

Perk up
the patio

BY DONNA MULCAHY
SPECIAL WRITER

When it comes to knowing where to buy patio lights, I'm completely in the dark. I'm not talking about landscape lights that you stake in the ground, but strings of lights that you can hang around a covered porch, patio or deck. You know, the kind that look like white Christmas tree lights or colorful plastic Chinese lanterns or cabana lights. Those kind.

Anyway, I had no idea they'd be so hard to find. I searched for them at Sears, Franks Nursery & Crafts, Builders Square, Home Depot, ACO Hardware, Kmart, Target, Kohl's, Hudson's and Crowley's -- to no avail. When I couldn't find them on my own, I approached salespeople at each of those stores, and they all told me the same thing, "We don't carry them." I guess the moral of this story is to buy patio lights at

Christmas time when they're easier to find. Oh well. While I was looking for the lights, I came across some other things to help make relaxing outdoors even more enjoyable.

If you like sitting around a campfire or cozying up next to a fireplace, then you'd probably like a chiminea. What's a chiminea? It's a Mexican terra cotta fireplace that you can place on your patio or deck. (But please follow the directions carefully and keep children and pets away from it because the exterior can get very hot.)

Chimineas provide welcome warmth on cool evenings, add ambience and burn aromatic wood to keep mosquitoes away. Estes Park in downtown Rochester is one store that carries them (\$125-\$175). For more information, call Estes Park, which specializes in unique furnishings for the home, cottage and garden, at (248) 656-4443.

Most people know that citronella candles are useful in repelling mosquitoes. But did you know that citronella is a tall aromatic grass grown primarily in Sri Lanka? I didn't, until I read it on a sign at Cost Plus World Market, which has a store in Rochester Hills, Westland and a new location in Troy, opening June 4.

You can find citronella candles in a variety of whimsical shapes, sizes and colors, at stores like Cost Plus World Market, Pier One Imports, Crowley's, Kohl's, etc. At Cost Plus World Market, you can even find one in a clay bowl with a mosquito pin stuck on top, for \$4.99. (Hopefully, it will be the only mosquito you'll see once the candle is lit.)

Another way to keep those pesky insects away is with mosquito netting. At Pier One Imports, you can get a mosquito net for about \$55. According to the package, the white, 100 percent nylon net can be hung over a bed for a decorative touch, or outdoors over patio furniture. "The net is 8 feet 2 inches tall, has a circumference of 41 feet 9 inches, and is attached to a white plastic 26-inch diameter ring at the top, so it's plenty big. And when you're under it, you can pretend you're in the jungle. Pier One Imports has locations in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Rochester, Royal Oak, Pontiac and Westland.

Here's a little problem most everyone can relate to. What do you do when you're sitting outside in a lawn chair and want to set down your can of pop or glass of iced tea and there's no table around? You could put your drink on the ground and risk someone coming by and tipping it over. Or you could use something like The Beverage Butler or The Amazing Clamp-It. Both are cup holders designed to clamp around lawn chairs without any tools. The Beverage Butler is made for plastic lawn chairs and is sold in sets of two at Kohl's for \$6.99. The Amazing Clamp-It is made for most lawn chairs and baby strollers, according to its label, and can be mounted horizontally, vertically or on an angle. I found it for \$2.33 at ACO Hardware in Westland. (Humm. I bet Brenner's in Franklinville, or The Country Canterbury Village in Orion Township would have those lights...



French posters
put 'ooh la la'
into opening

It's a window shopper's nirvana -- an entire glass-front bay artfully devoted to Picasso. The sunny space, at 29173 Northwestern Hwy. in Southfield, is part of the storefront at The Print Gallery's new location, and it beckons passersby to stop and explore the novelties within. Owner Diane DeCillis opened her doors on April 17, after nearly 20 years in a shop half the size, just a parking lot away.

"We'll rotate the artists in the window," says DeCillis as she rearranges brightly colored Picasso tableware, stationery and other museum-quality gift items that bear the artist's work.

Since The Print Gallery opened in Southfield in March, 1979, it has been known for its fine art prints, everything from Matisse reproductions to vintage movie posters. In her original location, DeCillis acquired so many unique linocuts, prints and posters (more than 10,000), that the space overflowed

with its art-inspired inventory. Cozy is quaint but there's something to be said for wide open spaces. And that's just what DeCillis has in her new digs -- a contemporary light-filled gallery with 5,000 square feet of display area.

For her grand opening in June, DeCillis will celebrate in Parisian style. An exhibit of original posters from Willi's Wine Bar in Paris debuts June 1 at the Gallery. The posters are imported directly from the wine bar, an intimate 30-seat bar and restaurant on the fashionable Rue des Petits Champs behind the Palais Royal gardens.

"Each year the enterprising owners of this popular watering hole commission and publish a new poster from a different artist to advertise their establishment," says DeCillis. "The resulting images are always dynamic and bold and are printed in France on a heavy stock of museum-quality paper as stone lithographs or serigraphs."

Many of the posters have become highly collectible, including the original 1984 print by Cassandre from a design he created in 1935, but never used. A collector suggested that this fabulous example of graphic art should be brought to life. Cassandre agreed and Willi's first poster was born in a print run of 2,000.

The artist is chosen each year around grape harvest time, and the images all reflect the ambience of the wine bar. This year's poster, by Sophie Herxheimer, portrays a whimsical drawing of a mermaid emerging from a wine glass filled with tiny everyday folk art objects -- flowers, birds, a shoe, a chair, lips and musical notes.

"Advertising art has really grown in popularity," says DeCillis. "It began in France and continues to flourish there." DeCillis also has Dutch and Italian posters. "If you look at the room settings on television shows, you'll notice large advertising posters. They're hot," she says, "especially cigarette, cigar, wine and perfume ads."

DeCillis' new shop displays the



Graphic art: Lyu Hanabusa's collectible poster for Willi's Wine Bar in Paris.



Splrited image: This year's original Willi's Wine Bar poster debuts at The Print Gallery on June 1.

familiar array of framing materials along one wall, while posters and prints hang dramatically throughout. White-painted bins alphabetically capture the Warhols, Bouguereaus and O'Keefes. Blue, pink and yellow paper lantern-like lamps illuminate quotes by English poets, and painted wooden art sculptures stand guard at the various gift display cases.

DeCillis proudly points to her Asian corner -- a snug self-contained area devoted to the ritual of tea. Cafe tables flank a built-in buffet stocked with Serendipity herbal teas, Stash Japanese green teas and other exclusive therapeutic blends. Tiny Chinese enamel

artist teapots share shelf space with fused glass sushi plates and saucers. "I wanted a little place where guests could relax and enjoy a cup of tea," says DeCillis, who is particularly enamored with decorative and functional items from the Far East.

Prepare for a bit of culture shock when Japan meets gay Paree at The Print Gallery official grand opening, date to be announced. Though the shop may be fragrant with incense and herbal teas, DeCillis plans to create a bistro feel with French pastries and cabaret music. And, of course, Willi's art posters add the requisite joie de vivre.

'Pregnancy Chic' gives fashion survival tips

"I'm three months pregnant and I'm feeling BIG. It's Monday morning, 8 a.m. I'm already late for work because I hit my snooze alarm one too many times. I am standing at the door of my closet in my husband's wrinkled college T-shirt that I slept in the night before...Help! Can you easily relate to the frustration?"

Why should your whole sense of style change just because the EPT stick turned pink? And why would you wear something when you are pregnant that you wouldn't normally wear?

These are the questions that fashion executives Charlie Serota and former West Bloomfield resident Jody Kozlov Gardner kept asking themselves while they were pregnant, and trying to find

something to wear that not only fit their expanding bellies, but also their personal style.

In 1994, in response to this dilemma, they created "The Pregnancy Survival Kit," a four-piece wardrobe in a box that is chic, comfortable and affordable. It is widely popular around the world and has revolutionized maternity fashion.

Now, in the first maternity style book, *Pregnancy Chic: The Fashion Survival Guide*, (Villard, \$16.95, May 1, 1998), Serota and Gardner reveal the secrets of dressing easily and comfortably during all stages of pregnancy for the more than four million pregnant women in America today.

Serota and Gardner show pregnant

women how to get through nine months of pregnancy without spending a bundle on maternity clothes. They guide the reader through her closet and point out the clothes she already has that can go the nine months: blazers, cardigans, turtle-necks, drawstring pants, leggings and T-shirts, to name a few. Next they illustrate how to raid your husband's closet to make (very comfortable) use out of his shirts and boxers. For the few core items that a pregnant woman must buy, such as maternity bras, underwear, leggings, tunics and skirts, *Pregnancy Chic* explains what to look for and how to get the best fit.

With easy-to-follow instructions and detailed illustrations, these fashion

experts offer hundreds of dressing tips from how to accessorize with scarves to how to extend the life of your pants with a simple rubber band. There's information on how to dress for every occasion, from going to the gym or the office to an evening out. There's even a section on what to wear post-natally and for bedrest -- and doing it all affordably and with style. Their pointers, tips, and been-there-know-how range from how to buy a bra (get professionally measured) to how to choose a bathing suit cover-up (make sure it's the same color as the suit so as not to create a noticeable "unveiling" at the pool).

See CHIC, C5

News of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; or fax (248) 644-1314. Deadline: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publication on Sunday.

SUNDAY, MAY 31
Loveable lizard
Lyle Crocodile from Bernard Waber's children's series Lyle, will visit with children of all ages. Borders staff will take Polaroids of Lyle with children (\$1), with all proceeds benefiting FOCUS: Hope's Children's Center. Sunday 1 p.m.
Borders Book Shop, 31150 Southfield Road, Birmingham. (248) 644-1515.

MONDAY, JUNE 1
Parisian posters
The Print Gallery debuts its new 5,000-square-foot space with an exhibit of original posters from Willi's Wine Bar in Paris. The owners of the popular watering hole commission a different artist each year to create the ambience of their establishment. Most are highly collectible. The exhibit runs through Aug. 31.
The Print Gallery, 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield. (248) 356-5454.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
Story time
An old-fashioned story time, suitable for children ages pre-kindergarten to 6. 10:30 a.m.
Borders Book Shop, 31160 Southfield Road, Birmingham. (248) 644-1515.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4
Market savvy
Cost Plus World Market premieres its new store in Troy with a grand opening at 9 a.m. The store features an ever-changing selection of over 10,000 home decor accessories and gourmet foods and beverages. Enjoy cooking and entertainment demonstrations, musical entertainment and a grand prize drawing.
660 John R. Road, Clevedon Square, Troy. (248) 689-9300.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Appetite for passion
Jacobson's Rochester store hosts personal appearances by Dawn Bause and Nidal Zahur, authors of *Romance Begins in the Kitchen* (\$14.95), a book of Italian recipes that gives sound tips for couples looking to put a little love and laughter back into their lives. Noon to 3 p.m.
Jacobson's, 1220 Walton Road, Rochester. (248) 661-6000.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7
Musical notes
Relaxed browsing to the noteworthy jazz music of the Phil Kaput Trio, with local drummer Phil Kaput, a bassist and horn player. 3-5 p.m.
Borders Book Shop, 31160 Southfield Road, Birmingham. (248) 644-1515.

Soap studs
Appearing live at Fairlane Town Center on Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m., are four major soap stars who will take center stage at the Fountain Court to film a live three-minute scene with four lucky local winners of the "Make A Scene with the Soap Stars Sweepstakes." Shoppers may register on Saturday, May 30, at the lower level Hudson's Court, for the chance to appear on stage.