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Judy York's "Oscar bracelet"



And The Winner Is ...

Judy York's bracelets are making their way to celebs in Hollywood.

Shelli Liebman Dorfman
Contributing Writer

Adental hygienist by day, Judy York spends evenings, nights, early mornings and weekends in a place in her Farmington Hills home she calls "a sea of organized chaos filled with colorful crystals, fun beads, charms and chains, tools and supplies."

The jewelry designer has so many handmade pieces, she said, "I pick the jewelry I want to wear first and then choose clothes to match."

York has been making jewelry for herself and friends since high school when she saw a picture of model Cheryl Tiegs in a magazine. "I wanted the necklace she was wearing so I fashioned one from other pieces of jewelry," she said. "I still have it and wear it."

A slew of jewelry pieces later, her Love, Judy Designs line of bracelets, first sold by word of mouth, is now in area stores and boutiques. And they have been on the wrists of the rich and famous thanks to a Facebook connection with long-ago Southfield High School classmate Marilyn Nelson Kirschner.

"I would see her postings and I knew she did something with celebrities and events and jewelry and other items," York said.

Turns out Kirschner, a public relations specialist in the Los Angeles suburb of Valencia, didn't just do something with celebrities and events; she had the power to bring York's jewelry to both.

After a few Facebook messages and phone calls between the women who hadn't seen each other in 41 years, York said, "She told me she wanted to feature my bracelets at her table at the



Another color of the "Oscar bracelet" created by Judy York



Judy York and Marilyn Kirschner reunite after 41 years.

Oscars' Gifting Event this year and give them to the 50 biggest celebs!"

One was even worn on the Oscar Red Carpet.

"Sharing the news with Judy after high-profile events — of who has been on the receiving end of her gifting — is pure joy and excitement!" said Kirschner, founder and CEO of My Professional Konection.

Reputation Spreads

York's creations, including other lines of bracelets and knit and crocheted gift items, are now available in several states. The Love, Judy bracelet also is sold locally.

“Our customers really like them, and they like to be able to say they have the same bracelet that was at the Oscars,” said Terri Herman, an owner at Emery’s Creative Jewelers in Farmington Hills.

The bracelets are made from Swarovski crystals and curved wire that holds its shape so there is no clasp. They can be ordered to the customer’s color and design specifications in sizes from infant to adult, with optional matching earrings.

“I just made one for a teenager who wore it to her prom and a friend ordered four in ‘breast cancer awareness’ pink to celebrate her sister’s survival and recovery,” York said. She also sells them in groupings, with a bridal set available in clear, silver and gold.

“The family birthstone bracelet is one of the newer designs,” she said. “Each stone on the bracelet represents the birthstone of a family member.”

York is amazed that her bracelets are making their way to the reality TV series *Big Rich Texas* and *Dancing with the Stars*.

And now she is working on creations to be featured at the Mommy/Baby Gifting Event in Hollywood later this month, with special bracelets made for performer Jessica Simpson and a personalized one for her daughter, Maxwell. After that, her designs will be featured at an Emmy gifting event the week of the awards ceremony.

“As a direct result of the Oscars’ Gifting Event, Love, Judy Designs has been tapped to appear in fall issues of *New York* magazine and *People* magazine’s ‘Style Watch,’” Kirschner said. “This is a huge feather in her hat!”

“My head is spinning from this sudden change in my life and the flurry of activity that came with it,” York said.

“It doesn’t seem real sometimes to know that a piece of my jewelry is in that market, but it’s very cool and very fun,” she said.

Often working into the early morning hours, she admits with no trace of complaint: “I need sleep ... and elves.” □

Love, Judy Designs jewelry and Judy York’s other jewelry and knit creations are available by contacting her at (248) 977-0392 or lovejudydesigns@aol.com. Prices start at \$25. Some items are carried at Emery’s Creative Jewelers in Farmington Hills, Artloft Gallery in Birmingham, Unique in Northville, Hands On Leather in Plymouth and Too Chic Boutique in Keego Harbor.

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