



Sugardancer



Winter

2008

It's Official!

The Sugardance Soap and Candle Co. is now officially (i.e. *legally*) a business! On a January day of rain and portent, I made the 800-yard journey down scenic Sherman Way to the local branch of the Board of Equalization. There, in a moment that will long be remembered as one of the most monumental in the history of the natural skincare industry of Van Nuys, I took a Bics ballpoint pen in my hand and signed a seller's permit, that "golden ticket" to the world of retail.

What this means for you is that sales tax will be charged on all Sugardance products. What this means for me is that I won't get thrown in prison for tax evasion. I think it's a fair trade, don't you?

Open House and Afternoon Tea

If you are local to the Los Angeles area, please consider joining us Sunday, February 10, at some point during the 3:00-6:00 time window for an Open House and Afternoon Tea. It will be held in our apartment; the address is 16000 Sherman Way #223, Van Nuys (we recommend parking in the adjacent Toys R Us parking lot).

Guests will be entreated to enjoy traditional teatime fare, including hot, brewed tea, scones with lemon curd and clotted cream, and chicken salad sandwiches.

We will be giving out soap samples and guests will have the opportunity to peruse the full line of Sugardance soaps and candles in person. As the event is being held the Sunday before Valentine's Day, it presents the perfect opportunity for purchasing a gift for a loved one or a lushly scented candle to accentuate a romantic evening.

On that note, there will be two and only two Merlot Rustic Pillar Candles for sale at the tea, so come early if you are interested in purchasing one. With their rich layers of deepest wine red and their ripe, full-bodied aroma, these are sure to play a stirring counterpoint to a dinner for two. Unfortunately, my supplier has discontinued this fragrance, and I only have enough left to make two more of these exceptional candles.

Beyond Flowers and Candy

In Spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of... Rose Spray Goat's Milk Soap? Chocolate-Orange Soy Container Candles? Perhaps to Sandalwood Rustic Paraffin Pillar Candles? A man of any age may be unlikely to think of these items on his own as February 14th looms ever nearer, but Sugardance Soap and Candles make unique and thoughtful Valentine's Day gifts.

Some soaps especially suitable for making a sudsy declaration of love include Pink Grapefruit, Rose Spray, Jasmine Rain, Chocolate Mocha, and Sandalwood.

Additionally, we offer candles in fragrances ranging from the soft and romantic to the exotic and sensual. One of our newest fragrances, "Steal Away," is an enchanting blend of Light Musk, Lily of the Valley, Vanilla, and Sandalwood. If your idea of romance is a night in a hunting lodge, you might be attracted to Cedar Forest, Woodland Pine, or Crackling Firewood. If a tropical beach is more inspiring to you, Pineapple or Rainforest might be more fitting.

Visit Us...Virtually

The Sugardance website, www.sugardance.com, was just launched in December. We're happy to report that the launch was successful; there were no casualties to speak of. (Thank goodness for that.)

Changes are being made frequently, so check back often for updates. Or, e-mail the site administrator at elspethjoy.allen@gmail.com to be added to our e-mail list. If you decide to take us up on this amazing opportunity, you will be the occasional recipient of utterly un-spamlike e-mails every instance of a *major* Sugardance development.

You can now pay by credit or debit card via PayPal for orders placed on our website. You do *not* need to have an account with PayPal to use this service. On checkout, simply select PayPal as your payment option and click on the PayPal icon that will appear to enter your credit card information. PayPal is renowned for its high security standards.

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(Continued from front)

A Man's Dream Come to *Fruition*

Chris, bless him, is possessed with more tolerance than many a man would have for my candle- and soapmaking. (This might be related to my tolerance for his conviction that "Computers" is a fine decorative motif for the apartment...) Not only does he scoot over and make room for the ever-widening morass of soap and candle supplies, he lends a hand now and then with wrapping or even making the soap (especially if it means he gets to work with lye!). And sometimes, he comes up with an idea for a *new* soap to be added to the Sugardance line.

Recently, he had a prophetic vision of a blueberry-scented soap with actual blueberries suspended in it. Now, blueberries themselves possess none of the qualities that make good soap. Tiny blue, blueberry-scented balls of soap on the other hand, *now* we're talking! Working together, we crafted a clear soap with a light golden hue that has blue soap "blueberries" suspended in it. Its fragrance is truly inspired, evoking the airy perfume of an afternoon spent picking blueberries in the sun. Check the enclosed brochure for more information about "Blueberry Breeze" and several other new Sugardance soaps.

More than Lip Service

We all know him and we all love him: that man who refuses to wear chapstick, even on days when the Santa Anas are raging their hardest and he is doing yard work outside. Our newest offering is for him: No-Shine Peppermint Lip Balm. We have formulated this special lip treatment with high proportions of moisturizers that are solid at room temperature, like beeswax and cocoa butter, to cut back on shine. Spiked with peppermint essential oil, he will know it is "working" when he feels its invigorating tingle. He will appreciate having comfortable lips – without anyone knowing about it – and you will love to stop worrying about his chapped lips.

Good Enough to Eat?

Christopher was kind enough to take a basket of Chocolate Mocha and Luscious Lemon soap samples to work one day with a stack of brochures. Shortly after he had left them on the front desk, he received a call from an irate coworker, demanding whether he was the one who had brought the chocolates to work. At Chris' denial, the coworker continued, saying, "the chocolates that are actually *soap*?" It seems this gentleman had not expected to get a mouthful of bubbles when he bit into the chocolate-brown square he had taken for an actual chocolate. Well, most of us have wondered at one time or another... I think we can take this as proof that no matter how much the Chocolate Mocha soap looks like chocolate, it does not *taste* like chocolate.

A New Dawn for SD Soap

Up until this point, I have crafted the soaps you have come to know and love in the melt and pour method. What this means is that I have started with a pre-made high-quality glycerin soap base, melted it, and added my own potpourri of fragrance, color, botanicals, and exfoliants, before pouring the mixture into molds to cool and harden.

I have recently begun incorporating the cold process method into my line of luxury soaps. In this method, I make the soap completely from scratch, taking rich blends of luxurious oils and butters through the saponification process; these ingredients include shea butter, cocoa butter, beeswax, jojoba, hazelnut oil, sweet almond oil, and a pantheon of other skincare luminaries.

These soaps take about six weeks to cure before they are ready to transform your skin. That brings us to...

The Curing Rack

If you are interested purchasing any of the following soaps, please contact me to reserve your bars. All of these will be priced at \$5.00 a bar, with the exception of the Pure Indulgence: Sweetgrass Sage, which will be priced at \$6.00 a bar, due to the costliness of its ingredients. Chamomile Honeysuckle bars are approximately 4.5 oz in weight, all others range randomly in weight from 5-5.5 oz.

Chamomile Honeysuckle Crushed chamomile buds, calendula petals, tangerine peel, olive oil, and coconut oil star in this warm golden soap. Sweetened with the fragrance of honeysuckle blooms.

Pineapple Shampoo Bar For dry to normal hair. Cleanses, moisturizes, and conditions with silk proteins, jojoba, and hazelnut oil! Sunny yellow slices of soap kissed with the fragrance of juicy pineapple.

Pure Indulgence: Sweetgrass Sage Apricot kernel oil, macadamia nut oil, jojoba, hempseed oil, and cocoa butter promise to leave your skin like never before. The amazing fragrance of this lightly green-tinted soap stems from crushed lemongrass and a therapeutic blend of sweetgrass, sage, and cedar essential oils.

Lavender Shea Ripples of blue-lavender soap in a cream-colored base boast of copious amounts of moisturizing shea butter, coconut oil, and olive oil, not to mention an essential oil blend of lavender with subtle notes of patchouli and geranium.

Raspberry Shea Creamy raspberry pink soap moisturizes and soothes dry or chapped hands with shea butter, sunflower seed oil, and olive oil.

If you have been mailed this newsletter, it is because you are a family member or friend of Elspeth and/or Chris Allen, or because you have placed Sugardance orders in the past. To be removed from this mailing list, please contact Elspeth by e-mail at elspethjoy.allen@gmail.com or phone at (818) 277-8318.