

# 5 Key Pieces to Summer Styling

by Melody Lesser

*Ever notice how some women just seem to know how to put an outfit together? They know the latest trends and sport some of the newest styles, yet they manage to be classic and up-to-the-minute all at once. These women know how to shop. They can size up a selling floor in two seconds flat, and walk out carrying a week's worth of pieces that not only work with what's already in their closets, but can also be the basis for an entire new wardrobe.*

**How we envy them as we inspect our own summer wearables and question the thought process behind some of our past purchases. Does one really need leopard printed cropped pants or an orange multi-tiered peasant skirt embellished with faux turquoise stones?**

## WHAT WERE WE THINKING?

Summer dressing is all about keeping our cool while looking stylish. Lightweight fabrics, easy silhouettes and brighter colors are the hallmarks of warm weather fashion. So, here we are, at the height and heat of the season, with many more hot, hazy and humid days ahead. In an effort to help you infuse your summer wardrobe with new life, PhillyFIT Magazine queried the experts. We asked prominent local retailers to tell us their five fashion picks for a fabulous summer wardrobe.

*If you want to know about the styles and trends, read on ...*

## A.J.'s

253 Second Street Pike, Southampton, PA  
215-364-2775

Joy Kligman, Adrienne Silverstein - Owners

1. A great pair of jeans is a wardrobe staple. It can be cropped for warm weather dressing, but it doesn't have to be. There are a lot of different styles for jeans this season from wide legs to skinny ones. Finding the most flattering cut depends on your body type, but with so many to choose from, jeans are a great choice.
2. Every woman needs a great looking blazer for summer dressing. There are a lot of styles from which to choose. It can be constructed, unconstructed, cropped or longer. A blazer will take you from the office to dinner and will complete an outfit.
3. The Bermuda short is back this season. Choose one with or without a cuff. Dress it up with heels or wear it more casually. It's a great look that works for many body types.
4. A casual, but dressier outfit can take you to a bridal shower or to dinner. A two-piece outfit, such as anything from our line

Fresh Produce, has mix and match jackets, pants, cargo pants (cropped and long) to coordinate with different color tee shirts/sweatshirts. It's easy dressing that every woman must have in her wardrobe.

5. A soft, feminine blouse updates a wardrobe and works well with staples such as black pants. It's a must for its versatility and style potential.

## Blush

Bari Granoff, Owner  
Jen Weisenbach, Manager/Buyer  
Centerton Square Shopping Plaza  
Mount Laurel, NJ  
856-222-0500

1. A dress for summer and into the fall is the dress. Dresses are shorter - usually above the knee. Take a look at the empire or baby doll styles.
2. Another key item is a white blouse or dressy shirt that can be worn open as a jacket. Pair it with a sparkly skirt and it will tone down the dressier piece. It's an all-purpose wardrobe staple that can take you from poolside to dinner.
3. Shop for a wide leg pant. We have a great one in linen; denim is also popular. The wide leg will continue to be important this coming fall. It's worn a little longer than a cropped leg, with a heel to balance out the width. Pants' waists are coming up a little bit, but are still about two fingers below the belly button. We're not seeing anymore "butt crack pants," thank goodness.
4. Another key item is the cropped jacket. This looks great with wide pants. Look for one with a bracelet sleeve, which is almost as short as a cropped sleeve, to show off the bracelet.
5. As for accessories, anything metallic, from bags to shoes to belts, is important for summer. They look great with white. The metallic trend continues into the fall.

## Intrigue

Buckingham Green, Route 202  
Buckingham, PA  
215-794-0422

## Debbie Matczak-Ruth, Annette Matczak, Co-owners

1. Color is important. This season, the color is white. From a jacket to accessories to shorts, anything white is great. White eyelet is fabulous in a jacket, blouse or a dress. Gold and silver metallics are also important. A linen jacket with a metallic thread captures the look and goes well with other pieces. The look carries through for fall when metallic leather jackets will be key. For summer, shop for gold or silver paired with white.
2. Shop for shorts this season, especially knee shorts or short shorts. You can wear a knee short for casual occasions or dress it up with a pair of heels. Pair it with a short, shaped jacket and it replaces the pencil skirt to become the "new suit." Choose a wedge heel or strappy sandal to complete the look for a dressier occasion. It's a look that most women can wear. It looks fabulous if you're short, especially with a high heel. You can also wear it with a ballerina flat, especially if you're tall.
3. Sixties-inspired dresses are another key item this summer. Wear them dressy with a heel or more casually with a flat. Pair a shorter retro print dress with a jean. I love the maxi dress for the summer because it's so fresh looking on a hot day. Wear it with a casual flat for day and a jeweled flat or wedge heel for evening. Dresses make you feel pulled together without a lot of thought.
4. Ruffles in blouses and jackets are another important look and one that's really feminine. Pair a ruffled blouse or jacket with a slim skirt or tailored pant. Tunics are easy summer dressing with a pencil pant or slim short. It's no fuss, easy to wear and cool - not only cool-looking. Pair it with linen for a great look and accessorize it with a gold braided chain belt slung over the hip.
5. Patent leather is huge in handbags, belts and shoes and will continue into the fall. It's great to do a patent bag with patent shoes or a patent belt. Important colors for this accessory are white, black and red.

## Linda Mazaud Boutique

366 Second Street Pike  
Southampton, PA  
215-322-4199  
Linda Mazaud, Owner

1. Dresses are very important and this season they're available from little summer halters in cotton to the baby doll look. We're seeing mothers shopping for the look with their older daughters. The mother would choose something more sophisticated in the dress while the daughter can wear the baby doll.
2. The empire tee shirt is a summer fashion must-have that looks great with a belt right under the bust line. We like it with a patent belt or one of the new stretch belts that is very flattering and easy to wear.
3. The straight leg jean is still very hot, but coming up the track is the wide leg jean. It's cut a little higher on the waist and is very fashionable.
4. A jacket is a key piece that you can put over anything. From a trench coat blazer in a shimmery, iridescent material to the shorter trapeze jacket, it can't be beat for versatility and good looks.
5. The long short, also called the Bermuda short, is very fashion-

forward this season. We like it worn with heels and a little jacket and tank. It also looks great with a tapered, longer top. Wear it instead of a short skirt for a great look.

## There you have it.

The experts have spoken.  
Now, get out and go shopping.



**MELODY LESSER** has an extensive background in magazine writing and has contributed to nationally known publications including *Glamour*, *Bride's*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Women's Wear Daily*. She has also written for newspapers and radio as well as several internet sites. She is best known for her work covering the fashion, jewelry, and health and fitness industries. Philadelphia area readers may recognize her work from *BUCKS*, *Philadelphia STYLE* and *TIMES Philadelphia Magazines*. A native New Yorker who transplanted to the area a dozen years ago, Melody first worked with Jami as the senior editor and writer for *PHILLY HEALTH & FITNESS Magazine* and is thrilled to be working with her again.