

The WAG's Best-Dressed Women, 2008

BY JENÉ LUCIANI

The WAG has chosen 13 local ladies, representing all ages and occupations, who share one thing in common: An incomparable sense of style. From the heiress to one of fashion's biggest designer names to a former Ralph Lauren model (both of whom are now designers in their own right), to a White Plains attorney and philanthropist, we got these women to reveal their favorite local sources, confess their crimes of fashion, name their idols (Audrey Hepburn reigns supreme), and explain exactly what it is that makes their style click.

Robin Colner:
"The Chic Cyber Maven"

Town: Scarsdale

Occupation: Chief Marketing Officer for a start-up internet media company

Most coveted closet item: A custom-made Eric Gaskins leather suit (black leather skirt with a fitted leather-trimmed boiled wool jacket). I have worn both pieces together and separately, which has helped me create several wonderful outfits.

Favorite outfit: Bright pink Chanel boucle suit with gold lurex threads. I bought it for a luncheon where I was the honoree and have loved wearing it for many special occasions. (I won't tell how old it is but, like red wine, the older the better with Chanel.)

Wardrobe must-have: The chicest 'LBD' (little black dress) by Vestimenta; the best-fitting white jeans by JBrand and my black Manolo Blahnik Carolyn heels. I have to admit I have the shoe in three colors. I also must have something pink, like my yummy-colored, deep pink, Heidi Weisel cashmere, satin-trimmed sweater set. I always love a splash of color.

Biggest fashion faux pas: I regretted wearing a diaphanous paisley silk ballet skirt by Ralph Lauren that looked like something Sarah Jessica Parker's character, Carrie, would have worn on the TV show *Sex and the City*. I was going to a party and needed a break from my flowered silk Dolce and Gabbana pencil skirts. However, I felt a little too much like a ballerina when I wore it. I prefer to look more sophisticated and it's sometimes awkward to step away from your signature style. Thank heavens I wasn't photographed for the side of a bus like Sarah Jessica!

Favorite local places to shop: I go to NEIMAN MARCUS for party clothes. I love SAKS FIFTH AVENUE, and I run into GREAT STUFF in Scarsdale for everyday jeans and play clothes. I also buy jeans at BEGINNINGS and HAVANA JEANS in Scarsdale. For jewelry, I like GREGORY GILIN, which is also in Scarsdale. The South Sea pearls I am wearing in my photo are from there!

Biggest fashion splurge: One cold day in February while returning something at Neiman Marcus, I spotted a whiskey-colored mink stroller, you know, a casual skin-on-skin coat to run to the supermarket in. I actually got it because it was on sale. I am not sure if my husband caught on, so if you see

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MICHELE ERRICO AND CLARA FROM
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WWW.BESTCOLORSALON.COM

LOCATION
ABIGAIL KIRSCH AT TAPPAN HILL MANSION,
81 HIGHLAND AVENUE, TARRYTOWN
WWW.ABIGAILKIRSCH.COM/LOCATIONS/TH.HTM

Right: Robin is wearing a two-piece satin floral print ensemble by Dolce & Gabbana; shoes: Manolo Blahnik; jewelry: a custom-designed bracelet by Judith Ripka, Cartier Gold and Diamond Tank Francaise watch, and pearl and diamond earrings from GREGORY GILIN ESTATE AND FINE JEWELRY in Scarsdale.

Page 22: Denise is wearing a cape of her own design in chocolate brown & cream zebra fabric with high collar (DENISE PROCTOR COUTURE, 914-428-1047).

Page 23: Jennifer is wearing a Dries Van Noten metallic beaded halter top with white Ginger jeans, Prada sandals; jewelry by JL Rocks fine jewelry of Greenwich



Robin Colner

"Begin with the rules set by French women—get a great, tight black pencil skirt, a black worsted wool pant suit and fab accessories and jewelry."

Denise Proctor

"I asked [Versace] what was the difference between Italian designs and American designs, and he replied in his very heavy Italian accent, 'How do you call it designing by putting your name on the underwear? This is not design!' "



A full-page photograph of Jennifer Goodkind. She is sitting on a white marble fireplace mantel, leaning back on her right arm and resting her left leg on the mantel. She is wearing a silver sequined sleeveless top with a dark beaded collar and white wide-leg trousers. She is smiling at the camera. Behind her is a large, ornate gold-framed painting of a landscape. The fireplace below the mantel has a brass screen and a small candle in a holder.

Jennifer Goodkind

"My great-grandfather, fresh out of the *shtetl*, became J. Press, arbiter of taste for the Ivy League set. He just utilized his skill set. That's what I do."

me in it with him, pretend you've seen it before. It does look great in Aspen.

Biggest bargain buy: A summer-weight, tomato-red, cashmere Gucci sweater with classic, white, low-waist pants. It was the only time I saw a mark-down in my size that I bought and actually wore more than once. The pants look fabulous with my 4-inch heel Gucci sandals.

Favorite designers: I adore my off-white Dolce & Gabbana wool pantsuit—I look great in it every season—I just change the shoes and bag. Of course, I have to starve for two days before I wear it. Giorgio Armani skirt and pantsuits form the basis of my professional and charity function wardrobe. I also like the short, form-fitted jackets that go with any of my 50 black skirts and pants. My suitcase is filled with Ralph Lauren black label sweaters, blouses, and skirts when I head to the Caribbean. I have tons of white button-down shirts, most of them from BANANA REPUBLIC. I buy lots of turquoise necklaces and earrings for the summer. The color looks great with everything. I just bought a turquoise pashmina while waiting for a prescription.

Fashion icons/inspiration: My fashion icons are WAG's other "best dressed women."

Favorite fashion advice/tips: Begin with the rules set by French women—get a great, tight black pencil skirt, a black worsted wool pant suit and fab accessories and jewelry. Here's where you can add terrific color and drama. And wear anything but black to evening galas. My favorite is Valentino red with a matching lipstick. Color makes everyone look different, dynamite and definitely better in pictures.

Describe your sense of style: I consider my style signature to be a delicious combination of classic, sophisticated elegance with a touch of hot and spicy salsa.

What makes your style unique? My style reflects the many dimensions of my personality: confident and substantive; cheerful and fun-loving. Therefore, I often pair a dark or stark white background with a splash of rich, warm color.

Ally Hilfiger

"The Fashion Heiress"

Town: Manhattan, but her family lives in Greenwich

Occupation: Fashion designer/artist (WAG note: Ally is starting her own clothing line—reportedly with **Sean Lennon**, son of John and Yoko Ono. Details aren't available yet.)



"My parents always spoke about fabrics, samples, factories, stores, designers, etc. . .

In my house, knowing the different types of plaids was like knowing the alphabet!"

Ally Hilfiger

Most coveted closet item:

Vintage designer items like my Balenciaga blazer.

Favorite outfit: Anything chic and comfy.

Wardrobe must-have: Underwear and a soft white tee.

Biggest fashion faux pas: I'll never tell ... but I hate when people wear sweatpants in public!

Favorite places to shop: BARNEY'S and ELEVEN (both in Manhattan).

Biggest fashion splurge: Shoes that I will probably only wear, like, five times.

Biggest bargain buy: A vintage crocodile clutch from London—it was like \$25!

Favorite designers: Stella McCartney.

Fashion inspiration/icon: Katherine Hepburn.

Favorite fashion advice/tips: Never wear anything you don't feel comfortable or confident in.

Describe your sense of style: Eclectic.

What makes your style

unique? Mixing up different items, old and new, and feeling free enough to put them together however my heart desires! Also growing up in a famous fashion family [she is designer **Tommy Hilfiger's** daughter] influenced me, but was not as strange as one would think. The fame didn't influence anything but the craft from which the fame sprouted from did: fashion. My parents always spoke about fabrics, samples, factories, stores, designers, etc. In my house, knowing the different types of plaids was like knowing the alphabet!

Denise Proctor

"The Elegant Educator"

Town: White Plains

Occupation: CEO of WESTCHESTER FASHION ACADEMY FOR CHILDREN, a school in White Plains for kids ages 6 to 17 to learn about the fashion design industry.

Most coveted closet item: Lace camisole.

Favorite outfit: D&G multicolored, cinched-at-the-waist jacket with faded jeans.

Wardrobe must-have: Black silk knit camisole and sweater.

Biggest fashion faux pas: Instead of a faux pas, I'd like to tell you about something I truly enjoy wearing: my Toy watch. I loved the clear opulence of it as it emerged on the scene. I wear it every day, and love the gigantic face with the clear plastic band exposing the mechanism. It keeps me grounded when I take myself too seriously.

Favorite local places to shop: THE WESTCHESTER.

Biggest fashion splurge: Silk Pucci summer dress.

Biggest bargain buy: Jimmy Choo shoes for \$99.

Favorite designers: Dolce & Gabbana, Pucci, Adrienne Vittadini, Versace. I also recently took my students to the Kenneth Cole studio in Manhattan and was impressed with his new collection.

They treated us as if we were buyers and showed us the new 2008 shoe collection that [as of press time] has not been delivered or viewed yet! My students are learning all about fashion design through fashion sketching, trend boards, learning how to own and operate a mock boutique and putting together a professional portfolio.

Favorite fashion advice/ tips:

Get a grand look for your hair! Get it big and puffy by sitting in the bathroom with the steam shower on. Then you must set the hair with a setting agent, curlers and let it dry for about three to four hours or, in the case of long, thick hair, a day or two. When it has completely dried, you take out the curlers and you have a fascinating '60s-ish look!

Fashion inspiration/icon: Mary McFadden is the most wonderful designer aside from Versace. I'm in awe of McFadden's play on jewels, stones, and brilliance in her detailed gowns. I once met Mary and was invited to one of her parties. The entire loft was dressed with Balinese masks, interesting lounge chairs, artifacts, black and red lighting. I fell in love with the entire style of her designs, and interiors. She enjoyed my look and I certainly was impressed with hers! I've always loved Versace's work. I never owned any but I did go to meet him at the FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY in Manhattan. He signed an autograph for me and I asked him what was the difference between Italian designs and American designs, and he replied in his very heavy Italian accent, 'How do you call it designing by putting your name on the underwear? This is not design!'

Describe your sense of style: I have a classy yet eccentric look. I wear the Prada and D&G mixed patterns and colors—a little of the '60s mixed with the present. I love mixing and matching. It's exciting!

What makes your style unique?

My style is unique because it is original mixed with flavor colors, patterns from various cultures, yet pulled together with a sweet coolness. I call it "Classy Culture!"

Right: Jennifer is wearing a brown & gold multi-pattern dress by Lynn Ritchie (BLOOMINGDALE'S); shoes were purchased at a sample sale in New York; bracelets: vintage bakelite; jeweled headband by Lela Rowe

Page 25: Jayne is wearing a Ralph Lauren navy halter top with front ruffle, Ralph Lauren white pants, and Ralph Lauren sliver sandals; jewelry: JL Rocks diamond hoops

Page 26: Laurie is wearing a Worth Collection Lemon Zest Leather Cool Down Jacket; Necklace: The Worth Collection Lemon Drop Resin Skinny Chain Necklace (www.worthnyc.com); Jeans: J Brand 'Lovestory' low rise stretch jeans (Dark Vintage Wash); Shoes: Christian Lacroix



Jennifer Arco

"Although my own personal style is different, I still think Audrey Hepburn represents the closest thing to fashion perfection. I would love to own every outfit she wore in *Charade*."

Jayne Chase

"My sense of style is definitely American. I always gravitate towards American designers and classic silhouettes. I love dressing up and feeling sexy, but I am most comfortable in blue jeans, great boots and Ralph Lauren cashmere slim fit sweaters."



Laurie Joyce

"I like to dress in clothes that will take me from the carpool line to a dinner party with just a quick change of jacket or accessories."



Shoes are the ultimate accessory. If my shoes are gorgeous, everything flows up from there. My favorite shoes ever are my pink, rounded toe, crushed velvet Christian Louboutins. Toe cleavage and jeweled sandals ... now that's a prelude to any great look. It's fashion foreplay!

Jennifer Goodkind

Jennifer Arco
“The Mod Mom”

Town: White Plains

Occupation: Brand-new mom (5-month-old baby girl, Isabella); part-time instructor at Westchester Fashion Academy for Children

Most coveted closet item: A fabulous leopard print faux fur swing coat—I've had it forever and it never seems to go out of style.

Favorite outfit: Right now, I love empire waist dresses with a pair of outrageous tights and wedge shoes/boots!

Wardrobe must-have: My black wrap dress—it's the perfect solution to a last-minute fancy dinner. I just add a print scarf around my neck and some dangle earrings and I am set!

Biggest fashion faux pas: Putting my rather muscular legs (I danced for years) into a pair of skinny jeans. Just because something is ‘in style’ doesn't mean you belong in that style.

Favorite local places to shop: I'm more of a boutique shopper than department stores. I wish there were more boutiques in White Plains, but two that I love are CHANCE FASHION STUDIO and ZOYA.

Biggest fashion splurge: A \$250

pair of premium denim jeans at BARNEY's a few years ago—I don't even remember the label ... how sad is that?

Biggest bargain buy: A gorgeous pair of Gucci black strappy sandals for \$100 that I found at a designer consignment store in Soho.

Favorite designers: Where do I start? Lately, I love Prada, Chloe and Marni ... somewhat bohemian, whimsical and flirty!

Fashion inspiration/icon: Audrey Hepburn—although my own personal style is somewhat different, I still think she represents the closest thing to fashion perfection. I would love to own every outfit she wore in the movie *Charade*.

Favorite fashion advice/tips: Don't be afraid of fashion ... go out on a limb once in awhile and experiment with new styles ... you may find a whole new you right in your own closet!

Describe your sense of style: Eclectic, whimsical and slightly bohemian!

What makes your style unique? I feel I have brought a unique NYC downtown vibe up to Westchester. I would love to see a more ‘fashion forward’ mindset catch on up here in NOMA (North of Manhattan!).

Jennifer Goodkind
“Radio Maven [I]”

Town: Greenwich

Occupation: Co-Host of “A Fashionable Life,” a radio show that airs on 1490 WGCH Radio in Fairfield from 9 to 10 A.M. She is also a partner of JL ROCKS fine jewelry in Greenwich and Westport.

Most coveted closet item: Brown/black velvet Roberta DeCamerino clutch bag that was purchased by my grandmother in Rome.

Favorite outfit: Jeans, t-shirt, Christian Louboutin shoes, several JL Rocks (my own line) diamond bangle bracelets and Tom Ford oversized aviators!

Wardrobe must-have: Jeans.

Biggest fashion faux pas: My biggest fashion faux pas was wearing a silk men's pajama top (as a dress) out “clubbing” in Paris when I was at Parsons School in Paris. I thought I looked so fabulous until I started dancing ... oops, it was a little short!

Favorite local places to shop: MIS EN SCENE, SCOOP and DIGHTON

RHODE (all in Greenwich) and www.net-a-porter.com.

Biggest fashion splurge: Shoes are the ultimate accessory. If my shoes are gorgeous, everything flows up from there. My favorite shoes ever are my pink, rounded toe, crushed velvet Christian Louboutins. Toe cleavage and jeweled sandals ... now that's a prelude to any great look. It's fashion foreplay!

Biggest bargain buy: A Velvet (the clothing company, not the fabric) black, jewel-neck dress I wore for New Years. It looked “designer” and was cheap, cheap, cheap!

Favorite designers: Alber Elbaz (Lanvin), Nicolas Ghesquire for Balenciaga, Sari Gueron

Fashion inspiration/icon: Jackie Onassis, Jane Birkin.

Favorite fashion advice/tips: Trends come and go. Style lasts forever.

Describe your sense of style: My sense of style is just that—a ‘sense.’ My great-grandfather, fresh out of the *shtetl*, became J. Press, arbiter of taste for the Ivy League set. He just utilized his skill set. That's what I do.

Nancy's attire: Retro-themed print dress by Ali Ro (BLOOMINGDALE'S); **Jewelry:** David Yurman and John Hardy; **Patent boots** by Franco Sarto (NORDSTROM'S)



Nancy Shenker

"My style could probably be classified as Bohemian Chic. I appreciate beautiful, high-quality, unique clothes—but I still have that hippy chick/grunge thing going on."

What makes your style unique? What makes my style unique is me. I am in the box (lived in Greenwich for 23 years, married for the same, two kids, my parents have been married for 45 years). Yet, I'm out of the box, never predictable. Who wants to have such a sense of style that you can't evolve?

Jayne Chase
"Radio Maven [II]"

Town: New Canaan

Occupation: Co-Host (with Jennifer Goodkind) of "A Fashionable Life" and a fashion editor for a chain of regional lifestyle magazines.

Most coveted closet item: My mother's black alligator handbag with turquoise-encrusted handle and her monogram handkerchiefs from E. Braun & Co.

Favorite outfit: Worn-in 7 Jeans, Ralph Lauren black leather jacket and white tuxedo shirt.

Wardrobe must-have: Ralph Lauren cashmere slim-fit sweaters in every color. Absolutely can't live without these!

Biggest fashion faux pas: My high school prom dress. It was a key-hole brown and white stripe halter dress with wide belt. Ugh! Very '70s!

Favorite local places to shop: Neiman Marcus.

Biggest fashion splurge: My Marc Jacobs black lace gown. It was very expensive but didn't cost as much as my wedding dress. I had to alter it extensively, but I loved it so much! The lace is the prettiest I have ever seen.

Biggest bargain buy: Havaianas flip-flops! They cost under \$20 and I wear these every day in the summer. On the first day of wearing, I've already gotten my money's worth!

Favorite designers: Ralph Lauren, Michael Kors, Tommy Hilfiger, J. Crew, TIBI, Milly, Tory Burch, Jimmy Choo and Christian Louboutin.

Fashion inspiration/icon: My mother in Palm Beach, FL, in the 1950s and '60s, wearing Lilly shift dresses with her braided headbands dyed to match her blonde hair.

Favorite fashion advice/tips: Wear sexy lace underpinnings always ... day and night!

Describe your sense of style: My sense of style is definitely American. I always gravitate towards American designers and classic silhouettes. I love



Looking beautiful is not about wearing costumes. It's about being yourself. I'm an old hippie chick at heart, so for me, carrying around a Prada purse would make me feel ridiculous.

Kristin Clotilde Darnell

dressing up and feeling sexy, but I am most comfortable in blue jeans, great boots and Ralph Lauren cashmere slim fit sweaters. I should really be living in the mountains.

What makes your style

unique? It's all about my expression and creativity. I have always dressed like an outdoorsy girl. I love to ski, play tennis and golf, and just be outside. I think people would be shocked to see me show up in a Cavalli dress!

Laurie Joyce
"The Stylish Saleswoman"

Town: Darien, CT

Occupation: Worth Collection Fashion Entrepreneur/Salesperson

Most coveted closet item: This season, it's the black tulle Scene Stealer evening skirt from Worth. The name says it all!

Favorite outfit: A beautifully tailored crisp white shirt worn with a fabulous necklace, jeans and boots.

Wardrobe must-have: A cropped swing jacket from Worth. They are so easy to wear and add instant chic to any top, dress or t-shirt.

Biggest fashion faux pas: In the 80s, I wore socks over my jeans!

Favorite local places to shop:

Besides my trunk shows? BOHEMIA CHIC in Darien, which has everything from home accessories to jewelry.

Biggest fashion splurge: A woven shiny black Gucci suit—it's incredible. The pieces are also great on their own and, this winter, I paired the skirt with a cashmere turtleneck and my swing jacket.

Biggest bargain buy: A pair of Chanel boots at an end-of-season sale.

Favorite designers: The Worth Collection, Chanel and Akris. Seven and True Religion for jeans, Marc Jacobs and Prada for bags.

Fashion inspiration/icon: Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly and Jennifer Aniston.

Favorite fashion advice/tips: Choose things that you feel great in! That's when you look your best.

Describe your sense of style: Chic, classic and comfortable.

What makes your style

unique? I like to dress in clothes that will take me from the carpool line to a dinner party with just a quick change of jacket or accessories.

Nancy Shenker

"The Bohemian Businesswoman"

Town: Chappaqua

Occupation: Founder and principal of theONswitch, a marketing, branding, public relations, and business development company in Thornwood.

Most coveted closet item: Shoes and boots—all of them—from my high-heeled black suede Cole Hahns, to the embossed cowboy boots I wore to see the Rolling Stones at Roseland, to my oh-so-comfy Uggs, to my sparkly silver ballet flats! I'm just not a 'sensible pumps' kind of woman.

Favorite outfit: 1970s print dress, opaque stockings, fun jewelry and (of course) boots.

Wardrobe must-have: My bracelets (David Yurman, John Hardy, and my white gold/diamond one.)

Biggest fashion faux pas: Jumping on the leggings bandwagon too quickly ... I once wore a tunic with leggings and looked like I was in the no-pants zone!

Right: Ruth's longcoat is an aqua dyed sheared rabbit with lace overlay and aqua fox collar and cuffs by Giuliana Teso; 19K gold with cabochon aquamarine earrings and ring by Elizabeth Locke

Favorite local places to shop:

PETTICOAT LANE in Chappaqua, BLOOMINGDALE'S (I.N.C. department) for clothes, NANCY & CO. in East Hampton (not quite local but worth the visit), The Westchester when it's empty on Monday nights.

Biggest fashion splurge: Too many to count. I'll just focus on 2008. (I often treat myself to gifts to celebrate new business.) I just bought a custom laptop bag and a pair of grey suede over-the-knee boots. My fave splurge places in Westchester County are Petticoat Lane in Chappaqua and HELLER'S SHOES in Mt. Kisco.

Biggest bargain buy: Super-soft Calvin Klein leather jacket at Neiman Marcus ... marked down to \$200 from \$800. (I think they might have made a mistake!)

Favorite designers: Trina Turk, Michael Stars, Christopher Blue, Tahari

Fashion inspiration/icon: Heidi Klum (clad in under things, an inspiration for mothers everywhere!), Kate Hudson, and Tina Turner.

Favorite fashion advice/tips:

Don't dress too young ... don't dress too old. Always smell great. You can never have enough accessories.

Describe your sense of style:

It could probably be classified as Bohemian Chic. I appreciate beautiful, high-quality, unique clothes—but I still have that hippy chick/grunge thing going on.

What makes your style

unique? The fact that I have no single "style." I match my fashion to my mood and my environment.

Ruth M. Melnikoff, Esq.
"The Vogue Attorney"

Town: White Plains

Occupation: Real estate attorney and director of sales, the Judicial Title Insurance Agency, LLC, of White Plains

Most coveted closet item: My very first Chanel jacket I purchased a number of years ago which, today, is iconic.

Favorite outfit: A classic, smart black dress, skirt or slacks with a fabulous jacket, a beautiful handbag, sexy pumps or boots and gorgeous gold jewelry.

Wardrobe must-have: Besides a



Ruth M. Melnikoff, Esq.
Build a wardrobe, don't
just buy into a fad. Shop
for a lifetime of possibilities
and don't be afraid to mix
designers and mix things up
to create a new look.



I think that style is something we contemplate every morning when we look in the mirror and it is less about what we wear, and more about how we wear it.

Stacey Karesh

great handbag ... my personal shopper and dear friend, **Paul Berry**, formerly of Neiman Marcus in White Plains and now at BERGDORF GOODMAN in Manhattan, my fitter and alterations expert.

Biggest fashion faux pas: I once wore ankle booties with an Oscar de la Renta trapeze dress ... hideous!

Favorite local places to shop: Neiman Marcus, Saks in Greenwich.

Biggest fashion splurge: I went to a Giuliana Teso runway show in Manhattan and fell madly in love with a one-of-a-kind fur coat and had to have it. I purchased it on the spot!

Biggest bargain buy: My very first Chanel bag.

Favorite designers: Chanel, Chado Ralph Rucci, Giuliana Teso, and Carmen Marc Valvo. (WAG note: We were there when Ruth was personally styled by Port Chester native **Carmen Marc Valvo** during the designer's in-store appearance at Neiman Marcus!)

Fashion inspiration/icon: Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly and Katherine

Hepburn. . . smart, gorgeous, confident, sophisticated, elegant women with an amazing sense of style. However, I think my fashion inspiration also comes from self-assured women of today.

Favorite fashion advice/tips: Build a wardrobe, don't just buy into a fad. Shop for a lifetime of possibilities and don't be afraid to mix designers and mix things up to create a new look.

Describe your sense of style: Classic, confident, and smart, with a fun sense of humor.

What makes your style unique? With the help of my personal shopper Paul, I have been able to expand upon my style for a multitude of uses. I have built a wardrobe. So many women today run from fad to fad and dress much too young or inappropriately for the occasion. By understanding my body type and mixing couture with sportswear, I have been able to express my personality and a style all my own.

Kristin Clotilde Darnell
"The Dazzling Dress-Maker"

Town: Larchmont

Occupation: Designer, owner of CLOTILDE: THE DRESS SHOP in Larchmont

Most coveted closet item: On my first trip to Hawaii, I stopped by BAILEY'S ANTIQUES (best source in the world for vintage Hawaiian shirts), and found an original Hawaiian shirt from the 1930s that was so heartbreakingly beautiful it brought tears to my eyes the moment I saw it! It cost a fortune and I bought it with the kind of reverence other people might experience buying jewels! I keep it in a box wrapped up in tissue paper—it's so breathtaking! During dreary winter months, all I have to do is peek at the fabric design and it cheers me up! I think my precious 1930s Hawaiian shirt was what started my love affair with vintage Hawaiian prints, my favorite fabric for many of the summer dresses I design.

Favorite outfit: My favorite outfit this past winter was my blackwatch-plaid flannel dress, soft Western belt, woolen tights and brown Maryjane shoes with the stacked heel.

Wardrobe must-have: A good belt is such a figure 'enhancer!' You can have a 'blah' outfit, but cinch it in with a great belt, and suddenly you feel dy-

namite! And it can improve your posture because you don't want to slouch; it makes you sit up straight!

Biggest fashion faux pas: My biggest fashion faux pas must have been the first time I was called to the Polo/Ralph Lauren office for my first official meeting with Mr. Lauren and his team. I had just returned from [modeling in] the [fashion] shows in Paris and was dressed head to toe in Yves St. Laurent. (This was the '70s, so, of course I thought I was cool.) When I entered the office they all sighed: "What are you wearing?" "Yves St. Laurent" I whispered, I was so embarrassed. I distinctly remember them all rolling their eyes and Mr. Lauren shaking his head. It was the season he was creating his first "all-



My sense of style is "Luxurious Twisted Simplicity." I follow my instincts, which inspire me to make the simplest combination of pieces into a style and look of the moment.

Pam Zonsius

things American" collection and I felt so ridiculous standing there in French couture. But thank goodness, they booked me for the show anyway!

Favorite local places to shop: Here's the best kept secret in

Westchester: MAIN HOSIERY & LINGERIE SHOP in Mamaroneck! If you want to look perfect in your clothes—*forget plastic surgery*—all you need is a foundation-garment expert! To look absolutely beautiful in a dress, you must have the correct bra, and the ladies in this shop are the hardest-to-find breed in the fashion industry today: bra-fitting experts! Bring your favorite dress to them, or your newest dress, and they can find the undergarments to make you look better than you ever thought possible!

Biggest fashion splurge: The year THE RALPH LAUREN STORE opened on Madison Avenue in NYC; I bought the wide genuine crocodile belt with the crocodile covered buckle. Even in the crazy '80s, it was about the most extravagant fashion item money could buy. I don't splurge very often, and I remember feeling completely wicked and fabulous buying that crocodile belt. Now, decades later, and the belt has softened and looks better than it ever has. My wild splurge turned out to be one of my all-time greatest fashion investments!

Biggest bargain buy: In the summertime, I love to wear Mexican huarache sandals with skirts, but had never been able to find any that look really cool and that were comfortable too. I'd find them in Mexico and after two days they would make my feet so sore I'd have to throw them out. Then one day I was flipping through a bargain shoe catalog and decided to take a chance and order the huaraches I saw on their pages. They cost \$49. When they arrived I was flabbergasted! They are the most comfortable, most beautiful summer sandals I have ever had! I wear them from Memorial Day to Labor Day! They look fabulous with tropical print dresses.

Favorite designers: My vote there will always be for [Westchester resident] **Ralph Lauren**. I've loved his clothes from the moment I had my first fitting with them circa 1977. Showing his clothes on the runway in the '70s and '80s, to the thunderous applause from the audience that would make the venue shake, were truly some of the most important moments in American fashion history.

Fashion inspiration/icon: My grandma Clotilde was a Southern belle from Alabama who wore a dress every day of her life. She married a North-

erner and ended up in Larchmont, but continued to be the southern girl she had always been until the day she died as a very old lady. As a child growing up in Larchmont, I would visit her frequently and she would always be sitting on her porch wearing a freshly ironed, pastel-colored, linen dress, two-toned spectator pumps, and, most usually, a grosgrain ribbon in her hair tied up in a bow. She died a few months before I started my modeling career, and during my first visit to a modeling agency, when they asked me my name, I thought of my grandma and of her life devoted to all that wonderful and silly prettiness. So I told them my middle name was Clotilde. I thought she would bring me luck. And I think she did. She looked so amazingly beautiful in all her pretty dresses. I had to name my dress company after her too.

Favorite fashion advice/tips:

Looking beautiful is not about wearing costumes. It's about being yourself. I'm an old hippie chick at heart, so for me, carrying around a Prada purse would make me feel ridiculous. I can't wear big Chanel sunglasses because I would feel like a goon. I prefer vintage sunglasses from the '40s (they cost just as much) and a no-name, hand-tooled leather bag from the Southwest. Find things you love to wear, what you feel happiest in, and go for it.

Describe your sense of style:

I went to art school when everyone, boys included, had flowers in their hair. Maybe that's why I never became a fashion follower; the beauty ideal of the day was to look fresh and natural! Maybe you could call me counter-couture!

What makes your style

unique? To me, fashion is not about what's 'in style.' It's about what makes you feel pretty. Sometimes, one has nothing to do with the other.

Stacey Karesh

"The Posh Publicist"

Town: Rye

Occupation: Public Relations Manager, NEIMAN MARCUS WESTCHESTER, and adjunct professor of public relations in the Advertising & Marketing Communications Department, Fashion Institute of Technology

Most coveted closet item: My colorful collection of cowboy boots.

Favorite outfit: My Neiman Marcus cashmere robe.



I like to mix contemporary vendors and fine apparel such as a theory pant with a Prada jacket, or Seven jeans with a Chanel jacket.

Beth Sharkey

Wardrobe must-have: The dress—effortless elegance.

Biggest fashion faux pas: I will never tell!

Favorite local places to shop:

I bet you can answer that one on your own!

Biggest fashion splurge: I can't keep track. Every year I raise the bar.

Biggest bargain buy: A great new shade of lip gloss.

Favorite designers: I am fortunate to be amongst some of the most fabulous fashion in the world on a daily basis, but some of my personal favorites are: Donna Karan, Badgley Mischka, Elie Tahari, Diane von Furstenberg and Carmen Marc Valvo.

Fashion inspiration/icon: Ken Downing, Sr., vice president and fashion director for Neiman Marcus. I think Ken truly epitomizes someone who inherently understands all aspects of the fashion industry including the business, design, craftsmanship and presentation. He is brilliant, has an acute sense of style and an extraordinary sense of humor, which is just what the industry needs!

Favorite fashion advice/tips: Keep your Manolo Blahniks and Chris-

tian Louboutins far away from your puppy!

Describe your sense of style: I feel my sense of style is ever evolving and it changes frequently, contingent upon my mood, who I am with, where I am, or where I am going. I think that style is something we contemplate every morning when we look in the mirror and it is less about what we wear, and more about how we wear it. Above all, I feel people can wear whatever style of clothing truly moves them, as long as they wear it with confidence!

What makes your style unique? I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to travel throughout the world, and art, cultures and local designers have been an inspiration to my style. When I travel, I try to pick up a unique bracelet, necklace, wrap or scarf designed by a local artist.

Pam Zonsius

"The Eco-Friendly Fashionista"

Town: Chappaqua

Occupation: Retired couture fashion designer and, most recently, developer of The Brelli (the world's first biodegradable umbrella: www.thebrelli.com)

Most coveted closet item: Hermès belt.

Favorite outfit: White shirt, jeans, a black jacket and shoes.

Wardrobe must-have: My "Brelli" and white shirts.

Biggest fashion faux pas: I once wore a jean shirt with jeans ... ugh!

Favorite local places to shop: GREAT STUFF in Chappaqua and OUT OF THE BLUE in Mt. Kisco.

Biggest fashion splurge: Custom-tailored black cashmere jacket by Jussara Lee NYC.

Biggest bargain buy: Ivory v-neck J Crew sweater made from Loro Piana cashmere yarn. They advertised it that way and because I was a cashmere designer, I knew what that meant. It was a steal!

Favorite designers: Yves Saint Laurent, Hermes, Bottega Veneta, and James Perse.

Fashion inspiration/icon: My own instinct inspires me and so does Yves Saint Laurent himself!

Favorite fashion advice/tips: Buy black-and-white everything, splurge on shoes, a bag and a jacket and whatever you add to that will be fabulous.

What makes your style

unique? My sense of style is "Luxurious Twisted Simplicity." I follow my instincts, which inspire me to make the simplest combination of pieces into a style and look of the moment.

Beth Sharkey

"The Versatile VP"

Town: Mt. Kisco

Occupation: Vice president and general manager, NEIMAN MARCUS WESTCHESTER

Most coveted closet item: My Ugg slippers at the end of the day.

Favorite outfit: Whatever still has the tags on it. I always love to wear something new!

Wardrobe must-have: A great pair of Manolo Blahnik shoes.

Biggest fashion faux pas: Letting my husband open my Neiman Marcus bill!

Favorite local places to shop:

Of course, every floor of the Neiman Marcus Westchester store! And if am not shopping for clothes, I love meandering down the fresh produce aisles at WHOLE FOODS and contemplating all the wonderful things I never have time to cook for dinner! (WAG note: Some of Beth's recipes were printed in our November, 2006, issue.)

Biggest fashion splurge: My Cartier watch.

Biggest bargain buy: A great pair of Prada shoes that I got at the "Last Call" sale.

Favorite designers: It is too hard to choose just one when I am surrounded by the best collections from the greatest design houses every day, such as Chanel, Prada, Michael Kors, Derek Lam, Marni, etc.

Fashion inspiration/icon: Our customers.

Favorite fashion advice/tips:

The most important advice I can provide for spring fashion is to incorporate lots of color into your wardrobe.

Describe your sense of style:

Modern with a hint of classicism. I like to mix contemporary vendors and fine apparel such as a theory pant with a Prada jacket, or Seven jeans with a Chanel jacket.

What makes your style

unique? I get free fashion advice from my in-home fashion police every day, my 11-year-old twin daughters!

WAG