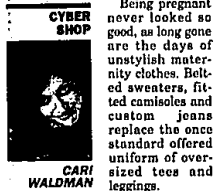


MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Click for hard-to-find maternity clothes

Expecting? Consider yourself lucky for more than one reason.



Being pregnant never looked so good, as long as you are the days of unstylish maternity clothes. Bolted sweaters, fitted camisoles and custom jeans replace the once standard offered uniform of oversized tees and leggings.

While I agree that using the Internet can be a frustrating experience when it comes to buying clothes, the Web has revolutionized shopping for maternity wear, making it easy to surf your way to hard-to-find hip

brands that aren't available to us in metro Detroit brick and mortar stores. So if you are in the mood to up the style quotient of your next few trimesters, bookmark these sites. I've done the surfing to assure that these steps have the solutions to fix all of your (maternity) fashion emergencies.

www.babystyle.com brings together most of the best maternity labels on the Web. A quick loading site that is ultra friendly, you can find great labels such as forty weeks, golden tree, gotcha covered, jane inc. and l'attesa on it. I also suggest you search each label's site for even more choices. Click onto babystyle.com now and receive \$10 off a purchase of \$50 or more. When you proceed through checkout, type in the coupon code: NEW-BIE

www.japaneseweekend.com is a good place to surf if you are looking for modern tops, blouses, evening wear and swim wear.

With an opening page of spring 2002, the site moves a little slow, but in general the Japanese Weekend Maternity clothes are ultra stylish and good finds.

Worthy picks include the Mamaco, which is on sale right now, and their private label Hug line.

www.lizlange.com is quite possibly the most expensive place to shop for maternity duds on the Web. But if you are looking for pure style and clothing you would wear even if you weren't pregnant, this is your essential stop.

The Liz Lange collection is built around must-have pieces like the cigarette pant, the A-line dress, the pull-on skirt, the shift, the tunic

and the cashmere twin set in styles and fabric combinations that mix and match.

Almost every item on this Web site is fitted, including Liz Lange's button-front shirts, tees, dresses, pants and evening wear. Also be aware that almost all of the fabric on this Web site stretches - from the Greater cotton/lycra from Switzerland for the tees to the cashmere used in the sweaters.

So if you aren't open to showing your new curves, this site isn't necessarily for you. But the site's terrific if you are open to splurging on you and Baby. My click pick for the ultimate in luxury and looking good for nine months straight.

More stylish click picks for pregnancy chic:
www.pumpkinmaternity.com
www.maternityzone.com
www.onehotmama.com
www.gap.com (click on maternity icon)

Cari Waldman of West Bloomfield is a stylist and freelance fashion writer. Have a cyber-shopping question? E-mail her at cwaldman@aol.com.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Follow the bunny trail to a variety of events featuring the Easter Bunny in area stores. Here is a roundup of what is scheduled.

■ **BUNNY BREAKFAST**
Hop into spring and Easter at Nordstrom at the Somerset Collection, Big Beaver Road and Coolidge in Troy, and join Nordstrom's bunny for breakfast March 23. Enjoy a morning of fun with balloon clowns, face painters and Mr. Bunny himself, complete with breakfast buffets. Cost is \$12 per person, plus tax. Doors open 8 a.m. Seating is limited; make reservations with Customer Service at (248) 816-5100, Ext. 1690.

■ **EASTER BUNNY**
Children of all ages are invited to visit with the Easter Bunny and receive a special treat 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Art Van Furniture in Novi (27775 Novi Road, phone (248) 348-8922). Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras.

■ **BUN E. RABBIT**
Bun E. Rabbit and Stuart Little, the

lovable white mouse, are at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi now through March 30. They are at the mall's Central Park Garden - which is beautifully decorated for spring - in the Lower Level, Center Court of Twelve Oaks, 1-96 and Novi Road.

The set includes colorful decor featuring the popular mouse, along with giant topiaries of new characters that will be introduced in the movie *Stuart Little 2*, premiering in July.

Photos of children with Bun E. Rabbit will be available for purchase. Each guest will receive a free, limited edition *Stuart Little 2* movie poster.

Visitors to the display can enter to win tickets to local *Stuart Little 2* openings, or a grand prize trip for four to the Los Angeles movie premiere. The trip includes airfare, hotel accommodations for three nights, a rental car, premiere tickets and a Columbia Pictures backdrop tour.

Photo opening hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

SHOPPING BRIEFS

■ FOCUS DAYS

Jacobson's Ms. J Prom Party Weekend - which continues Sunday, March 10, at the stores in Birmingham (325 N. Woodward, phone (248) 644-6900) and Rochester (1220 University, phone (248) 651-6000) - has everything a young woman needs to make her prom night special.

Jacobson's Web site, www.jacobsons.com, features a printable prom planner and a preview of Ms. J prom dresses so guests may print pictures of their favorite styles to take with them to Jacobson's. Locations are hosting Focus Days throughout March. Jacobson's experts will show how to complete a look with the perfect shoes, handbags and jewelry, featuring a special collection of jewelry made available during the event.

Dana Buchman Focus Day will be Friday-Sunday, March 16-17, in Birmingham and Rochester. Carolee Focus Day will be Saturday, March 16, in Rochester.

Mother of the Bride and Special Occasion Focus Day will be noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, in Rochester.

■ **TRUNK SHOWS**
Nelson Marcus in the Somerset Collection, Big Beaver Road and Coolidge in Troy, has scheduled trunk shows. Call (248) 643-3300.

Personalize your wardrobe with individual tailoring at the Briant Trunk Show and Made-to-Measure Event, Monday-Sunday, March 11-17, at Men's Clothing on 1. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See exciting evening looks for spring 2002 at the Tadashi Trunk Show, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 15-16, at Galleria on 2.

■ **TRUNK SHOW**
Sally's Designs, 6337-B Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield, will present a spring 2002 trunk show of Lafayette New York 148 Thursday-Saturday, March 14-16. Representative James Goodman will be present Thursday and Friday. Call (248) 626-0886 for times and other information.

Sally's Designs is featuring the Yensi Fugel spring 2002 line to March 23, with immediate stock available for purchase.

■ **COLLECTION SHOW**
A Johnston & Murphy and Hart, Schaffner & Marx Collection Show will take place at two area Jacobson's stores: 4-8 p.m. Friday, March 15, in Rochester (1220 University, phone (248) 651-6000) and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 17, in Birmingham (325 N. Woodward, phone (248) 644-6900).

■ **ST. PATRICK'S DAY TREAT**
Youngsters are invited to pick up a fun green treat and activity sheet (while supplies last) 2-4 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at Kids Castles at Art Van Furniture stores in Novi (27775 Novi Road, phone (248) 348-8922) and at 6500 14 Mile in Warren (phone (586) 939-2100).

■ **SCHOLARSHIP**
The Michigan Retailers Association has launched its college scholarship competition for the 2002-03 school year. At least 12 scholarships will be awarded to benefit MRA members and their employees. To be eligible, the student applicant or the student's parent or guardian must be employed at a business that is a member of the MRA.

High school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores and juniors may apply. Scholarship amounts range from \$500 to \$1,000, depending on the type of college or university attended. Awards aren't based on financial need. Applications must be requested by Friday, March 16, and submitted by April 1. Employees at MRA member businesses may contact their employer for an application request form or call scholarship program administrators at (616) 320-3149. Applicants may also request an application online through MRA's Web site at www.retailers.com (the access code is MIRA).

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THURSDAY, MARCH 14

6:00 - 9:00PM

HOSTED BY STANDARD FEDERAL BANK—WEALTH MANAGEMENT AND COMMERCIAL BANKING

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LECTURE

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

10:00AM

FEATURING RICHARD T. NELSON OF SOTHEBY'S
"AUCTION ADVENTURES"...THE INSIDE STORY

GENERAL SHOW

TICKETS \$10

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

10:00 AM - 6:00PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

10:00 AM - 6:00PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

12:00 - 5:00PM

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