# pare \$2.99 VOLUME 70, NUMBER 52 DECEMBER 5-11, 2014



# California and U.S. Economic Growth Look Brighter for 2015

By Deborah Belgum Senior Editor

California has been slowly adding jobs to its payrolls, and next year should be no different.

The steady but slowly improving economy on the national and local fronts means there is still room for sustained growth. In 2015, the nation's gross domestic product should see a 3 percent jump compared with a rise of 2.2 percent this year, according to the annual 2015 U.S. and California economic forecast, prepared by the A. Gary Anderson Center for Economic Research at Chapman University in Orange, Calif.

California is expected to gain 364,000 jobs next year, and Orange County employment should be up 2.6 percent with 38,000 new jobs being added. "Optimistic consumers have increased spending, and that, in turn, positively affected employment in the retail, wholesale, food and leisure sectors," the report said. "This trend should continue into 2015."

Home prices will be increasing but at a moderate rate, the report said. In Orange County, housing prices are expected to inch up 4 percent in 2015. That's because more inventory of new and resale housing will keep residential real estate prices from rising too much.

The report noted that in 2014 a home buyer with an estimated median family income of \$86,600 needed to spend about 35 percent of his or her gross income to pay for a mortgage and property taxes. This is a major improvement over the 47.3 percent of gross income needed to pay off a home in 2006. But it is still higher than the 27.2 percent needed in 2012, when housing prices were depressed from a higher inventory of repossessed and short-sale houses on the market.

On a positive note, industrial construction in California is expected to see an uptick because vacancy rates now are low.

One concern about any economic recovery is the fact that stagnant growth in other economies around the world means there is less demand for U.S.-made goods and services. Also, the strength of the U.S. dollar makes prices higher for overseas residents buying U.S. goods. Still, U.S. exports will see some growth in 2015.

# After Black Friday, **Retailers Await Next Big Shopping Event**

By Andrew Asch Retail Editor

The long holiday slog has begun.

Retail analysts forecast a lull in business in weeks following the big deals and buzz of Black Friday, generally considered the kickoff of the winter holiday retail season. Business is predicted to skyrocket sometime before Dec. 20, Super Saturday, the weekend before Christmas.

For Fred Levine, co-owner of the M.Fredric chain of contemporary stores, the lull is part of the general pace of the season, "Even in good times, there's a bump up on Black Friday, then it goes really dry. The beginning of December is horrible. But the flood gates open by Dec. 10," he said. M.Fredric opened a new location at The Collection at RiverPark mall in Oxnard, Calif., on Black Friday.

The drop-off after Black Friday might be more gentle than past years, said Dave King, a senior research analyst for Roth Capital Partners, headquartered in Newport Beach, Calif. Since the economy is on more solid footing than last year, shopping might not dry up as quickly after Black Friday as in **■ Black Friday** page 3

# Poshmark Fashion App Adds a Layer to Detect Fake Designer Labels

By Deborah Belgum Senior Editor

Deni Greene has been selling her used designer handbags on the Poshmark mobile app for more than a year. She always checks the authenticity of the Chanel purses and other luxury lines she sells to make sure she and her customers don't get burned.

But not everyone is as vigilant or honest as Greene. That is why Poshmark, a 3-year-old mobile app launched by Manish Chandra out of Menlo Park, Calif., unveiled a free new service that will help buyers on the fashion and accessories destination make sure they are getting the real McCoy.

On Dec. 4, Poshmark launched Posh Concierge, a free luxury authentication service for high-end handbags, accessories and other designer items priced at more than \$500 and sold through the mobile app. Less than 10 percent of the 7 million mostly used items for sale on Poshmark are considered top-

**⇒ Poshmark** page 2

### **MADE IN AMERICA**

### **Texollini: Domestic Knitter Focuses on Efficiency and Technology**

By Alison A. Nieder Executive Editor

Rolls of knit fabric are neatly stacked by order, content and color. A mill employee supervises a print run as the first color of the design rolls off the machine. Circular knitting machines knit fabric from behind thick sheets of plastic to keep foreign fly-or bits of lint-from contaminating the finished fabric. In the dyehouse, teams of workers are pulling fabric from the dye bath. The scene is efficient, obsessively clean and surprisingly quiet.

Founded in 1989, Texollini is a vertical operation producing circular knits for the activewear, contemporary, ready-towear, swimwear, intimates and technical markets.

Most—99 percent—of what Texollini produces is for U.S. customers, said Amit Bracha, president and chief operating officer with the Long Beach, Calif.-based company. Some of the Texollini fabric remains in the U.S. for production, but a considerable amount goes to Mexico and Central America for cut-and-sew, Bracha said.

Texollini was first founded in Vernon, Calif., as strictly a circular knitter. When the company moved to its current location in 1993, the company expanded its operations from just knitting to dyeing, printing and finishing all under one roof in a 250,000-square-foot facility.

Daniel Kadisha, Texollini's chief executive officer and director of research and development, oversees a staff of about 200 employees working in the company's research and development, purchasing, production, planning, knitting, dyeing, printing, quality control, customer service, receiving and ship-Texollini page 8

Findings & Trimmings Resources ... p. 9

Findings & Trimmings ... pp. 6-7

CMC launches new trade show ... p. 4

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RETAIL SALES NEWS

# **November Sales Strong Despite Black Friday Disappointments**

Black Friday sales results disappointed, but overall retail business for the month of November generally pleased retailers and Wall Street analysts.

The International Council of Shopping Centers reported that U.S. retail sales increased 4.9 percent during November, said Jesse Tron, an ICSC spokesman.

"Sales showed a steady industrywide performance for the month, with apparel showing a strong uptick compared to October," Tron said. "It's an encouraging reading for the holiday season and means we should continue to expect significant improvement over the 2013 season."

Retailers followed by California Apparel News' index showed positive results almost across the board. Gap Inc. reported a 6 percent increase in same-store sales in November, a break from a 3 percent same-store decline in October. Zumiez Inc., a mallbased action-sports chain headquartered in Washington state, reported a same-storesales increase of 6.3 percent. L Brands, the parent company to mall chains Victoria's Secret and Bed, Bath & Beyond, reported a same-store-sales increase of 8 percent in November. The Buckle Inc., a mall-based contemporary chain headquartered in Nebraska, reported a 1 percent same-store-sales decline in November. However, its net sales increased 2.7 percent during the month.

The first week of December also saw several major specialty retailers report quarterly results. **Pacific Sunwear of California**, head-quartered in Anaheim, Calif., reported results

### **November Retail Sales**

	\$Sales (in millions)	% Change from yr. ago	Same-store sales % change
The Buckle	\$104.00	+2.7%	-1.0%
Gap	\$1,720.00	+6.0%	+6.0%
L Brands Inc.	\$1,078.00	+9.0%	+8.0%
Stein Mart	\$127.90	+6.7%	+4.8%
Zumiez	\$70.30	+12.6%	+6.3%
Information from company reports			

from its third quarter, which ended Nov. 2. Its same-store sales increased 4 percent, and its net sales for the quarter were \$212.3 million compared with \$202.8 million from the same time last year. For its fourth-quarter forecast, PacSun gave a guidance that its net sales would range from \$218 million to \$227 million, and same-store sales would range from flat to an increase of 4 percent. However, all is not perfect for PacSun. Its guidance from its fourth-quarter earnings per share forecasted a loss of \$0.17 to \$0.12 compared with a previous guidance of \$0.17.

Guess? Inc., headquartered in Los Angeles, also reported its third-quarter results on Dec. 3. The company reported net earnings of \$20.8 million, which represented a 41.3 percent decrease compared with the same time in the previous year. Same-store sales for its North American stores decreased 4 percent. In a statement, Paul Marciano, Guess chief executive officer, noted that the third-quarter results were in the range of the company's perspective. He noted that store traffic and the promotional environment in America remained problematic.

–Andrew Asch

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## Westfield Santa Anita Gets a \$20M Upgrade

Shopping-center juggernaut **Westfield** wrapped up a \$20 million renovation of its **Westfield Santa Anita** mall in Arcadia, Calif., on Black Friday. What does \$20 million buy? According to a Westfield website, the mall debuted new center court seating and staircase and a new outdoor play space for kids as well as new tiles and handrails. Also, look out for a new entrance for the mall's **JC Penney**, restroom upgrades and new amenities, including Wi-Fi and valet parking. More than 1,400 gallons of paint were used to paint over the center's interior as well as 27.4 miles of tile.

The upgrade was an "unmotivated investment," said Lanko Miyazaki Goldberger, Westfield's district marketing manager. Otherwise, it was made a major new anchor moving in. "We felt it was time to beautify the center and show our commitment and respect to our community and to continue to make Westfield Santa Anita a true destination," she said.

Other new elements for the center will include improved natural light via a giant sky-

light that was recently installed as well as bamboo plants placed throughout the center. Beauty shops **L'Occitane** and **TheFaceShop** recently opened, and Beijing-based restaurant **Meizhou Dongpo** will open in 2015.

"The physical transformation of the center is just the beginning," Miyazaki Goldberger said. "It will be a spectacular center."—A.A.



### **Doneger Acquires Huepoint**

New York-based **Doneger Group**, the retail consultancy and partner of Los Angeles-based **Directives West**, has acquired New York-based color trend-forecasting agency **Huepoint**.

Founded in 1983, Huepoint provides colorconsulting services to fashion, apparel, home furnishings and digital design companies.

Huepoint's Amy Aspland and Alex Kelley will continue the lead the business, which will be based in The Doneger Group's New

York offices.

"Our strategy is to support our clients in every way, and the addition of Huepoint demonstrates our commitment to providing the industry's most in-depth color service," said Doneger Group President Abbey Doneger.

Founded in 1946, The Doneger Group provides trend intelligence, merchandising direction, market information and analysis for retailers.—*Alison A. Nieder* 

### **Poshmark** Continued from page 1

tier luxury items. But Chandra is hoping that Posh Concierge will make buyers more eager to purchase tried-and-true labels online with more confidence.

To celebrate the launch of Posh Concierge, Poshmark is creating a Chanel boutique where shoppers can access more than 17,000 Chanel items across 8,000 Poshmark closets.

"We wanted to add an extra layer of service to the market," Chandra said. "This new service gives sellers and buyers extra protection. They know the product has been validated, so there is no risk there."

Poshmark is basically a way for people to sell what's in their closet or shop other people's closets. About 20 percent of what is sold on the fashion app is new clothing. But the rest is used—ranging from **J. Crew** dresses to **Hermès** purses.

For those who want to make sure the designer label is real, Posh Concierge works this way: When something sells for more than \$500, the item is not immediately shipped from the seller to the buyer. Instead, the seller receives a prepaid, pre-addressed shipping label to send the item to Poshmark. Then Poshmark, through its in-house staff or experts around the country, checks the validity of the item, which is then sent on to the buyer.

"Most sellers try to verify their items, but I am grateful for this extra level of scrutiny," Greene said.

On average, about .05 percent of items sold on Poshmark are disputed for their authenticity, Chandra said. With Posh Concierge, he is hoping to reduce that to zero even though the mobile fashion app has Posh Protect, which gives buyers three days to return an item for any reason. "Sometimes our buyers may not know they have been delivered merchandise that is not real," Chandra said, noting they have no recourse after missing the three-day return

Making and selling counterfeit designer goods is big business. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents last year seized \$1.74 billion

in counterfeit goods brought mostly in cargocontainer ships. Value-wise, 40 percent of all counterfeits found by customs agents were handbags and wallets. Another 30 percent were watches and jewelry.

But that is only a small portion of what is really out there. The International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition predicts that \$1.77 trillion in global trade will be done next year in counterfeit and pirated items, which includes pirated DVDs, fake consumer electronics and apparel.

China is by far the largest source of all counterfeit items, followed by Hong Kong, government statistics show.

Counterfeit websites are extremely abundant and clever. Many times, knockoff artists copy photos from real designer websites and put them on their own websites. The product being sold may resemble the real item but uses inferior raw materials.

Anti-counterfeit experts advise that if a price is too good to be true, it probably is a fake. Also, Internet shoppers are warned to look for typos and spelling errors on websites, which is an indication that they are not legitimate selling spots.

So far this year, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations and other law enforcement agencies across 18 countries have shut down 29,684 domain names illegally selling counterfeit merchandise online.

With the new Posh Concierge service at Poshmark, Chandra is hoping to amp up luxury-item sales at the mobile phone app, started in 2011 after he founded and sold **Kaboodle Inc.**, a website to collect, organize and share information found on the Web.

He said Poshmark's revenues grew tenfold last year and are expected to double or triple this year although he would not give total revenue numbers.

In the past year, Chandra said the destination has seen growth in sportswear, modern designer labels and teenage brands. In the future, Poshmark is hoping to add categories for menswear and childrenswear, and it hopes to soon debut in the international market •

# **International Checkout Goes Where Few Shippers Dare**

Sending a T-shirt or a pair of jeans overseas can land a retailer into the unfamiliar and occasionally hostile destination of duties, taxes and customs-clearance fees.

International Checkout Inc., a Van Nuys, Calif.—based shipper, has carved a niche of managing international sales and fulfillment for retailers such as Bebe, Alice + Olivia by Stacey Bendet, Trina Turk, Joe's Jeans and Kitson. It recently announced that it would be working with high-profile boutique Ron Herman.

Kathy Beteta, International Checkout's executive vice president, said that the niche has been lucrative for her 11-year-old company. It started as a cottage business that Saskia Chiesa, the company's founder, headquartered on her living-room table, and it has grown into one that currently employs more than 50 full-time people and maintains a 20,000-square-foot warehouse.

People can send e-cigarettes, car parts, coffee and anything else legal through International Checkout, Beteta said. But the company focuses on fashion and apparel. Chiesa

worked as a model and appeared in magazines such as *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Marie Claire*, according to her **LinkedIn** profile. She started the company after friends in Europe sent requests for jeans and other American fashion items and had hard times navigating customs.

International Checkout's interest in fashion has an ecommerce edge. The company posts a button to the checkout pages of its partners' websites. The button gives consumers the option to go to a checkout page hosted by International Checkout, which becomes the merchant of record. International Checkout accepts payment directly. The company also handles taxes, shipping and fulfillment. Beteta said that the company guarantees against fraud. To guard against fraud, the company uses tools—some proprietary—to evaluate whether the consumer and the consumer's address are valid. International Checkout makes its money by charging fees for shipping and handling.

International Checkout provides a unique service, said Robert Krieger, president of **Krieger Worldwide**, a customs

brokerage headquartered in Carson, Calif. Not many retailers ship internationally, he said. With a service such as International Checkout, retailers can take international sales. While many companies handle business-to-business international shipping, few handle business-to-consumer international shipping. He was not aware of another company where a consumer could purchase products from many retailers and have a third party ultimately ship them overseas.

Judah Phillips, an author of data-analytics books and founder of Boston-area analytics consulting firm **SmartCurrent**, said that International Checkout's business can be a bit like negotiating an international crisis.

"E-commerce merchants shipping items to overseas destinations can be challenging but potentially lucrative business propositions if done correctly. Doing so certainly takes planning and a strategy to complete efficiently without negatively impacting the customer experience or reducing the revenue generated by sales from higher-than-expected costs," he said.—Andrew Asch

### Black Friday Continued from page 1

previous years, King said. Also, for the 2014 Back-to-School season, the year's most recent high-profile sales event, there was not a huge drop-off in the weeks following the Labor Day weekend, which is generally considered the end of the Back-to-School season. Instead, analysts deemed business in September and October to be good. "It's going to be a little better than people are expecting," King said.

Black Friday's results generally disappointed retailers and Wall Street analysts, however. Sales declined for the big holiday. The **National Retail Federation**, the world's biggest retail trade group, noted that Black Friday's results showed a 3.9 percent decline in average spending. It was the first time since 2009—the toughest year of the Great Recession—that the average amount of money that consumers spent during the Black Friday Weekend declined. In 2009, spending declined by 8.5 percent.

On Nov. 30, the NRF released other disappointing statistics for the holiday kickoff. Black Friday's retail traffic declined with 55.1 percent of holiday consumers shopping in physical stores and online over the Thanksgiving weekend, compared with 58.7 percent of holiday consumers shopping during the Black Friday weekend last year.

Total spending is forecast to reach \$50.9 billion during the weekend, a decrease from last year's estimated \$57.4 billion, according to the NRF's Thanksgiving Weekend Spending Survey, which was conducted by **Prosper Insights & Analytics** and released on Nov. 30

Despite the declines, the NRF would not revise its forecast of a 4.1 percent increase in holiday sales with \$616.9 billion predicted to be spent at U.S. retailers, Matthew Shay, president and chief executive officer of the NRF, said during a Nov. 30 conference call.

The weekend's decline during what is typically the most bullish time of the year reflects, among other things, consumers changing the way they shop and some shoppers exhibiting anxiety about the economy. However, Shay was upbeat about the holi-

day season because it remains the **Super Bowl** of shopping, he said.

"There's not another day of the year when 85 million Americans are shopping," he said of Black Friday. "Is it different from a year ago? Yes. But the only thing that this can be compared with, a lot of executives say, is the Super Bowl."

The macro economy also has been giving presents to retailers. Declining gas prices have

and senior analyst with **Brean Capital**, which could make big sales events that much more crucial to retailers' bottom lines.

"Retailers hurt themselves," Pierce said of the promotions, which ran from 30 percent to 70 percent off during many Black Friday sales. "Super Saturday will become more and more meaningful."

In a Nov. 30 research note, Ken Perkins, president of Boston-area market-research

28, Gian Fulgoni, the chairman emeritus of comScore, said in a Nov. 30 statement.

"The strength we saw in the early online buying rush likely reflects a few things, including overall health in consumer spending, responsiveness to the strong deals being offered online and perhaps some shoppers opting to stay home on Thanksgiving rather than head out to the stores that opened their doors early," Fulgoni said. "Regardless of the particular drivers, it's clear that the online holiday rush is getting off to a very good start and is reason for optimism as we get into the heart of the buying season."

While Wall Street seemed disappointed with Black Friday's results, many malls and retailers were pleased with traffic during the weekend. Luxe retail center **South Coast Plaza** in Costa Mesa, Calif., which counts boutiques and emporiums such as **Prada** and **XXI Forever** among its store mix, said an estimated 415,000 people shopped at the South Coast Plaza during the Black Friday weekend, according to Deborah Gunn Downing, executive director of marketing for the retail center.

Parking lots were jam packed at the Citadel Outlets, the Los Angeles—area outlet center where discounts were given for off-price brand-name items, said Traci Markel, Citadel's marketing director. "What made the difference for the Citadel was that we had a lot of tourism traffic," Markel said. However, local traffic dipped slightly, she said. From 3 p.m. to midnight on Thanksgiving, 10 independent tour buses dropped off overseas tourists, many from China, to shop at the outlet center.

Boutique business reportedly increased on Nov. 29, the "Small Business Saturday" campaign started by **American Express** to bring Black Friday shopping to independent, neighborhood-style retailers. The Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey, released by the **National Federation of Independent Business** and American Express, noted that the average spending for the day declined 11.5 percent to \$162. However, spending was boosted by the volume of shoppers. Consumers who were aware of Small Business Saturday reported spending \$14.3 billion with independent retailers and restaurants, which was a 2.1 percent increase over the previous year. •

### 12 Tips to Boost Holiday Biz

The winter holiday season can turn into a numbers game. How many people can the retailer bring into a shop? Other than big promotions, Mercedes Gonzalez, director of the buying office and consulting firm **Global Purchasing Companies** in New York, recommended 12 tips to bring consumers into stores—with the number inspired by the Christmas carol "The 12 Days of Christmas." Here are Gonzalez's 12 tips for Christmas.—A.A.

- $1. \ \ \text{Have unique products that are limited and well-crafted}.$
- 2. Offer free gift wrapping.
- 3. Offer phone orders and local same-day delivery.
- 4. Have free Wi-Fi so the significant other can watch the game.
- 5. Have a children's area with videos playing.
- Extend and have flexible return policies.
- 7. Have trained wardrobe and gift "experts."
- 8. Have extended shopping hours.
- 9. Have universal cellphone chargers
- 10. Offer "homemade" holiday cookies (make them festive).
- 11. Surprise shoppers with a small gift with purchase.
- 12. Host fun events such as having a Santa or photo booth.

the potential to put an extra \$70 billion into the economy. Inclement weather is not forecast to get in the way of shopping this year, and many retailers found ways to get around the ongoing work slowdown at West Coast ports and to deliver goods to their consumers, Shay said during the conference call.

But there was no getting around changes in the way people shop. Pre–Black Friday deals and shopping took momentum away from the season's kickoff weekend. Many consumers postponed shopping on the Thanksgiving weekend because they forecast that they could get better holiday deals at a later date, Shay said.

"The CEOs are saying this season will be really promotional," Shay said. "It is going to be a dogfight every day."

There's been a lot of talk about how the generous promotions could cut into retailers' margins, said Liz Pierce, senior vice president

group **Retail Metrics**, echoed Shay's assertion that shopping has changed. Black Friday had turned into a Black November. "Retailers initiated deals and promotions earlier this year, not waiting for the traditional Black Friday holiday kickoff," Perkins wrote.

A decline in Black Friday mall traffic should be no surprise, said Jeff Van Sinderen, an analyst with **B. Riley & Co.**, a financial-services firm. E-commerce business has been skyrocketing for the past few years. "You'll see that business going up double digits," he forecast. "You have to see it take away from somewhere; it is going to come from bricks-and-mortar." he said.

Market-research company **comScore** reported that e-commerce retailers had a spectacular Black Friday weekend. Americans spent more than \$1 billion both on Thanksgiving and during the day of Black Friday, Nov.



STAND HERE: A line forming at City Target at Fig@7th in Downtown Los Angeles on Thanksgiving



**BLACK FRIDAY LUXE:** The Rodeo Drive Cartier's gala Christmas lights were up Black Friday.



THE DOORBUSTER: A Quiksilver boutique at South Coast Plaza offered discounts of 40 percent during Black Friday weekend. But many retailers offered even deeper discounts during the weekend.



NO ROOM: A full parking lot at South Coast Plaza on Black Friday



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### CMC to Launch 'Athleisure' Lifestyle **Show in March**

The California Market Center will launch Shape, a new trade show focused on the "athleisure" trend, during the March 16-18 run of Los Angeles Fashion Market.

Exhibitors will showcase lifestyle collections that blend casualwear with athletic and leisure apparel and accessories for specialty retailers such as luxury spas, boutique yoga studios, gyms and better boutiques.

"Projections and trends in retail show sharp sales decreases in staple purchases such as denim and casual pants and a strong increase in activewear," said Brittany Carr, CMC director of events, in a statement. "The growing trend in fashion is in the newly coined 'athlesiure' category, athletic + leisure, with women and teens wearing luxe athletic gear and yoga wear in lieu of denim

Among the brands signed on to exhibit at the new show is Style Stalker, the contemporary brand founded in Sydney that relocated to Los Angeles earlier this year.

"There really is a blur between 'normal' clothes and 'workout' clothes," said Style Stalker co-founder Rachel Zeilic. "The revolution started with Nike a few years ago. We started seeing cool buyers walking the floors of trade shows in Nikes and power suits. Now it's everywhere, and LA is the perfect city for it. Everyone here leads a healthy lifestyle. They'll wear their workout gear to work and then take a pilates class at lunch, for example." For more information, visit www.shapetradeshow.com.—Alison A. Nieder

# Hong Kong Fashion Week Takes a Look at the Fall/Winter 2015 Season

The 46th semiannual Hong Kong Fashion Week will be held Jan. 19-22 at the Hong Kong Convention Centre with a number of fashion shows, seminars, exhibitors and trend forecasts tailor-made for buyers and other attendees.

The huge affair, one of the largest apparel trade and fashion shows in Asia, is expecting more than 1,500 exhibitors from mostly China and Hong Kong who will be showcasing their factories as well as their brands and designs.

There will also be group pavilions from various Chinese regions as well as from Taiwan. Macau and India.

The various exhibition floors in the large convention center will be dedicated to womenswear, menswear, swimwear, cashmere and wool, denim products, eveningwear, jewelry, scarves and shawls, as well as packaging and designs.

In addition to Hong Kong Fashion Week, the annual World Boutique, which is reserved for brand names and designers, will be held at the same time. Brands that will be taking part in this year's World Boutique include Moiselle, Shanghai Tang, Zalora and **Ika.** The World Boutique has daily fashion parades and fashion shows.

The first evening of the fair is reserved for the Hong Kong Fashion Extravaganza, a fashion show filled with high-end designers. Among those showing are New York haute couture designer Loris Diran and Swedish fashion designer Lars Wallin.

Diran, who started his ready-to-wear line in 2007, creates fashions for men and women. He has seen his designs worn by entertainers such as Beyoncé, Britney Spears and Liev Schreiber. Diran was commissioned this year to create special costumes for the movie "Daughter of God," starring Keanu Reeves and Mira Sorvino.

The day after the Fashion Extravaganza. the Hong Kong Young Fashion Designers' Contest 2015 will be held. The head designer of Swedish brand H&M, Margareta van den Bosch, is one of the VIP judges.

To help defray costs, the organizers of Hong Kong Fashion Week are offering a hotel sponsorship worth up to \$270 for attendees. Send an email to hkfashionfw.visitor@ hktdc.org to inquire about the offer.

For more information about the two fairs. go to www.hktdc.com/fair/hkfashionweekfwen or www.hktdc.com/fair/worldboutiquehken.—Deborah Belgum

### Calendar

'What Your Pattern and Sample Makers Won't Tell You" webinar

Dec. 15

Fashion Business Inc.'s Holiday Mixer

California Market Center, A792 Los Angeles

Jan. 4

**Accessories The Show** Moda

Jacob K. Javits Convention Center

New York Through Jan. 6

<u>Jan. 5</u>

Agenda Long Beach Convention Center Long Beach, Calif. Through Jan. 6

Intermezzo Collections New York

Through Jan. 7

Jan. 8

**Surf Expo** Orange County Convention Center Orlando, Fla. Through Jan. 10

"Starting a Fashion Business" workshop California Market Center, A792

Los Angeles



For calendar details and contact information, visit ApparelNews.

Submissions to the calendar should be faxed to the Calendar Editor at (213) 623-5707. Please include the event's name, date, time, location, admission price and contact information. The deadline for calendar submissions is the Tuesday prior to Friday publication. Inclusion in the calendar is subject to available space and the judgment of the editorial staff.

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# City of Hope Honors Signal Brands' Jack and Jason Rimokh







The Rimokh family: Sean, David, Joelle, Olivia, Jack, Jason, Talia, Gabrielle and Michael

Jason and Jack Rimokh

The roof of the W Hotel in Hollywood was transformed into a Roaring '20s bash by Signal Brands' Jack and Jason Rimokh, this year's Spirit of Life Award recipients for the City of Hope's Fashion & Retail Industry Group.

The Nov. 22 event was a "Great Gatsby"-themed gala.

Jack Rimokh is the chairman and chief executive officer of Signal Brands, a handbags, small leather goods, luggage and travel accessories maker with a portfolio of licensed lines, including the global license for  $\boldsymbol{Guess}$ handbags. His son, Jason, serves as president of the company.

Before dinner, guests enjoyed '20s-inspired music and themed cocktails such as "The Bee's Knees" and the "Fizzy Flapper" while women dressed as flappers distributed feather fans and long strands of pearls.

Cohn Reznick's Maier Rosenberg introduced the Rimokhs as "two people I admire as individuals, respect as leaders of their company and am proud to call my friends."

Jack Rimokh kept his remarks brief—thanking the group for serving "as valuable partners in supporting the life-saving work of City of Hope."

For Jason Rimokh, the evening was "a wow moment."

"It's easy to write a check that you know is going to a good cause, but to be an honoree has been life changing for me," he said. "I want to thank everyone who contributed. Your money is so well spent. The City of Hope is about empathy and understanding who the patient is and treating them with kindness and compassion. Good enough is not acceptable for these guys. My father and I will be endless supporters of City of Hope."

The event concluded with special DJ performance by KCRW's Jason Bentley.

The Rimokhs and their guests helped raise \$1 million for City of Hope's research and treatment programs. Since 1995, the Fashion & Retail Industry Group has raised more than \$40 million for the research and medical center's efforts to cure and prevent cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases.

–Alison A. Nieder



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### **Texollini** Continued from page 1

ping, maintenance, accounting, and information-technology departments. Texollini employs 11 sales reps, who work out of the Los Angeles showroom at the Long Beach facility, as well as showrooms in New York, Atlanta and Florida.

Activewear is Texollini's largest segment, followed by the ready-to-wear and contemporary markets.

"We have more than 4,500 different fabrics, and we produce about 1,000 different fabrics annually," Bracha said. "We are working 24/7. Everything is knit to order."

The mill can produce a wide range of fabric in different stitches including jersey, ribs, interlock, mini jacquards, French terry and pointelles in fibers such as nylon, cotton, polyester, wool, silk, linen, **Modal** and **Tencel**, as well as activewear fibers such as **Coolmax** and **Supplex**. The company also produces fabrics from eco-friendly fibers such as organic cotton, **Sorona** and **Repreve**, as well as fire-retardant performance fabrics made with wool-blend fibers.

The mill's strength is in fashion-forward, high-quality technical fabrics, Bracha said, adding, "Together with consistent quality and on-time delivery, we strive to be the best vertical circular mill in North America." The company can produce larger quantities and, at the same

time, small- to mid-sized orders.

With the shift of much of the large production work to Asia, most of Texollini's customers these days place many smaller orders. There are a lot of setup requirements, and the company needs to track many small knit, print and dye runs, but the diverse orders mean the company is well diversified, Bracha said. "We're seeing more startup companies," Bracha said. "We give them the same opportunity we give everyone. One in 10 could become a big company in five years."

### **Investing in tech**

One way Texollini stays competitive is through an aggressive investment in new technology. The company has a substantial annual budget to invest in new machinery and technology in order to have the latest as far as efficiency, environmental requirements and fashion trends, Bracha said.

"We've invested between \$1.5 million to \$2 million yearly in machinery for many years," he said. "This year, we have purchased already several new dyeing, knitting and finishing machines."

Bracha attends ITMA (the Integrated Textile & Garment



CALIFORNIA KNITS: Texollini, based in Long Beach, Calif., produces knits for the activewear, contemporary, swimwear, intimates and technical markets

Manufacturing Technologies Showcase) in Milan, Italy, as well as **ATME** (the American Textile Machinery Association) trade show in Atlanta to scout for new machinery.

"When we buy new equipment, we send greige goods to Europe to test the machinery with different fabrics," Bracha said. "We want to make sure the machines are efficient and capable to produce our fabrics."

### Growing interest in American-made

Interest in U.S.-made textiles has been growing since the beginning of the recession. "People are looking here to be closer to customers," Bracha

**▼ Texollini** page 9



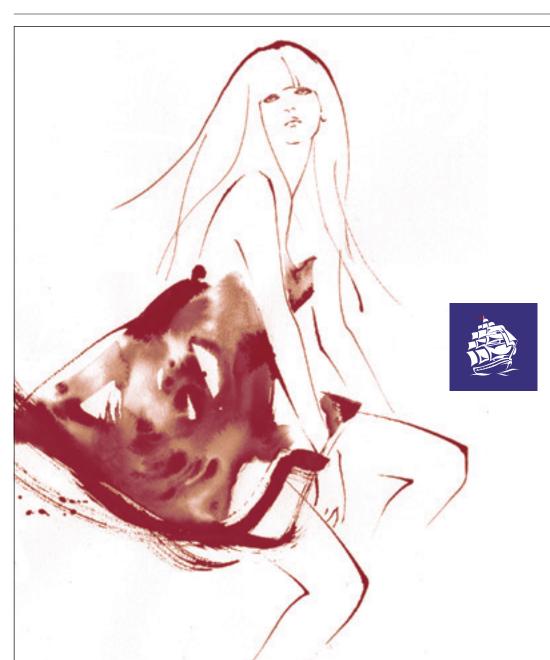
Amit Bracha



VERTICAL OPERATION: Texollini has knitting, dyeing, printing and finishing all under one roof at its facility in Long Beach.



**TECHNOLOGY FIRST:** To stay competitive, Texollini invests in new technology to improve efficiency and meet environmental requirements.



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### **MADE IN AMERICA**

### **Texollini** Continued from previous page

said. "The turnaround is much faster. The culture is much

When Walmart announced two years ago that it planned to spend \$50 billion on made-in-America merchandise over the next 10 years, Texollini started "a push" to source domestically. Bracha said.

"People started thinking, 'We can do business here," he

While Walmart's made-in-America initiative provided a big boost in interest in domestic production, Bracha said even nonapparel initiatives, such as automaker Chrysler's "Imported From Detroit" campaign, help drive interest in building the U.S. manufacturing base. Texollini has so far recovered about 20 percent of the business lost to overseas textile production, Bracha said, adding that he sees even greater opportunities in the coming years.

"In 2000 in Los Angeles, textile [production] was the second-biggest industry after entertainment," he said. "There were 9,000 knitting machines. Fourteen years later, we have around 900 knitting machines.

'There's still a price to make textiles in the U.S.," he said. "It's challenging. You have to improve. You have to cut costs. You have to translate development into production."



KNITTING: Texollini's circular knitting machines operate 24 hours a

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