

Check for credentials before hiring a jeweler

THE JEWELRY LADY



DENISE RODGERS

Dear Jewelry Lady, Here's my situation. My wedding anniversary is coming up soon and my wife has three heirloom diamonds she would like to incorporate into a piece of jewelry. I was thinking about having a necklace made. She's very practical and frugal. Still, I would like to get a unique setting and something that is informal since my wife doesn't dress up that much and durable since we have children. How do I find a jeweler that could do put together a unique, but not too pricey, piece? If you have any ideas I would greatly appreciate it. Time is running out. Can you help?

Devoted Husband

Dear Devoted, The Jewelry Lady loves to hear from men who are looking to get special and unique jewelry gifts for their wives. You have several questions.

First, to find a good jeweler, locate a store that has American Gem Society affiliation (AGS). These stores adhere to a strict code of retail ethics. Also, look for jewelers with Gemological Institute of America (GIA) training and an on-site gem lab where jewelry work is done.

Consider bezel-set diamonds for your design. This new look is conservative, durable and very attractive. Bezels create a rim all the way around the stone, and, based on your description, The Jewelry Lady would recommend this option.

Cost will be relative to your overall selection. Fortunately, you have the diamonds, the most expensive part.

Last but not least, if you need the work done in a hurry, get moving. Call and make an appointment. If you can't get the job completed in time, consider taking your wife on an anniversary visit to the jewelers. Happy shopping!

Dear Jewelry Lady, I recently went shopping for earrings. After trying on several pairs, I noticed my ears (particularly my right lobe) were irritated. I assumed my ears would be fine the next morning, but they were not. In fact, there are little nodes on my ears in the area where they are pierced. It's been about three days. Do I need to see a doctor?

Lumpy Ear Lobes

Dear Lumpy, Either you picked up an infection when trying on earrings, or all that poking just plain irritated your ears.

First of all, give your ears a rest. As painful as it may be, abstain from wearing earrings for a few days.

Dab your lobes, front and back, with alcohol at least twice a day. Also, regularly check to see whether the nodes are decreasing in size.

When you feel you're ready, but only after cleaning the posts or wires with alcohol, put in a pair of earrings. If the problem persists, by all means, consult your dermatologist.

FAIR JEWELRY FORECAST

While The Jewelry Lady has found it necessary to wear turtleneck sweaters every other day this spring and summer, those in the know have been busy making the rules for fall jewelry. These are my predictions:

- Art Deco elements will influence design
- nature motifs will continue to gain popularity
- turquoise and southwest style jewelry will make a comeback

Fall jewelry is also expected to be comfortable and versatile, including convertible pieces that provide two looks for the price of one. It sounds great, but The Jewelry Lady would like to warm up a little before she starts shopping for fall jewelry.

Send your questions to the Jewelry Lady by e-mail, rodders@nich.com, fax, (248) 682-9223 or mail, The Jewelry Lady, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI, 48009.



French frills: Bonpoint, a children's couture clothing store from France, is the latest addition to the Somerset Collection in Troy. Located in Somerset South, the store carries apparel for newborns through size 16 pre-teen.

Couture for kids

It's available at new Somerset Collection store

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
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If you're a grandmother who can't find sufficient ways to spoil your grandchildren or a bewildered baby shower shopper in search of an impressive gift, consider couture clothing.

Leading the way is fine children's clothier Bonpoint. Founded 25 years ago in Paris by a mother of three boys, Bonpoint recently opened a retail boutique at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Bonpoint's clothing, which is both casual and formal, has been worn by the children of celebrities such as Sarah Ferguson, Steven Spielberg, and Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, said Marie Rosenthal, general manager of Bonpoint's five U.S. stores.

The company aims to produce simple, interchangeable, stylish and somewhat European children's clothing, said Rosenthal.

Bonpoint's Michigan store will put out two clothing collections, a spring-summer and fall-winter line,

each year for boys and girls, newborn through size 16 preteen.

Quality fabrics like organza, silk, tulle and cotton, in soft pastels and playful bright tones, dominate Bonpoint's current collection. Designs are simple but contemporary, and pieces mix and match effortlessly.

A long, tailored crepe jacket in cotton candy pink, \$235, for example, pairs with Bonpoint's pink crepe pants, \$98, more formal pink tank sheath, \$158, and a variety of other pieces.

Better yet, matching outfits for boys and girls are available, and bloomers, bonnets and slippers accompany each slip-on piece for babies.

Bonpoint also carries unique children's accessories and inexpensive gift items. A keepsake tooth box, for example, sells for \$9. A sturdy travel suitcase and beauty carrier can be filled with hair brushes, pajamas and other overnight accessories for a special gift for little girls.

Bonpoint is located near Saks Fifth Avenue in Somerset Collection South and can be reached at (248) 649-9609.



Flower flurry: A simple tank A-line dress, \$160, is adorned with a detachable tulle halter covered by applique flowers, \$239. Also available at Bonpoint at the Somerset Collection in Troy is an organza sash of applique flowers to wear around the waist or on a straw hat.

Great Lakes Crossing launches giveaway for guys

Who says men don't like to shop? Well, they do.

Hoping to change that male mindset, Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills is offering "real man" coupons for the mall's shops, restaurants and entertainment venues and giving away some manly prizes.

The promotional event, called the Gigantic Guy Giveaway, runs through

June 30. Prizes include:

■ A golf package made up of \$500 of equipment from Oshman's SuperSports USA, a Boyne Mountain golf getaway, a Samsonite luggage set and a 20-man feast at the Stir Crazy restaurant.

■ A fishing and hunting package consisting of a wild boar hunt weekend (two nights lodging and tour guide from Garland Resort), an Upper Peninsula fly-fishing expedition (two nights lodging at a lake house), a party for 20 at Banana Joe's restaurant, a fisherman's package from Bass Pro Outdoor World and a cigar lighter/cutler worth \$70 from Hill & Hill Tobacconist.

■ A sports package made up of a \$500 gift certificate from Just Sportal, a weekend package from Hilton Suites of Auburn Hills, a 10-man party at

Alcatraz Brewing Company and a 10-man gathering at GameWorks.

Men can register for the prize package drawings, which will be pulled July 1, at either Entry 1 or 6 at Great Lakes Crossing. "Real Guy" coupon packages will be given to men registering for the drawing.

For additional information, call (248) 464-5000.

signings by Willie Horton, Cecil Kaiser and William Barnes, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12
DECORATE CARDS FOR DAD
FAO SCHWARZ, the Somerset Collection in Troy, in conjunction with The Family Company hold a Father's Day card decorating event for children age 3 and older, 12-2 p.m.

JENNIFER KIRK APPEARANCE
Whimsical jewelry designer Jennifer Kirk appears at Nordstrom, the Somerset Collection in Troy, 1-4 p.m. (1 p.m. presentation by Kirk), Fashion Jewelry, first floor.

MAGIC & COMEDY SHOW
Wonderland Mall in Livonia presents the magic and comedy of Ken Dumm, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., Food Court stage.

CYNTHIA BACH APPEARANCE
Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, hosts artist and jeweler Cynthia Bach, best known for her work in The Crown Collection, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Precious Jewelry, first floor.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

hosts a Birger Christensen fur re-modeling clinic, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fur Salon, second floor. For information, call (248) 614-3346.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN
Downtown Plymouth presents the Motown sounds of The Carolyn Crawford Trio as part of the free Friday Night Fun concert series, 7-9 p.m., in front of Basket Kreations on Fourth Avenue in downtown Plymouth.

JEAN TRADE-IN
Guys N' Gals in West Bloomfield hold their 10th Annual Clothing Drive to benefit homeless individuals in Oakland County. Customers who bring in an old pair of jeans (clean and no holes, please) receive a new pair at half price, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call (248) 851-1260.

SPORTS CARD SHOW
Livonia Mall in Livonia holds a sports card and memorabilia show through June 13 with autograph

Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

DSO BENEFIT AT SAKS
Bulgari presents a special collection of timepieces and fine jewelry with a reception and light supper to benefit the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, 6:30 a.m. Fine Jewelry Collections, first floor. Tickets are \$75, and Saks will donate 10 percent of Bulgari purchases to the DSO. For information, call (248) 614-3317.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

CELEBRITY MEET & GREET
Exercise video star Donna Richardson and syndicated radio talk show host of WMDX-FM 92.3 Tom Joyner appear and sign autographs at Media Play at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield, 5-7 p.m.

FUR RECONDITIONING CLINIC
Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy,