

Malls & Mainstreets

Nicole Stafford, Editor 248-901-2567, nstafford@ec.homecomm.net on the web: http://observer-ecentric.com Sunday, September 5, 1999

Obtain a full appraisal of your diamond

THE JEWELRY LADY
Dear Jewelry Lady:
I'm a September baby, so my birthstone is sapphire. I've heard the term "fancy sapphire." Does that refer to cut or mount? ing?
Sapphire Blues

DEWIS RODGERS
Dear Blues:
The Jewelry Lady understands your confusion. The term "fancy" generally refers to how we look when we get really decked out.

But when gemologists refer to "fancy sapphires," they mean sapphires of any color other than blue or red.
Sapphire is of the mineral group corundum. Blue corundum is simply called sapphire. Red corundum is called ruby.
Sapphires of any other color are considered "fancy sapphires." The color range is quite broad and includes pink, orange, gold, purple, yellow, green and white.

Dear Jewelry Lady:
I thought huggie-style earrings were supposed to be comfortable. But, when I tried on a pair, they pinched and hurt more than any other earring I've ever tried on.
Pinched Lobes

Dear Pinched:
Huggie earrings come in attractive hoops of all styles, shapes and sizes. They wrap around the lobe and are secured to the ear with a curved wire that latches on to the back side of the earring.

When they fit properly, they are extremely comfortable. When they are too small for your lobe, they can, in fact, pinch. Actually, the Jewelry Lady has encountered a huggie earring with a wire so thick it was impossible to wear. (Not to worry, there was an attractive alternative huggie that fit!)
So take heart and keep shopping. There is a huggie out there that will look — and feel — great on your ears!

Dear Jewelry Lady:
I have a beautiful diamond ring that was appraised at \$12,000. It has two large diamonds of .30 carat and .80 carat in weight respectively. The ring also has baguettes and 22 small diamonds. Do you know of any jeweler who would be interested in buying my ring at a very good price?
Too Many Diamonds in Farmington

Dear Too Many Diamonds:
If the price is good enough, there are a number of jewelers who would be interested. However, from what you have described, the Jewelry Lady strongly suggests you get a more complete appraisal from a qualified gemologist.

A good appraisal will include much more information about each large diamond including: color, clarity grade; an evaluation of how well it was cut relative to ideal proportion; and a diagram of its natural inclusions.

It also would be a good idea to get an independent appraisal from a jeweler who has no intention of buying your ring. Ask for both replacement and immediate market values. After that, visit several jewelers who carry estate pieces to determine who might pay the most.

Dear Jewelry Lady:
Why are gemologists so hung up on flaws when they're only visible with magnification? If I can't see it, it doesn't bother me.
Fearless of Flaws

Dear Fearless:
You are absolutely right. Gemologists spend a lot of time identifying and plotting flaws — what they call inclusions — on charts. Many of these flaws are entirely invisible to the naked eye. So, what's the hang-up?
Whether you can see them or not, these inclusions affect the value of a stone. Flawless stones are generally rare, and therefore, more valuable than those with imperfections.
Also, gems with inclusions that aren't apparent are more valuable than those with obvious imperfections. However, there is one exception. Amber, which is fossilized tree resin, is most valuable when it contains a fully-formed fossilized insect. It's rare. Go figure. It's valuable.
Send questions and topics of interest to the Jewelry Lady by e-mail, rogers@ec.homecomm.net, fax (248) 582-9223, or mail c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

In their own style



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER
Taking stock: Caroline Gilchrist of Birmingham is thrilled about her fall wardrobe purchases, hip boots, sweaters and more.

Simple, casual clothes are chic, too

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
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Jeans are not an option for Caroline Gilchrist, a French-Canadian born and raised in Montreal who considers herself a casual, simple dresser.

The French simply don't wear blue jeans, says the Birmingham resident and wife of Detroit Red Wings player Brent Gilchrist.
But what about those oversized red and white team jerseys worn faithfully by avid Red Wings fans?

"Did you see one in my closet?" asks the mother of two boys, shaking her head.

"I leave the Red Wings stuff to the men in the family."
Though Gilchrist considers herself a casual dresser, her interpretation of less-than-dressy is chic and sophisticated. In other words, dressing casually doesn't exclude being in style and having polish.

"It's a pretty casual wardrobe, but I always like a little twist, a little edge," says Gilchrist, clipping through her wardrobe with a bouncy French accent.
By "twist" or "edge,"

Gilchrist means interesting and unusual details, like ruffled bottom hems on khaki pants or a unique neckline on a plain black sweater.

To update her fall wardrobe, for example, Gilchrist purchased a solid black turtleneck with a flowing, versatile cowl-neck.

"This is going to be great," she says, laying the turtleneck flat on her bed to look it over.

Dressed in cropped black pants, a fitted, sleeveless gray shirt, strappy black sandals and minimal jewelry, Gilchrist dashes back to the small walk-in closet she shares with her husband to grab other favorite clothing and her new purchases for fall.

"I have to share," she says, feigning a pout.

But the thought quickly loses its steam, and Gilchrist's eyes light up again. "Do you want to see my favorite skirt?"

Gilchrist rejects the notion that she exudes style. "People say I do. They say I am this 'French girl,'" she says. "I've never really thought about this style stuff. ... I just like clothes."
And, she does.

Gilchrist emerges from her closet with a simple, three-quarter length, black skirt. "I'll just wear it with a little sweater and a pair of heels," she says. Likewise, her favorite pair of pants are simple in design and basic black.

Other items she relies on taking out of her closet to admire are a new pair of brown leather boots by Costume National, all types of shoes (her shopping weakness), an embroidered black purse and a pair of shiny black trousers she calls her "rock 'n' roll pants."

Having a pair of black pants that fit well is essential to any wardrobe because they can be worn day after day with different pieces for variety, says Gilchrist.

Other essentials for Gilchrist's fall wardrobe include cashmere sweaters in solid, mostly neutral, colors and stylish, high-heeled, leather boots in brown and black.

Arguably, Gilchrist's emphasis on basic clothing items underlies her entire style formula: buy mostly basic pants and skirts; use shoes, handbags and unique tops to express your own personal style and abide the season's trends.

'People say I do (have style). They say I am this French girl. ... I've never really thought about this style stuff. ... I just like clothes.'

Caroline Gilchrist
— of Birmingham

See STYLE, C5



Favorites: Gilchrist pulls a few favorite pieces out of the closet, her shiny, black "rock 'n' roll pants" and a black jacket.

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.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

FALL TRUNK SHOW
The Apple Tree Room, 32749 Franklin Road in Franklin, hosts a trunk show of Brighton leather handbags and accessories and Marya Lyco Ferre Deco jackets and coats, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. For information, call (248) 861-9862.

WARDROBE SEMINAR
Update your wardrobe at a seminar featuring Jones New York's fall collection at Hudson's, the Somerset Collection in Troy, 7 p.m., Jones New York Department. The seminar also runs at 2 p.m. at Hudson's, Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

COLLECTIBLES SHOW
Livonia Mall, 29614 Seven Mile Road, hosts a coin, collectible and sports card show with autograph signings by baseball, hockey and football hall of fame players through Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and noon-5 p.m. on Sunday.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

throughout the mall. For additional information, call (248) 476-1160.

HICKEY FREEMAN SHOW
View Hickey Freeman's special order collection and new stock pieces for fall at Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., The Man's Store, first floor.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

DAHLIA SHOW
Meadowbrook Village Mall in Rochester Hills holds its Annual Dahlia Show, a judged display of more than 1,000 blooms presented by the Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society through Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday and noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, throughout the mall.

JOHN BARRETT APPEARANCE
Meet the owner of John Barrett Salon in New York and receive a complimentary hair consultation at Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, 3-5 p.m., Cosmetics Department, first floor.

CHILI & SALSA COOKOFF
Join the fun at the Michigan State Chili Championship and Salsa Competition during Plymouth's Fall Festival in downtown Plymouth. The winner advances to the World Championship Chili Cookoff in Nevada. To enter the contest or obtain event information, call (734) 455-8838.

BELLE ISLE FASHION SHOW
Friends of Belle Isle present RIVERSCOPE 2000, an annual luncheon fashion show to benefit the Belle Isle Nature Center. Donation fee is \$30. For information and tickets, call (313) 331-7760 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Show begins at 2:30 p.m., Belle Isle Casino.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

BRIDES-TO-BE SHOW
View bridal fashion and speak with bridal experts, from florists to photographers, at Brides-To-Be 20th anniversary show at the Novi Hilton. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the show. To obtain information and reserve tickets, call (810) 228-2700.

HERMES FRAGRANCE LAUNCH
Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, introduces Hiris fragrance by Hermes. Cosmetics & Fragrances Department, first floor. For additional information, call (248) 614-3361.