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**Celtic heart:** White gold heart pendant with diamond, Yanke Designs in Franklin (\$975).

## Ask the Jewelry Lady

The Jewelry Lady voices her educated and heartfelt opinion on Valentine's gems, appraisers and face-slimming jewels.

Dear Jewelry Lady,

My girlfriend is trying to lose weight, so I suppose giving her a box of chocolates is out of the question. I don't think that she'd like heart-shaped jewelry for Valentine's Day. What do you suggest?

Sophisticated in Southfield

Dear Sophisticated,

The Jewelry Lady applauds your sensitivity to your girlfriend's diet and your concern about her taste in jewelry. You just might be a suburban Renaissance man. However, your aversion to heart-shaped jewelry is mystifying. The heart shape is as much a classic as the round or teardrop, both of which are open to the wild imagination and interpretation of the jewelry designer.

That said, there is really no reason to confine yourself to hearts when there is so much else out there in the jewelry design universe. Amethyst is often a favorite Valentine's choice, as is the birth gem of February — as well as ruby, for its heart-red appearance. While there are all great ways for jewelers to promote the holiday, there is nothing to prevent you from buying any color or design you wish. So be a sweetheart and get out there and buy something already!

Dear Jewelry Lady,

My insurance company informed me that I need to have my jewelry appraised in order for it to be properly covered. How do I find an honest jeweler — and what's a fair price to pay for an appraisal?

Concerned in Clarkston

Dear Concerned,

The Jewelry Lady has a strong conviction that despite popular belief (and many Diane Sawyer specials), most jewelers are honest. However, if you happen to do business with the odd duck who is, shall we say, ethically challenged, it can be a less-than-pleasant experience. To avoid this problem, start by asking around. Do any of your friends or family members have a favorite jeweler? What about your accountant or your doctor, or better yet, your lawyer?

Try to find a jeweler who has been established in the community. Another clue is affiliation. American Gem Society (AGS) members have to meet a high standard of business ethics in order to join and maintain membership. (However, lack of AGS membership by no means indicates a lack of ethics.) Next, visit a few stores to get a feel for each store and appraiser.

Once you are comfortable with your choice, you will probably find the appraisal charge to be reasonable. A quick survey of local jewelers reveals that there is no set way to charge for appraisals. Some charge by the hour, others by the piece and yet others by the carat weight of the diamond. Some include photos, others charge extra for this service.

So if price is a big issue, shop around. Check to see that your jewelry appraiser is accredited with the GIA (Gemological Institute of America), the AGS (American Gem Society) or the FGA (Fellow Gemological Association — of Great Britain). Also ask if they have a complete gem lab, with all the appropriate equipment and a set of master stones.

Dear Jewelry Lady,

I have a round face and I'm wondering what earrings I should buy to make my face look thinner.

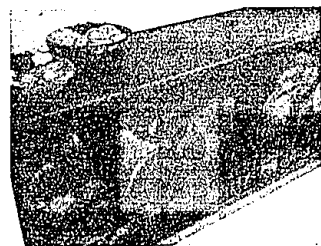
Big Cheeks in Rochester

Dear Cheeks,

To avoid looking like a full moon over Miami (or Rochester, for that matter) avoid large, round earrings, or any other shape that points or extends horizontally for that unattractive Bono effect. Choose instead a design that draws the eye up or down your earlobe. For example, if you like hoops, choose a more angular than round design. Keep in mind that it's unreasonable to expect your earrings to do the whole face-slimming job. It's the Jewelry Lady's opinion that some hair volume on top of your head will also help offset the moonbeam look you're trying to avoid.

Fax your Jewelry Lady questions to (248) 529-9223 or call (248) 642-4012.

## Home is where the art is



BY LINDA BACHRACH  
PHOTOS BY ZEHRY ZOLYNSKY

This is the first in a continuing series of personal style profiles. We want to know how you express yourself. Are you the woman who never leaves the house without her signature hat? Do you collect funky shoes or interesting eyeglass frames? Maybe you're the guy with the zany tie collection. What about your home? Does it show? "Hey, this is Ann's house — the woman whose handpainted furniture fills every room!" There are lots of ways to let your personality shine. Let us share your style secrets. Send your personal style ideas to Malls & Mainstreets, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or fax to Linda Bachrach at (248) 901-2567. The E-mail address is at the top of this page. Hope to see you on these pages soon.

It has been just one year since Carolyn Krieger-Cohen walked into a ho-hum house in the burbs and fell in love despite its rather drab interior. Of course, it did have an incredibly asymmetrical queen-size master bath with a huge Jacuzzi tub. But beyond that, it was the "possibilities" that appealed to Krieger-Cohen. She made an offer on the home without her husband ever stepping inside.

Krieger-Cohen is not a compulsive shopper. She doesn't have the time. With two young children and a thriving public relations business, this woman of the millennium over-schedules each and every day. But she does have wildly creative ideas and she was determined to bring them to fruition in redecorating her new home. The challenge was to furnish and accessorize on a budget, and she wasn't afraid to use a little elbow grease.

"T.J. Maxx, Marshall's, Target and Michael's became my obsessive haunts," says Krieger-Cohen. "Unfortunately, I could only drop in for 15 minutes between clients or on my way to pick up the girls from dance class." She made those 15 minutes count, however, and her style savvy is evident in every room of the house.

### MIRRORED IMAGES



For instance, Krieger-Cohen points to the wall-size mirror that graces the entrance foyer. "My in-laws had three huge mirrors in their basement and I grabbed the lot, knowing I could embellish them and give them renewed life." On the day of the big January snowstorm, she walked the aisles at Michael's, filling her basket with mosaic tiles and stones, ribbons, moss, dried flowers and fruits. She bordered the entry mirror with the glass and stone pieces, then set her sights on the dining room mirror, giving it a swag of ribbons, hydrangeas, dried apples and oranges. Both were simple, inexpensive projects that provide eye-catching impact.

Krieger-Cohen decorated her living room around a camel-and-white-striped chair she discovered at Gorman's outlet store in Southfield. With the chair in mind, she painted the walls a toasted almond color, hung wood blinds in the bay window and added two faux suede sofas from Jennifer's Convertibles in Birmingham. Antique rose floral pillows add touches of color, and a copper and wood coffee table lends a measure of sophistication.

### SMALL FEAT

But it's the little decorative accessories that really excite Krieger-Cohen. "I browse through catalogs, often snipping pictures, then look for those items in local shops where they're usually much less expensive." Her research shows in the living room's "little extras" like the etched stone eggs from Hagopian and the wire candlesticks from Festivities, both Birmingham stores, and an antique-look metal urn and bowl (\$9 each) from Silk Warehouse in Rochester. Miniature silk and velvet pillows cluster on chairs, \$12 finds from JCPenney.

## PERSONAL STYLE FILE



Interior motives: Carolyn Krieger-Cohen shows off her decorating expertise in the living room of her West Bloomfield home. The decoupage buffet (left) is a Krieger-Cohen original, designed and completed on a budget.

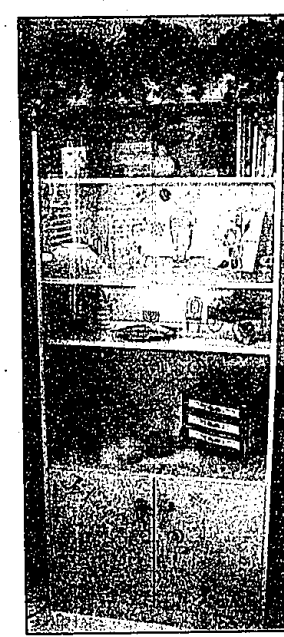
### OOH LA LA

Her pride and joy, however, are the reincarnated wall units in the living room. She took the old Formica cabinets and, with the help of her designer friend Teresa Ligenza of DiCiccio Designs in Farmington Hills, transformed them into works of art using Ralph Lauren crackle paint, a little sand paper, some imagination and a few rubber stamps.

"We roughed up the cabinets, then applied a base coat. When we painted on the crackle-finish topcoat, it began to crackle before our eyes. It really looks authentic," says Krieger-Cohen. She then used interesting fonts to typeset French words which she transferred to acetate and projected on an opaque projector. With Ralph Lauren "Ballroom Gold" paint, she artfully painted *c'est magnifique, je t'aime, les fleurs* and other *mots Francaise* across the cabinets. The wall unit hardware, a menagerie of golden knobs, came from Target and Cargo Hold.

### BOUNTIFUL BUFFET

Krieger-Cohen's other major project took place in the dining room where she turned the shiny white Formica built-in buffet into an old-world mural. Finding



a still-life fruit poster, she measured, color-copied and enlarged the image, called her friend Teresa, and the two of them figured out how to decoupage the antiqued fruit onto the buffet. "We even sanded the edges of the paper panels to give it a more authentic feel." Once the panels were varnished, Krieger-Cohen rag-painted the gray top. The fruits of her labor must be seen to be believed.

Of course, the house is a work in progress. The upstairs bedrooms of Krieger-Cohen's two daughters, Allison and Alanna, are visions in pink. Mom has added her signature touches, including ribbon-trimmed mirrors and decorative finishes on the walls. The kitchen, guest bath and family room also showcase her creativity and originality.

"I'll just be somewhere and think 'these will work perfectly in my bathroom or in the dining room,'" says the would-be interior decorator. "And if it costs under \$40, I usually grab it."

**Parisian panache:** The crackle-painted wall unit was once a plain Formica cabinet. Krieger-Cohen added French words and funky hardware.

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Trunk Show of Hino & Malee with representative Elaine Louie. Continues through Saturday, Feb. 13.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**RRRR-ROAD RAGE**  
More than 45 million people vent their rage on the road on any given day, according to a study conducted by AAA. To help tame the rage, AAA Michigan presents a seminar titled "Preventing Road Rage - Anger Management for Drivers," 3 p.m., Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham. Also tomorrow, Feb. 10, at 6:30 p.m. in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 553-3700.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

**BEYOND COOL**  
Chill Palmer is back in Elmore Leonard's newest book *Be Cool*. John Chill in an unforgettable, hilarious insider's look at Hollywood as only Dutch could write it. Meet Birmingham's own Dutch Leonard at a special reception and book signing, 7:30 p.m., Borders Books & Music, 34300 Woodward, Birmingham. The book is being released in conjunction with this book signing.

### IN STYLE

Rox & Sherm hosts the complete Spring/Summer

**MUSICAL DYNAMOS**  
"New Odyssey," a trio of gentlemen who perform on 30 different instruments, perform at Livonia Mall at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Pop to musical arrangements from Beethoven to the swing era, complete with comedy, special effects and lighting. Livonia Mall, 7 Mile and Middlebelt roads, Livonia.

### HEALTHY HEART

In recognition of Heart Awareness Week, the American Heart Association, in cooperation with Henry Ford Heart and Vascular Center, presents a Health Expo at Oakland Mall. The expo includes blood pressure screenings, cooking demos and activities for the entire family. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call (248) 567-9500 ext. 227 for more information.

### CINDERELLA STORY

Wonderland Mall and Heiken Puppets present "Cinderella," a free, live stage production, 12 and 4 p.m., Boardwalk Cafes Food Court. Performances continue Sunday, Feb. 14 at 1 and 4 p.m.

### SCENT OF ROMANCE

Receive a chocolate heart or rose with any fragrance purchase of \$35 or more at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Collection.

### BE MINE - FASHIONABLY

Tel-Twelve Mall offers shoppers gift-giving ideas for Valentine's Day in a special Valentine's Day Fashion and Gift Show at 1 p.m. in the South Mall Corridor across from Old Country Buffet. Elite Fashion presents "The World's Most Beautiful Men - How a Lady Should Be Treated," a theater-style show featuring merchandise from mall stores. Music by saxophonist Herbie Russ.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

### LOVE AT LAUREL PARK

For Valentine's Day, Laurel Park Place expresses its appreciation to customers by distributing a free rose to women who encounter the Valentine gentlemen greeters. Also, visit any mall shop for a Valentine Trivia form. Drop the form in the entry box at center court for a chance to win prizes that include a weekend getaway, Godiva chocolates and a Victoria's Secret gift certificate.

### BARBIE BONANZA

Calling all Barbie collectors. The "We Love Barbie" Barbie & Friends Doll Show takes place at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission \$6 and \$2/kids ages 4-12. The show is exclusively Barbies for sale, old and new. 525 Farmer, Plymouth.