

A piece of 'heart'

Ashriver Woodworks offers handmade goods, a bookstore, live music

BY HEATHER DOUGLAS

At Ashriver Woodworks in Astoria, furniture pieces, bowls and other works are more than just functional items.

"When buying from a maker, you are buying hundreds of hours of failures and experimentation, days, weeks and months of frustrations and moments of pure joy," Ashriver Woodworks co-owner Chris Bjorkman said.

Woodworking had been in Delaney Mahncke's family for decades when he began crafting from a Castle Rock, Washington, garage in 2019. The Ashriver Woodworks founder and master woodworker then made a family move to Astoria in 2020.

Now co-owned by his wife, Amy Long-

'YOU AREN'T JUST BUYING A THING. YOU ARE BUYING A PIECE OF 'HEART,' PART OF A SOUL, A MOMENT OF SOMEONE'S LIFE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU ARE BUYING THE MAKER MORE TIME TO DO SOMETHING THEY LOVE.'

Chris Bjorkman, co-owner, Ashriver Woodworks

street, sister, Naomi Mahncke, and her spouse, Chris Bjorkman, the shop grew from a homestead near Svensen. "We decided on Astoria because of our love of the city, the rich culture, the beautiful landscapes and its storied past. We felt that this would be the perfect place to grow our business and raise our families," Bjorkman said of the family's choice of shop location.

Three families now live and work on 2 acres, the four owners along with their children as well as Naomi and Delaney's parents. Ashriver Woodworks' items are made in a shop on the property, surrounded by wildlife. "Our chickens, ducks and a kind old bunny

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ABOVE: The storefront of Ashriver Woodworks in Astoria.

LEFT: From left, Chris Bjorkman, Naomi Mahncke, Delaney Mahncke and Amy Longstreet pose with their children outside of Ashriver Woodworks.

Ashriver Woodworks

229 14th St., Astoria

Open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. The shop is closed during some Astoria Sunday Market events.

www.ashriverwoodworks.com