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Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Newest store makes 'Waves' on Main Street

Surf's up for artisans, shoppers at Wakefield's Waves of Creation

By MATT WUNSCH

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — Waves of Creation has opened its doors to the public just in time for shoppers to pick out the perfect Mother's Day or Graduation Day gift—a handcrafted gem by local artisans that might make more of a lasting impression than a hanging geranium or a bottle of champagne.

The store, located at 330 Main Street, is the brainchild of South Kingstown resident Laura Winward, who specializes in natural soap and candle making. She hopes the store will serve as a highly visible, year-round venue for local artists and also provide the public with the opportunity to buy local handcrafted gifts.

"I've been doing craft shows for the better part of 20 years," said Winward during an interview at the store last week. "The show market has gotten really difficult and really seasonal, so I started looking at real estate with the idea of opening a small store with just my stuff."

Winward, whose business The Scented Bath specializes in natural products, originally wanted a space of about 250 square feet in size. But soon the space on Main Street became available—nearly three times that size—and she decided to make it more of a collective endeavor. "So I just started to recruit

people," she said. "The real basis of it is to give local artisans a place year round where they can display and sell their things."

The synergy of local artisans attracting a local clientele is the foundation of Waves of Creation, and if you browse through the store you will find not only quantity but also quality of work.

Over 20 local artisans from Rhode Island, northeast Connecticut and southeastern Massachusetts have works for sale at the store. The walls and shelves are lined with jewelry, puppets, copper works, pottery, charcoal prints, photography, stained glass, purses, tie dye and even hot sauce.

The goal is to keep the inventory fresh, original and ever-changing.

"We have a jurying process, a panel that goes through everything so that I'm not biased in what my personal opinion is of what I like or don't like," Winward said. "It will continue to change and morph and we'll bring in new people. What we're hoping it becomes is a place where every time you walk in you see something different. It should always be changing."

Winward hopes between the foot traffic on Main Street and the word-of-mouth advertising that comes with it, Waves of Creation will be a successful endeavor.

"It's a hard economy right now," she said, "but people do value the quality of a handcrafted gift and they also value knowing they are supporting their friends and neighbors."

Winward said that she has



Laura Winward, above, proprietor of The Scented Bath, has just opened Waves of Creation, located at 330 Main St., Wakefield. Spring hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Call 284-3844 for more information.



made some of her closest friends at craft shows and hopes to make some new ones in her latest venture.

"That's the fun part, the camaraderie," she added. Waves of Creation is located at 330 Main St., Wakefield. The



Some of the creations offered by the artisans who are displaying their items at Waves of Creation in downtown Wakefield.

store's spring hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. There will be a Grand Opening Celebration on Memorial Day weekend with giveaways, raffles and a ribbon cutting.

For more information, contact Laura Winward at 284-3844 or by email at wavescreation@msn.com.



ARTISANS @ WAVES OF CREATION

List of artisans participating in the Spring 2008 season at Waves of Creation, 330 Main St., Wakefield.
Anne Made Designs: Anne Viens, jewelry
Artful Ramblings: Mary Shallowski, jewelry
D.S. Brennan Photography:

Diana Brennan, black and white photography
John Cardin: quilts
LBF Glass: Laura Fernandez, stained glass fish
Ferrara: Tony Ferrara, stained glass and mesh jewelry
Jesse Hashagan: Painting/graphic

design
Barbara Laberge: charcoal prints
Lodestar Wovens: Carol Mania, puppets
Off Your Rocker Wood Workings: Mike Lynch, wood kitchen things
Pots-o-Pens: Norma McEntee, flower pens
Melkiem Kiln

Works Clay Studio: Lyndsay Rae Meikiem, pottery
Pinnacle Beads: Steve Viens, slumped bottles
Edgeworks Glass: Kyle Reslow, blown glass
Hildl's Pix: Hildi Rezendes, cards, bookmarks, and photographs

YaYa Originals: Dotti Deveneaux, purses, security blankets, critter pillows
Sauce on the Side: Aimee Fontaine, RI Red hot sauce and Cowboy Ketchup
Shibori Designs: Anna Lisa Sorenson, shibori tie-dye

Metal Worx: Rae Ellen Trotter, copper works
The Scented Bath: Laura Winward, candles and body products
Angelic Creations: Christine Wisher, country art
Trinkets, Etc: Stephanie White, whimsical pottery