

ID A PERSONAL PROFILE

Sharon Mehrman

Sharon Mehrman's evolution as a furniture maker began in 1988, when she graduated from college with a degree in graphic arts and headed to Nantucket to paint wooden signs for local businesses. The work required her to do some carpentry, and that led to an interest in hand-crafted furniture.

Now, three decades later, Mehrman works full time as a furniture maker. She uses hand tools and traditional methods to create pieces she describes as grounded in the Federal period and the 19th-century Arts and Crafts movement. Working with wood, she says on her website, is "an exercise in anticipating change ... the challenge is knowing what to expect, and to expect that something will happen to change everything."

Mehrman will be exhibiting at the Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton next weekend.

Full name: Sharon C. Mehrman

Date and place of birth: July 24, 1965, Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Address: Florence

Job: Furniture maker

Who lives under the same roof as you? My wife, Sarah, our dogs Zelda and

Joxer, and our cats Pappy and Lewis

Education: B.F.A. in graphic design from Parsons School of Design, New York, N.Y.; graduate of the Master Furniture Program at the Hill Institute in Florence

Book you'd recommend to a friend: Sarah Waters is an excellent writer. I love all of her books, but my favorite is "Affinity"

Favorite movie: I love old black-and-white movies. One favorite is "All About Eve," starring Bette Davis. I also love film noir, and Woody Allen. I could go on and on

Favorite television shows: "30 Rock," "Mad Men," "Battlestar Galactica" (the new version)

Favorite singer or group: Garbage, Shawn Colvin, Madonna

Last thing you purchased just for fun: An etching by Ann Eldridge called "Seaside Camping"

What's at the top of your bucket list? Drinking champagne in Champagne, France

Life-changing experience: Meeting my wife — she makes me believe that anything is possible

Strangest job you ever held: Selling hot dogs during Army

football games at West Point — calling out "get your hot dogs here," and dragging a metal hot box up and down the stadium stairs

A little-known fact about you: I used to sail competitively

Dumbest thing you ever did: As a kid, I tried to walk home from school once — 5½ miles. This was a valuable lesson in time/distance. After 45 minutes of walking, I was nowhere near home. Thankfully, one of my neighbors stopped and offered me a ride

One product, trend or fashion you'd like to see

return: I would love to return to life before we became a disposable society

What really sets you off? Being cut in line

If you could spend the day with a celebrity, from any time in history, who would it be? Eleanor Roosevelt — what a fascinating and forward-thinking woman

Your ideal weekend? Camping on Mount Desert Island in Maine with Sarah and our dogs — hiking the mountains, swimming in Long Pond, having lobster on the rocky shore while watching boats and birds, relaxing by the fire, watching the sunset and the moonrise, waking up to the sounds of lobster boats and bird calls as the sun comes up

One thing you would change about yourself: Sometimes I feel that being taller would be handy

People who knew you in high school thought you were: Someone I wasn't

Whom do you most admire? Brave people who by standing up better the lives of many — people like Harvey Milk, Gloria Steinem and Martin Luther King Jr.

Parting shot: I recently learned that actor Marlee Matlin signs her books "Courage + Dreams = Success." That really resonates with me ☐

— Compiled by Zoe Klutz

