



Everything Michigan

Day Trip: Marathon shopping adventure to South Bend, Ind., results in unusual finds

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By **Phyllis Rose | Special to the Kalamazoo Gazette**

SOUTH BEND — The Best-Ever Olympic Shopping Team is officially in training for the holiday season. And what better place to start than South Bend, home of the National College Football Hall of Fame.

When the Hall of Fame moves to Atlanta in two years, maybe its current building can become the National Shopping Hall of Fame, and Best-Ever Friend Dave and I could be among its first inductees.

But our goal on this training run was to find unusual gifts for those who have everything.





Appropriately, our tour started across from the Hall of Fame at the Mistletoe Market, 122 S. Michigan St. Here, it's easy to find unusual gifts made by the seven artisans whose work is for sale.

Colorful bracelets and earrings from Two and a Half Sisters were among the gifts I purchased, along with a beautiful Christmas wreath from Wreaths by Xanadu and its crafter, Candy Sommers, who told us about her wreaths. Because the crafters staff the market, it's fun to talk to them about their work.

Other unusual gifts from this shop are the alpaca gloves or hats from Alpacas of Alagaesia. Each item's tag tells about the alpaca which provided the yarn, including his name.

To get to Made in Michiana, 123 S. Michigan St., we had to pass through the South Bend Chocolate Company, 122 S. Michigan St. Resisting chocolates, I bought the no-calorie sweatshirt instead.

Made in Michiana is filled with colorful handmade toys, jewelry, artwork and garden art. I liked the China Garden Flowers made by Kim Karimi of

IF YOU GO

South Bend shopping

Distance: About 75 miles, or a 1 1/2-hour drive, from Kalamazoo.

Directions: Go south on U.S. 131 to the Indiana toll road, I-80/90. Go west to Exit 77. Turn right onto IN-933/US-31BR. Turn left onto

reCYCLED Garden Art. Plates, saucers and vases are glued together to look like flowers and then attached to a wooden pole "stem."

The only bad thing about this shop was the store dog, Petey, who ignored Best-Ever Dog Lover Dave, which nearly broke Dave's heart.

But he recovered, and we drove to what is becoming a shopping destination: East Bank Village.

We started at Inspire Me, 520 E. Colfax Ave., a designer clothing shop in a historic home, once owned by local engineer R. Otto Probst, whose golf library is now at the PGA Museum in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Today, the home draws those looking for Brighton jewelry or designer clothing such as Chan Luu or Custo. Clerks Pam Righetti and Elissa Brown graciously told us about their store while waiting on customers.

Here, a "Blessing Bracelet" caught my attention. The bracelet's beads are to

West Washington Street, then right onto South Michigan.

To Colfax Avenue: Go north on Michigan Street. Turn right onto Colfax.

To Jefferson Boulevard: From Colfax Avenue, go south on Hill Street. At Jefferson Boulevard, turn left for the shops or right for the restaurant at the corner of Jefferson Boulevard and South Niles Avenue.

For more information:

- Mistletoe Market
574-310-9755

Website

- Made in Michiana
574-286-8388

Website

- East Bank Village

Website

- East Bank Emporium
Restaurant
574-234-9000

Website

remind you of special blessings.

Next door, entering Circa Arts, 528 E. Colfax, we had to be careful not to let Zoe, the cat, escape. She didn't.

In this shop, we loved the beautiful artwork by about 40 local artists, especially the tile work, whether a French country scene or a fireplace, much of it by owner Kathy Reddy White.

Her twin sister, Patty Reddy, does cat caricatures, "Catalogicals," which would make wonderful gifts for cat lovers. You can even have your own cat done in a caricature.

At junk





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In East Bank Village, Inspire Me, a designer women's clothing boutique, is located in a historic home once owned by local engineer R. Otto Probst.

EVOLUTION/Carpenter Gothic, in the same building as Circa Arts, owner Linda Sherck explained how a job loss led to their store, where they give new life to old things. They have artfully displayed vintage tableware and decorations.

Knocking on the workshop door at Piser Designs, 516 E. Colfax, we were greeted by owner Larry Piser. He took us into his showroom, a home where his beautiful custom furniture, cabinetry and shelving are displayed. He describes his style as "modern Asian," but it could easily fit into any decor.

Saying goodbye to Larry, we had two other shops to visit: Just Goods, 714 E. Jefferson, and Marigolds, 722 E. Jefferson.

Becky Reibold, owner of Just Goods, showed us her store's fair labor and Earth-friendly products, from wooden toys to potholders made from felted sweaters to Sweet Earth chocolates. You can guess what we bought.

Mari Vogel, owner of Marigolds, a home and garden shop, has a unique two-level shop. The upper level, once an apartment, features kitchen items and cookware. One item which intrigued us was a Mason jar lid with a solar

powered light. You screw it onto a jar for a unique nightlight. That's how Mari uses hers. You could get creative and put decorative items inside the jar such as pine cones or leaves.

By this time, we were hungry so we ate at East Bank Emporium, 121 S. Niles Ave. At a table overlooking the St. Joseph River, we had a lovely meal: French onion soup and Polynesian chicken for me, and a chopped steak covered with mushroom sauce and cheddar cheese for Dave. By now, you can guess our dessert choices: chocolate fudge cake for me and ice cream for Dave.

In the same building are three lovely shops to stroll through: Wear Abouts, The Mole Hole and the Lace Cottage.

Our first shopping marathon of the season was a success. By Christmas, we'll be in great shape for our induction into the Shoppers Hall of Fame.

*Send Phyllis Rose an **email**.*

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