

DDD: The Fall Fashion Event of the Season

by Leslie Royce Resnik

“It takes a village...,” said Hillary Clinton. Since that book was published in 1996, the phrase has entered popular culture in every area of life, from making peace in the world to finding one’s misplaced phone.

For National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland, it’s taken a “village” the size of Beachwood to make Designer Dress Days (DDD) the anticipated Fall event of the fashion world over the past 47 years. Northeast Ohio women who covet Armani, Prada and Escada, but eschew the thousand dollar price tags these fashions fetch, await DDD knowing they’ll find great labels at a fraction of retail.

“Once you find your first Armani for \$75 (or less), you’ll join the thousands who know that when Fall finally arrives, DDD cannot be far behind,” said Wendy Elconin,

Beachwood resident and chair of this year’s DDD.

“Most of the women on the 56-person committee (10 from Beachwood) are veteran DDD volunteers who spend hours at NCJW’s warehouse all year long sorting, pricing and appraising the thousands of donated, gently-worn Coach, Carlyle and St. John fashions along with other furs, accessories and clothing,” she added.

For Beachwood resident Cheryl Gutmacher, new to the committee but an old hand at shopping the sale, it’s been a treasure trove of styles for her wardrobe.

The event, which involved more than 250 total volunteers last year, raised record amounts of money to support NCJW’s initiatives, projects and programs to improve the lives of women, children and families locally, regionally and nationally. “It’s our main fundraiser for the year,” said Elconin.

The sale takes place at the Mandel Jewish Community Center on South Woodland between Brainard and Richmond Roads. Hours are:

- **Special Preview Day : Friday October 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$20 admission).**
- **Sunday, October 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
- **Monday, October 27, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 28, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

If you go, you’ll get it! For information and sneak peeks go to www.ncjwcleveland.org/?s=Designer+dress+days.

Right: Cheryl Gutmacher is cozy for winter in a Chrst lambskin jacket available for \$200. Inset: Linda Barnett’s ikat jacket from Lafayette 148 will sell at DDD for \$50.



Linda Barnett and her daughter, Debbie Rosenthal, love to shop DDD together. Linda eyes a Gallant jacket for \$50 and Debbie loves the Burberry jacket for \$75.