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Unlock the Door to Wonder

The Gold Door is a treasure chest of jewelry and decorative arts at 1434 S.E. 37th Ave.

For 13 years, gay owner Jerry Shover has brought exciting ethnographic, tribal and folk art and gemstone jewelry to his store. "I've been a junker ever since I was a kid," says Shover, who started traveling the world 15 years ago. "Through their art, you really get a feeling of what people are about."

Myriad colors hit you when you walk in the door. From masks to skulls to cases of fabulous jewelry, there appears to be something for everyone. "Every piece is handpicked by me or the three assistant managers," Shover says.

Every year, Shover, who says he is drawn to places with roots in Afro-Caribbean religions, travels 120,000 miles in search of merchandise. He says he gets as close to the source as possible by dealing with grassroots artists.

Originally from Michigan, Shover moved to Portland in 1989 after years in California at the beginning of Portland's "I hate Californians" period. He says his favorite destination is Brazil, where he met his partner, Julio Cesar. His next big trip is to Egypt and Ethiopia next month to find something "completely new and different."

Shover says The Gold Door is a big supporter of the theater and a major sponsor of Portland's queer film festival. "We donate freely to gay and lesbian health, arts and social services organizations," he adds. "Besides doing retail and keeping the prices good, we donate to 10 to 15 local nonprofit organizations per month."

According to Shover, jewelry is the big attraction for his customers. "We have such a dedicated customer base. Some will come in every payday or on all gift-giving occasions," he says. "Come in and stay for an hour and a half. Bring visitors. It's like a museum."

Quality Children's Resale Comes to Town

Tracy Altman and her girlfriend, Michelle Chapin, opened Hoot-N-Annie on Nov. 1. The

store provides quality resale and some new children's clothes at 8426 S.W. 22nd Ave.

"Being in resale clothing is gratifying because we're recycling and providing an economical service to the community," says Altman.

Originally from Portland, Altman owned a children's consignment store called Gingerbread Express when she was in her mid-20s. "I really

loved it, but I was putting everything into it and burned out quickly." Altman later realized it was her favorite job.

Chapin is a certified personal trainer for

**business
 watch**



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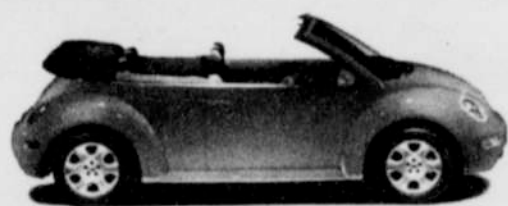
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Hoot-N-Annie co-owner Michelle Chapin brings quality children's resale clothing to town.

children and adults and wanted to open a performance studio for kids to focus on physical fitness and self-expression. The two took a business course together and decided to open Hoot-N-Annie with the hopes of expanding it to incorporate such work with kids in the future.

"It's easy to compromise on quality, especially in children's resale," says Altman, "but we have really high standards in what we accept." She adds that Hoot-N-Annie is different from other resale shops because it is not run on consignment. "People get store credit right away—it's an instant-gratification model—so we can take clothes for all seasons and take on the responsibility of storing clothes until they're appropriate so parents don't have to do extra work."

Altman, who worked on 1992's No on 9 and 1994's No on 13 campaigns, says she looks forward to donating to more charities, including those in the sexual minorities community. "Another aspect to the shop is that next year people will have the ability to donate clothing, which we would put on consignment and have different charities receive cash payments from the sales. Clothes usually get donated if they don't sell, but organizations often need money instead of in-kind donations."

Fulfill Your Fantasy

Tracy Blakeslee owns eight Fantasy for Adults Only stores, six of which are in Portland. He opened the first of the adult stores in Missoula, Mont., in 1985 and has been helping people live out their fantasies ever since.

"In '87, I decided I wasn't going to find true love



Jerry Shover travels the world for Gold Door merchandise.