

Style

FASHION & TRENDS



MCCLATCHY/TRIBUNE PHOTOS

To get the look worn by model Alek Wek at the recent Veuve Clicquot Polo Classic, try the Magid straw floppy hat from Loehmann's.

Relaxed but still refined

BY JENN HARRIS
MCCLATCHY NEWS SERVICE

Wednesday was the official start of summer, and with it comes an entire social calendar full of outdoor parties and reasons to give your warm-weather wardrobe a chance to shine. The recent Veuve Clicquot Polo Classic in Jersey City, N.J., got a jump on the season as celebrity attendees cheered on the match in attire that ranged from summery flowing dresses to sleek shorts.

Designer and stylist Rachel Zoe walked the polo grounds in a maxi and black floppy hat, actress Minka Kelly chose a simple white lace dress and actress Zoe Saldana stood out in a plain black T-shirt and black leather shorts.

Emerging among the best-dressed of the celeb bunch was model Alek Wek, in a cream-colored, cap-sleeve dress by Shoshanna and strappy heels. Her floppy straw hat was a functional, stylish accessory, and a black leather bracelet toughened up the girly look just a tad.

With its flattering silhouette and light color, a dress like Ms. Wek's would be an ideal piece for a dressy summer party — even one that doesn't involve polo. Look for something with romantic details, such as lace or subtle embroidery, for a similar effect. If you have less than \$100 to spend, try the Guipure lace dress from Zara.com for \$89.90 or Ladylike lace dress by Pim + Larkin from Piperlime.com for \$79.

Fun under the sun requires a versatile hat. The Magid straw floppy hat from Loehmann's for \$21.99 is an inexpensive way to keep covered. For a pair of strappy



Willy dress sandal by Chinese Laundry (\$59.93 from Endless.com)



Dimple double wrap harness cuff from Linea Pelle

sandals to wear with any dress or white linen pants, get the Chinese Laundry Women's Willy dress sandal from Endless.com for \$59.93. Ms. Wek went minimal with the accessories, forgoing a necklace and earrings for a simple black cuff. For a similar piece, get the Linea Pelle double-wrap harness cuff for \$50. It will become a staple, as easy to wear with a dress as it is with a T-shirt and jeans.



Lace dress by Pim + Larkin (\$79 at Piperlime.com)

Lose your sunglasses? Dizm Eyewear's will biodegrade

BY SUSAN CARPENTER
MCCLATCHY NEWS SERVICE

Lifeguards who rush into the water for a rescue end up losing their sunglasses, inadvertently adding to the trash in the ocean. But Dizm Eyewear (dizmeyewear.com) is hoping to change that with its new eco-collection of biodegradable sunglasses.

"The concept is that if you lose your sunglasses in the water, they'll turn into fish food once they're decomposed. If you lose them in the forest, in five or 10 years, they'd turn into biomass and be completely gone," said Jonas Lee, general manager of Dizm Eyewear in Hermosa Beach.

A sunglass line designed to bridge the gap between action sports and fashion, Dizm makes about 70 styles, 18 of which have biodegradable frames.

Dizm is still working on a biodegradable solution for its polycarbonate lenses, which present a challenge because of the need for optical clarity. Before the end of the year, Dizm hopes to switch all of its frames to plastics made from wood, cotton and palm oil.

"Our entire team is working to develop the best processes for recycling and repurposing glasses as well as to take good care of our playground," said Dizm founder Linda Larson, who is developing a collection program for its glasses to either rework and donate them to people in need or to dispose of them more ecologically than the landfill.

If composted with a backyard system, the biodegradable sunglass frames will break down over several seasons, Ms. Larson said.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Dizm sunglasses come in 70 different styles.

■ SANDALS

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her film, the woman brought back some sandals and sold them.

Ms. Hackett, 46, a former designer, wardrobe stylist and international buyer, felt called to get involved.

"There was this incredible pool of talent and yet they just needed a market," Ms. Hackett, who runs the business alone, told the News-Press by phone from Los Angeles, where she lives. "That's where I came in. I just wanted to do something that would better the world in some way ... and here were all these women who were so disenfranchised, some of them had HIV, many of them were single mothers, and they had these amazing talents and no one to help."

Ms. Hackett bought 30 pairs that night and thus her business, which now employs different artisans and designs, began. She went to Africa in May 2008. After traveling to Kenya 11 times, she has devoted her career to Global Girls ever since. She employs about 170 artisans to make the shoes, paying them fair trade wages in hopes of helping them help themselves.

"If I see people on the street who are begging, which really pains me, I do try to get them to our factory somehow," Ms. Hackett said. "It doesn't always work, but I try."

The sandals, which are all handmade, are not the only merchandise Ms. Hackett sells. Global Girls also includes handmade jewelry made of horn, bone and beads, as well as handbags made from Kuba cloth, a handwoven raffia cloth made by the Kuba people of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The handbags come in six styles, from clutches to beach bags.

Ms. Hackett, who designs the line, donates a portion of sales on a monthly basis to charitable organizations such as The Sunshine Kids, Turn the Page Uganda and NextAid.

Helping those in need



COURTESY PHOTO

Linda Hackett, on left, works with some of her beaders in 2010.

"I recognize the beauty and the allure of handmade because of the soulfulness that's present."

Linda Hackett

Other than giving back, Ms. Hackett says one of the joys of what she does is related to selling handmade fashions.

"I recognize the beauty and the allure of handmade because of the soulfulness that's present," she said. "Anything that's created by hand is ultimately an expression of the artist that's making it."

She says the wear is the best part of the sandals, which come in women's sizes five through 11 and girls sizes seven through four (which cost \$39 to \$49), because they last a long time. People who bought Global Girls sandals when Ms. Hackett first started selling them in 2008 still wear the same pair frequently, she said.

Global Girls is sold in five countries other than the United States: Germany, Spain, Italy, France and Japan.

Ms. Hackett says her sandals

are a hit at Fiesta. She's manned a booth at De la Guerra Plaza the last few years and plans to come again this year.

"I'm like mobbed; it's one of my biggest markets!" the designer, who declined to share sales figures, exclaimed.

The best part of her job, though, is helping those in need. Ms. Hackett said that once many of the artisans can pay for their family's basic needs, they start paying for their children's education.

"That's huge; that's changing the world," she said. "You can't change the world in big ways overnight, but you can chip at it."

"That's what I'm most proud of, helping to change the world in a very slow and small way. But it's definitely making an impact."

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LINDA HACKETT PHOTOS

Penny Bag, \$229



Clutch, \$119



Crossbody bag, \$179



Drawstring bag, \$198

One-upper looking for second chance

Dear Carolyn:
Over the past couple of years, I have come to realize I contribute too much to conversations, generally in a "one-upping" situation. This was recently confirmed by a friend. Besides just shutting up when I feel like speaking up, what are some other strategies I can use? I know my reputation as a one-upper will stay with me for quite some time.

— One-Upper

You've got the right idea — biting your tongue when you'd normally repeat your signature mistake is the first step in retraining yourself socially. Once

you've got that down, though, it's important to come up with something to replace your faux-pas, since just sitting there inertly isn't ideal, either.

The most effective changes are the ones that work with, versus against, your natural impulses. Given that your impulse is to make things about you, it might work to take what you're about to say about yourself, and instead frame it as a question about the other person. For example, if you're about to say, "I had that same thing happen to me, and it was totally surreal," you can say, "That sounds surreal

— how do you feel about it?"

Sometimes you'll come up empty, which is OK, because you'll at least be thinking of the other person, which might help you contribute later in the conversation. And every time you do resist talking about yourself, you will chip away at your reputation for being self-centered — both on the surface and at its source, because merely forming the questions will turn your attention off you.

If that's not enough — if you still feel the impulse to gain an advantage

— then it's time for a change of heart, versus a change of tactics.



TELL ME ABOUT IT
Carolyn Hax

As always, the change has to start with the answer to this question: What is the void that you hope outside approval can fill?

For what it's worth: Often people who "contribute too much" as you have are actually not needy, but instead socially awkward, and it comes out as "That reminds me of me"-type one-upsmanship and bluster. If that's the case with you, then orienting yourself toward asking questions (as long as they aren't intrusive ones, a whole other issue) will likely suffice.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com or chat with her online at 9 a.m. each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

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