

# Malls & Mainstreets



Perfectly platinum: A platinum and diamond ring from Modern Art Jewelers.

## Just ask the Jewelry Lady

The Jewelry Lady is an expert on all aspects of fine jewelry — diamonds and fine gems, colored gemstones, gold, silver, platinum, fashion trends, suitability, insurance, care and cleaning, birthstones, anniversary gems, history, legend, lore and more. Whereas a Jeweler Woman may be more politically correct, the Jewelry Lady, a devout feminist, prefers the title because "Jewelry Woman" sounds like someone you hire out to scrub your diamonds after gardening.

The Jewelry Lady gained her wealth of knowledge by growing up in a family of jewelers, working the counter, cleaning customers' rings, designing remounts, buying from vendors and continuing on to a more formal education through correspondence courses with the Gemological Institute of America and the American Gem Society. She keeps a ring finger on the pulse of what is happening in the world, jewelry-wise. She shares her wisdom, expertise and opinions with you in this guest column.

Dear Jewelry Lady (J.L.),  
I am a 5-foot-10-inch woman and I've been told that I shouldn't wear stud earrings because they make me look too tall. Is this true? Basketball Jean, Southfield.

What you really need is assertiveness training — not a jewelry adviser. Take a good look in the mirror. I've never met a woman who didn't look richer, smarter, sexier and downright happier in a pair of diamond studs.

That said, there are official guidelines to help the uncertain among us choose and wear the appropriate accessories. And your fashion critic was right. Apparently, tall women are told to wear long, dangling earrings, as they are the only creatures on earth fortunate enough to look dangly. Long earrings will look depends, of course, on the length of your neck, your hair, and the shape of the earring itself. As spokeswoman for the short people, the Jewelry Lady cautions you to enjoy your height — and the official right to wear long earrings. But if you have diamond studs on your mind, from one diamond-lover to another, the only proper advice is go for it!

Dear J.L.,  
I've noticed lately that all the fashion magazines show engagement rings in platinum. Is this a must-have for brides of the '90s? Curious about White in West Bloomfield

This is a classic case of what goes around comes around. Time was, before WWII, platinum was all the rage in fashion circles. But because of the war, platinum was banned for all uses other than defense, and it didn't pick up steam again until the '90s, when the Platinum Guild International put on a media/publicity blitz to be admired.

The Jewelry Lady is old enough to have a mother who wears her original white gold, diamond-set wedding band. So a simple platinum engagement ring looks a lot like her mother's Oldsmobile, if you catch her drift.

However, designers have gotten creative with this new challenge and there are a lot of white on white designs (as in diamonds on platinum) that look new, fresh and cutting-edge. Some have even tempted the Jewelry Lady herself. Platinum is also heavier than gold and 95 percent pure, as opposed to the 75 percent purity of 18-karat gold.

Unlike silver, platinum doesn't dream of tarnishing and it wears much better than gold. The official edict, therefore, is that the bride of the '90s should wear whatever type of engagement ring she likes — platinum, gold or a combination of the two. Just be sure to bring your credit card, the platinum one.

The Jewelry Lady awaits your questions and comments. Contact her by fax at (248) 642-4012.

## Where to find the one-of-a-kind ...

Do you believe in magic?

Mix a lot of imagination with a little bit of magic and what do you get? Imajica, of Pleasant Ridge, a fanciful treasure chest of a shop in Pleasant Ridge, filled with Christmas spirit, collectible toys, porcelain boxes and fairy tale tea sets. In fact, it's the stuff that childhood dreams are made of.

Marcia Kopman opened her playful store when her garage became so filled with finds, she could no longer park the car inside. She and partner Janet Kurpio set up shop in Ferndale for two years, then moved into expanded space, just up the street on Woodward, a couple of weeks ago. "We're housed in a space that was originally a gas station and later a golf store. There are holes in the ceiling from errant golf balls."

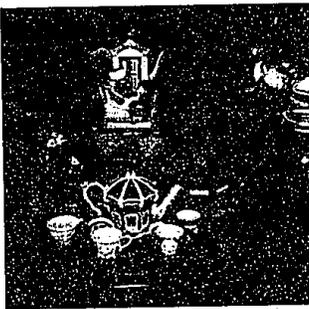
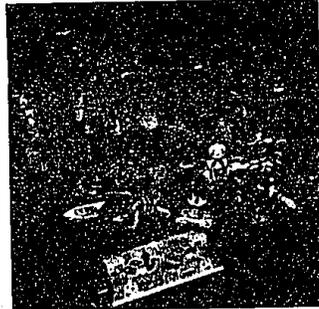
Though it's difficult to uncover all of the shop's surprises in one visit, a quick stroll through the space immediately reveals a Christmas tree-filled holiday room. The tree branches sparkle with blown-glass ornaments, while display shelves overflow with chubby Noel Santas dressed for their everyday lives as police officers, fire fighters, doctors, carpenters, anglers, even surfers.

In the store's main room, antique dressers and tables hold lamps topped with Kopman's silk flower shades; wind-up toys (some from the former U.S.S.R.); nursery rhyme teapots; an old magic set; replicas of actual diners and restaurants (Remember when Howard Johnson was an ice-cream shop?) and lots of miniature cars. "We're on Woodward, we have to have cars," says Kopman. Also find cabinets filled with all kinds of jewelry.

The two friends often haunt flea markets and local dealers on Sundays and during the summer months. Otherwise, they attend the major toy and gift shows and buy only those things that tickle their fancies.

Remember those little pressed metal animal-shaped clacker toys and the wooden push-up figurines that appear to dance? They're here — at Imajica.

Imajica, 24000 Woodward Ave., Pleasant Ridge; (248) 398-3991.



Old-fashioned toys and tea parties: The tables are set for child's play at Imajica in Pleasant Ridge.



Portrait of an artist: Makeup artist Gil Cagno brings his new European product lines to Florence at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.



## Beauty and skincare basics — Italian-style

In Italy, Gil Cagno is the leading man of makeup artistry. He's embellished the faces of beauties Sofia Loren, Audrey Hepburn, Brigitte Bardot, Elizabeth Taylor, Grace Kelly, Diana Ross and Lizzy Minnelli. For years, major cosmetics companies have requested that he create exclusive lines for them, and international fashion magazines and photographers have offered him collaborations.

Recently, Cagno decided to launch his own cosmetics line with the Jean Klebert label, a premier Italian cosmetics company. The new makeup and skin care products are available for the first time in the United States at Florence in Livonia.

Lucky for owners Jim Batterson and Tom Drummy, former Jacobson's execs, they were acquainted with Ann Arbor massage therapist Christina Hibbs and relied on her energy and expertise to help open the exclusive Laurel Park Place skincare center. Hibbs jumped in with both feet, sponge painting an interior wall to look like stone, and traveling to Italy to watch cosmetics stirring vats of spa mud and to get personal makeup application technique instruction from Cagno.

Hibbs knows the product lines and easily converses in silk proteins, hydration, vitamins and hydroxy acids. She believes that every customer

should make informed decisions about their skincare regimen. "You buy instruction and technique when you buy a product," she says. You also buy comprehensive skincare analysis.

The Klebert product lines are extensive and specific to skin type. Hibbs highlighted a few of the key products, including Iridium for eye care, Dr. Schon for hand and foot care, and Club delle Terme treatments with Porretta Spa Mud, an ancient Italian restorative. Following Italian tradition, each end use product has its own name. The star of the makeup line is soricin, a special silk protein that gives foundations, eye shadows and lipstick a rich texture that locks in moisture, "like a second skin," says Hibbs. The staff at Florence is trained in makeup application and offer complimentary makeovers. Hibbs also continues to ply her trade, giving facial, neck and shoulder, and hand and foot massages. The "quickie" massages are \$10-\$20, a dollar a minute.

As Hibbs ends her knowledgeable repartee about skin care, she kneads the back and shoulders of a lunch-hour massage client. "Wow," says Keith Figurski of Canton, as he groggily stumbles from the peaceful oasis that is Florence, "I'll be back every week."

## Baubles and beads are all the fashion

If you watched the recent Emmy awards show, you probably noticed that Hollywood has gone ga-ga over tiny beaded bags.

You, too, can hit the town with a shimmering mini-bag nestled in the palm of your hand. If you have basic knitting or crochet skills, the staff at Bead Works in Franklin will help you bead your own evening bag. Two walls of seed beads, delicate Austrian crystals and rare glass beads will combine to give your creation one-of-a-kind panache. You might even add a beaded strap.

Bead Works resembles an international bazaar, what with

its silver beads from Austria, Venetian art glass from Italy, African trade beads, South American clay and Chinese cinnabar and porcelain. Store manager Janene Obnd Samet can explain the cultural history and symbolism behind the jewels, giving a meaningful perspective to your bead creations.

Beaded designs are limited only by your imagination. Create necklaces, bracelets, earrings, stick pins and amulets. All necessary supplies are available, as well as a full selection of instruction books. If you're all thumbs when it comes to hand work, design your own piece and have it made by the staff, who also are

expert in redesigning and restringing old necklaces.

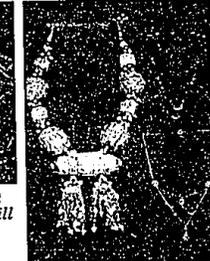
"Some of the beads travel many miles and come to us with intriguing stories," says Samet. "Twice a year, a former Michigan resident, who lives on the border of Pakistan and China, brings us rare beads and tribal pieces steeped in ancient lore."

"The allure of beads has always been strong throughout history," says shop owner Ida Joyrich. "Beads represent different cultures and standards of creativity."

Bead Works, 32751 Franklin Road, Franklin; (248) 855-5230, Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Bead stringers: The staff at Bead Works in Franklin will help you create evening glamour.



News of special events for shoppers is included in this column. 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. 27

**ANCIENT AMERICAS**  
Author George Erikson will discuss and sign his new book *Atlantis in America* (Adventures Unlimited, \$17.95), an intensive examination of the archeological sites of the Americas. Erikson presents evidence that the colossal spheres of Costa Rica represent remnants of a great civilization that was destroyed by a celestial cataclysm some 11,500 years ago. 8 p.m. Borders Books & Music, 34300 Woodward, Birmingham.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 1

**SPIRIT DINNER**  
Nordstrom invites you to join the Pub Restaurant in celebrating Michigan's Wine Month. The Pub will offer a four-course dinner, each course served with

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

complementing Chateau Grand Traverse wines. 7 p.m. \$36. In the Pub on One, Nordstrom, Somerset Collection; (248) 816-6100 for reservations.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 2

**HIGH TECH TV**  
Paulsen's Audio & Video in Farmington Hills hosts a High Definition Digital TV seminar, including a demonstration of Panasonic's HDTV. Sessions at 6 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. R.S.V.P. (248) 553-1100, 37670 West Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 3

**MUSICAL MANSAURS**  
The Roppies Rockin' Live Show from Polygram Videos is an interactive musical performance featuring the pizza and popcorn loving band: Razz, Teasa

and Bumba. Join them at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Fountain Court Stage, Fairlane Town Center. While at Fairlane, watch The Sand Castle Company sculptors create an amazing, Hilo-like Halloween sand castle from 40 tons of sand. Witches, mummies and haunting pumpkins will emerge from the sand. On display until Oct. 31.

### SUNDAY, OCT. 4

**BEAN BABES**  
The Plymouth Bennie Baby Show returns to the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$4, \$2 ages 4-12. Call (734) 465-2110 for more information.

**HOT HOGS**  
Motor City Harley-Davidson is helping to sponsor The Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff in downtown Plymouth. The event benefits the "Make-A-Wish Foundation" of Michigan and the Plymouth Salvation Army. Rev up for a ride-in bike show, a Chili Pepper 10K Run and, of course, some fire-breathing chili. 9 a.m. Kelllogg Park, Plymouth.