

# Unique Shopping Experience at Glass Mermaids

By Karen Prunes

*Breathe!* Open the front door to Glass Mermaids in Seabrook. Breathe in the freshness and soak up the atmosphere for an instant pick-me-up.

"The store's unique calmness entices people to come in, walk around and be awestruck," said owner Debi Sullivan. "The eclectic shop is full of surprises." Debi has taken her love of the arts and the ocean to give Bay Area Houston residents a store unlike any other.

All of these lovely pieces can be found at Glass Mermaids along with several other stunning gifts.



What can you find at Glass Mermaids? It is a wonderland of anything and everything. The spacious store is loaded with unique gifts, home décor and furnishings that are priced to delight any budget. Look around and there is so much to see; shoppers will spend a lot of time just taking it all in. Debi and Randee scout the country for the best, most unusual home décor items to bring into the store. Items are often ordered one-time only and when they are gone, they are gone, keeping inventory new, fresh and constantly changing.

Amazing one-of-a-kind chandeliers hang from the ceiling including the beautiful fixture made of 109 pieces of hand-blown glass. The nautical clocks are breathtaking. Home décor, bedding, furnishings, art including the famous mermaid prints by artist and author, Robert Kline (who appeared at the store's quarterly open house last month) are all part of the allure of Glass Mermaids.

The Gurgle Pots are a unique conversation piece that must be seen to fully appreciate as written description just does not do them justice. The store even has its own private label of bath and body products with scents that smell like pure fresh-air and ocean mist. Total sensory bliss! Glass Mermaids recognizes that customers have busy schedules and provides beautiful, complimentary gift wrapping services at checkout.

"If it's unusual, we buy it," said Debi. "One of our favorite customers (and we have scores of favorites) lost her home in Hurricane Ike. Dealing with this tragedy and caring for a seriously ill family member at the same time, she will come in and say

"Oh, I just have to have my mermaid time. That is the ultimate compliment! Just being in our store has made her life better."

The Mermaid ladies love working together. The staff (Debi Sullivan, Randee Diaz, Cathy Worthen and Cindy Schmidt) share a contagious, creative attitude. Customers come in as strangers and leave as friends. Glass Mermaids opened in 2002 when Debi became an empty-nester and found solace in her stained glass art studio. She needed a change from the norm of working day after day at Sullivan Wire Rope. Opening her front doors for air on a beautiful day unexpectedly brought people into her 200 square-foot studio wanting to buy not only her work but also her decorations. Inspired by the interest, she opened Glass Mermaids. Randee came on board about five years ago. "I found that the creative work we do is so much fun and stress relieving, I wanted to share it with others," said Debi. In five short years Debi and Randee have become great friends. The two like to say they live parallel lives due to the things they have in common.

"Our friendship was a gift that was blessed to each of us," said Randee. "We've both stepped into each other's lives for a purpose." They share the same vision for the store. Their similarities are astounding, they were just meant to be together. It is as though they were sisters. Other empty-nesters joined the fun. Cathy joined the group 3 years ago and Cindy is the newest addition. Together they complete the creative vision and maintain the balance necessary for our success.

Classes at The Glass Mermaid are offered twice

monthly. It only takes two evenings for participants to walk away with a beautiful piece that they have created. "With mosaics, it is rewarding to see people who believe they are not artistic walk away with something they are proud to have made," said Randee. "Many people come in for one project and get hooked. They keep coming back for sessions not only because they enjoy the art, but they enjoy the friendship they acquire while here. The possibilities are endless."

Parties? The Glass Mermaid has parties. A group (minimum of 6) can get together, bring snacks, cocktails and a blank slate. You set the tone for your private affair with the store and studio all to yourself. Music, art, friendship, fun...female bonding at its best, make for a memorable time!

Christmas at The Mermaids must be seen in person to appreciate. It is a wonderland unlike any other. To get a sneak peak, visit [www.glassmermaids.com](http://www.glassmermaids.com), or better yet, stop by the Seabrook store at 2900 E. NASA Pkwy., Suite 200. Business hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check the Web site for holiday hours.

