset Collection South, Big Beaver/Coolidge. Troy. (248) 643-3300.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Free screenings
An American Academy of Dermatology-sponsored skin cancer screening clinic will have four

dermatologists available in the mall's Community Room for consultations. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. (248) 476-1160.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

Wardrobing seminar
Liz Claiborne Seminars feature dresses and sportswear, commented by Liz Claiborne specialist, Heather Guild. Liz Claiborne Misses Dept. 12:30 p.m.
Hudson's, Twelve Oaks, 12 Mile/Novi. (248) 348-9438.

Trunk show

View the Spring 1998 Collection at the Halston Trunk Show. Neiman Marcus, Couture Salon on 3. Thursday and Friday, May 7-8. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Somerset Collection South, Big Beaver/Coolidge. Troy. (248) 643-3300.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Silver Engraving
Have your Save the Children® or Mary Engelbrot sterling silver jewelry purchases engraved for that perfect Mother's Day gift. Engravers available in the Women's Jewelry Dept. 1-3 p.m.
Hudson's, Oakland Mall, 14 Mile/John R. Troy. (248) 697-2200.

Personal appearance

Meet Wynne Savitt, one of three sisters, whose sterling silver, gold and cubic zirconia works continue to influence American jewelry design. Neiman Marcus, Accessories on 1. Friday and Saturday, May 8-9. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Somerset Collection South, Big Beaver/Coolidge. Troy. (248) 643-3300.

Mall Musicals

In celebration of National Music Week, programs sponsored by Farmington Musicale and Evola Music Store, including performances by pianists, string quartet, light opera, dancers, vocalists and Broadway selections will be held Friday and Saturday, May 8-9. Noon-8 p.m.

Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. (248) 476-1160.

Wardrobing seminar

Liz Claiborne Seminars feature dresses and sportswear, commented by Liz Claiborne specialist, Heather Guild. Liz Claiborne Dress Dept. 12:30 p.m.
Hudson's, Oakland Mall, 14 Mile/John R. Troy. (248) 697-2200.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Kids arts and crafts

A demonstration of the latest arts and craft kits available at Neiman Marcus is part of an arts and crafts day for children, ages 5-10. Children's Level 2. From 1 to 3 p.m.
Somerset Collection South, Big Beaver/Coolidge. Troy. (248) 643-3300.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Health-O-Rama Bonus
Project Health-O-Rama Bonus Days, for those age 18 or over, provides free, confidential testing and services, including height-weight, blood pressure, hearing, vision, glaucoma, nutrition counseling, pulmonary function, medication counseling, podiatry, and Health Education literature and displays. Optional tests are also available for nominal fee. Co-sponsored with Botoford General Hospital. Wednesday and Thursday, May 13-14, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. (248) 476-1160.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Wardrobing seminar
Liz Claiborne Seminars feature dresses and sportswear, commented by Liz Claiborne specialist, Heather Guild. Elizabeth Dept. 1:00 p.m.
Hudson's, Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge. Troy. (248) 816-4000.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

Wardrobing seminar
Liz Claiborne Seminars feature dresses and sportswear, commented by Liz Claiborne specialist, Heather Guild. Elizabeth Dept. 1:00 p.m.
Hudson's, Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge. Troy. (248) 816-4000.