CALIFORNIA \$2.99 VOLUME 74, NUMBER 41 OCTOBER 5-11, 2018 THE VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY FOR 73 YEARS

SPRING/SUMMER TRENDS Trend forecasting and buying consultants have been busy getting the word out about the latest for Spring/Summer 2019. Directives West held a runway show highlighting what will be selling in stores next spring. For more looks, see page 12. Cloth + Trim—Dellin SE Noisy May—Metallic Bra 19 Cooper—Animal-Print Pant

Vendors at L.A. Majors Market Claim Good Biz Despite Lighter Traffic

By Andrew Asch Retail Editor

Retailers placed orders and brands introduced new denim lines at the semiannual L.A. Majors Market in an ambience where vendors thought that buyer traffic was slower than in pre-

The show, which focused on merchandise for big department stores and mass merchandisers, took place Oct. 1-3, primarily at the California Market Center.

Retailers seen at the show included the Dillard's department store, juniorswear-focused Rue 21 and Charlotte Russe as well as value-focused stores including Bealls, Ross Stores Inc. and Burlington.

L.A. Majors page 15

L.A. Textile Show Reflects **Apparel Industry Changes** and CMC Transition

By Dorothy Crouch Associate Editor

During this week's L.A. Textile show, attendees experienced the fruits of a new initiative to refresh the biannual event, which took place Oct. 3-5 at the California Market **Center** in downtown Los Angeles.

With property management firm **Brookfield Properties** implementing updates and new construction projects at the 1.8 million-square-foot complex, the show is being produced with a new approach.

Describing the initiative to make textiles more exciting through artistic expression, Brookfield Properties's Emilie L.A. Textile page 14



www.apparelnews.net



Stitch Fix Headed for Great Britain Next Year

Stitch Fix Inc., an on-demand, personal-styling service based in San Francisco that offers online apparel subscriptions and personal-shopping services, is branching out to Great Britain next year.

The company's co-founder, Katrina Lake, made the announcement during an Oct. 1 earnings call for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2018 and the full year.

Lake, the company's chief executive, said there were several reasons that Stitch Fix chose Great Britain as its first international site to send monthly boxes of clothing to subscribers. "The U.K. is already an e-commerce, apparel-heavy economy. These customers spend more online than in the United States. That is an element we liked," she said. "It is less discount-oriented than the

United States, and that is always a healthy attribute. Also, the idea of having a personal-shopping alternative is really a different model in the U.K. and one the consumers there are excited about."

Stitch Fix was founded in 2011 in Lake's apartment in Cambridge, Mass., while she was studying at the **Harvard Business School**. The company began by catering only to women, but it has subsequently expanded to men's clothing, plus sizes, maternity wear and kids'.

Last year, the company went public, selling its stock on the **Nasdaq**.

For the fourth quarter of fiscal 2018, ending July 28, the company had 2.7 million active clients, a 25 percent increase over the same period last year.

Net income for the quarter was \$18.3 million on \$318.3 million in net revenues, a 23 percent increase over the previous fourth quarter's revenues.

For the full year, net revenue increased 26 percent to \$1.2 billion and net income totaled \$44.9 million compared to a \$594,000 net loss in fiscal 2017.

Paul Yee, the chief financial officer, said the company continues to increase its menswear business, which was launched two years ago. This growth has been helped by the company expanding from two warehouses to three warehouses, where automation is a major investment.

Childrenswear was added toward the end of fiscal 2018 with growth primarily in the older girls' category. The company is work-

ing to satisfy customer demand in a timely manner. "Normal wait times are coming back," said Mike Smith, the company's chief operating officer.

Since 2017, the company has expanded its merchandise to include both lower-priced merchandise, which sells for \$20 to \$50 an item, and premium-brand offerings, which go for \$100 to \$600.

By the end of fiscal 2018, these two categories together nearly doubled as a percentage of total women's unit sales and helped serve both a younger and an older client.

For fiscal 2019, the company is hoping to expand its net revenues by 20 percent to 25 percent over fiscal 2018, which will not include the U.K. expansion.

—Deborah Belgum

NAFTA Turns Into a Three-Way Deal With a New Name

With the last-minute announcement on Sept. 30 that Canada would be joining the free-trade agreement with the United States and Mexico, there will be a new North American Free Trade Agreement covering about \$12.5 trillion in trade.

But it will no longer be referred to as NAF-TA. Its new name is the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA.

While the name is changed, many of the provisions governing textiles and apparel will remain the same. "For our sector, there were not the huge changes in the agreement that people had feared," said Julie Hughes, the president of the **U.S. Fashion Industry Association**, a Washington, D.C., trade group representing apparel importers and retailers.

Slight tweaks to the new accord mean that

sewing thread, pocket linings, elastic bands and coated fabrics made in the three countries must now come from the region. Visible linings are exempt from this requirement.

The trade-preference level for apparel sent from the United States to Canada has more than doubled. In the past, U.S. manufacturers could send up to 9 million square-meter equivalents a year in clothing made from non-regional fabrics to our northern neighborhood. That has been upped to 20 million SMEs.

"This will be big for Southern California manufacturers," said Steve Lamar, the executive vice president of the **American Apparel & Footwear Association**, who has been following the free-trade negotiations. "That is something we and many others have been asking for."

The TPLs on apparel made from wool sent from the United States to Canada have been reduced.

E-tailers are getting a bit of a boost. Mexico and Canada will increase their de minimis shipment value levels, which is the minimum value of an imported shipment that is subject to duties and customs documentation. Mexico is doubling its de minimis from \$50 to \$100, and Canada is upping its de minimis from 20

Canadian dollars to 150 Canadian dollars.

"One of the objectives in renegotiating the trade agreement was to get Canada and Mexico to increase their threshold on de minimis," Hughes said, noting that the United States allows up to \$800 shipped by e-tailers to come into the U.S. duty-free. "This is a nice thing, especially for smaller companies with customers in Mexico and Canada," Hughes said. "It makes it easier to do business."—*D.B.*

The National Retail Federation Sees a Strong Holiday Season

U.S. sales for the holiday 2018 season are expected to be better than last year.

According to the **National Retail Federation**, there should be a 4.3 percent to 4.8 percent rise over last year's strong holiday season.

Excluding autos, gas and restaurants, U.S. retailers stand to rack up a total of \$717.45 billion to \$720.89 billion in sales, according to an NRF forecast released Oct. 3. That is a lot stronger than last year's \$687.90 billion in holiday sales, which were up 5.3 percent over the previous year and had the highest year-over-year increase since 2010, when a 5.2 percent rise was recorded, said Matthew Shay, NRF president and chief executive officer.

"Thanks to a healthy economy and strong consumer confidence, we believe that this holiday season will continue to reflect the growth we've seen over the past year," he said.

Jack Kleinhenz, NRF's chief economist, said almost every economic element is in place to make consumers comfortable spending a lot of money.

"With this year's forecast, we continue to see strong momentum from consumers as they do the heavy lifting in supporting our economy. The combination of increased job creation, improved wages, tamed inflation and an increase in net worth all provide the capacity and the confidence to spend," Kleinhenz said.

In past years, NRF's annual forecast was released during a conference call with reporters and Wall Street analysts. On Oct. 3, the forecast was released in a live video stream webcast by **YouTube**.

Kleinhenz was asked how consumers will finance shopping lists during the upcoming season with healthcare and gas prices inching up. Kleinhenz conceded that the 2018 holiday season won't be a cakewalk.

"Retailers will not only be competing with other retailers. They'll be competing with budgets that will be stretched. Healthcare costs, rents and energy are all going up at a considerable pace," he said.

He also noted that many shoppers increasingly spend dollars on fine restaurants and trips over gifts, and retailers will have to compete for those shoppers' attention.

The NRF predicted that retailers will be hiring between 585,000 and 650,000 seasonal workers. In 2017, 582,500 seasonal workers were brought on board for the holidays.

—Andrew Asch



Bebe Stores announced it made several changes to its board of directors.

Darrin Klotz, who co-founded the **Lido Equities Group**, is being named to the board to replace Robert Galvin. Klotz specializes in the acquisition, development and management of commercial investment properties and is a licensed California real-estate broker.

Nick Capuano, the chief investment officer for **B. Riley Financial**, has been named chairman of the board.

Members remaining on the board include Bebe Stores founder Manny Mashouf, Corrado Federico and Kenny Young.

Last year, the publicly traded company, which was based in Northern California but had a major design studio in Los Angeles, shut down all 168 of its retail stores, laid off 700 employees and now is making money from licensing its brand name.

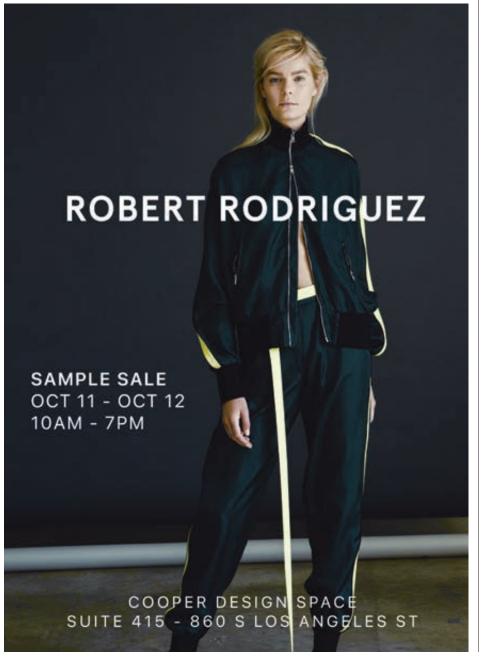
The strategy was part of the remake of Bebe, a once fashion-centric retail chain started in San Francisco in 1976 by Mashouf, an Iranian-American businessman.

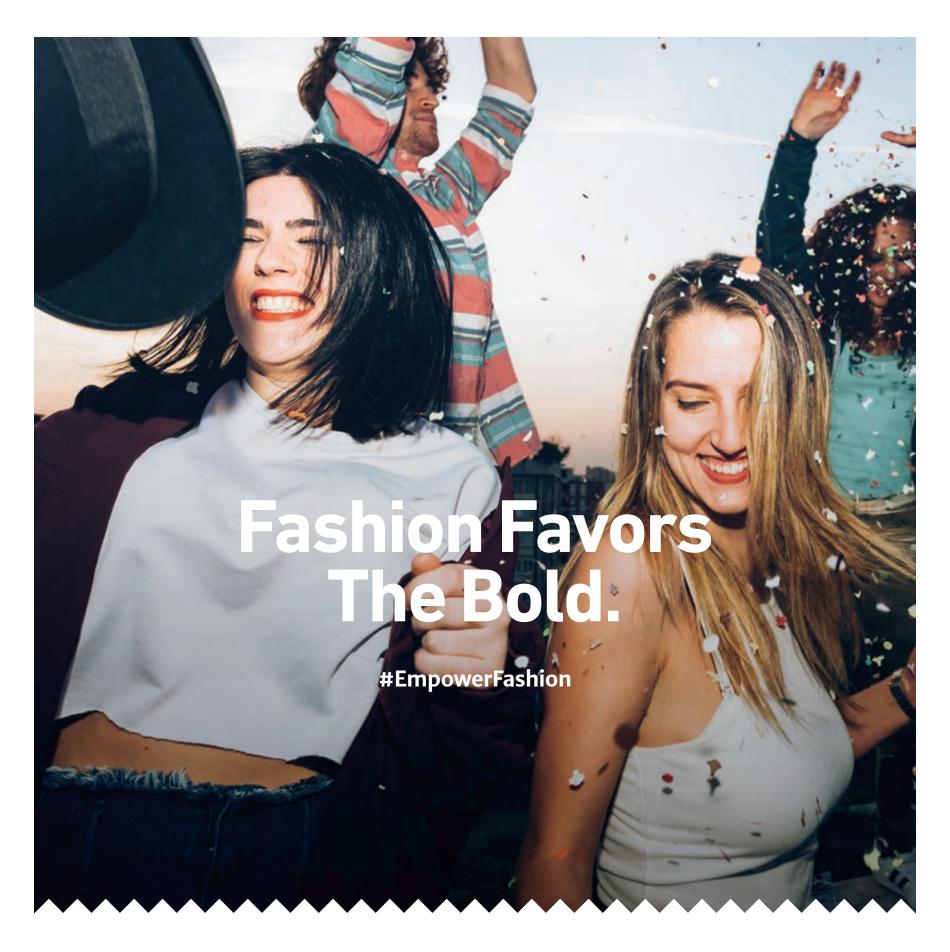
Earlier this year, Bebe Stores sold its main Los Angeles office building for \$28.5 million.

The shuttering of stores and closing the company's design studio and offices helped the retail chain avoid bankruptcy after selling half the brand for \$35 million to **Bluestar Alliance**, a New York brand-management company that has snapped up labels such as **English Laundry**, **Nanette Lepore** and **Catherine Malandrino**.

Last year, Bluestar Alliance came out with a new Bebe collection of sexy dresses with new sizes and new categories.

Then in March, Bebe pulled the wraps off its first lifestyle store in New York City, located near the Empire State Building at 1 W. 34th St.—*D.B.*













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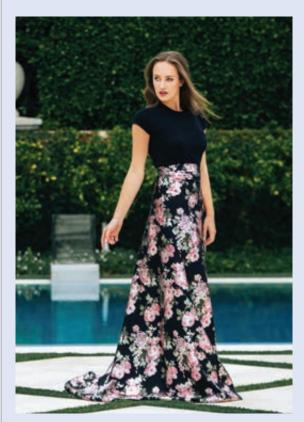
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California Fashion Students Honored at Annual Awards Luncheon

By Dorothy Crouch Associate Editor

Marking its 15th year honoring Californiabased student designers, the California Fashion Foundation—the California Fashion Association's philanthropic organization recently hosted its annual scholarship-awards luncheon.

Los Angeles' apparel-industry leaders gathered in the Fashion Theater at the California Market Center to honor students who

presented innovative creations that gave a glimpse into the future of fashion and others who revealed fresh takes on traditional apparel making.

Led by CFA President Ilse Metchek, the Sept. 27 event began with lunch provided by Brian Weitman of STC-QST Textiles and New Moon Restaurant as industry insiders Tammy Chatkin, executive vice president of the recruitment firm **24 Seven**: Annabelle Lee, owner of Seamless Land/See You Monday; and IndieSource co-founder Zack Hurley provided words of guidance to the

During the luncheon, the CFF gave out its Fashion Star Awards in five categories: design, brand development, presentation, technology and fashion with ethics.

Design honors were pre-

Oct. 6

Los Angeles

Oct. 8

Through Oct. 10

The New Mart

Gerry Building

824 Building

Los Angeles

Through Oct. 10

LA Fashion Week

Petersen Automotive Museum

Los Angeles Fashion Market

California Market Center

Cooper Design Space

Lady Liberty Building

Academy Awards Building

Primrose Design Building

Nhi Bui of California State University, Long Beach by Karen

· SooMin Chun of Otis College of Art and Design by Naked Cashmere.

• Julian Fakeye of California State University, Los Angeles by Stony Apparel.

• Rachel Galvez of the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising by Design Knit.

• Jacqueline Peng of Mt. San Antonio College by Velvet Heart.

• Yvan Tran of Woodbury University by

Swat Fame.

 Olga Vakhteeva of Pasadena City College by KWDZ Manufacturing.

Brand Development Awards were given to: • Hanan Argaw of the Academy of Art University, San Francisco by the Cooper Design Space.

• Michael Borscheid of Los Angeles Trade-Tech College by UBM/MAGIC.

• Lizbeth Cacho of the Art Institute of Cali-

fornia, San Diego by Fineman West & Co.

• Yun Huang of California Polytechnic, Pomona by CIT **Commercial Services.**

• Eunju Kim of California State University, Northridge

by Moss Adams. Pamela Kossek of Long Beach City College by Cohn Handler Sturm.

• Pei Han Lee of Santa Monica **College** by STC-OST Textiles.

• Reginald Snowden of the Art Institute of California, Hollywood by the California Market Center.

ArtCenter College of Design student Robert Jesus Valle Jr. received the Best Presentation Award from the California Apparel News.

In addition to those honors. which included \$1,000 awards, two students received Fashion with Ethics Awards. Eunju Kim was honored for her work by the Ben & Joyce Eisenberg Foundation while Reginald Snowden received his award from the **Rags for Riches Foundation.**

Technology Awards were presented to Michael Borscheid and Yvan Tran, who were honored by AIMS 360, and Yun Huang, who was recognized by Tukatech. In addition to their cash awards, the students were presented with software from each awarding company to ease the young designers' entrance into the fashion industry.

The prestigious Betty L. Baumgardner Award for Best Use of Textiles was awarded to SooMin Chun.



Eunju Kim of California

State University, Northridge

Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising Fashion Design Program co-chair Nick Verreos and California Fashion Association President IIse Metchek

.alendar

Designers and Agents The New Mart

Los Angeles

Through Oct. 10

Brand Assembly

Cooper Design Space Los Angeles Through Oct. 10

Label Array LA Kids Market California Market Center Los Angeles

Through Oct. 10

Lunch & Learn: Life Before and After PLM sponsored by CentricSoftware Ignited Spaces, Fashion District Los Angeles

Through Oct. 10

LA Men's Market California Market Center Los Angeles

<u>0ct. 11</u>

Art Hearts Fashion 650 S. Spring St. Los Angeles Through Oct. 14



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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In Just 15 Years, the Vertically Integrated, Full-Package Astrologie Has Dramatically Tapped Into the Needs of the **Apparel Industry**

"Giving value to our customers is what we strive to do day in and day out. I grew up in the business and always valued the notion that the customer comes first," says Angelo Ghailian, the owner and founder of

Astrologie, the Los Angeles-based full-package apparel production company, provides its customers with trend-right designs, unsurpassed quality, competitive pricing, dependability, and speed-to-market. For his part, Ghailian, a Los Angeles native with an MBA from USC, brings two generations' worth of know-how, solid overseas connections, and a dedication to keeping all parts of the process-from design to manufacture - domestic whenever possible.

Astrologie was founded in 2003 by Ghailian, and it has grown from a cut-and-sew manufacturing operation, supplying other manufacturers

who sell to retail stores, to its position today—a vertically integrated, complete-package garment-production company.

"Throughout these 15 years, we got really good at manufacturing, sourcing, and designing clothing,' Ghailian says. "We took on large projects and got savvy with how to develop product. Fabrication became important - new fabrics, designs, artwork. Our operations grew better; our sales started

increasing." As Astrologie has evolved, it has built up a significant number of in-house services it can provide, encompassing everything from design and sample production to artwork development, pattern

development, marking and grading, and custom production sourcing strategies.

Specializing in private label, Astrologie's sweet spot is "fashion novelty tops with a California

feel," Ghailian says, with athleisure and dresses "becoming key growing items for us lately." Thanks in no small part to the quality of its services—and the efforts of head of sales Stephen Cox, an experienced retail executive who brings a wealth of retail and industry knowledge to the company-Astrologie counts an impressive collection of large-volume bricks-andmortar, online, and catalog retailers among its clientele, including, to name just a few, Anthropologie, Dillard's, Lane Bryant, Catherines, Dress Barn, New York and Company, Soft Surroundings, and Stage.

Despite the fact that many, if not most, of these clients have their own in-house

design and production teams, they still come to Astrologie to take advantage of its expertise, not least of which is its design eye, under the guidance of design director Janine Blain, a seasoned retail fashion and trend consultant. Not only do many of Astrologie's designs sell well at a retail level, but they also often outsell the retailers' own product.

Angelo Ghailian

"We really add value," Ghailian says. "Our retail customers have huge design teams, but we bring an element from the West Coast that complements their internal

What Astrologie brings to the apparel table is easy to appreciate. "It's a combination of design and production, absolutely," Ghailian says. From its 20.000-square-foot office/ warehouse/sample room in Commerce, California, Astrologie is able to offer its clients the option of local production, from development to delivery, allowing for quick turnaround to jump on trends. However, with a majority of its business, "if a client is margin-focused and has longer lead times," Ghailian notes, "we can take it overseas"-to Astrologie's production facilities in China



www.antropologie.com

and Vietnam, with fabrics coming largely from China and piecework sewn in Chinese or Vietnamese factories.

Astrologie's partnered Asian connections, in fact, are becoming more important and relevant as the Trump administration continues to ratchet up tariffs on Chinese goods, most recently on fabric, which has the potential to adversely affect many of Astrologie's clients. Those clients are worried, Ghailian acknowledges. "We're preparing for pieced-goods tariffs," he says frankly. So his clients are looking to Astrologie to find alternatives for production in countries outside of China. Through its longstanding overseas connections, "we add a huge benefit because our sourcing is so well established through our partners in Asia," Ghailian says. "We are very agile and nimble. We're able to find the factories quite quickly. We want to be there and help our customers out with a reliable supply chain."

Astrologie has carved out significant niches for its services, especially the so-called "chase" business, the segment of a retailer's production budget left open to "chase" trends

not originally included in its development calendar. "We're a big player in the chase market," Ghailian says. "They rely on us. With both our local and overseas production, we can quickly get them the trends they want to fill in to their stores."

Astrologie's spot-on intuition of trending styles that sell well often gives its clients a competitive edge. Astrologie had a jump on athleisure as that trend grew

to prominence. As Ghailian sees it, "the two big parts of the market" are continued growth in athleisure and development in plus sizes. As it advances its "textured, comfortable fabrications" of knit tops, bottoms, and dresses as well as wovens, Astrologie works closely with local wash houses, investing heavily in interesting and intricate mineral and oil washes and tie-dyes - "the big thing for this summer," Ghailian predicts.

While Astrologie's designs become proprietary to the client, the company's future goal is "more consumer engagement and marketing

online," Ghailian says. Some Astrologie designs under its own brand label have gone into Anthropologie storefronts and done very well, and growing its own brand is part of the plan.

"We're trying to target the end consumer," Ghailian explains, "reaching out with social media

through Instagram (@astrologie_ca), Pinterest (AstrologieCA) and Facebook (@ astrologieca) to drive traffic both to our retailers and continuing our own line.'

Astrologie does have minimums - 800 to 1,200 units per color way is standard—but Ghailian is happy to work with "any small to large retailer that feels they need a design aesthetic, someone who can provide them with the latest fabric and body trends, the newest techniques and artwork, who really knows how to manufacture their goods at a great price point."

And who doesn't need that?



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Nicole Alex: A New Line That Mixes Athletic Support With Everyday Garments

Nicole Zabal had been in the fashion industry for some 20 years when she decided to start her own line of athleisure apparel that had something a little different—a built-in shelf bra in all her tops and dresses.

Shelf bras are standard for workout tops and sleepwear, but an everyday just throw-it-on type



tile show earlier this year to check out fabrics. She ended up choosing a certified OEKO-Tex standard 100 bamboo/cotton fabric, which is soft, antibacterial and doesn't have allergy-inducing chemicals.

She is the designer of the collection, which has simple lines and silhouettes. There are dresses



of garment was out of the norm.

Zabal, who studied at the **Parsons School** of **Design** in New York, got the idea for her new **Nicole Alex** line when she was working at home as a sales rep for a British swimwear and intimate-apparel company. Much of her day was spent wearing an athletic top with a shelf bra and a pair of leggings.

But if she had to go out to visit clients or have a business meeting, she needed to change her clothes because they looked too athletic.

Wouldn't it be much easier to have a dress or top that had a built-in shelf bra she could wear while working at home and then keep on if she needed to dash out the door?

So last May she took the plunge. "I have been waiting to do this for 20 years, and I finally did it," Zabal said.

The newly minted brand owner met with sample makers and patternmakers in Los Angeles, not too far from her home in Sherman Oaks, Calif., to flesh out her first collection, which launched for Spring 2018.

She found a family-run contractor in East Los Angeles to cut and sew the garments.

The first collection consisted of 11 pieces in a few different colors. They include three styles of dresses, various tank tops and T-shirts as well as leggings.

Each shelf bra is made of four-way stretch fabric that has moisture-wicking capabilities. The seamless construction means it looks natural, and the top fabric drapes over the shelf bra for a relaxed fit.

Zabal took a spin through the **LA Tex-**

that include long-sleeve, short-sleeve and sleeveless treatments with midi and kneelength hemlines.

Tops also have various sleeve lengths with V-neck and scoop-neck styles. There are also leggings, joggers and shorts. Everything comes in solid colors with wholesale prices ranging from \$36 to \$60.



Currently, Zabal is selling her line through her e-commerce site, www.shopni-colealex.com, as well as at the **Perfect Fit Fine Lingerie** store in Tustin, Calif.

"I've gotten really good feedback," Zabal said. "I didn't realize how many people love shelf bras."

For her next collection, she is hoping to get input from customers and retailers about what items they would like to see incorporated in her designs.—Deborah Belgum

Juniorswear Trends for Spring/Summer 2019 Involve a Few Repeats

Fashion styles are always changing, but veteran juniorswear trend forecaster Barbara Fields suggested that retailers hold on to a few select looks she believes are going to have staying power through Summer 2019.

Fields, who is head of the **Barbara Fields Buying Office**, held a series of trend seminars Oct. 1–2 during the **L.A. Majors Market** at the **California Market Center**. Retailers attending the seminars included **Zumiez**, **Windsor** and **Stage Stores**, Fields said.

Fashion styles that will continue to have legs

throughout the Spring/Summer '19 season include distressed jeans, tops with a knot twist and polo shirts. In April, she initially forecast that these items would be popular during her last Spring '19 trend seminar.

New juniors styles predicted to make a splash for S/S '19 include animal-skin prints for tops and jeans as well as stripes on tops. "If you don't have stripe tops, you better not leave your home. You won't be in style," she said.

In April, she forecast that track pants with side piping were going to be popular for Spring '19. Going forward, side piping will be expanded into side stripes, often bearing logos of brand names. They'll also be made out of a number of different fabrics including satin trim.

Over the past few seasons, menswear looks have been increasingly important in women's contemporary styles, and menswear will be driving some juniors styles such as utility pants.

Denim is a perennial favorite for every group of fashion consumer. For juniors, high-waisted denim is forecast to be en vogue. Denim skirts, jackets and chambray shirts also will be popular.

T-shirts are always trendy, but for Spring/Summer '19, expect graphic logo-driven T-shirts and sweatshirts to be in vogue. Color blocking will also serve as a major style element, and plaids ought to be big.

Earth and natural colors such as olive, rust and wine are forecast to be popular for bottoms and tops, and mustard will be stepping in as an important color.

Fields also gave a preview of Fall '19 styles, which include jackets with Sherpa-like trim and faux-fur jackets.

The Barbara Fields Buying Office will deepen its analysis of global fashion. Fields said she recently hired new correspondents in London, Tokyo and Sydney. These correspondents will put together analyses of what is selling at juniors retailers in those fashion capitals. They'll also blog and report on the wider fashion scene in those cities.

Fields has also remodeled and remade her company's website. Fashionfields.com was quietly introduced in September. For subscribers, it will deliver trend reports, and blogs will be made available to the wider public.

—Andrew Asch



Barbara Fields, center, points to a plaid shirt that is on trend for Spring/Summer 2019.



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Early Trend Messages from Spring/ Summer '19 Runways in New York, London, Milan and Paris

By Sharon Graubard Founder and Creative Director at MintModa

Spring runway month has barely finished, but we have already pinpointed plenty of new directions for the upcoming season—

from sturdy workwear to flouncy dresses, from tie-dye to daytime glimmer.

Here are some of the early signs of Spring.

Workers Unite

Workwear is a direction we've been watching for some time. The influence evolves for Spring/Summer '19 with softer colors and lighterweight fabrics. Materials include denims, sturdy canvases and poplins, but there are also laundered satins and organzas, bringing an unexpected femininity to these utilitarian silhouettes. Adding more freshness are interesting cuts such as one-shoulder styles. Flap pockets, industrial zips, twill-tape trims and boxy cuts underline the highfunction inspiration.



Dye Job

Tie-dye is looking super fresh, especially when executed in the new acid, nearly-neon brights illuminating the runways. The hippie-dippy motif is used for everything from satin minidresses and sheer tees to fully fashioned sweaters and marabou trims. It also works particularly well in shades of indigo as an update for bleached denim. The pattern can be achieved with real tie-dye techniques as well as with digitally printed facsimiles. For a more subtle approach, there are dip-dyed ombré effects that feature gentle gradations in pastel shades. Giant crystals laid out in tie-dye-like starbursts are the perfect embellishment.

The Glimmering World

There is something about the new glimmering surfaces that is different from old-fashioned bling. Rather than a show-offy, ostentatious vibe, these new treatments seem to reference otherworldly auras, conjuring a more spiritual state of mind. There are tees covered in clear or iridescent sequins and lustrous organzas cut into wearable shapes such as cargo pants or slipdresses. Sometimes the effect is contained in one place on a garment, such as a pailletteencrusted patch pocket or sprinkling of sparkle on sleeves. For the ultimate in everyday opulence, there are giant gems set into straps of linking a plunging V neckline.



Imprint This Moment

It seems we are entering the golden age of prints. Not only are runways awash in spectacular prints and patterns, but designers are also loading them on, one atop another. There are wonderful painterly brushstrokes, scarf prints, checkerboards, Warholmeets-Rauschenberg layered silkscreens and knitted intarsias that mimic hand-painted daubs. Giant



blossoms share space with jumbo arabesques. Stripes and plaids are part of the mix too. The large-scale motifs work well for all the ankle-skimming silhouettes and boxy tee shapes that define the season; collages of smaller designs are used for more body-con-draped styles. Mismatched earrings, patterned bralettes and printed bags add to the free-form feel.

The New Modest

The Batsheva show, held in a downtown diner, was the talk of the town during New York Fashion Week. Designer Batsheva Hay's fascination with the Laura Ashley-meets-Courtney Love punkpretty look was echoed on many runways this season. The style has been percolating for a while. Ruffled prairie dresses started appearing in forward-thinking collections from Demna Gysalia and Miu Miu



the last two seasons and were featured in every glossy magazine as well as spotted on street-style stars. For next Spring, the covered-up frocks get updated in metallic florals, batiks and plenty of smock details. The prim aesthetic works for tops as well.

String Theory

Crochet, which started edging its way into current fashion a season or two ago, is in full expression on SS'19 runways. Crochet, pointelle and other open-work stitcheries are used for midi dresses, pencil skirts, pullovers and bodysuits, bringing texture and interest to basic silhouettes as well as experimental shapes Some designers showed crochet pieces as an underpinning for flouncy frocks or layered them under macramé cage dresses for even more-crafty dimensions. Deep ruffles, scallop edges, fringes and little beads add more post-hippie chic to this time-honored technique.





Out From Under

If modest is the new sexy, then full-coverage bras and briefs are its handmaidens. Runways abound with vintage-y foundation garments that seem borrowed from granny's lingerie drawer. While these demure undies will certainly influence true intimate apparel, most shown on the runways are meant to be seen under the season's sheers and meshes or peeking out from an unbuttoned shirt. Strategic seam lines on bra cups are outlined in contrast stitching for emphasis, even when the extrasupportive aspect is more fashion than function. Many briefs feature boyish touches like fly fronts and band legs, adding a bit more subversion to the

Bow Peep

this season, holding all the ambivalence of the momentsweet/not sweet, prim/provocative, innocent/sophisticated.
The bows on runways are made from self-fabric or from contrasting materials and can work as functional drawstrings and as closures instead of buttons, creating an adjustable fit. Designers used bows for purely decorative purposes too-the looped ties appear at necklines, sleeves and hems or accent a shoe, handbag or headband. And while there are string bows and wide versions, slim flat tapes look newest.



Soft Headed

The most wearable hats for contemporary life are those that can be squashed into a bag and not lose their shape. Soft buckets and easy turbans fit the bill, and there are many on the runways that inspire. The casual bucket shape evolves with a variety of brim widths, from narrow bands to eye covering styles that are deeper at the back for full sun-protection. Materials include sturdy twills in solids or prints, lizard effects and lustrous jacquards. Trapunto stitches or contrast facing for brims provide a bit more structure. The turbans can be interpreted as wide headbands for even more wearability.



Spring Color

Color evolves with greens taking on an aqua cast. Pinks go either toward orange or morph into lilacs. True blues uptrend, even for denim. Teal emerges as a new dark neutral, and yellow shifts from its egg-yolk color toward a greener, nearly neon cast. Here, left to right are Archroma 323-270 / Archroma 108-320 / Archroma 435-280 / Archroma 431-480 / Archroma 326-820 / Archroma 220-460 / Archroma 217-380. All from coloratlas.archroma.com.

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Northstar Base by Gerties NYDJ Nygard Oats Cashmere Oh Yeah! Old Gringo Boots Olive & Oak Olive Hill On The Road Onzie

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Salaam Saloni Salt & Pepper Sales

Sanctuary Clothing Saxx See U Soon

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Simone Herrera Single Dress Single Sleep Sinuous SiSi Designs Skinny Tees

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TRADESHOWS



JANUARY MARCH JUNE OCTOBER



JANUARY MARCH JUNE AUGUST **OCTOBER**

Directives West Focuses on Major Trends for Spring/Summer 2019



Itz Me Jeans-Denim Eyeshadow—Dress YMI—Handbag

CG Sport—Dress Liverpool—Jean

Kim & Cami—Camo Tee Supplies by Union Bay-Crop Top

Status by Chenault—Top Liverpool—Jean

Noisy May—Windbreaker Jealous Tomato—Bodysuit Hidden Jeans—Utility Pant Les Lis—Mesh Dress

The Fifth Label—Denim Jacket

Eden Society—Blazer Charlie Holiday—Bandeau Noisy May—Bermuda

California style was front and center for Spring/Summer 2019 trends, with designers from around the world looking to the Golden State for inspiration for their breezy styles this upcoming season.

That beach-centric, streetwear-infused, nature-oriented influence was seen on the runway when Directives West, the West Coast merchandising consulting division of The **Doneger Group**, presented a lineup of the trends that will be

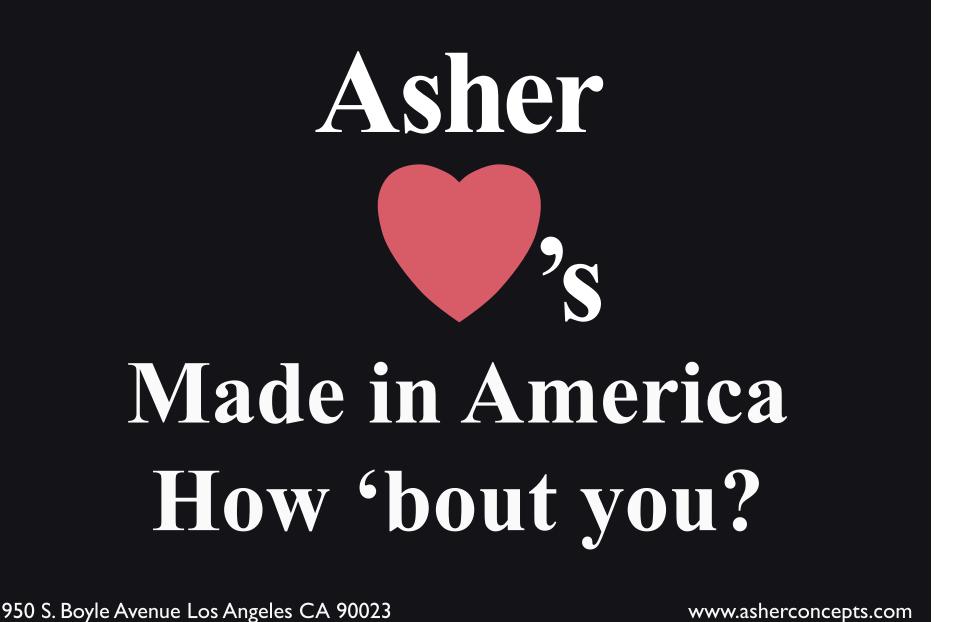
prominent for the Spring/Summer 2019 season.

"Everyone seems now all of a sudden to be tapping into California—our L.A. designers, our lifestyle, our culture, our music are being brought to the influencers," said Shelda Hartwell, vice president of Directives West, speaking at the Oct. 1 trend runway show, held in the Fashion Theater at the California Market Center.

She noted that denim is still going strong as are sweaters,

jackets and knits. Dots and stripes, often married together in the same outfit, are vibrant for the upcoming season as are essentials, such as a boxy blazer. "Let's make sure we are updating and renewing these classifications for business," Hartwell noted.

The Spring/Summer trends were broken down for the contemporary, better/moderate, juniors and childrenswear markets. Contemporary looks were more sophisticated and





Essue—Matched Set

Lionel—Handbag

Good Luck Gem—Coverall M.N.I.—Lavender Track Set

Jolt-Matched Set

Kaktus—Jacket and Pant Tia—Tee

Gilli-Sweater Tank Gilli—Paper-Bag

Essue—Blouse Sweet Claire-Jumpsuit Lionel—Handbag

polished. Juniorswear tended to be skimpier with lots of ragged-edge denim shorts and skirts and cropped tops. The better/moderate category saw more-casual clothes with a bit more coverage.

Jumpsuits and layered looks were present in all classifications as were denim skirts, flowy kimono tops, bright tropical prints and natural fibers.

Lots of ruffles were seen on dress and blouse sleeves, and hemlines covered all territories—from midi to mini and everything in between. Pant styles too had different interpretations, ranging from skinny-legged silhouettes to wide-legged cropped bottoms and high-waisted treatments.

Striped sweaters were plentiful as were retro graphics taken from the '90s. Camouflage seems to never go out of style, as seen in the streetwear trends where camouflage jackets, tops and pants were served up in different color palettes.

A touch of glitz was seen in sequined bandeau tops and skinny-legged pants.—Deborah Belgum

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L.A. Textile Continued from page 1

Lewis, director of CMC events,

Turkey Country lounge and pavilion

said the show's installations were created by visual design-

"Rafael de los Santos and Anna Victor [a former Saks Fifth Avenue employee], who did the lobby installation the weaving from Malhia Kent that is on the wall and the hanging installation—and all the installations upstairs, came

from the retail world, which was really interesting for us to give them our direction and let them interpret it in a creative way."

During the next L.A. Textile show, scheduled for March 6-8, 2019, Lewis hopes to expand the show's artistic presence by creating more installations throughout the event space. "Next season, I want every wall to have something really exciting on it,"

Seeing fresh changes at the show was important for Venia Collection's Chief Executive Officer Christine Ko and Creative Director Keeter Ly, whose Los Angeles-based, high-end contemporary men's and womenswear brand was founded upon blending luxury apparel with technology.

For Ko, witnessing the beginning of L.A. Textile's evolution was refreshing because she and Ly are constantly cultivating their own fully sustainable brand to grow with innovations in technology and apparel manufacturing.

'Cities around the world are turning their eyes to L.A., so it's time this city becomes a bigger competitive player in the trade-show field. The reason we kept our brand in L.A. was because we felt there was a wave to ride," Ko said. "Now, there is all this expansion—fashion, real estate, technology-it's all booming.'

One of the largest initiatives during the October textile show was the move to highlight resources in sustainable fashion. There was the launch of The Future of Fashion conference—created in partnership with Le FrenchLab, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and Fashion **Revolution USA**—which was held Oct. 3 to focus on smart and ethical fashion. A Fashiondex Sustainable Fashion Forum took place on Oct. 4.

"I love the focus on sustainability this year," Ly said. "We've been here for the last five years, and it's a big deal."



"Suspended Above the Confines of Color" installation by Malhia Kent

LA TEXTILE

Andrea Plell of Fashion Revolution USA said she was on

a panel for The Future of Fashion conference to show how female workers' rights fall under the umbrella of sustainable

"The sustainable fashion movement is a big part of the #MeToo movement as well," she said. "Eighty percent of the people making our clothes are women, and many of them are being exploited."

Following the panel, she spoke personally with some attendees about ethical manufacturing and found that many new apparel-business owners created their sustainable brands to take ownership over a fashion brand and make changes they wanted to see in the industry.

"In the past few years, people are more empowered to use their voices and take their lifestyles in their own hands," Plell said. "I am seeing progressively more people involved in these conversations.'

L.A. Textile show exhibitors compared the event to those of the past and were impressed with the work done to ele-

vate the experience. They were optimistic about the changes and the show's fresh aesthetic.

"This show has changed, the management has changed and the setup is completely different,' said Cyrus Nazari, the founder of the 4-year-old Los Angeles-based, fullservice manufacturing firm Fil & Needle. "It looks quite cleaner."

Other sections of the L.A. Textile show included the LA Textile x PeclersParis Trend Forum, the Turkey Country Lounge & Pavilion, Knit Wit Lounge, Inner-City Arts Lounge, **Creative Textile Block** Printing with Art Creators LA and the pop-up

Findings Market x LA Textile buying experience in the CMC lobby.

While the L.A. Textile show made a big transition, organizers are planning for the next show to elevate the brand from a local to a global level.

"When people mention the important shows they have on the calendar for the year, we want L.A. Textile to be in that sentence," said the CMC's Lewis. "We have to continue to grow and get better to make sure we are in those conversations."



TRADE SHOW REPORT

L.A. Majors Continued from page 1

Vendors spent their days with scheduled meetings, but they conceded that traffic in the show's hallways seemed lighter than past years. Becca Dawson of the CMC said 99 vendors exhibited at the Majors. It was basically even with the October Majors Market in 2017. The number of temporary showrooms dipped

for the October 2018 show, however. Some vendors who rented temporary space became permanent CMC tenants, Dawson said. Attendance also slipped because the market was scheduled around the same time as the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah.

"It seems like the building is quiet," said David Vered, president of Los Angeles-headquartered denim brand YMI. "I'm surprised. October is the time when people are showing more enthusiasm for [the upcoming] Spring season."

Vered said one contributing factor might be the competition from online retailers, which is growing fiercer. Buyers from bricks-and-mortar stores are challenged with putting together better ways to interest their customers and keep market share, he said.

Doron Kadosh, president and chief executive officer of the 2253 Apparel **Group**, said his company had the same number of meetings as at previous markets, but there were fewer people in the show's hallways because buying delegations are staffed by fewer people. Also, there are fewer retailers working in the market, he

However, there was still a lot of opportunity at the show, even if a brand was not doing business at the CMC. Juniors brand **Dickies Girl** set up a temporary showroom at the **Gerry Building** across the street from the CMC.

Paula Unger, creative director for Dickies Girl, said her

showroom had several walk-in buyers. "It was busy," she said. "We were solid with scheduled appointments, but we also had walk-in traffic." She credited interest from walk-in traffic to the brand's appearance at a fashion show/seminar produced by Directives West during L.A. Majors Market.

The market ran during a time of innovation for some major retailers and a time of continuing crisis for others.



David Vered, left, and Lana Martinez at the YMI showroom



Jonna Harper, left, and Joie Rucker with Kendall + Kylie display



Paula Unger at the Dickies Girl temporary showroom



The Dickies Girl display



A meeting at YMI's temporary

Nordstrom Inc. is branching out to a new technology-enabled, omni-channel-focused Nordstrom Local store, which has two locations in the Los Angeles area and a third on its

Struggling department store **JC Penney** named Jill Soltau

as its new chief executive officer in an effort to turn around the business's fortunes.

Department stores that have embraced technology have generally fared better than those who seem to run their businesses with 20th-century business plans, said Ilse Metchek, president of the California Fashion Association.

Increased turbulence is on the horizon for these retailers, she

said. "Unless they do major changes in the way they merchandise, they'll never get [their market share] back," she said.

Juniors fashions have been a focus at past L.A. Majors Markets. At the recent show, one consistent theme was selling fashion lines pitched as being of higher quality and introducing young contemporary lines.

Alison Budow of Alison's Showroom introduced the young contemporary line Urban Noble, whose core wholesale price points for its jeans are from \$54 to \$58. "It's not being the cheapest. It is about giving the most value," Budow said. "It is slightly higher, but the consumer is willing to pay for

YMI introduced a young contemporary denim line called Secrets With **Love** for women ages 25 to 40 years old. Unlike YMI's jeans for juniors, Secrets With Love features better fabrications and different silhouettes, such as high waists and a unique yoke detail for an adult customer. Wholesale price points are \$14-\$18.

The 2253 Apparel Group introduced a Kendall + Kylie label, licensed from reality show and social-media superstars Kendall and Kylie Jenner. The

brand is headed by Joie Rucker, the founder and namesake of Joie, as well as other denim lines such as Rich & Skinny.

The new Kendall + Kylie puts an emphasis on sophistication and value, Rucker said. "We're basically giving \$200 jeans for a \$78 deal," she said.



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Astrologie

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Products and Services: Astrologie, the Los Angeles-based full-package apparel production company, provides its customers with trend-right designs, unsurpassed quality, competitive pricing, dependability, and speed-to-market. Angelo Ghailian, the owner and founder of Astrologie, is a Los Angeles native with an MBA from USC and brings two generations' worth of know-how, solid overseas connections, and a dedication to keeping all parts of the process-from design to manufacture—domestic whenever possible. Specializing in private label, Astrologie's sweet spot is "fashion novelty tops with a California feel," Ghailian says, with athleisure and dresses "becoming key growing items for us lately." Thanks in no small part to the quality of its services-Astrologie has grown from a cut-and-sew manufacturing operation, supplying other manufacturers who sell to retail stores, to its position today-a vertically integrated, complete-package garment-production company.

Cinergy Textiles Inc.

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Products and Services: For over 25 years, Cinergy Textiles has been specializing in stock and order-based programs consisting of hundreds of solid and novelty knits, wovens, and linings. Our product line provides piece goods for all apparel markets, including children's, juniors, contemporary, activewear, uniforms, and special occasions. Our fabrics are imported from Asia and stocked in Los Angeles. We have a oneroll stock minimum. Orders are generally processed on the same day and ship out within one or two business days, depending on the size of the order and availability of the particular style ordered.

Cooper Design Space

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Products and Services: The Cooper Design Space, at the corner of Ninth and Los Angeles streets in the heart of L.A.'s Fashion District. hosts a space that embraces cross-pollination among L.A. lifestyle businesses in fashion, media arts, and publishing. The building is 11 stories tall and, having been built in 1927, represents the city's history of creative commerce. It's a space that encourages fluidity across functions by offering an event venue, offices, public art space, and showrooms in a single location.

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Fabric Selection Inc.

800 E. 14th St. Los Angeles, CA 90021 (213) 747-6297 Fax: (213) 747-7006 www.fabricselection.com info@fabricselection.com Products and Services: Fabric Selection Inc. is a premier wholesale fabric supplier, providing the highest quality textiles and in-house designs to designers and manufacturers in the Los Angeles area and beyond. Our assortment and specialty is vast, including basics, novelties and prints in both knits and wovens. All of our print designs are copyrighted. We have polyester, spandex, rayon/spandex and more unique fabrics to inspire your next fashion collection, and will work with you to get a price that will fits your

Fashion Market Northern California

www.fashionmarketnorcal.com fashionmarketnorcal@gmail.com Contact: Mary Taft

Products and Services: FMNC in San Mateo is an excellent show for apparel, accessories, and footwear buyers. The thoughtfully merchandised open booth floor plan features the perfect blend of European, better, contemporary, updated sportswear, and lifestyle brands—more than 2,000 domestic and international collections. FMNC offers the possibility of a one-night free hotel room to first-time buyers. Also provided: hotel shuttle, parking reimbursement, daily continental breakfast, tasty lunch options, afternoon snacks, and our popular Monday night "sip and shop." The convenient venue is 20 minutes from SFO and an easy drive from all Bay Area destinations—an overall exciting shopping experience!

Greene Textile

7129 Telegraph Road Montebello CA 90640-6609 (323) 890 1110 www.greenetextile.com greenetextile@sbcglobal.net

Products and Services: Textile industry veterans and experts, catering to quality-oriented garment manufacturers. Most fabrics are produced in the USA. GOTS-certified yarn, locally dyed, printed and finished in California Commitment to customer service and pricing to meet all budgets. With extensive relationships with factories throughout Southern California, we produce knitted fabrics from basic jersey to novelty knits, both custom and open line. We use yarns from combed poly cotton and micromodal to cotton spandex. These are just a few of the varns that we have available, and many fabrics are produced in Los Angeles. Our print division offers many patterns, catering to customers looking for a simple stripe or custom patterns. Please visit our website and reach out. Let's speak today!

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127 E. Ninth St. Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 627-0671 Fax: (213) 627-1187 www.newmart.net

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Contact: Eveline at
evelinem@emblemshowroom.com
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Products and Services: Kris Goddard's designs for Paradise Ranch deliver what she promises—fresh shapes with a vibrant, youthful appeal yet offering comfortable coverage on the top and bottom. Paradise Ranch goes bold with prints, an array of exuberant tropicals mainly sourced from Italy and France, with solids produced in the United States. The line's success has enabled Goddard to start buying print designs exclusive to Paradise Ranch. Beyond the bright look, Paradise Ranch is also developing a loyal customer base for its smart silhouette choices and Goddard's meticulous attention to fit details. "My collection is meant to be multifaceted," Goddard notes. "It's more than just swimwear-it's wearable to many places, it's interchangeable, it makes for easy packing. That's the mainstay of what we're doing that makes us different. It's coverage but still sexy." Paradise Ranch Designs has been recently photographed on some of the brightest young Hollywood talent like Miley Cyrus in Vogue, actress Amanda Cerny, singer Ashanti and entertainer Chloe Lukasiak.

Progressive Label Inc.

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Analyze selling from accounts. Create line sheets and review/revise purchase orders. Data entry. Proficient in MS Office. Organizational skills. Resume: rita@danielrainn.com

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