

Lifestyles

Stylish ideas for Father's Day

By JUDIE SCHWARTZ and EVELINDA URMAN
Scripps Howard News Service

Father's Day is one of those holidays when we never know what to get our Mr. Style Matters. Frankly, they don't want anything, not a tie, shaving kit or cologne. What's wrong with them? We always want stuff. We decided to do a reality check with some dads and asked them what they want for Father's Day. Their answers might surprise you; they did us.

Mike Dino, chief executive of the Denver 2008 Democratic Convention Planning Committee, said:

"I am a very blessed father with an awesome wife, Robyn, and a wonderful little boy, Mario. I live in the neighborhood I grew up in and the rest of my family is nearby. There isn't much I want for Father's Day other than my sprinkler system to work successfully through the entire summer because I am tired of repairing it. Though my neighbors may be amused watching me walk around my yard soaking wet and trying to fix the system, I'm losing my patience with the sprinklers. I'd really like to get through the summer without the lawn mower shaving off a sprinkler head so I won't lose mine."

Style Matters: Mrs. Dino, at least you can guess what Mike wants. Call a sprinkler company.

Comedian Louis Johnson, who's performed on Comedy Central, B.E.T., Showtime and A&E, doesn't ask for much:

"For Fathers Day ... I want my mother to stop coming by my house at 6:40 a.m.! I'm a professional comedian! My day doesn't start until 4 p.m. And I want her to stop using religion as an excuse! 'Well ...The Lord woke me up early and said I should stop by, baby. You can't argue with the Lord's will!' No ... but I can disconnect my doorbell. And, I want my wife to stay as perfect as she is. (Yes guys ... I'm playing this one safe! How do you think we made it to more than 20 years together?)"

Theater producer and marketing executive Dan Wiley explains: "Since I already have enough slippers and ties (and it's impossible to find the rear cowl that fits behind the seat of my '92 Honda VFR motorcycle) what I want is to be the kind of dad who lives as an example to show my two daughters that their results in life are directly proportional to what they invest in it. ... I want them to know they cannot fail, and that every setback is just an opportunity to make different choices to get the results they want. I want them to know they're beautiful, smart, safe, strong and capable and can be, have or do anything in life ... and that at any age, it's never too late to be what you might have been."

Style Matters: Amen. While these are wonderful Father's Day wishes, they ain't supporting the local retail economy. I guess it's up to us, ladies, to get out there and shop. We wish these dads and all dads a Happy Father's Day.



■ **Wise:** Knowing who to trust.

File Photo

White shirts are a fashion must for men and women

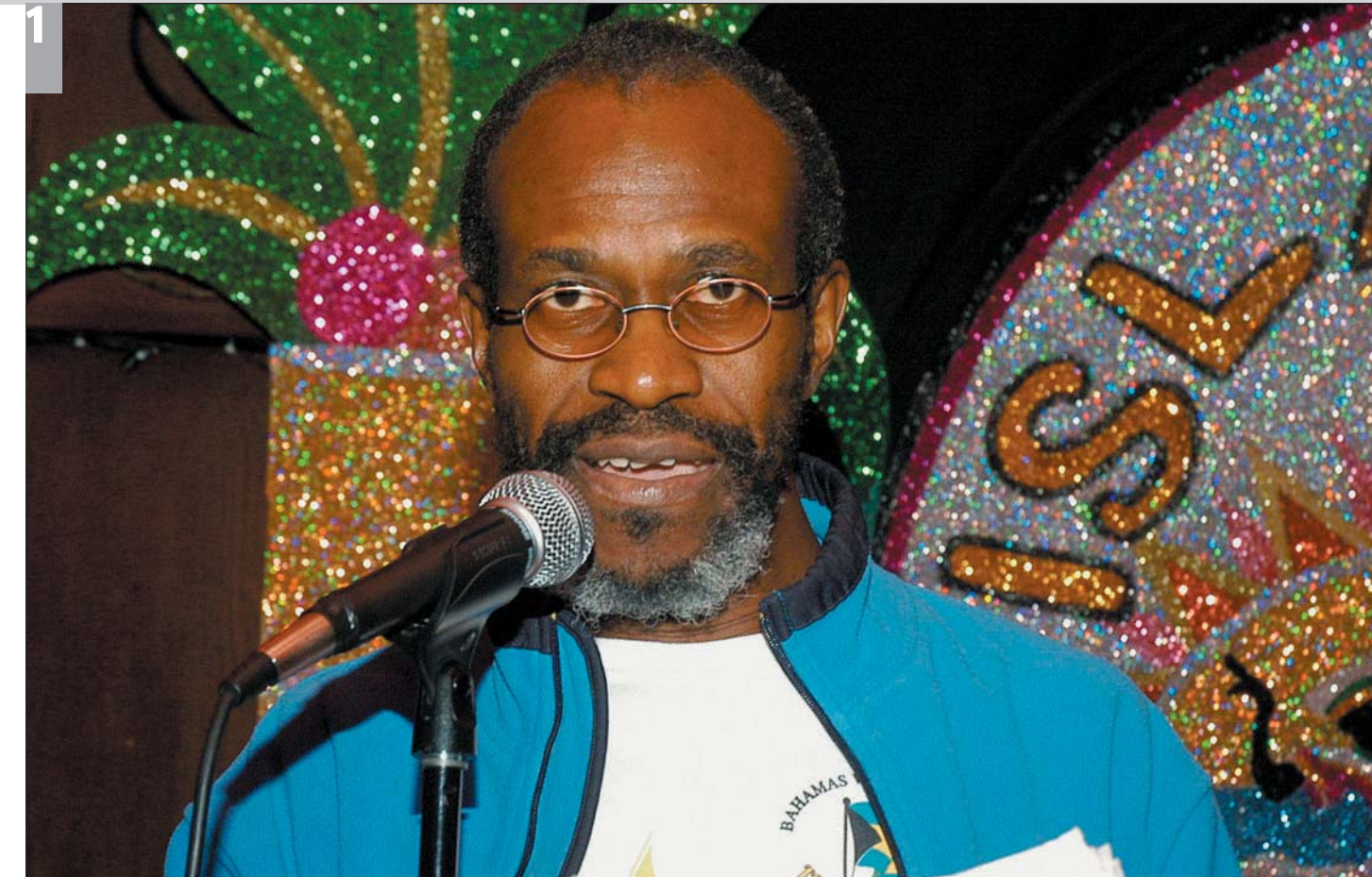


■ **Elegant:** Classical and yet 'cool.'

Internet Photos



ARTISTS PERFORM



Express Yourself

1. Published poet and cultural veteran Obediah Smith reads one of his poems.

2. Ugandan poet Dickson Wasake takes the mic during the latest session of "Express Yourself," on June 6, 2007. The event, held at "Da Island Club" in the Nassau Beach Hotel, is an open mic forum for poets, musicians, and performance artists to share their work. The next session will take place at 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 13.

3. Singer Luke Seymour shares his talent.

Photos: ERIC ROSE

By LaMONT JONES
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Carolina Herrera has done for the white shirt what Burberry did for trench coats.

No designer captures the ease and elegance of this clean, crisp garment like the New York fashion designer. Her chic, comfortable styles have moved the garment beyond the realms of casual and business to evening and special occasion for women.

A generation ago, who would have imagined that it would be acceptable to wear a white shirt with a formal ball skirt?

White shirts never go out of style or season. They just take new twists and turns, bursting forth each spring and summer in myriad styles. They're short-sleeve, cap-sleeve, long-sleeve and sleeveless, banded collar, point collar, spread collar, no collar.

White is a fresh break from the saturated colors that have been popular for several years, although softer colors and pastels are still around in pale greens, icy grays, light blues and off-whites, with styles that are comfortable without suits and in casual settings.

"It can do everything you want it to do," said Patricia Goettel, owner of Patricia Boutique in Aspinwall, Pa. "It always looks fresh. It works with all complexions."

This season she's carrying Finley, a California line that makes four new styles each month and then retires the patterns.

"They're tailored and they're feminine at the same time, which is hard to do right," said Goettel. "They remind me of something Carolina Herrera would carry at a much higher price point."

Finleys start at \$165; Herrera's range from more than \$250 for designs in her CH lifestyle brand to upward of \$800 for women's white shirts in her couture collections.

It's easy to find great white shirts for under \$50 -- some-

times much less-- at department and off-price stores.

Although the white shirt has become a must-have for women in recent decades, it has always been a wardrobe staple for men. And it is showing renewed popularity this season.

"This time --everything is cyclical -- it's a major reaction to the very bright solids and very pronounced stripes" in men's shirts, said Linda DeRefler, spokeswoman for Van Heusen and Geoffrey Beene. "It's kind of like a clean slate, and it looks fresh."

Several white shirt styles comprise a grouping in Van Heusen's men's shirt collection this season. There are everyday bright white cotton shirts, but there also are more fashion-forward textured oxfords, shiny sateens and wrinkle-free poplins.

Here are some tips on wearing and caring for white shirts:

- Solid white shirts are easier to wear than transparent whites because you can wear any color undershirt or bra.

- With white shirts worn to the office or formal affairs, men should wear solid white. If the shirt is transparent white, a solid white T-shirt beneath is appropriate.

- When dressing casually, men can wear transparent white shirts without an undershirt.

- Women should stick to solid white tops. With a transparent white top, wear a flesh-tone bra because white lingerie is distracting.
- Never wear prints or bright colors under a white shirt.

- Wash white shirts after each wearing to prevent staining. Use a delicate detergent to minimize fraying of the garment's fibers.

- Use a laundry pre-spot on soiled areas of white shirts and always wash and dry them according to label instructions.
- Line dry white shirts outdoors if the weather is suitable. The sun has a natural bleaching effect, and you can save energy at the same time.