

# SHOPPING

## 'Doing what I always wanted to do'

By ROBANNE SCHULMAN

Have I always been a shopper? Yes! My parents divorced when I was 3 and Dad had a condo in Buckhead, so when I visited every other weekend he'd take me to Lenox Square mall. He was the one who started this horrible habit!

I always knew I wanted to be a personal shopper. After college, when I had to get a real job, I knew if I told my family I was going to shop for a living, they'd have shot me. But for eight years now, I've been doing what I always wanted to do!

I started out working for some attorneys while I was in college getting a marketing degree. They spread the word and I continued to get referrals.

I mainly buy wardrobe items for men and women, but my top three clients use me to purchase their year-round gifts for their clients and family. My clients are paying a premium for my services, so I'm definitely going out of my way to find things, even if I have to drive a distance to find it.

My best all-around favorite mall is Phipps Plaza. The Intermix boutique there always has the latest of the greatest for women. Jeffrey has killer shoes and one-of-a-kind designer clothing. Saks also has a great contemporary department for women.

My favorite places to shop for men are across the street at Neiman's and H. Stockton. The Blue Genes store in Around Lenox has a great selection of the latest must-haves for men and women, even kids. It's like a small department store.

B.D. Jeffries in the Powers Ferry Shopping Center also has a great selection of things for me — crocodile belts, wallets, valet cases, luggage. There are also cool European antiques, furniture and accessories.

For kids, I like to go to Duluth to Cayenne. It carries very cool, exclusive European lines that stores such as Fred Segal and Barneys. Sprout is another top kids clothing store that also has a great selection of retro toys.

I've also purchased tons of baby gifts at the Erika Reade store in Buckhead. My favorite was an adirondack chair with a huge stuffed monkey sitting in it, holding a



Personal shopper **Robanne Schulman** can find items for men, women and children at Blue Genes, located at Around Lenox.

JESSICA MCGOWAN / Special

### SCHULMAN'S PICKS

- ▶ **Jewelry:** Ripka Judith at Tassels in the Powers Ferry Shopping Center has a great selection of fine jewelry for a wide array of budgets.
- ▶ **Handbags:** Neiman's has the best!
- ▶ **Wedding gifts:** The Chandlery in Roswell.
- ▶ **Home decor:** Pieces near East Andrews in Buckhead.
- ▶ **Fun furniture:** Retromodern in Midtown.

book for the new baby.

One of the newer baby stores in town is B Braithwaite. I've bought a ton of bears

from Australia there. The bears are a combination of a teddy bear, blanket, pillow and snugly all-in-one. I want one for myself!

Also in Duluth, in the Medlock Crossing shopping center, is T, one of my top boutiques, where I find a lot of phenomenal jewelry and very exclusive lines of things you won't see anywhere else. The owner buys from Europe and has a really keen fashion sense.

In the same shopping center is Lena Larose, a fabulous shoe store. You can grab a pair of heels to go with the outfit you just bought at T. And both, in Duluth, are unexpected finds.

Other good spots for women are Sandpiper, with locations in Vinings and Sandy Springs, and Etc, a unique accessories boutique in Vinings. Mitzi and Romano in Vir-

ginia-Highland is a great boutique for women in their 20s and 30s. And I'd say Saks and Neiman's tie when it comes to shoes for women.

Other stores that are fun and fit a variety of budgets are Fab'rik in Norcross, where you'll find clothes for the whole family, Midtown and Sandy Springs. And you'll find clothes, gifts and home accessories at Anthropologie in Perimeter Mall and Lenox Square.

But the best news for Atlanta bargain shoppers is that H&M, the super-affordable clothing store from New York, is coming to Atlantic Station. That's great news!

— Sandy Springs resident Robanne Schulman is a personal shopper who spends money for her clients in stories across metro Atlanta.