

hinsdale furriers

33 East First Street, Hinsdale
Illinois 60521

Telephone: **630 323-1840**

Facsimile: 630 323-4913

Email: furs4u2@aol.com

www.hinsdalefurriers.com

Summer '2003'

Dear Customers and Friends:

Every year as I finish writing this letter in late May, I take a deep breath and start worrying about what I will write the next year. I write so much in each newsletter that I wonder what could possibly be more exciting next year. For example, last year we bought the building and **celebrated our 50th year in Hinsdale**. What could be more thrilling than that? Well, to my surprise I have three delightful things to talk about: **Karkazis Furs**, our daughter **Sue** working here full time, "**This Old Fur**" A Small Corner of Hinsdale Furriers.

Last fall, we were made an offer I couldn't refuse. **Jim Karkazis** of **Karkazis Furs in LaGrange** was ready to semi-retire. We worked out an arrangement where I purchased his existing business, moved it to our Hinsdale location, and had **Jim**, his brother **Al**, and their fur finisher **KiKi** join the **Hinsdale Furriers** family. We are especially excited because this gives us the opportunity to once again **make our fine mink coats right here in Hinsdale**. As most of you know, for the last few years I had a furrier friend in NY making our fine coats since we had so many remodels and not enough fur workers. With the addition of Jim and Al, the coats can now be made right here. Please feel free to stop by and meet Jim, Al and KiKi and have a tour of our new improved workrooms.

Along with Jim, Al, and KiKi joining our team, our daughter **Sue** started here full-time in September. Previously, she was doing our **advertising** and **website design** on a part-time basis. When she is not busy with the ads and website, she is learning other aspects of the fur business. Many visitors to our website have asked about the **Webmaster**, and a few have hired her to design their own websites. Now **Hinsdale Furriers** has a **web design division**. We just keep expanding.

While I am writing about **Sue**, I want to **thank everyone** for all your **prayers** and **good wishes**.

For those that don't know, right after she started working here full-time, she was diagnosed with **breast cancer**. She has just finished her radiation and is happy to have her hair growing back. We are hopeful that the doctors will declare her cured and are sure that her 30th year will be better than her 29th.

For years, customers have been asking us about **buying back used coats**. I can't think of any place that buys them outright, but I have always referred them to resale shops in the area who would sell their coats on consignment. This year (after the local resale shop, My Favorite Things moved) we opened "**This Old Fur**" A Small Corner of Hinsdale Furriers. We take your gently worn furs on **consignment** from the **end of August** until February and sell them in the **store** and on our **website**. It has been a **great success** - we have sold over 100 gently used furs. It is very heart warming since many of the purchasers shared that they would never have been able to own a fur if they had to buy it new. (**Please read, "A Customer Writes."**)

It is definitely taking recycling to new ends. **Continued page 2...**



From Left to Right:- Jim, Jo, Lee, Marilyn, Susie, Ray with Shayna. Center:- Maria, Joan. Front:- Melissa, Sue with Charlie. (Not Pictured: Kiki and Al)

Continued...

As always, I want to remind everyone the importance of cleaning your furs each year. Dust works it's way into the pelts and absorbs the natural oils. There is no way to put these oils back. Cleaning and storing slows the drying process and helps to keep your furs in excellent condition. It was a cold winter and you wore your furs this year, so don't forget to store and clean them.

Check out our **Calendar of events**, **Mel's fashion column** and please stop by for a visit.

Susie Duboe-Bryant



Mel's Fashion Column

Comfortable, Relaxed, and Functional are the key words for this **season's fashion trends**. Now, if you can work in **Luxurious, Glamorous, and Edgy**, you've summed it all up. But is this possible? Can you combine glamorous with relaxed or luxurious with functional? OF COURSE YOU CAN! The main thing to remember is to wear your fur. You didn't buy a fur coat to keep the closet warm. Wear your mink coat to the grocery store or to walk the dog. Trust me, more people do it than you think.

What else is making a statement this year? **Reversibles** are very popular. Whether it's **microfiber, leather, or silk**, you can't go wrong with 2 coats in 1. Denim is still HOT, HOT, HOT!!! **Fur trimmed denim** as jackets, jeans, and vests are all the rage. In fact, vests in general have become an essential layering piece. **Accessories** play an important part in fur fashion, as well. Not just your typical hats, gloves, headbands, and earmuffs, but purses, boots, scarves, and hair scrunchies.

Remember - if you don't see it in our showroom, we can always make it.

To recap: **accessories, vests, denim, reversibles - comfortable, glamorous, functional, luxurious...** and above all, **WEAR YOUR FUR!**

2003 Calendar of Events...

.....
June 14 and 15

HINSDALE FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 5pm
in Burlington Park.

.....
July 4 thru 6

CLOSED FOR THE 4TH OF JULY

.....
July 18 and 19

SIDEWALK SALE

Friday & Saturday 9am - 5pm on the
sidewalks in front of participating stores.

.....
August 15

BEGIN TAKING IN CONSIGNMENT FURS

We will take in your used furs that you no
longer wear and are looking to sell.

.....
August 30 and September 1

CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND

.....
September 2 thru 19

REMODEL SALE - Save 10% on the cost of
remodeling your coat.

.....
September 20

GARAGE SALE - Saturday 9am - 5pm in
Public Works Garage.
(just behind the police station)

.....
September 27

CLOSED FOR ROSH HASHANA

.....
October 6

CLOSED FOR YOM KIPPUR

.....
October 25

BOLEY FAMILY HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

Saturday Registration 12:15pm.
Parade 1:00pm in Downtown Hinsdale.

.....
November 6 thru 20

SHEARLING SALE - Save 30% on all
merchandise and an additional 10% on
shearlings (excludes denims and accessories)

.....
November 28

HINSDALE HOLIDAY WALK

Friday 6pm - 9pm in Downtown Hinsdale,
Grant Square and Gateway Square.
Come here to meet Maggie the Clown

.....

50th Anniversary Wrap up

Thanks to all of you for the support of our 50th anniversary give back to the community celebration. The charities that participated, **Joe Lessman Multiple Sclerosis Society, WINGS, Hinsdale Center for the Arts, Pillars Community Service, Hinsdale Hospital Auxiliary, MADD, Dupage Pads and The West Suburban Tri Deltas for Loyola Ronald McDonald House** raised over \$15,000.

A special thank-you to **Linda Calabrese of Gracious Goodness** here in Hinsdale for supplying the gourmet treats. If you have not been a lucky recipient of one of her gourmet food baskets - I suggest you stop in her store and take a look. Her store makes my gift giving simple and my soup making out of this world!

Congratulations to the **Tri-Deltas** for selling the winning raffle ticket and to **Carol Benes** on winning the coat.

Again, thanks for supporting our first 50 years in Hinsdale. We are looking forward to our next 50.



Left - **Susie Duboe-Bryant**
Right - **Carol Benes**

Charity Corner:

Once again, we will be selling **Entertainment Books** to benefit **Joe Lessman Division of Multiple Sclerosis**. The Books will be available in **September**. The cost is \$20 a book (amazing price!). I bought 3 books last year for the Dominick's coupons (\$5 off of a purchase of \$50) I spent \$75 on the books and saved \$180. If you buy only one book and just use that coupon you save \$40! What a great deal! **You save** and **Multiple Sclerosis research benefits**.

WINGS (Women In Need Growing Stronger) continues to grow to meet the needs of the community. I am proud to say that they are (as I write this) breaking ground for a **Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter**. Many of the women that call **WINGS** are fleeing a domestic violence situation. Unfortunately, until this point, they have not had a facility available to offer safe emergency shelter. WINGS will continue to offer transitional housing for women and children while adding this much-needed service. If you'd like to learn more about WINGS call 847-963-8910. If you have donations for their resale shop feel free to drop them here at the store (must fit in my van).

"A Customer Writes."

A customer who bought a gently used fur from "**This Old Fur**" a small corner of Hinsdale, from our website, www.hinsdalefurriers.com

"I can not begin to tell you how pleased I am. The fit is perfect. Everything about the coat is just wonderful. And I look simply wonderful in it. The color is exactly what I wanted. The length is perfect and wrapping the collar up around my face is an incredible experience. My sister and my mother-in-law are already requesting time to wear it. I am requesting deposits from them - a joke. Thank you for making a dream come true for me!! Again, thank you more than I can express."

You ask... Do you have the earmuffs that adjust and grasp the back of your head?

We answer... After many failed experiments, we think we've got it. We have made a limited number of these earmuffs in mink and have them available for \$80 a pair. I suggest you order yours early so you get the color that matches your coat.

You ask... What does it mean when I get an estimate suggesting **grosgrain** at the hem?

We answer... Our full length coats are so long that sometimes the heels tend to catch the lining or the coat drags in the winter slush causing the lining hem to begin to wear. We patch the hemline with grosgrain ribbon stopping the wear from creeping up the lining. Better to save the lining for another few years at a cost between \$100 and \$130 than have to replace the entire lining at a cost of \$400 to \$540.

You ask... Will you buy my old coat?

We answer... I answered this in my opening letter, but since this is a very popular question I want to be sure that everyone knows the answer. We will not buy your coats but we will take them as a **trade in** toward a new coat or we will take them on **consignment**. We have opened a new division called "**This Old Fur**" a small corner of Hinsdale Furriers. We take your gently used furs on consignment in the **fall** and have them available in our **showroom** and on our **website** (we also list them on **e-bay**). Hinsdale Furriers charges 50% of the selling price and will mail you a check within 30 days after the garment sells. This has been our first year offering this service and it is a win/win situation. The customer selling the garment has more closet space and some money and the buyer has a coat to enjoy while saving money.

You ask... How is a mink coat made?

We answer... Now that Ray has finished building the addition to our shop - ask for a tour and see the coats being made. This will give you the opportunity to meet **Jo, Jimmy, Al, Maria, Marilyn, KiKi** and **Joan**. They work most days (some of them golf on the nicest of summer days) but I am usually available for tours.