

with your Thanksgiving ambience

only one who knows how to sell to customers and how to make bouquets," Thao said. "She was 11 years old the first time she came to the Market, but my other children all work hard, too, including the baby who is in high school."

Since 1980, Bao and Thai Thao have lived in the U.S. after leaving war-torn Laos. "It was very bad, so we left and lived three years in Thailand in a camp, then one year in Salem, Ore., before moving to Seattle," she said. "First, I sewed sweatshirts and sweatpants in Redmond before coming to the Market."

Thao welcomes special orders.

"Customers can place orders here which they pick up the next day," she said. "We can make fresh, green garlands of any length."

Lighting with beeswax sculptures

"Golden strands of woven light" is how artists Deena Manis and Talbot Uehlinger, Long Life Candles, describe intricate sculptures of light they design and create by hand from 100 percent local, non-commercial beeswax in their Olympia studio.

"These light-giving sculptures are functional because they're candles, too," said Deena Manis, Long Life Candles. "Our vision as artists is to provide a fine art light-giving sculpture from 100 percent beeswax, which is aesthetic, functional and ecologically sound."

Their candle designs, inspired by symbols and traditions from around the world, "include, for example, the Tibetan endless knot, a symbol of long life and the Celtic love knot with four hearts as traditional sources that inspire our work," said Talbot Uehlinger. "Deena and I met as potters working in clay and we translate clay handling techniques into beeswax as we weave and twist it into our light sculptures."

From the complex, eight-

braid design to tridents and vajras (Tibetan stylized lightning bolts), to winged hearts, the candles burn with a golden light that produces a delicate honey scent.

"Whatever design, each candle is created by hand because we do not use molds," said Manis. "The process is to dip, twist, braid or weave, dip again, twist, braid or weave, dip again, and so on until complete."

Respect for all peoples and the earth influences where they obtain their supplies.

"We carefully select Northwest region beekeepers, mainly in Washington and Oregon, who treat their bees with respect by using beeswax, not plastic foundations (honeycomb frames), by not feeding their bees sugar water and by pollinating ecologically sound crops," she said.

Beeswax, a renewable resource, "produces candles that burn with a golden light, three times longer than paraffin, without releasing harmful chemicals into the air—only a subtle honey scent," said Uehlinger. "Each year, we use at least a ton of beeswax we clean ourselves to grade-A quality before we start to work with it."

"We're all in stewardship with the bees, because without bees we wouldn't have Washington apples or other crops."

Careful stewardship includes all-cotton wicks, plant- and mineral-based, non-toxic pigments and no lead.

"Our votive candles are scented only with French pure essential oils or natural scents, including three new ones I've created for the holiday season: almond cappuccino, star anise and frankincense and myrrh," Manis said. "To

create almond cappuccino, I begin by recycling espresso coffee grounds from locally owned and operated coffee shops in a process that infuses beeswax with coffee essence."

The sweet heart twist design, "our most popular, is used at weddings where two flames burn the whole outline of the heart, then come together again at the base of the heart to symbolize a new union," she said. "Popular for holidays, we offer the traditional Havdalah and one-piece Menorah candles, three-tone seasonal tree twist and woven, two-tone pine cone shaped candles."

They credit their 19-year-old daughter, Yarrow, as the source of their miniature line.

"She'd ask us why we didn't make smaller candles and, when we did make smaller ones, she'd ask for them even smaller," Manis said.

During winter solstice week, Manis and Uehlinger host a three-day open house in their Olympia studio.

"We try to accommodate all the holidays, Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanza, and people are welcome to contact us for more information and directions," she said.

This holiday season, look for Manis and Uehlinger at their day stall Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Price points range from \$6 to \$150.

"Our two-and-a-half ounce votives that burn for 12 to 15 hours in a tight-fitting glass holder are \$6.20 each, while our popular nine-inch DNA coils are \$12.50 a pair," Uehlinger said. "Our eight-inch-tall by eight-inch-diameter endless knots and Gordian knots, which use six feet of cotton wick, range from \$25 to \$35 and our Tree of Life Menorahs range from \$60 to \$80."

For gallery work, custom orders or a free, one-page mail order catalog sheet, telephone Manis and Uehlinger at 360 866-1127 or e-mail LongLifeCandles@cs.com.



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