

Risk involved in repairing some jewelry

THE JEWELRY LADY



DENISE RODGERS

Dear Jewelry Lady, Your advice regarding losing diamond earrings at the beach may be correct, but my daughter recently lost one of hers in a pool while vacationing in Florida. Being that the pool was speckled at the bottom, it was impossible to see whether the earring was down there. One man suggested we wait until night time and search under the pool's lights. Low and behold, there it was, sparkling at the bottom - but near the drain - of the pool. My daughter dove in and retrieved the earring, but never will she wear them near a beach or pool again!

Cautious Mom

Dear Cautious,

The Jewelry Lady must render an apology immediately. She was biased by her own perspective on beach and pool activities. Some people, such as The Jewelry Lady, regard the beach and pool deck as areas to sit in a bathing suit, long-sleeved pastel shirt, large floppy hat and gallon of sunscreen.

She failed to consider the consequences of swimming or, heaven forbid, diving. So The Jewelry Lady stands corrected. If you or your daughter contemplate doing any swimming, sky-diving, bungie jumping or any other strenuous sporting activities, remove all delicate and vulnerable jewelry immediately. And, have a great time.

Dear Jewelry Lady,

I have a piece of jewelry that belonged to my grandmother. It was a wedding gift from my grandfather to my grandmother on their wedding day.

The item is very old, and was made in Italy. Unfortunately, a small leaf has come off the piece, so I took it to a jeweler for repair. I was told because the material in the item was not gold, the piece could not be repaired. (The broken piece could not be soldered). While it may not be of great monetary value, the piece has great sentimental value to me. Can you recommend how I might get this item repaired?

Sentimental

Dear Sentimental,

Most jewelers are goldsmiths or silversmiths and do not have the proper tools or inclination to repair costume or antique jewelry.

However, there is hope. Your best bet is to call an independent jewelry store with a jeweler on the premises and ask whether they restore or repair antique or costume jewelry.

The Jewelry Lady checked out her area Yellow Pages and called the first two ads that included the words "expert repairs." Both jewelers said they would perform the repairs. However, both also said the repair would have to be done at the customer's risk and asked that the piece be brought in for an accurate estimate. Make some calls. You'll be wearing your heirloom again in no time.

Dear Jewelry Lady,

I love to collect old costume jewelry. I have many pieces that I enjoy wearing.

Traffari pins, necklaces and earrings are the ones I like the most. I have several sets and individual pieces from the 50s and 60s. I have pieces of jewelry from the 20s through the 70s that I keep separated in plastic containers. I keep a typed inventory of the pieces and what I paid for them. Will the signed pieces that I own ever increase in value?

Costume Collector

Dear Collector,

The Jewelry Lady is impressed. She's also relieved you cannot see her messy desk.

You had many other questions, but alas, The Jewelry Lady must confess to being less than properly informed in the area of vintage costume jewelry. If you have access to the Internet, check out gcostume.com, a site that specializes in the sale of signed costume jewelry. The web site also has a page where you can ask questions by e-mail.

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

Walk, talk, hang out

Laurel Park Place offers more than just shopping

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
SPECIAL EDITOR

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Malls were made for shopping. But they serve higher purposes.

Livonia's Laurel Park Place mall, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in August, for example, practically serves as the community's downtown.

Unlike Birmingham, Plymouth, Clarkston and many other area communities, Livonia is without a downtown shopping and business district, so residents and business people turn to the friendly, intimate mall to fill the void.

"I'm here everyday," says Bob Zygal, a Canton resident and employee of nearby Viateen while having lunch and reading a newspaper at Max & Erma's, one of Laurel Park Place's anchor restaurants.

In the morning, Zygal visits Mrs. Fields to fuel up on coffee before going to work. And, if he doesn't return to the mall for lunch, he usually stops by later to take a stroll, clear his head and take note of store sales.

Zygal's co-worker Amy Byrne not only frequents the mall as a break from work but also relies on it much like a neighborhood drug store, often stopping by, for instance, to pick up a birthday card she forgot to purchase earlier.

"Yesterday, my glasses broke on me," says Byrne. "But I was able to come down here and get them fixed immediately," she says.

Judy Wombel, a Southfield resident who works nearby and comes to the mall every day, says she relies on the mall to purchase last-minute gifts. She also cats at one of the mall's

restaurants every work day.

Although Wombel doesn't consider Laurel Park Place the equivalent of a downtown area, she's hard-pressed to describe it as a conventional mall. "It's a mini-mall. It's something in between."

Others come to Laurel Park Place for social reasons.

Lifelong friends Nettie Ahverkatte of Livonia and Marie Ptak of Redford Township visit the mall together twice each month.

While their itinerary always includes a morning browse through Jacobson's and a leisurely lunch between noon and 12:30 p.m., the primary reason for their visit is "to be together," says Ptak, settling beside Ahverkatte on a cushioned seat in one of the mall's rest areas to catch up on each other's lives and talk about old times.

"We have a few good laughs and talk about our families," says Ptak. "Sometimes, we buy."

The mall has several cozy spots where patrons pause to talk and relax, including a treacherously long row of park benches near the center's movie complex.

There, Frances Sanders of Dearborn Heights and her daughter, who is visiting from Illinois, retreat from shopping to savor a cup of coffee and talk mother to daughter.

The diversity of visitors and reasons for coming to the mall is astounding, says Laurel Park Place's marketing director Karen Susala.

In the morning, older adults and non-working women come to the mall to walk, talk and read the newspaper, says Susala, describing the daily cycle of

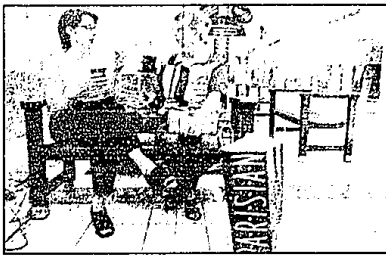


Catching up: Lifelong friends Nettie Ahverkatte (left) of Livonia and Marie Ptak, of Redford Township, sit and talk about their families and old times at Laurel Park Place mall in Livonia before having lunch.

See MALL, C5



Lunch time: Erica Shy (left), Amanda Anderson and Amy Seaville stop for pizza at the mall.



Coffee break: Gail Mirnik (left) and Frances Sander plop down on a mall park bench and sip

Objects of desire displayed at Tiffany & Co.

Objects of desire. You can't have them, but you can look.

That's the idea behind Tiffany & Co.'s Objects of Desire show, a dazzling collection of diamond and colored gemstone rings.

On display for viewing now through Aug. 22 at Tiffany & Co.'s store at the Somerset Collection in Troy, the extraordinary group of rings includes a 4.15-carat, cushion-shape, Burma ruby; a 3.75-carat, emerald-cut, Colombian emerald; and a 4.81-carat, cushion-shape, Kashmir sapphire, all set in platinum or platinum and 18-karat gold.

All the stones shown meet Tiffany & Co.'s rigorous standards for clarity, color, brilliance and cut.

An array of diamond rings set in platinum, as well as Tiffany & Co.'s classic, six-prong, Tiffany diamond ring, will be available for viewing.

And for those in search of a few truly unobtainable objects of desire, a 15.12-carat, emerald cut, intense yellow diamond ring and a rare 0.93-carat, intense purple-pink diamond ring will also be shown.

The collection is a true find for devotees of rare and important colored gemstones and those who are simply mesmerized by such works of art and beauty.

For additional information about Tiffany & Co.'s Objects of Desire ring collection, call (248) 637-2800. Tiffany & Co. is located at Somerset South.

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.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

FRENCH RAGS TRUNK SHOW

French Rags sweaters, formerly available at Bonwit Teller, are available for purchase through a local consultant/trunk show running through Aug. 7. For information or an appointment, call Elyse L. Strome, (248) 646-2099, or Ma. Gilman, (248) 738-1380.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

CHANEL ACCESSORIES SHOW

View Chanel's fall 1999 special order collection of accessories at Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Chanel Accessories Boutique, first floor.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

MELINDA ENG SHOW

The fall 1999 collection of Melinda Eng comes to Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, through Aug. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Couture Salon, third floor.

CINDERELLA STORY TIME

Oakland Mall in Troy presents the story of Cinderella as part of the center's Giggie Gang summer theater series, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., Center Court.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

ST. JOHN KNITS SHOW

Jacobson's, Laurel Park Place in Livonia, hosts a showing of St. John Knits fall 1999 collection, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Designer Salon.

BEREK TRUNK SHOW

The Apple Tree Room in Franklin hosts a trunk show of Berek's hand-knit cotton sweaters with refreshments and 10 percent savings on special orders through Aug. 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For additional information, call (248) 851-9862.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

GARFIELD & MARKS TRUNK SHOW

All new fabrics, suiting, jackets, skirts, trousers and sweaters from the Garfield & Marks fall collection are shown at Sally's Designs, Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield, through Aug. 7, Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call (248) 626-0866.

ANTIQUE AUTO SHOW

The Veterans Motor Car Club of America brings an antique auto show to Meadowbrook Village Mall in Rochester Hills through Aug. 8, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m., throughout the mall.