



The Shop Doctors

It's a new year and time for a wardrobe overhaul

BY SOMER FLAHERTY



PHOTOS BY BARBARA RIES AND TIM PORTER

If you've pictured being featured on TLC's *What Not to Wear*, or your wardrobe just needs an overhaul, it may be time to call in a pro. This New Year's is your cue to seek out an image consultant and professional shopper.

"I'm going to take the anxiety out of it," Judy Domenici says. This Larkspur resident and image consultant is confident and petite, with an infectious energy. "If a client says they need me to go and find them an outfit for the holidays, I'll go to the store beforehand and pull a few pieces so it won't overwhelm them."

Today, Domenici is at Greenbrae boutique Lindisima with owner Linda Bottmeyer. Perfectly coiffed, she has a quick eye, scouring the racks for just the right frock, keenly aware of different price points to work with her clients' various budgets. As a personal shopper, Domenici has relationships with most of the boutique owners in Marin, which allows her to hold numerous items for a client and get the inside scoop on pieces that will be coming in for the next season.

"I don't have a typical client," she says. "My clients come from all walks of life. I have clients who are experiencing life changes, such as divorce, loss of a spouse or weight changes, or those who have made a career change."

"I discovered Judy a year ago at a fundraiser for CASA, Court-Appointed Special Advocates program, when I bid on her donated services," says Kathleen Mohn. "After winning the bid, I prepared mentally for an outsider to invade my closet and help me. Surprisingly, the time with Judy turned out to be fun. She shopped in my closet, saving me money for at least two seasons and revived six jackets that hadn't been worn in years—suggesting alterations on two," she says.

Domenici, who charges by the hour, says generally before she ever steps into a store or a client's closet, she will discuss the person's goals and desired results. The next step is a closet update, which clears out what does not work and makes room for what does work. "My end goal is that my clients' closets and wardrobes be a reflection of who they want to be," says Domenici.

For more information about personal shoppers contact Judy Domenici, 415.517.2514;