



Western Sussex Chamber of Commerce

Unique Jewelry owner brings over 30 years of experience to marina

By Susan Ash
RE/MAX Above & Beyond/WSCC Community Involvement Committee

A jewel arrived at the Nanticoke River Public Marina this past summer.

Kim Paden, a unique, charming goldsmith/platinumsmith/silversmith has opened her shop, Unique Jewelry, at the marina in Blades. Paden, who moved to Seaford from Westminster, Md., brings over 30 years of experience along with her love for creating and working with beautiful things.

In 1980, Kim completed her Marine Corps years at 29 in Palms, Calif. and was seeking employment. The local jeweler, Ross Stockwell, hired her as an apprentice to see if she had an aptitude for the trade. Not only did Kim have the aptitude, she found a new career. From Stockwell, Kim learned it was important to give customers value for their money.

According to Kim, the business environment is different from "the old days" in that pricing is much more competitive. You can now purchase jewelry easily on the internet. However, says Kim, the goldsmith is missing and can't provide a personal touch online. She takes great care in explaining to customers the details of the repair and what can or cannot be done to a piece. Customers know that Kim has their best interests at heart.

Kim's main repairs are precious and semi-precious metals and gemstones. Her wide range of knowledge in repairs is what sets her apart from the competition and the internet. She recently repaired an Ohmmeter, an instrument which is widely used to check a complete circuit or to measure the resistance of a circuit element. It's not a piece of jewelry but, she says, "If I can fix it, I'll fix it. If I can't, I'll tell you I can't." That's the genuine, authentic friendly quality that will draw you in.

When asked how technology has affected the jewelry business she says that you have to be willing to embrace the new, especially if it will enhance the old way of doing things. She recently purchased

a new Laser Star welder and received a certification in Rhode Island that will give her the ability to make repairs in a way the torch could not.

Kim had a shop in a small town in Maryland and when she decided to 'semi-retire' to Delaware, she never imagined the overwhelming response from her old community to wish her well. Many people stopped by just to tell her how much she meant to them. Kim recalls one touching story in particular. A family member of a dying woman whose wish was to be buried with her ring came to her. Unfortunately, the ring needed to be resized. Kim quickly went to the woman's bedside to measure her finger, made the repair, and returned the ring. The family was so grateful for her compassion.

Kim's mentor, Ross Stockwell passed away recently at the age of 96. Stockwell holds a special place in Kim's heart and I believe she will continue to follow in his footsteps and work well past the age of retirement because she shares his love of beautiful things to create and repair.

Kim enjoys sharing the history of a piece with her customers. This love of history is what excites her about Seaford. New to the Chamber, you will see her at some of the events since she also cares for her aging mother. Chamber mixers and Ross Mansion are at the top of her list.

Recreating or transforming a piece and then seeing the face of the customer in awe over the piece gives her great satisfaction. Getting to know the people, talking 'life' with them, helping them, being a part of a close knit community, and fulfilling her motto of, "creating unique jewelry for the individual," is why she settled in Seaford — she will fit right in, in our wonderful community.

Visit Kim at her shop Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Arrangements can be made to see her at other times. She can be reached by phone at 302-702-2928 and mail at ujtd@msn.com.



Unique Jewelry owner Kim Paden is shown with examples of her work. Paden, who has over 30 years of experience of creating and working with beautiful things, opened Unique Jewelry at the Blades marina last summer.

Western Sussex Chamber of Commerce

Upcoming Events

- Special Business and Economic Development meeting at Heritage Shores (sold out)
 - Member Services Committee meeting Tuesday, 2/25 at noon
 - Bike and Brew Committee meeting Thursday, 2/27 at 9 a.m.
 - Community Involvement Committee meeting Tuesday, 3/3 at 8 a.m.
 - Tourism Committee meeting Thursday, 3/5
- To join any of these committees, email admin@westernsussexcoc.com.

New Chamber Members

Mr. Mulch
Simply Elegant Events
Habitat for Humanity
Seely Homes, LLC

Send us your news

Readers are invited to send any news that they would like to see featured in the Star. Items can be e-mailed to mmcclure@mspublications.com.



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