



■ Suzanne Boucher, owner of Full Swing Textiles, shows off some of her vintage fabrics patterns.

GREG DEER/THE PATRIOT LEDGER

COVETED CLOTH



Duxbury designer's fabric goes from home to Hollywood



■ Leonardo DiCaprio and a disappearing Michelle Williams star in "Shutter Island." In this flashback scene from the film, the fabric on the couch was designed by Duxbury designer Suzanne Boucher.

By VALERIE A. RUSSO
 FOR THE PATRIOT LEDGER

Suzanne Boucher watched the trailer for Martin Scorsese's latest film, "Shutter Island," but not to swoon over leading man Leonardo DiCaprio or to catch a glimpse of Boston-area locations.

The draw for this Duxbury fabric designer was a scene with upholstered furniture and drapes made of vintage-style barkcloth from her company, Full Swing Textiles.

"For a 1940s flashback scene, they ordered four fabrics — two different stripes, a solid teal and the palm cherry print," Boucher said. "As I watched the trailer, I saw the stripes on a sofa and chair. I did not see the palm cherry, but I think it's on the drapes, because that's what they listed."

To date, barkcloth from Full Swing Textiles has been used in "L.A. Confidential," "Quiz Show," "Mambo Kings," "Mississippi Burning," "Malcolm X," among others. It can also be seen in hotels, nightclubs, casinos and restaurants around the world. At Mesa Grill, celebrity chef



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■ Vintage fabrics patterns from Full Swing Textiles on barkcloth, a textured cotton block printed with tropical designs. Full Swing has tweaked older patterns to create new ones.

Bobby Flay's flagship restaurant in New York City, an enormous banquette is upholstered in red barkcloth with a cowboy print called Yippee-Ei-O.

"Yesterday, Mesa Grill called and ordered more of that fabric," Boucher said.

Boucher is the go-to girl for barkcloth, a must-have fabric for authentic 1940s and '50s décor, because she has an eye for color and design and a proprietary formula, developed with her weaver, for recreating the heavy, textured fabric to 1940s specifications.

"It took a long time to track down a weaver who could make the barkcloth," she said. "He had to retrofit a special loom because it's a very heavy double-twisted yarn. There are other companies that make barkcloth, but it's very stiff. It's not the same."

The beauty of barkcloth

Barkcloth was originally made in Hawaii from the soft inner bark of tapa trees. Strips of bark were soaked and beaten with a mallet, joined together to make large sheets of fabric and block printed with tropical designs.

During World War II, when Hollywood

Curbing foreplay on high school dance floor

By BETSY HART
 SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Here's what was on the dance card for the kids at Union Grove High School in Wisconsin: In a written statement, the school informed the kids before the Winter Formal that "no sexual bending is allowed. Examples are, no hands on knees, and no hands on the dance floor with your buttocks touching your dance partner. There will be no touching of the breast, buttocks or genitals. There will be no straddling of each other's legs ..."

Wow. Having to specifically instruct teens not to touch each other's genitals at the school dance? This is not your mother's — or even your older sister's — high-school formal. But what Union Grove is responding to is something that high schools around the country are increasingly dealing with. It goes by different names, like "grinding," but essentially it's very sexually aggressive dancing at school socials. Better put, it's often more heavy sexual foreplay than anything else.

Yikes. Whatever happened to the courtship and romance of the high school dance?

I have written about this before. It continues to be an issue that administrators and parents are dealing with in my own community. But until I read the explicit rules having to do with the Union Grove dance, I'm not sure I focused on how degrading this kind of "dancing" is to the kids involved. Particularly for girls.

Girls and women, by their very design, are oriented to be a civilizing influence on boys and men. In other words, the romantic fantasies of a typical 15-year-old girl do not revolve around putting on a beautiful dress, then placing her hands on a darkened dance floor and waving her bottom up at her date while he crushes into her rear end to the beat of the latest rap song. A girl's fantasies are likely to revolve around romance more than sex. For boys, it's the

TALK TO US

■ To submit a column, 400 words or less, e-mail us at womynzone@ledger.com.

WINDOW DRESSING ■ by VALERIE A. RUSSO/ For The Patriot Ledger



▲ **HELP FOR HAIR!** Milton nurse Ruth Adornes has created beaded bracelets in various colors and designs to raise money for earthquake survivors in Haiti. Featuring Swarovski pearls, faceted Czech glass, sterling silver filigree and silver-plated round beads on a stretch cord, the Designs By Ruth bracelets sell for \$25 each at Glory Daze Consignment Boutique, 558 Adams St., Milton. 617-896-9500. All proceeds support the Haitian Health Foundation. More information: designsbyruthjewelry.com.



◀ **PROM PANACHE:** Gently-worn prom dresses sell for \$35 to \$350, less than half the original price, at Twice As Nice Consignments, 46 Columbia Road (Route 53), Pembroke. Choose from sleek, form-fitting styles, romantic ball gowns or short semi-formals, such as this fuchsia dress with shirred bodice, ruffled shoulder, pickup skirt and bubble hem from Jessica McClintock. 781-829-4403.



syrup is made and taste the fresh sap and syrup in the sugarhouse. 508-588-9858. matfieldmaplefarm.com.

◀ **TAP INTO TRADITION:** Pancakes taste better when topped with fresh maple syrup made from the sap collected, boiled and bottled at Matfield Maple Farm, 107 Matfield St., West Bridgewater. Prices for Grade A maple syrup range from \$3 (50 ml) to \$24.95 (one quart). On a guided tour (\$5), learn how maple



▲ **SOLE SURVIVOR:** When high heel shoes cause your arches to ache and your toes to throbb, let Footzyrolls come to the rescue. These reliable ballet flats, which fit in most handbags, have a durable, skid-resistant, waterproof sole and synthetic stretch upper.

Available in four sizes (small, medium, large and extra large) and three colors (black, silver and white), they retail for \$25 at Daisy Riley Clothing & Accessories, 170 Water St., Plymouth. 508-747-2882.

With each purchase, you get a shoe bag for your heels and a drawing pouch for the Footzyrolls.

Come across any products for women that we should know about? Contact Valerie A. Russo by e-mail: varusso@earthlink.net. Please put "Window Dressing" in the subject line.

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HERStory

Personal perspectives on life right now

Nancy Rappaport

Cambridge

Age: 50

Occupation: Child and adolescent psychiatrist; assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School

PASS IT ON

My prized possession is my memoir. It took me 18 years to write it, and I hope people will read it and learn through my example how to move forward from a devastating loss. In writing my memoir, I've learned that love is stronger than death, and I hope that I convey a deep optimism that we are all loved, and no one is expendable. I want people to know that everyone has setbacks; they're temporary and they provide an opportunity for growth. And finally, depression is treatable; if you're depressed, get help.



HANDOUT PHOTO

■ Dr. Nancy Rappaport is the author of "In Her Wake: A Child Psychiatrist Explores the Mystery of Her Mother's Suicide."

PERFECT DAY

My perfect day would be to take off for New York or Rome, sit in a cafe reading and watching people speak different languages. Another perfect day would be to head off to the White Mountains and take a super long hike where I could have an incredible view; or heading down the Concord River on a hot and sultry day on a kayak with my dog.

LOOKING FORWARD

I hope to write more, to continue to care for patients and teach. I look forward to finding creative ways to think thoughtfully; my dream is to write a play or short story.

PRIDE AND JOY

I am joyful that I have a loving family, the time to get out for a run and do yoga and that I take care of teenagers, schools and families.

I am proud that my memoir, "In Her Wake: A Child Psychiatrist Explores the Mystery of Her Mother's Suicide," has comforted people. It's unusual for psychiatrists to share their lives and yet this book has allowed me to connect to my readers and countless others affected by suicide in a very profound, meaningful way.

—THE PATRIOT LEDGER

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Local designer finds pattern for success

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movies popularized tropical décor, American textile mills began making barkcloth out of cotton.

Used primarily for upholstery, slipcovers, curtains, bed skirts and pillows, the heavy, durable fabric remained popular throughout the 1940s and 1950s.

Cotton barkcloth with its signature open crepe weave made a comeback in the late 1980s, when Boucher was working in Newport, R.I., for a shop that sold vintage furniture and accessories. The shop's owner, Michele Mancini, a collector of vintage textiles, had just purchased 16,000 yards of vintage barkcloth that had been placed in a storage room of a store that closed in 1955. Mancini and Boucher mailed samples to design centers around the country and orders started pouring in. By 1990, Mancini's supply was almost gone, so she decided to produce new barkcloth with vintage designs.

From showroom to living room

In 2005, Boucher purchased Full Swing Textiles and began selling directly to consumers. By cutting out the middlemen, Boucher was able to slash prices and make the durable, washable fabric affordable to more households.

"My customers are colorful, fun people. I have women who send me photos of their 1940s tile bathrooms and ask which fabric would go (with it)," said Boucher, a former photo stylist for decorating magazines and former designer for the Boston Design Center.

With help from her husband, Fred Boucher, she created an online boutique, FullSwingTextiles.com, to sell barkcloth in more than 80 different



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colors and patterns, as well as barkcloth bags, pillows, aprons, potholders and dog beds made from her designs.

"When I first started this, I was paralyzed with fear. What if nobody buys it? But now I'm so much more comfortable that it has become fun and exciting to do creative development. I just make it and they buy it; I trust my eye," said Boucher, who went to school for interior design.

Boucher does not create fabric designs from scratch; she modifies vintage patterns. Sometimes she takes a scrap of vintage barkcloth from her vast collection and has the design reproduced — not an exact copy, but close.

"The design has to be stretched out,

because the old fabrics were 48 inches wide and today's fabrics are 54 inches," she explained.

Sometimes she changes the original designs by removing components. To create the Tide Pool pattern, for example, she removed a small bird and plant.

Boucher also creates coordinating fabrics with components of the original designs. She used the dotted background of Tide Pool, for example, to create a fabric called Pebble.

For a completely different look, she changes the colors. O'Keefe, a new fabric for 2010, is the 1940s Sarasota pattern with contemporary colors.

"I left all the leafy parts white and did a background color. Most customers won't even recognize it. It's

a way to make it more modern," she said.

Most of Boucher's customers live in Florida, California and Hawaii, where tropical décor is popular. But she hopes the new contemporary colors and coordinating fabrics will sell in New England, a more conservative market.

"Living in New England doesn't keep me from using tropical fabric," Boucher said. "My guest room has tropical fabrics, but I mix it with solids — that way, it's not overwhelming. And I'm going to have floor-to-ceiling drapes of the slate and white O'Keefe in my dining room and use a solid color barkcloth to slipcover my chairs."

To order barkcloth fabric, fabric samples or accessories, see the Web site, www.FullSwingTextiles.com.

STREET TALKING

Catch the queen bee buzz on our question of the week

What are you giving up for Lent?



■ "I give up all sweets, and I try to do a kind thing on a daily basis."

— Francine Sheedy
West Bridgewater



■ "I'm going to give up letting the little things bother me. It worked last year."

— Tricia Peterson
Quincy



■ "I think I'll give up my daily glass of wine, and that's a sacrifice."

— Elaine Meuse
East Bridgewater

Officials take the first step at high school dance

DANCE/FROM PAGE 23

reverse. Duh. This is hardly news; it's just how we are made. It's one way men and women complement each other.

Yes, we hear all kinds of reports about girls being much more sexually, and socially, aggressive with boys, than they were a generation ago. This may be true, but I don't believe that this comes naturally to most of them.

Many articles and books, such as "Sex and the Soul" by Donna Freitas, have been written about the casual, sexual hook-up culture on college campuses.

Chroniclers routinely report that young women there consistently bemoan the loss of courtship, romance and simple dating, which have seemingly vanished. Of course, they do. Young men will not infrequently report a

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sense of loss, too.

So maybe the rise of sexually aggressive dancing in high schools is really an earlier symptom of a larger problem. A culture that increasingly encourages young men to treat young women like sexual objects. And young men to think that that's how it's

"supposed" to be, and that this is how they "ought" to perform.

Such is the legacy of the sexual revolution. How pathetic for boys and girls, and the men and women they will become.

Back to the high-school dance floor. Principal Tom Hermann of Union Grove told me that the dance was a success.

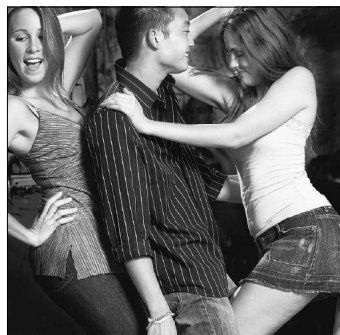
The kids rose to the challenge and for the most part behaved much more appropriately on the dance floor.

And they had fun.

He said many of the kids — and he especially heard from the girls about this, often through their parents — were relieved at the new rules.

No kidding.

Though they might not realize it, to the extent school administrators and other adults



■ Union Grove High School in Wisconsin restricted straddling of each other's legs at its Winter Formal dance.

are stepping in at the high-school level to curb the dance-floor foreplay, they are protecting and elevating the

status of girls in particular. And that, in turn, inevitably helps enable the boys who pursue them.



■ "I've made a lot of sacrifices already this year, so I'm going to mentally sacrifice. I'm going to keep hoping for our country and the economy."

— Fran Wade
Randolph



■ "I'm going to give up rushing my kids in the morning, so we can all have some peaceful mornings."

— Margaret Hall
Quincy

ON THE WEB

■ To see more of what women on the South Shore are thinking and talking about, go to tinyurl.com/womynzone