

# Thrift stores offer more than bargains

BY BARB CHURCHILL  
Staff Reporter

Thrift stores aren't just for bargain hunters any more.

At one time thrift stores were just places to buy cheap clothes and household items, but now they offer many other options.

Gwen Gies, manager of Lincoln's Junior League Thrift Shop, 2201 O St., wants people to know about the options Junior League Thrift and many other "customer-friendly" thrift stores have to offer.

"If you're trying to put together a wardrobe on a budget, we're going to show you things that will interchange, so you can stretch that dollar," Gies said. "We understand budgets."

The staff at Junior League Thrift Shop is adept at helping people who have little or no experience with professional dressing, Gies said.

"Recently, we helped a woman try out several interview outfits, for both her first and second-round interviews," Gies said. "She got the job, and came back and thanked us for our help."

Junior League Thrift is unique as far as Gies knows, because all the money spent at Junior League Thrift stays in Lincoln. In addition, because there are only five paid staff members working

for Junior League Thrift, Gies included, much of the work is done by volunteers.

However, these volunteers are caring, sympathetic and "very" professional, she said.

"We try to help people, especially those on public assistance or making very low incomes, with their interview and career-wear," Gies said.

Although Junior League Thrift specializes in women's clothing, they also have men's and children's clothing available, as well as housewares and even some computer equipment from time to time, she said.

Business tends to be slower in the summer, Gies said, because so many students go home.

"Like anything else, retail takes a hit in the summer. Secondhand stores, new goods stores, even grocery stores, everyone takes a hit due to garage sales and less students being around," she said.

Gies wanted students to know they would have help picking out just the right outfits if they came to Junior League Thrift.

"We are more than just Goodwill," she said. "We are different from them; we even have air-conditioning."

The Junior League Thrift Shop's hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The store is closed Sunday.

# Jazz violinist to perform benefit concert

From Staff Reports

Friday, 90-year-old jazz legend Claude "Fiddler" Williams will perform during the Lincoln Area on Aging's "Lifelong Living and All That Jazz" benefit, located at the Cornhusker Hotel, 333S. 13th St. Williams has been active on the jazz scene since the 1920s, when he joined Count Basie's famed big band as its original guitarist.

Williams will play the violin during his Lincoln stint. He is the oldest of the remaining jazz violinists. Stephane Grappelli died earlier this year and other greats such as Jean-Luc Ponty are at least 30 younger than Williams.

"Lifelong Living and All That Jazz" benefits the Seniors Foundation, which serves Lincoln and Lancaster County. Hors d'oeuvres and complimentary wines and gourmet ales will be served from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Williams, along with Lincoln jazz group the Lightning Bugs, will play from 8 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be ordered by calling 441-6154.

# Camp provides musical atmosphere

BY BARB CHURCHILL  
Staff Reporter

Summer is supposed to be a time for relaxing and unwinding.

But don't tell that to the young students attending this week's Great Plains Music Camp.

The Midwestern students at the Great Plains Music Camp will attend multiple workshops, clinics, lessons and concerts in order to totally immerse themselves in music, said Robert Fought, director of Great Plains and professor of saxophone at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"There are multiple objectives (for the students)," Fought said. "The important thing is that students come to UNL for musical satisfaction, make new friends, learn something new about music, get to know our students and faculty and have fun."

Great Plains tries to vary its activities from year to year, Fought said, in order to give returning students a sense of musical growth and change. One thing added this year was a master class and performance from the a cappella group Pieces of Eight. Arts are Basic collaborated with the UNL School of Music to bring Pieces of Eight to UNL, he said.

"Pieces of Eight will sit down and talk about what it takes to be a musician on Wednesday evening," Fought said. "This gives the students a little better idea of what it is they are doing."

Great Plains is run as an outreach program of the UNL School of Music,

Fought said. Great Plains was intended for middle school and high school vocalists and instrumentalists to improve their ability while meeting other students which share the same goals.

"The whole purpose of the School of Music outreach programs is to reach out to the community. That's why we have the Winter Winds festival, Saxophone Day and many other activities. We want to share our musical experiences with the people in the state and region, and invite them to participate in musical activities," Fought said.

Saxophonist Karen DeVries believes Great Plains is a positive experience.

"I think the camp helps with musical development and helps increase playing ability," she said.

One of the highlights thus far was the UNL Faculty Recital, which was held Monday in Kimball Recital Hall, DeVries said.

"The recital was helpful to learn new things you can do with your instrument and music," DeVries said. "Gene (Smith, incoming UNL jazz faculty member) played some nice solos."

DeVries attended Great Plains last year, and said she intends to come back next year, because "it's nice to meet people and share our common interests."

DeVries has only one complaint, she said.

"Sometimes, the free time is boring. There's not a lot to keep us entertained, but there's plenty of stuff to do

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ROBERT FOUGHT  
camp director

during the day," DeVries said.

But all of the work will pay off by Saturday, DeVries said.

Great Plains has several concerts which are free and open to the public. Thursday's appearance by the a cappella group Pieces of Eight will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Kimball Recital Hall. Saturday's small ensemble concerts, featuring woodwind quintets and quartets, brass quartets, a clarinet choir, the Great Plains jazz vocal ensemble, and barbershop quartets will be held at 11 a.m. in both Westbrook Recital Hall and Kimball Recital Hall. The Great Plains' final concert will be held Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in the Lied Center for the Performing Arts. Admission to all events is free.

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