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Maumee Uptown Business Spotlight



Twin sisters Ann (left) and Anita Tristan own Bonita Bead Boutique, a unique jewelry retail shop in uptown Maumee featuring loose beads, ready-made jewelry, antique pieces and spiritual beads with a purpose.

MIRROR PHOTOS BY NANCY GAGNET



The uptown Maumee retail jewelry shop carries a huge assortment of beads, gemstones, crystal and glass.

Uptown Bead Shop Carries Beautiful Beads With A Purpose

BY NANCY GAGNET
MIRROR REPORTER

The bracelets, necklaces and pairs of earrings at Bonita Bead Boutique are much more than pretty pieces of jewelry.

"All of our beads have a story. Everything in our store has a story," said shop owner Ann Tristan.

Since opening the jewelry retail shop in uptown Maumee in 2005, Ann and her twin sister Anita Tristan have built their business with a focus on offering unique items to suit just about any taste. The store carries a huge assortment of both loose and

string beads including Czech glass and Lucite beads from Germany, as well as ivory, seed beads, sea glass, crystal glass, pearls and higher-grade gemstones, which can be inlaid in a ring, necklace or pendant setting.

The store also carries copper metal beads, pewter and gunmetal, charms and one-of-a-kind pieces by award-winning jewelry artist Susan Matych-Hager.

"A lot of people buy beads based on the energy that they give," Ann said. "If someone is looking for clarity, for example, they buy a citrine."

Carved beads can also serve as an essential oil diffuser, and when added to a bracelet can help relieve stress or aid in migraine relief, said Ann and Anita.

Unique items such as vintage pieces and antique beads from Japan and Europe dating back to the early 1930s can also be found. A large assortment of ready-made Fair Trade pieces, which are created by women working for better wages in developing countries, are also featured. In December, the store will begin carrying Same Sky, a line of jewelry from Africa that benefits women there.

"Our motto is to work with a purpose, to create with a purpose. That's what we try to do," Ann said.

A spiritual bead section features Buddhist prayer beads, or Malas, as well as beads to make rosaries. Ann and Anita can also create custom rosaries for special occasions, such as a First Communion, a baptism or weddings.

Their eye for design dates back to the early 1990s, when their work was featured at the Toledo Museum of Art's Collector's Corner.

"The beads inspire people," said Anita. "They're also good for healing and for therapy for those who need it."

Every month, Anita provides bead therapy services to women who have babies



Always on hand are beautiful ready-to-wear pieces, which are perfect for special occasions, everyday living and special gift giving.

receiving care in the Toledo Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"We reach out to them and work with them and it's been very successful. Some of them are there for months and just to get them out of their room, to have something a little different to clear their mind, makes a difference," Anita said.

Gemstones specific to aiding in the healing process are used, she said.

"It could be something to help them with stress level, or it can help give them confidence to relieve the negative that they feel," Anita said.

The boutique's customers range from designers work-

ing to create a specific project to those interested in purchasing a custom-made piece for a special occasion. Some customers want to learn how to make jewelry and might be trying it for the first time, and some come back every year for a special gift.

Repair services for broken or damaged jewelry are provided, as well as watch repair and knot pearl services for pearl necklaces.

Bead classes and workshops are also offered for both children and adults.

"I think many people have really great intentions to come in and when they finally make it, they always

ask themselves, 'Why did I take so long?' and I tell them that it's OK. 'You're here now. Today was the day,'" Ann said.

Bonita Bead Boutique is located at 215 Conant St. in uptown Maumee.

Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

More information can be found on the shop's website at www.bonitabeadboutique.com and on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest.

To contact the store directly, please call (419) 887-4000.

Uptown Update

THE LATEST NEWS IN UPTOWN MAUMEE

MUBA Hosts Monthly Membership Meetings

Maumee Uptown Business Association (MUBA) membership meetings are open to all MUBA members. The meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

In September, the meeting will take place at Jacky's Depot, 130 W. Dudley St., Maumee.

Maumee Film Festival Planned In September

The 2016 Maumee Film Festival will be held on Saturday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m. The festival celebrates the art of creativity, filmmaking and storytelling. It allows aspiring filmmakers the unique opportunity to see their work projected on a movie screen in the iconic and beautiful Maumee Indoor Theater.

Over 20 short films will be screened featuring films from local filmmakers as well as those from Los Angeles and Pittsburgh.

Admission is \$6.00. Tickets can be purchased online at www.maumeefilmfestival.com or at the door.