

Malls & Mainstreets

The Eccentric

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Best of the West: Southwest and Native American art at Native West in Plymouth.

Browse two of 'the best'

Native West in Plymouth and Knightsbridge Antiques in Northville are among the "Best of Malls and Mainstreets," according to readers. In case you

don't know what I'm talking about, several weeks ago an announcement ran on these Malls and Mainstreets pages, inviting readers to write in, listing their favorite places to shop. The resulting list would be called "Best of Malls and Mainstreets." My job this week was to check out two of the stores that readers

nominated and see what I thought about them.

One of the stores was Native West, which received this glowing nomination from a reader. "By far the very best, and I mean the very best in authentic Native American art and furnishings from the Great American Southwest, is Native West. The quality of merchandise is terrific! And talk about service... I love going in that store. No pressure but an excellent staff knowledgeable about so much." I had a great time visiting Native West. Every item there has a story or legend behind it, and learning about them was a lot of fun.

Take the store's fetishes, for example. Fetishes are small animal sculptures carved of rock or stone. Each animal is associated with different traits and if you have a fetish and respect it, then it is believed that those traits will rub off on you, shop owner Annette Horn said. Bear fetishes make great gifts for people who are ill, because they are supposed to give a person a stout heart, a strong will, inner knowledge, strength and good health, Horn said.

Other things you'll find at Native West include: hand carved drums (the largest ones can be used as coffee tables), beautiful rugs and blankets, Navajo sand paintings, Southwest-style tables, Native American jewelry, pottery, copper wall art, hot sauces, dips and more.

"We will not sell an item without disclosing information about its origin," Horn said, adding that the store is a member of the Indian Arts and Crafts Association, which works to protect the interests of Native American craftspeople. Native West, 863 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, (734) 455-8838.

A reader who nominated Knightsbridge Antiques wrote that, "(I) could spend hours, no days, just looking (there). By far the best antique mall we have ever been in." I haven't been to a lot of antique malls, but I enjoyed visiting Knightsbridge Antiques. It's sort of a museum of pop culture and every piece I saw raised questions like: who did that belong to, why did they give that up, why on earth did someone save that, or, I have something like that, I wonder how much it's worth?

Some of the strangest things I saw there were Pepsi straws from the 1930s and 1950s. The ones from the 1950s came two in a wrapper for \$2. The ones from the 1930s were unwrapped and were \$8 each. The most intriguing thing I saw was a wooden box that a soldier inscribed with a love poem and sent to his wife during World War II. Did he come back from the war and why would anyone part with such a romantic heirloom? Knightsbridge Antiques has more than 300 dealers and does not carry things made after 1960. It is located at 42305 Seven Mile Road. Call (248) 344-7200.

Next week in Malls & Mainstreets, look for more readers-choice "Best of places and products."



Fashion preview: Above, Drita Palushaj models an original hair design by Rino, Kristina Gjelaj and Sylvia Bitonti at Figaro and makeup by Valerie Lewis at Figaro. Christi Porgacs wears Body Action Design stretch velvet separates from It's The Ritz. Right, Jeanette Kelly is in a gray silk satin dress by Joseph at Tender. Her silk beaded scarf is by Romeo Gigli, also at Tender. Sylvia Stephanovich wears a Bill Hallman slip dress and Betsy Johnson beaded cardigan from It's The Ritz.



Luxe: Jeanette in John Bartlett's skirt and leather vest from Tender.

Savor the flavor of Birmingham at this year's Fall Spectacular



PHOTO BY JERRY ZOLNICK

Birmingham has become a destination city. Folks flock to its bustling downtown to shop for cutting-edge fashions, peruse art galleries and antique stores, relax in coffeehouses and indulge in salon services. Come sunset, the sidewalks teem with restaurant- and movie-goers, scene-stealers and people-watchers.

With this "see and be seen" attitude in mind, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and more than 100 Birmingham merchants, restaurants and galleries loosely dubbed their ninth annual Fall Spectacular, "A Day in the Life ... Birmingham," with a fashion show that will take viewers on a stylish spree through town, with appropriate attire for day-to-evening Birmingham pursuits.

Fashion coordinator Heather Luplow Hartle hopes to convey the "vibe that is Birmingham." The production will offer a slice of life, highlighting what makes the city special. "You'll recognize Birmingham on stage," she says. An eclectic mix of live and recorded music will add to the show. In keeping with the clean, polished look of this fall's key fashion trends, the runway will be filled with sophisticated grays and cosmopolitan collections. The Spectacular, a fashion and dining extravaganza complete with live and silent auctions, is slated for Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. under the tents between the Townsend Hotel and The Community House. The event benefits the Pediatric Cancer Survivors Scholarship Fund of William Beaumont Hospital.

This year our goal is to provide 20 children with college scholarships," says Richard Astreine, event co-chair.

"What's so unique is that so many Birmingham people participate. It's the only event that pulls all types of businesses together to raise funds for such a special cause," says Astreine.

Florists donate flowers, art and antique dealers decorate the tents, local salons provide hair and makeup services for the models and 25 Birmingham merchants provide the clothes for the fashion show.

"It's fashion and entertainment that will emphasize Birmingham's community spirit," says Hartle.

General admission tickets are \$45 (\$55 at the door). Patron tickets are \$125. Tickets are available at all participating Birmingham merchants, salons and the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce at (248) 644-1700.

— Linda Bachrach



Babes: Avery Halminiah and Vanessa King in togs from Purple Bear.



Dapper: Bob Benkert wears gray flannel chalk stripes from The Claymore Shop.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

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, SEPT. 13

ROYAL REFLECTION
Author Rick Blacklock signs his new book about the late Princess Diana, *Remembering Diana: The People's Tribute to Their Princess*. The book is a collection of more than 400 notes of sympathy and original poetry dedicated to Diana. It includes the touching eulogy by her brother Earl Spencer, and a special tribute from author and poet Maya Angelou. 4 p.m. Borders Book Shop, 31160 Southfield Road, Birmingham.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16

WORDS OF LOVE
Romance author Raynetta Manees reads from and

signs her new novel, *Follow Your Heart*. Born and raised in Detroit, Manees is the author of two other romance novels. 7 p.m. Borders Book Shop, 31160 Southfield Road, Birmingham.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

CRYSTAL CREATIONS
Neiman Marcus hosts a personal appearance by Daum Creative Director Christian Poincignon. M. Poincignon will sign select Daum crystal sculptures. With any \$750 Daum purchase, receive a Daum Delighted Nature Frog (\$70 value). 12-4 p.m. The Galleries, Neiman Marcus, Somerset Collection, Troy.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

SOUL FOOD
Be a part of the Guinness Book of World Records'

Biggest Booksigning Event in History. Over 150 bookstores nationwide will raise money for eight children's charities, while hosting contributors to *Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul* (Health Communications, \$12.95). Borders Birmingham welcomes 13-year-old Birmingham contributor Diana Parker who wrote the story, "Close Call." The book offers a non-judgmental read for kids ages 9-13 who feel alone, are facing a tough choice or are simply looking for a good laugh. 3 p.m. Borders Books & Music, 34300 Woodward, Birmingham.

HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS

Jacobson's Livonia store hosts a Homecoming fashion show with the season's hottest evening wear inspired by the movie *Titanic*. 12-1 p.m. Ms. J Department. Also, from 12-4 p.m. Jacobson's hosts a Ms. J model search in all of its Midwest stores. The "open call" session is for aspiring models, ages 16-30. The winners will be featured in visual displays and signage and will receive gift certificates. Contact your local Jacobson's store for information.