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Dani Johnson, Owner 142 E. State St., Sharon, PA <u>thewanderingsoulshop@gmail.com</u>; (724) 979–4039 <u>thewanderingsoulshop.com</u>



The Wandering Soul: Books, Gifts & Furniture announces summer events including Meet the Author Book Signing, Astrology Mixer & More

Dani Johnson, store owner, will host Book Swap to celebrate 6 months in business June 2

ARPA-funded shop offers more by sharing space with pop ups Robin's Refills; Outlined Identity Cosmetic Tattoos

SHARON – The Wandering Soul: Books, Gifts & Furniture, 142 E. State St. Sharon is announcing their summer events for 2023 including a Meet the Author book signing event with social media sensation Chelsea Banning and a Book Swap to celebrate their 6-month anniversary.

The ARPA-funded Sharon business, owned by longtime Sharon resident Dani Johnson, continues to expand its product line and class offerings since opening in November 2022. "Besides the close to 500 books in inventory, we also have more than 15 artists that have their work set up throughout my shop," Johnson said, referring to items such as furniture, jewelry, candles, home décor, wall hangings, hats, stickers among other retail items. "I love that visitors can stop in to purchase a book and leave with stickers too; or pop in for a workshop and find a gift they can buy for a loved one."

Johnson will be celebrating 6 months in business with her first ever Book Swap held 5-8 PM Friday, June 2. "The details are simple," she said. "Just show up with a book or two you are willing to part with and swap it for another one from someone else." There will be light snacks during the free event, plus a gift with any store purchase.

The shop will also host a lineup of summer events including an Astrology Mixer, a fun horoscope info event, and a Meet the Author book signing with social media sensation Chelsea Banning in July. Fantasy author Banning became famous when she posted on Twitter about a poorly attended book signing in December 2022. Famous authors such as Stephen King, Margaret Atwood, and Neil Gaiman, retweeted her post and shared their own similar stories. The exposure hugely increased her book sales and book event attendance.

"I had planned to host author events and decided to reach out to Ms. Banning since she is located nearby in Ohio to be the first one to kick them off," Johnson said, adding that the Meet the Author event will be held 5:30 – 7 PM Thursday, July 27. Johnson, a published poetry author, plans to do more author events throughout the year.

Other events include:

Thursday, June 8: Strawberry Summer Paint & Sip. Sunday, June 18: Pop Up Shop Lola & Co. Designs during the Father's Day Car Show event in Sharon Thursday, June 22: Rock Painting Workshop Saturday, July 1: Pop Up at the Shenango Riverfront Fireworks Celebration Thursday, July 13: Hermitage Night Market Friday, July 14: Astrology Mixer Saturday, July 22: In-store popups including Lola & Co Designs and Spray Painting Tattoos during the first Waterfire Sharon PA event Thursday, July 27: Meet the Author Event w/Chelsea Banning Wednesday, Aug. 9: Vision Board Post Cards Workshop Saturday, Aug. 26: Candle Making Workshop

Besides her classes and her own retail offerings, Johnson has also partnered with two pop ups to provide a brick & mortar location for them and additional offerings for The Wandering Soul. These include Robin's Refills – A zero-waste shop that sells refillable bath & body and household cleaning supplies on Fridays and Saturdays – and Outlined Identity Cosmetic Tattoos w/ certified permanent makeup artist & aesthetician Heather Davison. Also a hairstylist in Hermitage, Davison provides permanent makeup such as lip color, brows and eyeliner on Mondays and most evenings by appointment in The Wandering Soul location in Sharon.

"Partnering with other entrepreneurs gives me more to offer my customers and helps support other business owners too," said Johnson, adding that 'thinking outside the box' is especially important for her business to succeed. Other offerings she's developing include partnering with other bookstores in neighboring counties to create a 'Book Store Tour" with customers getting a special coupon card when they visit a certain number of stores with a purchase, they'll earn a discount or free gift and more workshops.

"I plan to offer others in poetry, creative writing, storytelling, and more," she said. "I have pride in where I live, and it makes me extremely grateful to be a part of all the things happening in our community."

The Wandering Soul: Books, Gifts & Furniture 142. E. State St. Sharon. Store hours are noon – 6 PM Wednesday – Friday and noon-4 PM Saturday. Plus open Sundays for special events such as the Sharon Father's Day Car Show June 18.

Get more details at <u>https://thewanderingsoulshop.com</u>, or contact Dani Johnson at <u>thewanderingsoulshop@gmail.com</u> or 724-979-4039

Visit her on Facebook (The Wandering Soul-Books,Gifts & Furniture) and Instagram (the_wandering_soul_shop)

Robin's Refills: <u>https://www.facebook.com/RobinsRefills</u> or robinsrefills@gmail.com Outlined Identity Cosmetic Tattoos: <u>https://www.facebook.com/hldhairr</u> or 724.877.6898