

Let **Our Chefs**
Do the **Cooking...**
So You Can Enjoy
Your Own **Party.**

Contact us to learn more about what we can do for your Simchas — Weddings, Birthdays, Showers, Bar & Bat Mitzvahs, Brit

410-727-7777



WEBSITE

www.BiddleSt.com



Estate rings from Pikesville Jewelry

PHOTO JUSTIN TSICALAS

A Diamond IN THE ROUGH

Brides-to-be express themselves with unique estate and antique engagement rings.

By Jennifer Hale

Special to the Jewish Times

Every woman's wardrobe is different. From purple pumps with yellow polka dots to pink leather handbags, women wear clothes and accessories that best represent their personalities. The same rings true when they reach the engagement chapter in their lives. While some may prefer modern, simple engagement rings, others desire to have a little piece of history on their fingers with estate selections. Whether they wish to commemorate a time period in history or to refinish a family heirloom, women want to find "a diamond in the rough."

For both brides-to-be who know what they want and for those who don't have a clue, visiting a local jewelry store that specializes in estate and antique jewelry is a good first step. Most jewelry stores like to interview their clients in order to get a feel for what they may or may not want. "By interviewing our clients, we help them find what they're ideal ring would be," says Kim Michael, a Smyth Jewelers sales associate. Even before making the trip to the jewelry store, a bride-to-be can also explore her options on Smyth Jewelers' Web site where she can find a ring builder. With a few clicks of the mouse, women can build their dream ring right before their eyes.

Most brides-to-be who like

antique jewelry find that they gravitate toward white gold or platinum filigree engagement rings from the Art Deco period, which spans from the mid-1920s to the 1940s. Due to the severity of World War I, people who lived in the Art Deco period wanted to live more lavish lives, which was often reflected in their wardrobes. These filigree rings were ornately made with intertwined threads of gold soldered together to form bridal and wedding symbols like orange blossoms, hearts and wheat wreaths. Women who want a filigree ring from the Art Deco period don't have to worry about another bride having the same ring because each piece has its own distinct features that makes it unique.

Even though the aesthetics of the ring are important, jewelers must also ask for more personal information like the couple's price range. "In order to avoid a bride falling in love with a \$20,000 antique ring when her budget is two grand, we must tactfully ask the couple's price range at the beginning," suggests Rene Wilson, owner of Bijoux Jewels. Once the interview process has been completed, jewelers begin to show the couples rings that fit their criteria.

Before even looking at diamonds, women must choose a setting, ranging in style, shape and size. When a client is interested in estate and antique engagement rings, Smyth Jewelers

typically shows her a selection of empty mountings and then a group of finished rings with diamonds in the settings, so she can see what her ring will eventually look like. After she has made her decision on which setting makes her the happiest, she then chooses the cut and number of diamond carats. "We want the bride to be happy, so if she finds she doesn't like the ring, Smyth has a 100-day return policy," says Ms. Michael.

Since sets were not very popular during the Art Deco period, wedding bands that perfectly match the engagement rings are hard to find. In order to accommodate brides who wish to have a matching set, jewelers like Bijoux can custom make a wedding band that not only fits flush against the engagement ring but reflects its own distinct style. "We can custom make a wedding ring to fit the style of a bride's estate or antique engagement ring," says Ms. Wilson. More often than not, a bride will find her dream ring that needs to be resized to fit her finger. "If it won't risk the integrity of the ring, we are happy to resize it," says Ms. Michael. Jewelers also have to alter the setting in order to accommodate the diamond a bride chooses. After the resizing process, the rings are cleaned and polished to reveal their utmost beauty and shine.

Jewelers like Smyth have a wide selection of authentic estate and antique jewelry that many brides choose for their bridal parties. From bracelets to necklaces, the antique jewelry not only matches the ring of the bride but also the dress that she may choose. "Some of the wedding dresses that brides choose have an antique flare and we have the jewelry to complement them," says Ms. Michael.

Estate and antique engagement rings have an elegant, one-of-a-kind flare that most modern rings try to emulate. "This day and age we don't have the jewelers that they used to have. Most modern rings are made in China and are not hand crafted," says Ms. Wilson. "Estate rings are as distinct as they can be. It's like you're buying a work of art," she says. □

Jennifer Hale is the events and custom media coordinator at Alter Communications.



Travel is more than just A to B.
Travel should lead us to a celebration as special as the day itself.

Now open, the Hilton Baltimore is a vision of elegance. Allow us to make your dreams come true for your Wedding or B'nai Mitzvah with our quintessential service and culinary genius. Host your event in a variety of venues ranging from cocktails overlooking Camden Yards to an elaborate reception in our 25,000 sq. ft. Key Ballroom or 15,000 sq. ft. Holiday Ballroom.



Contact our Dedicated Catering Team at 443.573.8760 or julie.woods@hilton.com.

401 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
www.baltimore.hilton.com



Travel should take you places®

©2009 Hilton Hotels Corporation.

102309 021210

Warmest wishes as
you celebrate Passover



Pick up
our **FREE**
Passover Meal
Guide

for great holiday
meal recipes and ideas.
Browse it online at wegmans.com

Wegmans
helping you make great meals easy

122 Shawan Rd. • Hunt Valley, MD 21030 • 410-773-3900
wegmans.com

0226105



**SUCH A PRETTY
BABY!**

Send us your favorite
photo and we'll
publish it with the birth
announcement.

BALTIMORE JewishTimes
1040 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21201
Attn: Birth Announcements
or
jewishtimes.com

You are only a Bar Mitzvah Once
At Cohens Clothiers
we carry an unparalleled selection of
Bar Mitzvah suits tailored to fit your style.

4 Regular to 24 Stout
Mens 36 Short to 50 Long

Mens and Boys • Ladies
Girls and Juniors

Decades of experience
to insure the perfect fit



COHEN'S
CLOTHIERS
Since 1907

Yorktowne Plaza
64 Cranbrook Road
Cockeysville, MD
410.666.8020

102309