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Volume 4 No 2 March/April 2013

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publisher's Letter

As we emerge from the chill of winter and look forward to the spring thaw and new growth, we can't deny the urge within us to turn over that "new leaf." Now is a great time to focus on living responsibly for ourselves, for others and for future generations.

This issue of 2NJoy Magazine explores how various residents of our communities are living these ideals. Robin Mero's cover

story about The Queen Anne Mansion introduces us to a new concept of shared home ownership, one that spares no luxury while promoting the responsible themes of sharing resources and reviving a property's historical value. A luxurious home away from home is more realistic than you think!

Since April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, we continue exploring the theme of expressing love and compassion in our community by learning about Northwest Arkansas Community College's new Melba Shewmaker Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center.

And what artist embodies a sense of preserving family and community spirit more than Norman Rockwell? An exhibit of Norman Rockwell paintings is now on display at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. A retrospective look at Rockwell's art provides insight into our social and cultural responsibilities.

We hope you find inspiration within the pages of this issue. We thank you for your calls, emails and letters of support and encouragement.

May God Bless,
Ann



But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? -1 John 3:17

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featured contributors



ROBIN MERO

Robin Mero is a Houston native who moved to Northwest Arkansas in 1994, and has since enjoyed exploring its natural beauty and experiencing the warmth and diversity of its people. She worked for many years as a newspaper journalist and is now writing her first book, of true crime. She and husband Kevin Butler live in downtown Rogers.



MARILYN H. COLLINS

Marilyn Collins held professional marketing and publishing positions in Washington, DC, Virginia and North Carolina. She is author of several how-to books and ebooks for writers, regional history books and magazine and newspaper features. Currently she is owner of CHS Publishing (www.chspublishing.com) and editor of an online newsletter for writers, Proficient Writer NEWS (www.proficientwriter.com). Collins is a writing coach, online instructor and frequent speaker at writers' conferences.

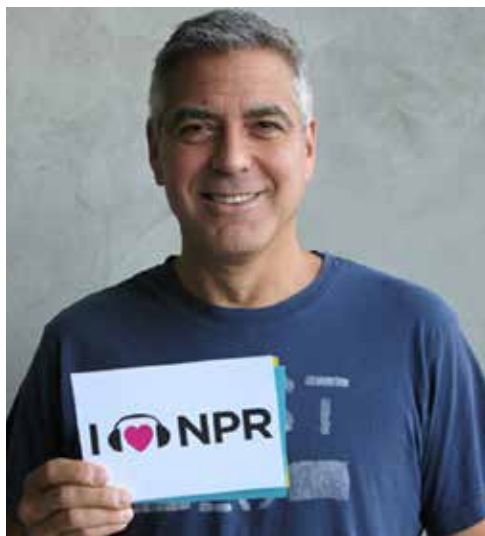


SANDY MARTIN

Sandy Martin's career includes managing radio and television stations, creative marketing and advertising agencies. She has owned her own business, Procomm Unlimited, since 1996. She is currently Chair of the Eureka Springs Arts Council, President of the Board of Directors of The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow and a Director on the Board of Community First Bank of Eureka Springs. Sandy has worked in St. Louis, New York and Kansas City, and she now calls home Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Contributors: Marilyn H. Collins, Robin Mero, Jamie Smith, Derek Dague, Sandy Martin

Guest Contributors: Amy Benincosa, Tabatha Hunter, Barbara King



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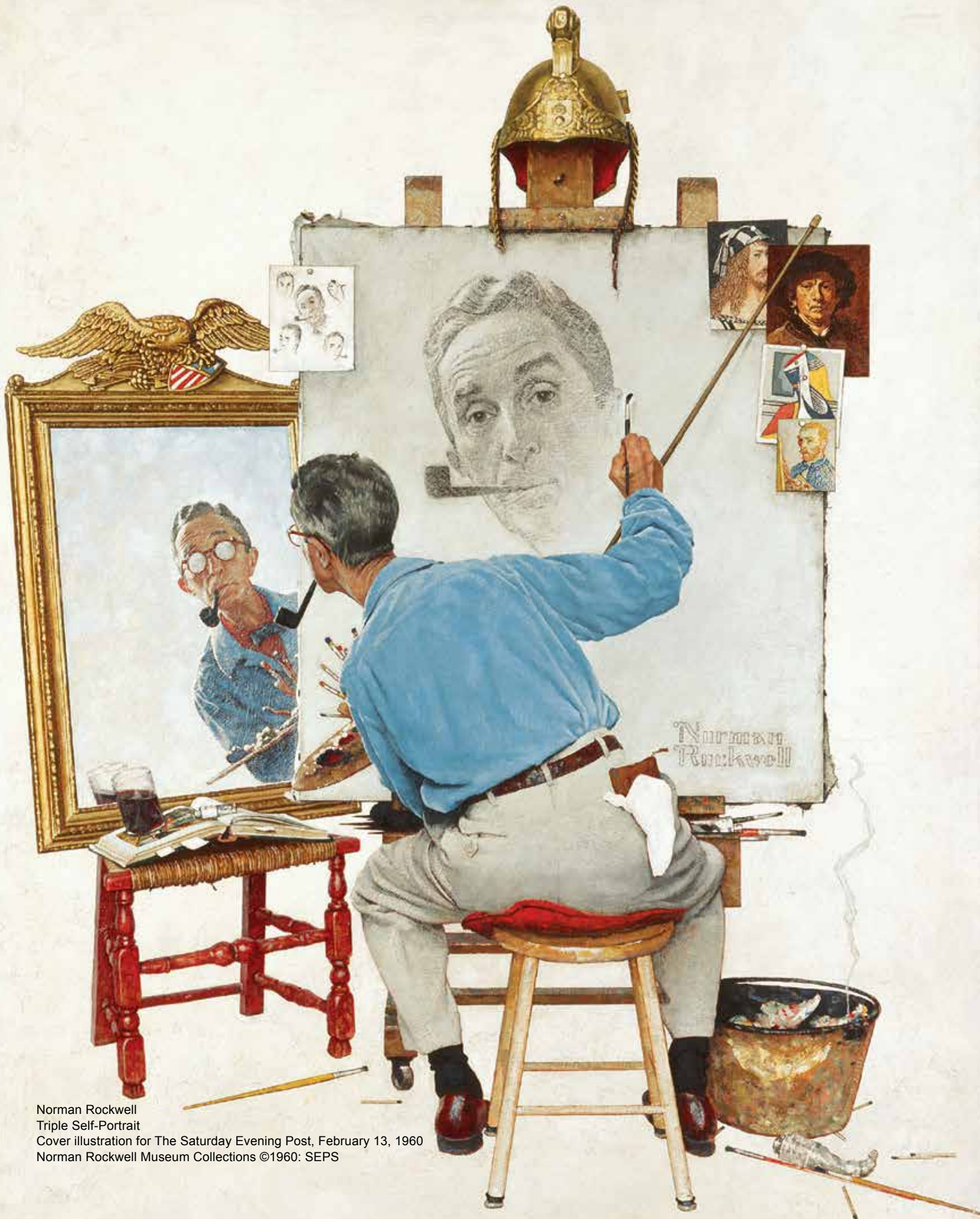
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Norman Rockwell
Triple Self-Portrait
Cover illustration for The Saturday Evening Post, February 13, 1960
Norman Rockwell Museum Collections ©1960: SEPS

Norman Rockwell

VISITS CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM

By Jamie Smith

Hundreds of Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) illustrations graced the covers of Saturday Evening Post over a 50-year period, and they served to lift American spirits during some of the nation's toughest times. A gifted storyteller, Rockwell portrayed aspects of everyday Americana that reminded people of their strengths and, in instances, of better times that were promised to return. But simply viewing Rockwell's art through these lenses does both the artist and his vision a great injustice.

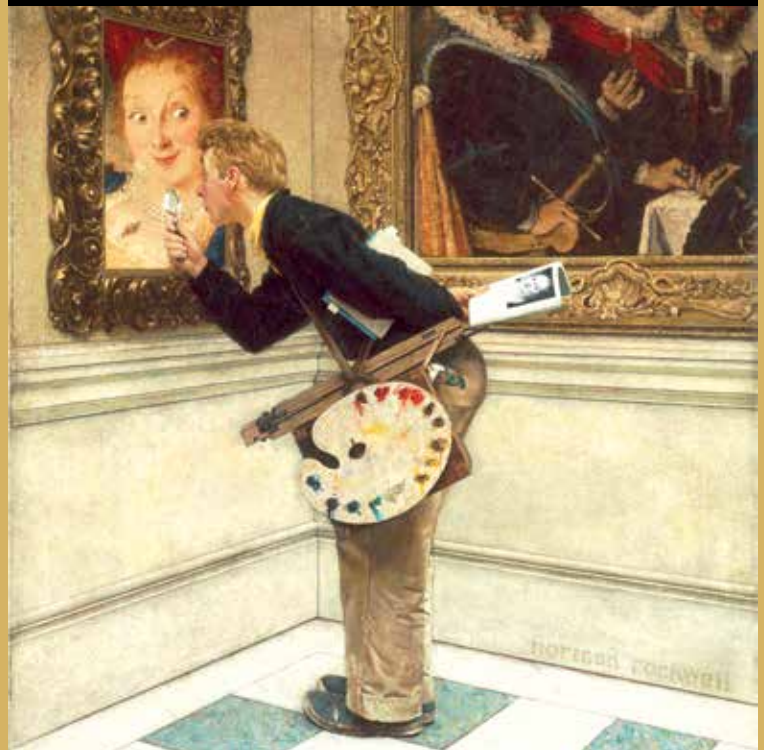
The 323 covers of Rockwell's Saturday Evening Post pieces are must sees for those that appreciate fine art, but they are just one part of a traveling exhibition of Rockwell's artwork available at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville through May 27. According to a press release from the museum, the exhibition features an astounding 50 original Rockwell paintings in addition to the Post covers. The full range of Rockwell's creative talents will be on display for all to see.

American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell presents an opportunity for families to talk across generations about the works and what they meant to readers of the Saturday Evening Post in the post-World War II era, according to the press release. It is a prime opportunity for generations that experienced Rockwell's works to share an appreciation for history, art and American culture with younger generations of budding art enthusiasts.

"Rockwell's artwork is highly recognizable to a large audience, even if they have had limited opportunities to visit art museums," said Crystal Bridges Director of Education and Exhibitions Niki Stewart. "By bringing American Chronicles to Crystal Bridges, we are creating an opportunity for people of many generations to see the original artworks, learn more about Rockwell's process and enjoy something that is both familiar and fascinating."



Norman Rockwell
Freedom from Fear
Story illustration for The Saturday Evening Post, March 13, 1943
Norman Rockwell Museum Collections ©1943: SEPS



Norman Rockwell
Art Critic
Cover illustration for The Saturday Evening Post, April 16, 1955
Norman Rockwell Museum Collections
©1955: SEPS

The visual experience of Rockwell's art offers a glimpse into the American experience, combining a history lesson and an art lesson into one. But it can also be a glimpse into the human spirit, its strengths and its passions.

The exhibit includes several beloved and well-known images, including Triple Self-Portrait (1960), Girl at Mirror (1954), Going and Coming (1947) and Art Critic (1955). Fans of the Post covers will most likely plan multiple visits to take in all the covers and truly appreciate them. Also included are portraits of presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy, materials from the Norman Rockwell Museum's archives that demonstrate Rockwell's methodology when creating each artwork and several photographs Rockwell staged as references for his paintings.

The museum is offering a wide range of public programs in conjunction with the exhibition. Lectures, a film and gallery talks have all been designed to enhance the Norman Rockwell experience. Attendees may also take advantage of art workshops that will allow a person to tap into their "inner Rockwell;" means and methods are explored to capture expressions and images in the same style as the master.

Timed, reserved tickets will be required to view American Chronicles. Tickets are \$12 for non-members and have been on sale since February 4. Thanks to sponsors, youth tickets are free. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art continues to bring must see exhibits to the public, and with American Chronicles it offers work that demands multiple viewings.

"Rockwell's artwork is highly recognizable to a large audience, even if they have had limited opportunities to visit art museums"

- Niki Stewart, Crystal Bridges Director of Education and Exhibitions



Norman Rockwell
Artist Facing Blank Canvas (The Deadline)
Cover illustration for The Saturday Evening Post, October 8, 1938
Norman Rockwell Museum Collections ©1938: SEPS



Norman Rockwell
Girl at Mirror
Cover illustration for The Saturday Evening Post, March 6, 1954
Norman Rockwell Museum Collections
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It takes a village:

building a community of child protection professionals

By Amy Benincosa

"On December 26, 1995, a beautiful, smiling teenager named 'Carly' took her own life."

I was not sure what I expected to hear when Forensic Interview Expert Rita Farrell began sharing the story of one of her first child abuse cases, but I certainly was not prepared to hear the story of a bright young woman who seemed to be leading a wonderful life actually being tortured in her own home. "Carly" excelled in both academics and athletics, laughed with friends, and was the picture of a healthy, happy teen. But behind closed doors, her father had been sexually abusing her since she was 11 years old. Unlike many victims of child abuse, Carly found the courage to report what was happening. Her father was prosecuted; yet, after an emotionally grueling two-week trial, the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict and the case was resolved through plea negotiations. Carly's father received a sentence on charges of sexual battery. The strain of her father's abuse and the legal system's inability to address her case adequately

took a toll. Rather than suffer at the hands of her father when his sentence

was up, Carly chose to end her life. Everyone involved in the case wondered what could have been done differently and how to prevent this from happening to other victims of abuse.

I wish I could tell you that Carly's story is unique, that every child we know is cared for and safe. The unfortunate reality is that each year around one million children are confirmed to be victims of child abuse and maltreatment in the United States. Arkansas is not immune to this epidemic. I doubt that many of us would voluntarily get on an airplane with a pilot who had only read about flying in a book or go to a surgeon who learned all about practicing medicine by watching a video online. Yet, research continually shows that little to no training is provided to the professionals we charge



Rita Farrell, Forensic Interview Expert



Stephanie Smith, NCPTC Director and Victor Veith, NCPTC Executive Director

with keeping our children safe. Most of our social workers, counselors, teachers, first responders, health professionals, attorneys, and members of our judicial and childcare systems have to learn how to recognize and help victims while on-the-job with the lives of real children, like Carly, at stake.

But there is a spark of change taking hold in our state. NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) is taking action to support these professionals by creating a permanent home for the southern region center of the National Child Protection Training Center in Bentonville, Arkansas.

The Center promotes the reformation of current on-the-job training practices by providing an undergraduate educational curriculum to future front-line professionals and advanced training for current professionals around the nation so they will be better prepared to recognize, report, and respond to the abuse of a child.

Training on the NWACC campus has been ongoing since 2010. The college foundation seeks funding to transform a former oncology building into a living laboratory for training professionals. Once renovated, the facility will house a fully functioning mock home, mock courtrooms, practice medical exam training room, mock child forensic interview rooms, and other hands-on spaces to arm professionals with the latest techniques to identify and eliminate child abuse situations. It also serves as a resource for numerous

organizations throughout the region that have similar child abuse eradication goals.

The Melba Shewmaker Southern Region NCPTC building is not four walls and a roof; it is our living tool to eradicate child abuse. It is evidence that we care about our children. It is a movement that will lead to a safer nation for future generations, and it is working.

Since its inception, the NCPTC staff as a whole have trained more than 40,000 child protection professionals in all 50 states and 17 countries. Despite being limited to only offering the lecture-based trainings, the southern region staff has already trained more than 4,000 professionals and provides ongoing technical assistance to 19 forensic interview programs and child abuse organizations across the region.

Many in our state are banding together to help the NCPTC eradicate child abuse. Public and private entities, families, civic organizations, and individuals have all stepped up to help these professionals persevere in the face of overwhelming odds.

We need your help and you need ours, but most importantly—children like Carly need all of us. Please be aware. Be involved.

To learn more about how you can help renovate the Southern Region NCPTC, contact us, or receive information about trainings and classes taking place in Arkansas, please visit: www.nwacc.edu/web/ncptc

The National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC) works to eradicate child abuse, neglect and other forms of child maltreatment in three generations through education, training, awareness, prevention, advocacy and the pursuit of justice.



National Child Protection Training Center's Fully Functioning Mock Home

THE TRUE WEST

Heritage of Fort Smith, Arkansas




By Jamie Smith

Heritage is the focus of much celebration these days in the city known as Fort Smith; the community prepares for its annual Heritage Festival in April. In the February 2013 issue of True West Magazine, Fort Smith was given a distinct honor and named the number one “True Western Town.”

Many individuals and organizations deserve the credit, according to Claude Legris, Fort Smith Advertising and Promotions Commission executive director. “Our community has always placed a high priority on preserving our colorful past and making sure that appreciation is passed on to future generations,” he said. The weekend of April 6 brings the city’s annual Heritage Festival, a fundraiser for the Community Services Clearinghouse Meals for Kids program. The main festival is 10 am to 4 pm, Saturday, April 6. It will headquarter at the Frisco Station on the grounds of the Fort Smith National Historic Site, and all events are free.

The festival honors Fort Smith’s history and its modern-day culture with activities including covered-wagon rides, a miniature Frisco train boarding, a petting zoo, a living history presentation, a Heritage Tour, exhibits from non-profit and education organizations, Mexican dancing horses and cannon fire at the National Historic Site. Dancers from various cultures are also scheduled throughout the day. Sue Robison from Community Services Clearinghouse said this year’s festival features a new event, and this one is geared towards adults only. On April 5, a murder mystery dinner will thrill an audience as it tries to solve a murder. The night will end with the “bad guy” being hung in a play noose. Corporations are invited to purchase tables for the event, which is also a fundraiser.



“Our community has always placed a high priority on preserving our colorful past and making sure that appreciation is passed on to future generations.”

♣Claude Legris, Advertising & Promotions
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Saving the Planet

A Superhero's Tale

By Tabatha Hunter

In a world where we are taught superheroes exist only in comic books and at the theaters, one Bentonville man is working to bring a little magic back.

Dressed in simple khaki cargo pants, green Chuck Taylors and a green t-shirt adorned with neon recycling arrows, Jason Quail of Bentonville completes his look with spiky hair and a quirky pair of golden glasses.

With his sleek threads and the keys to EcoOne, an electric car, Quail's transformation from the everyday computer technician to the EcoGeeco superhero is complete.

In the three years since adapting his alter ego EcoGeeco, Quail has volunteered at local schools and events, teaching anyone who will listen about the importance of recycling.

He teaches school children that simple things like turning off the lights when leaving a room and recycling aluminum cans add up to helping save the planet.

The EcoGeeco can often be seen volunteering in downtown Bentonville, breaking down cardboard boxes so they can be recycled or simply picking up trash at community events.

To most, Quail and the EcoGeeco are inspiring. To him, though, it is all in a day's work for an environmental superhero determined to make the world a better place for everyone around.

Jeannie Quail, Jason's wife, said that she didn't believe in superheroes until her husband came home with the brilliant idea for the EcoGeeco one day.

"I liked superheroes when I was growing up, but I don't know if I ever thought they would be real," Jeannie said. Jason and the EcoGeeco have changed her mind.

"Now, I definitely believe," Jeannie said. "All it takes is a little bit of uniqueness and you can be your own superhero."



Jason Quail

Quail admits that his brand of superhero is a bit unconventional.

"I don't rescue damsels in distress," Quail said. "I teach kids about recycling, and it plants that seed in their mind."

Once that seed is planted and children start thinking about ways they can help save the planet, they go home and teach their parents. Soon families begin thinking about ways they can reuse and recycle everyday household items.

"The kids are thinking. Their gears are going because they saw a superhero at school," Quail said. "They'll grow up with that, and hopefully someday that little light I started will help make this a better planet."

For Quail, becoming a superhero fulfills a lifelong dream. He grew up reading comic books from DC comics and watching Clark Kent become Superman. For him, becoming the EcoGeeco was a natural progression in addition to his way of going green.

For his three children, Quail isn't pretending to be a superhero; he is the real thing.

"It's not the super powers that make him a superhero," JonLuc, 14, said about his father. "It's everything he does that makes him a superhero. It's really cool."

To find him, you won't need a bat signal or Lois Lane. Just look him up on Facebook or Twitter by searching EcoGeeco. Quail also hosts a weekly television show called GreenTech Weekly that can be found online at www.greentechweekly.tv.



Give Me **SIX**

By Derek Dague

Hope, heart and helping hands have come together, thanks to the harmonious sounds of SIX. You might be familiar with Branson's hottest male vocal group, made up of six brothers who are now celebrating their sixth year as Ozark entertainers. The Knudson brothers (Barry, Kevin, Lynn, Jak, Owen and Curtis) displayed an early talent for song. Forgoing many typical childhood pleasures, and instead embracing hard work and lots of practice, they forged a musical career that has brought them award, acclaim and a loyal following.

This past February they performed at the Beale, Lee and Associates annual Client Appreciation Concert to benefit Samaritan's Feet. Almost 900 clients and guests of the Bella Vista retirement planning services firm attended this event at the Arend Arts Center. Samaritan's Feet raised over \$6,000.00 for local charitable shoe distributions to children in Northwest Arkansas. This was no small feat, as the funds will provide 600 pairs of new tennis shoes that will be distributed to local children as part of a Back to School platform this summer.

"More important than providing shoes, our volunteers will share a message of hope and Christian love by washing the children's feet," says Graham Gibbs, Director of Development for Samaritan's Feet. "We are so thankful to the clients and friends of Beale, Lee & Associates for making this charitable event possible."

Beale, Lee and Associates have provided comprehensive retirement planning, portfolio management, 401(k) rollovers and more in Bella Vista since 2005. It speaks volumes about the firm that their idea of client appreciation is a fund raiser for a worthy cause such as Samaritan's Feet, a humanitarian aid organization that washes the feet of impoverished children and adorns them with new shoes.

An estimated 300 million children go without shoes every

day, and more than one million children die each year from foot borne disease. The organization plans to provide 10 million pairs of shoes for children in the next 10 years. Samaritan's Feet was started in 2003 by Manny Ohonme, who received his first pair of shoes at the age of nine from a missionary. Those shoes allowed him to learn and play the game of basketball, which ultimately earned him a scholarship to the University of North Dakota (Lake Region). Manny went on to receive his bachelor's and master's degrees and he pursued a successful career in supply chain software industries. A simple pair of shoes and the kindness and compassion of a missionary changed the course of Manny's life.



Photo courtesy of Samaritans Feet

The changing of lives continues each day with the group's efforts, and fund raisers such as the Beale, Lee and Associates event are ideal ways to generate contributions and spread the word. There is no doubt that the cause struck a chord with the entertainment for the evening. The brothers of Six are actually the oldest of ten brothers, and they spent much of their formative years moving from place to place, wherever their

father could find work. Their performances are known for the emotions they evoke and the inspiration that they provide.

"We really are each other's best friend," said the eldest brother, Barry Knudson. "We each know that the other brothers have our backs. And, at the heart of all we do is our mother."

More information about SIX, including Branson show schedules and ticket information, can be found at www.thesixshow.com. Information about Samaritan's Feet, including volunteering and donating, can be found at www.samaritansfeet.org. For more information on Beale, Lee and Associates, including events and services, please visit www.bealelee.com.



Beale, Lee & Associates charitable event provides 600 pairs of shoes for Northwest Arkansas Children.

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New Beginning Children's Homes

A Families Ministry

By Jamie Smith

When children find their way to New Beginning Children's Homes, the founders will help the children find hope, safety and a faith-based, family environment.

Ken and Shelly Ferguson co-founded the new center in January 2011 and the buildings are expected to open to children this June. There will be six houses on the 10.5-acre property located west of Centerton on Arkansas Highway 102. "It's an orphanage by structure but family by living arrangement," Ferguson said. "There will be room for a total of 54 children, nine per house. Each house will have house parents."

The non-profit shelter will make it possible for some siblings to live together instead of being separated which is a common situation within the foster care system.

An upcoming fundraiser is designed to raise some of the operation costs associated with the fully-licensed, foster care facility. The Hands of Hope Gala is April 5 at Horton Farms; there is a dinner, a live band and the new NBCH Gospel Trio. For more information about the gala, visit newbeginningchildrenshomes.org.



Property View & First Building - 2013

Ken Ferguson said he believes the new center is the fulfillment of his and Shelly's life journey, which was always directed by God.

Ferguson spent about eight years working in the Wal-Mart Stores Home Office, and traveled part-time for five years as part of a gospel singing group. It was during this time he felt called to full-time ministry. He went into full-time ministry in Madison County while receiving Bible training.

The Fergusons have two biological children, a boy and a girl, both are teenagers now. In 2007, Shelly expressed an interest in adopting a child. Ken admits he wasn't 100 percent on board at first, but he agreed to pray about the idea. A year later, the couple decided to adopt from within the Arkansas foster care system. They completed the classes and everything they needed to do, but the home study was still unfinished. What felt like a setback at the time ended up being a perfect example of God's timing, Ferguson explains.



New Beginning Children's Homes
slated to open
June 2013

The Fergusons had been looking at a website that featured children who were available for adoption and were surprised that Shelly felt led to adopt a family of four children.

"All I could say was, 'but there's four,'" Ferguson said with a smile. After discussing with their children, they agreed to open their minds and hearts to more of God's blessings.



Ken & Shelly Ferguson

The problem remained that they still were unable to contact anyone at the state to schedule the home study; they asked to be taken off the interest list for the four children because they did not want their situation to hold up a potentially good home for the siblings.

The following Friday they received a call that said they would have a home study in 30 minutes. Needless to say, they passed. But the story doesn't end there.

They found out the following Monday that a different sibling group was in emergent need of a home and they agreed. The plans were to foster in hopes of adopting, so in effect they were agreeing to their new children in that moment.

"That decision would change the entire course of our lives," Ferguson said.

The family of four became a family of eight in one June evening. The adoptions were finalized in December 2008. In August 2010, the family started Ferguson Family Ministries, which allows them to share their story.

"We share our life's journey of adoption with the gospel wrapped around it," Ferguson said. Ferguson continued to say that they felt led during this time to start their own children's home, and in January 2011 NBCH was born.

Phase 1 of the construction includes a 4,000-square foot administration building that will combine warehouse, office and recreational services. It includes the first home which will be 2,500 square feet. The completed campus will have six homes with five rooms each, as well as land for raising livestock and vegetable gardens. There will be plenty of recreational and learning space and many ways for interested community members to become involved, Ferguson said. Attending the gala is a great start, but donations are also possible through the organization's website. The website has information about specific prayer needs, volunteer opportunities and links to social media. The web address is www.newbeginningchildrenshomes.org.



Ferguson family --Left to Right -- Shelly, Shania, Chelsea, Janae, Branson, Devin, Sabrionna, Ken

ENLIGHTENMENT:

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." -Mark Twain

By Sandy Martin

Do you know how to ask a question? If that sounds like a silly question, then reflect on the last one you asked and think about what, if anything, you learned from the exchange. Was the purpose of the question to enlighten yourself or others? If not, then why did you ask the question?

During The Age of Enlightenment, the question was king. Why, you ask? Because the scientific revolution preceded the enlightenment period, and many were uncomfortable yet dazzled by the outcomes, revelations and inventions. It was new thinking based on unfamiliar "fact." Religion as the answer to all things inexplicable was being challenged by so-called scientific proof. This idea of the Earth as the center of the universe? Come on! Okay, I'll accept this new concept of dentistry because my mouth hurts, but what is all this science and math stuff about?

You get the idea: too much, too soon and too new. The concept is cool but unsettling at the same time. The Enlightenment in many ways was a method of slowing down progress for a bit to let everyone catch up. Remember, the Enlightenment was the intellectual movement primarily of the common person and not necessarily the most educated or sophisticated person. It was a revolt against authority. It is also referred to as "the age of conversation," and a good conversation starts with a good question.

A good question leads to new information and better understanding, and that leads to more questions and ultimately the rich world of lifelong learning.

The Age of Enlightenment taught us a great deal about conversation, using the public sphere to answer questions and how all of that translates into action.

To figure out what was happening in the new world order of the 18th century, people gathered to ask questions and debate with their peers, not professors. "Penny Universities" started popping up in coffee houses. One of the first was Lloyd's Coffee House, later known as Lloyd's of London (famous for insurance and financial services). They were called 'penny universities' because that was the price of entry. Many of the coffee house proprietors produced their own coins and distributed them throughout town, inviting participants for a lively conversation.

"Penny Universities" were popular among poets and literary types like Oscar Wilde. Frequenters were clever with words and had a knack for breaking the tension with humor. They became known as 'the wits' - a term we use liberally today to describe quick humor based on keen observation and insight. Coffee houses were noisy places, often chaotic, and always illuminating and entertaining. The tone of the question became more of a way for someone to introduce their opinion, not necessarily offer better understanding on a topic.

To counter the rowdy unproductive coffee houses, salons were born for those seeking a more civilized way to debate issues and reach a common judgment through conversation. To keep things civilized, women were the "salonnières" responsible for hosting and moderating a polite discussion. At the time, women were considered the property of the man and were not allowed to have a profession other than music and some personal writing, but they could not be published without their husbands' consent. Quietly, women listened, learned and even got to participate in some of the conversations in the more progressive salons. The men were not aware of it at the time, but this little slip into the boys' network got women questioning their role in society and planted the seed for the feminist movement (more on that in another article).

Salons served as the hubs for the public sphere, a place to identify societal problems and develop strategies to influence political action through public opinion as the power structure. The tone and purpose for the question in the salon environment was tethered more to a deeper understanding, research and how to formulate action. Benjamin Franklin attended several salons in Paris and throughout Europe.



He quickly saw the salon concept as something the American colonies needed to stimulate public participation and action which led to the American Revolution (yes, there's a lot more to this story, which we will cover in the July issue).

Abraham Lincoln said, "I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday."

The Age of Enlightenment set the stage for lifelong learning and for all people to become wiser and have a greater understanding formulated through various points of view. Lifelong learning creates active citizenship, personal and professional development and problem-solving skills, and it is a direct path to more social inclusion. Seeing through the eyes of others opens a world of discovery. It all starts with the question.

Here are some tips for lifelong learning and the art of the question thanks to lessons from the Enlightenment and compiled from a variety of sources including Innovations from The Chronicle of Higher Education.

LIFELONG LEARNING:

Read Something Different Every Day - a book, trade journal, newspaper, blog. Find out about the author and ask why he or she thought it was important to write the piece.

Make a "to Learn" List and answer the questions, "What do I want to learn and why?"

Get More Intellectual friends (not just smart people, people who think) and ask them what they think about a current event.

Guided Thinking and asking the question, "How does this impact my life?" Simply studying the wisdom of others is not enough; you have to think through ideas yourself. Spend time journaling, meditating or contemplating over ideas you have learned.

Put It into Practice to keep the question alive. Skill based learning is useless if it is not applied. Studying painting is not the same as picking up a brush. If your knowledge can be applied, then put it into practice.

Teach Others and ask the question, "What do I know that others may benefit from?" You learn what you teach. If you have an outlet of communicating ideas to others, then you are more likely to solidify that learning. Start a blog, mentor someone or even discuss ideas with a friend.

Clean your Input and question the value of "stuff" you fill your day and mind with. You cannot add water to a full cup. Too many convictions simply mean too few paths for new ideas.

Learn in Groups. Lifelong learning does not mean condemning yourself to a stack of dusty textbooks. Join organizations that teach skills. Workshops and group learning events can make educating yourself a fun, social experience.

Start Your Own Salon.

Unlearn and Question Assumptions. Actively seek out information that contradicts your world view.

Start a Project. Set out to do something you do not know how to do. Forced learning in this way can be fun and challenging. If you do not know anything about computers, then try building one. If you consider yourself a horrible artist, then try a painting.

Follow Your Intuition. Lifelong learning is like wandering through the wilderness. You cannot be sure what to expect, and there is not always an end goal in mind. Letting your intuition guide you can make self-education more enjoyable.

Make Time Early. Use the first fifteen minutes of your morning as a period for education. If you find yourself too groggy, then you might want to wait a short time. Just do not put it off later in the day where urgent activities will push it out of the way.

Reap the Rewards. Learn information you can use. Meeting a situation that makes use of your educational efforts can be a source of pride.

Make It a Priority. Few external forces are going to persuade you to learn. The desire has to come from within. Once you decide you want to make lifelong learning a habit, then it is up to you to make it a priority in your life.

THE ART OF THE QUESTION:

- You have a duty to be interesting.
- Start with something simple.
- Keep your autobiography to yourself.
- The best questions are poised between attentiveness to what the speaker has already said and the chance to deepen the discussion.
- The best reason to ask a question is to contribute to the quality of the discussion that has already begun.
- Draw something more unexpected out of another, but be respectful and avoid being too clever.
- Think of yourself as someone who seeks to enhance the occasion and not control it.
- Never offer up a roll call of your own facts or belabor them. Enter into an exchange of ideas and knowledge.
- Never ask a question in an aggressive manner.
- If you are using questions to gather knowledge, then define exactly what it is you want to know. Never ask a question that you are not willing to answer.

Albert Einstein nailed it with two of his famous quotes:

“Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death.”

and

“The only stupid question is the one that goes unasked.” So now I ask, “What’s your question?”

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Responsible Living *Second Home Redefinition*

By Robin Mero

Photos by Jeremy McGraw, Global Image Creation

Garden view of The Queen Anne Mansion estate



red

Robert De Vrees slid onto the warm leather backseat; he released the top button of his jacket and greeted the car's driver. This last leg of his trip home would take just over an hour, so he determined to leave both phone and calendar tucked in his satchel.

His wife Christina would already have arrived at their private residence club, The Queen Anne Mansion. Robert looked forward to reading the most recent editions of the week's papers, which he knew awaited him, and to the first taste of a vintage bottle of Bourgogne Blanche he had asked the house manager to have on hand.

Upon arrival at the stately Victorian mansion overlooking Eureka Springs, he picked up his agenda and noted their boating excursion had been arranged for Sunday afternoon, along with a visit from his regular masseuse. Christina would return to their Fayetteville home after Sunday dinner, but Robert was expecting a prospective business client Monday morning. A driver would pick that gentleman up from the Branson airport. Robert had reserved a conference room to strategize from 1 to 4 p.m. and they would go into town for dinner after negotiations.

Robert found that Christina had settled her belongings into the Henry David Thoreau suite on the home's second floor; she particularly loved the stunning 180-degree view north and east out of the artfully-draped turret windows. The volume was set low on a flat screen television hanging over a marbled fireplace, which was ablaze, and the channel had been set to air Robert's favorite news program.

Before going down to the Garden level, where he expected to find his wife in the theater room, he resolved to take a few minutes and pen a note to his favorite aunt, who had recently lost her husband. He drew a bottle of his favorite Artesian water from the suite's refrigerator, where it had been stocked alongside Christina's preferred strawberries and chocolate. He lowered the blinds slightly and settled into a black leather club chair.

The weekend would be restful; time at The Queen Anne always offered a reprieve from obligations at their primary residence. He also knew that at any moment the sounding of a bell might announce an impromptu cheese tasting or an informational lecture by scholars from a nearby writer's colony. Robert relished the house staff's ability to intersperse the dependable luxuries with unanticipated delights. He also looked forward to dinner that evening with one of their favorite couples and co-owners, the Lymans. They were planning a week-long summer trip together to a seaside town on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Each year, the two couples made a point to visit one of the properties that shared reciprocal benefits with The Queen Anne owners.



Across the globe, savvy individuals such as Robert have strived to fashion retreats for themselves in picturesque locations as an escape from everyday demands and stresses. If one has adequate resources, good timing and fortune in the real estate market, a second home can serve as a warm gathering place for extended families. It can also allow for entertaining and fostering of friendships and the promotion of business relationships.

But the operational details of opening and closing a second home throughout the year and arranging for necessary help can be burdensome. The concept can, in reality, become daunting and costly for some and completely out of reach for others.

“Today’s vacation home purchasers are more and more ‘thinking green’. They have come to believe that it is wasteful to use limited natural resources on heating and cooling homes that are occupied only part time, or to build new homes that sit empty most of the year.”

-David M. Disick, Esq.
The Fractional Consultant

Fractional ownership is an appealing solution; the idea is not new, but only recently it has become available in this part of the United States at a historically significant property which offers 5-star service. Meet the Queen Anne Mansion, a carefully and lovingly restored old world home in Eureka Springs, less than an hour from most of Northwest Arkansas and within a six-

hour drive from Dallas, St. Louis, Memphis, Kansas City and Oklahoma City.

Steve Lovell, originally from DeQueen, Arkansas, and his wife, Lata purchased the home in 2005. They finished a complete renovation in 2010, intending to maintain the home as a museum to showcase the Victorian era. The Lovells found themselves longing to share their creation with other like-minded individuals and for the home to be experienced, not just viewed. They decided to establish a private residence club and assembled a surprisingly affordable package that allows purchasers to be equal owners not only in the home, but also in the exquisite antique collection and almost five-acre property. Owners enjoy the opportunity to reserve up to 28 nights per year, additional last minute getaway nights, near unlimited day use of the property and reciprocal membership with hundreds of exclusive, high-end portfolio properties across the world through The Registry Collection.

The Lovells said they found the fractional model to be an ideal way to ensure that the Mansion is maintained as it is today for years to come, with operating expenses shared by a number of individuals who will equally enjoy the Mansion and its service-rich atmosphere.

“The trouble free aspect of professional property management and personalized vacation services is very attractive to today’s busy, high achievers.”

-David M. Disick, Esq.
The Fractional Consultant





Courtyard view from the Spa deck

Individuals and couples can jointly purchase shares (up to four persons per single ownership), which further increases the value opportunity. A reasonable monthly fee paid by each owner covers the costs of insurance, staffing, taxes, reserves and other operating expenses.

There are other private residence clubs in the United States, but this is one of the first of its kind using a historic home and within this region. It would be impossible to recreate the luxury, level of service and ease of ownership for the price.

“You might find a similar concept in the Hamptons, New York or Santa Barbara where, as an owner, when you’re in residence you want for nothing,” said David Harries, Marketing Director of The Queen Anne Mansion. With its four stories and 12,000 square feet; seven suites, eight fireplaces and 12 bathrooms; high-end modern commercial kitchen; unparalleled antique collection and original visual embellishments such as intricate lead glass designs and extensive use of ornate quarter-sawn wood, Harries said of the home, “It’s very unlikely anything like this can be replicated.”

The home has been prepared with such breathtaking detail that the eye almost cannot take it all in. Furnishings, draperies and rugs are exquisite and have been assembled with meticulous care. The Lovells seek to share the home with others who care deeply about quality, the marvel of history and living with comfort, old world style and the highest expectation of service. The home will serve as a community for co-owners who love history, art and beauty.

The Mansion, built in 1891 by industrialist Curtis Wright, was relocated from Carthage, Missouri and has been authentically restored by fine local craftsmen.

The Lovells filled the home with a private and coveted collection of antiques and decorative arts that includes a grand dining room suite which mirrors one provided to the White House; cabinets and a parlor set crafted by John Henry Belter, whose works are displayed at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art and an 1860s Rosewood grand piano in the music room from London’s Broadwood and Sons Ltd., a noted company which also made pianos for Beethoven, Haydn and Chopin.

The Lovells, who will retain two ownership interests, have invested immense time and passion in the home; surely the original owner and builder, Curtis Wright, would be honored. Wright created success with ore and mineral mining in Missouri and built the home to entice his wife to leave their Connersville, Indiana home. Wright and his brother owned a furniture factory which employed Italian and German woodworkers; those skilled woodworkers helped craft the home’s fine features, which must be seen in person to truly be appreciated.

The home was purchased by Ron and Mary Lou Evans, who in 1984 enlisted the help of retired engineer Russell Clay to move it to Eureka Springs for use as a tour home and wedding venue. The deconstruction, moving and reassembly of the home took more than one year, a half million dollars and 40 truckloads.



Henry David Thoreau Suite



“I want this home to come alive with people in it.” -Lata Lovell

The Lovells aimed to recreate the elegance of the 19th Century by furnishings and décor, while adding modern conveniences and state-of-the art technology. Lata Lovell envisions owners themselves taking great pride in the history of the collection and relishing ownership as much as she and Steve do. "I want this home to come alive with people in it," Lata Lovell said.

An adjacent historical home, the Kelley House, serves as a business office for owners and the manager's residence, and it offers a private spa upstairs for exclusive use by owners and their guests. The spa includes a sauna, steam shower, massage suite and salon for spa manicures and pedicures.

"Truly, we want the owners to want for nothing during their time here," Lata Lovell said. "This home offers a wonderful sense of ownership. The interests can be sold, willed, or gifted so that generations from now what we have created is still standing proudly, full of life, fun and laughter."

Amenities of interest include ground level suites for those with limited mobility, room for entertaining groups both small and large, a gazebo overlooking wooded spaces, a large courtyard with Limestone privacy walls that offers a full bar, outdoor flat-screen television and outdoor seating capabilities. A theater room seats eight, and a game room offers chess, backgammon and card games in a warm and luxurious environment.

Future projects include the installation of a resort-style swimming pool, a bocce court and a putting green. Future walking paths will also lead to a small lake. For more information visit www.ownthequeenanne.com



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GREAT PASSION PLAY OPEN FOR 2013

“A Miracle on Miracle Mountain”

By Kent Butler, Assistant Executive Director

The Great Passion Play has been a mainstay tourist attraction in Northwest Arkansas since it was first performed in 1968. Since that time, 7.6 million people have seen the Play, and a great multitude more have stood awe-inspired in front of the seven-story Christ of the Ozarks Statue also on the grounds. However, at the end of 2012, the opportunity to witness the Greatest Story Ever Told first-hand came under threat. It is a bit ironic that The Great Passion Play, a dramatic reproduction of Christ’s miraculous life, was itself in need of a miracle.

I have personally been a cast member in the Play since 2005. I got my driver’s license and became a Roman soldier. My wife, Mallory, has been in the Play since she was five. Her father played Jesus, and she was the little lame girl. It was our involvement with the Play that kindled our love and cemented our bond as a couple. Obviously, “America’s #1 Attended Outdoor Drama” has meant much more to me than simply being a play of Christ’s life.

So, when the possibility of closure became a reality, it felt as if the fabric of my life was pulling apart. I vividly remember the crisp October night of the last performance of the 2012 season. After the audience had left the amphitheater, the entire cast and crew gathered on the set in street attire, without the costumes that make our Jerusalem come to life. We prayed, not as performers who wanted to put on a show for another season, but as people of faith who wanted to touch the lives of people with the greatest message in the world.

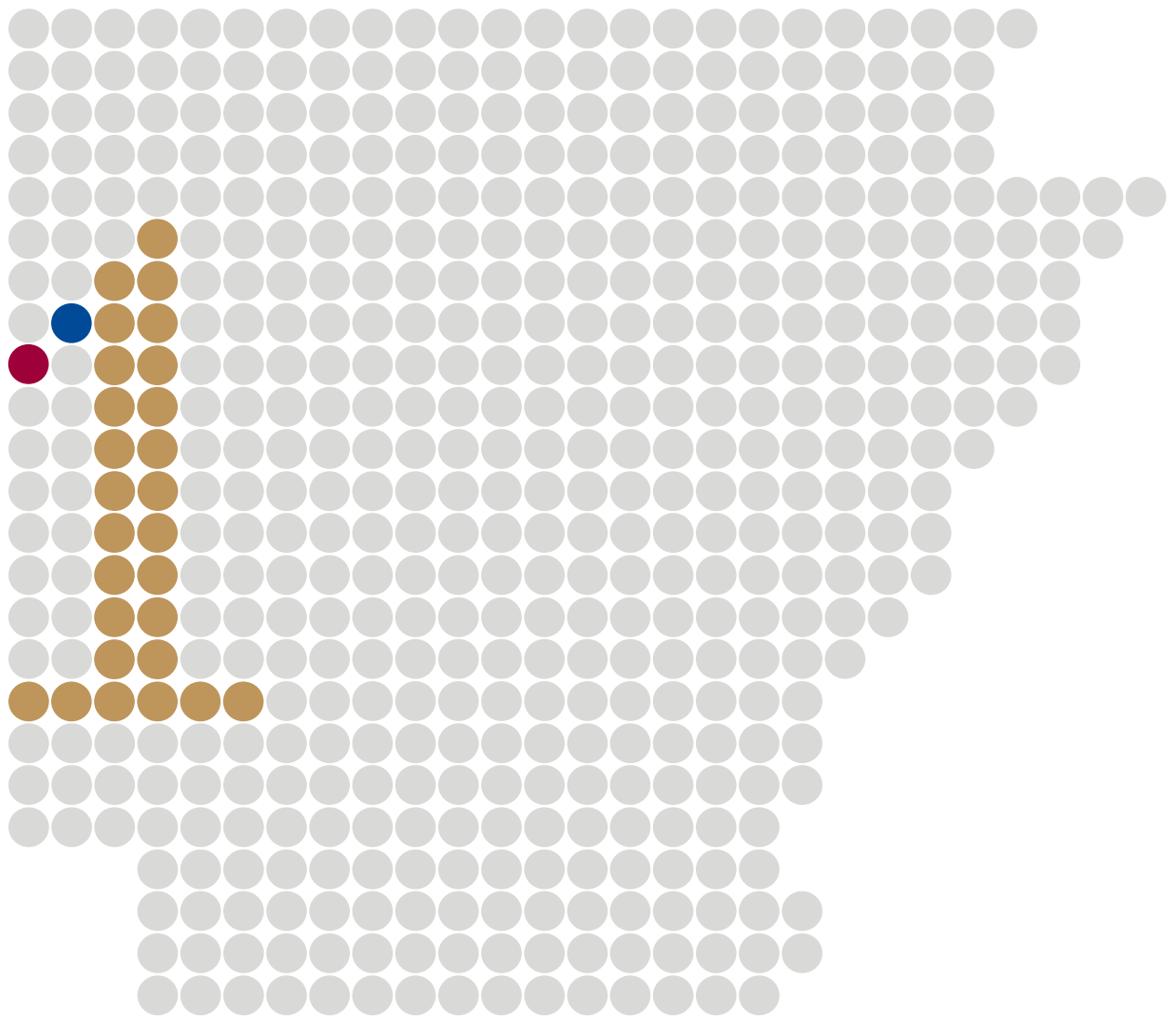
Yet it all seemed to no avail. On December 4, the lights

illuminating the Christ of the Ozarks were shut off and news spread like wildfire that the Play was closing for good. For the next two weeks, it seemed as if The Great Passion Play was over forever. Then, out of nowhere, Randall Christy, the President and Founder of the Gospel Station Network out of Ada, Oklahoma, stepped forward and offered to help raise the \$75,000 needed to stop the bank’s foreclosure. I met him on December 20, 2012—the day before the world was supposed to end. On December 21, 2012, the donations started to roll in. The world would not end that day, and it marked a new day for The Great Passion Play.

We met our goal of raising \$75,000 in ten days and now look forward to the 2013 season of The Great Passion Play. There was no one large single contributor who made it happen. Cast members, locals, bankers, and people from all over the nation giving of what they had made it happen by the grace of God. We are both a business and a ministry; we are all about ministry, and it takes business to do our ministry. Through our partnership with The Gospel Station Network, we are ready for our best season ever in recent years. Performances for the 2013 season of The Great Passion Play will begin the first weekend of May and run through the last weekend of October.

In a world with so much pain and despair, people need to know that miracles still happen today and that “No Problem is too big for God.” God just worked a miracle at The Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

The Great Passion Play is a 501-C3 nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.



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TROLLEY LINE BOOKSHOP:

arts
2NJOY

**Finest Selection
of Vintage Books
in Northwest Arkansas**

Article by Marilyn H. Collins

Photos by Arturo

Pat and Myra Moran are the delightful owners of Trolley Line Bookshop in historic downtown Rogers, Arkansas. Visiting their shop is a destination unto itself. The smell and touch of books—almost forgotten—is a book lover's dream come true.

Trolley Line Bookshop has the coziness of a shop in England filled with teapots, children's toys, quilts, vintage signs, miniature houses and furniture snugly tucked among thousands of shelved books (as well as a few books spilling onto the floor).

Myra's fascination with books began at a very early age, attributed in part to the influence of her mother and grandmother who both loved to read. "I bought my first book in Wichita, Kansas, for only 25 cents. The book was leather bound and is the only childhood treasure that I've kept over the years," she says. "My grandmother and I used to dream of someday owning our own bookshop."

However, her dream was put aside while she pursued adult career interests. Her pursuits included serving as the Program Coordinator for the Center of Arkansas Studies at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), and she later became editor of the Journal of the Arkansas State Senate for the state legislature.

Trolley Line Bookshop
110 West Walnut Street
Rogers, AR
479-636-1626



Photos by Arturo

During those years, Myra became an avid book collector. Today, customers to her shop most often ask, "Where did you get all these books?" She has found vintage as well as rare books through the years by attending book shows, estate sales, and even acquiring a complete library. Books soon filled every available space in her house. "My children were so glad when I finally opened a bookshop so they could get their closet space back," laughs Myra.

Myra prepared for starting her business by attending the Out-of-Print and Antiquarian Book Market Seminar at the



“My specialty has always been regional books, particularly ones about Arkansas history and lore.”

- Myra Moran, Owner Trolley Line Bookshop

University of Denver. She also worked with the UALR Small Business Department before opening her first bookshop in Little Rock. “Trolley Line Bookshop” seemed the perfect name, as Pat’s two uncles were early Motormen on Little Rock streetcars.

Pat is an attorney and wanted to open a home office, so they moved to Rogers in 1992. He has represented many Arkansas clients, or those with Arkansas interests, in Washington, DC, and in Little Rock. He is currently a sole practitioner providing legal advice on regulatory and legislative matters for his clients.

Myra first opened her downtown shop in Rogers above the former Ladies Dress Shop owned by Opel Beck, at 110 West Walnut Street. “Opel and I ran on the honor system,” says Myra. “Customers would browse through the books upstairs and pay in the dress shop downstairs.” Myra closed the shop but later reopened in the vacated Ladies Dress Shop space on the first floor.

“My specialty has always been regional books, particularly ones about Arkansas history and lore. I could have an entire shop filled with just regional books,” says Myra. “Books for children and books by regional authors are my next largest categories. The ones that I love too much to sell stay at home,” chuckles Myra, “and I never sell a book signed personally to me by the author.”

Customers range from those who regularly check the latest acquisitions: teens and young adults looking for books by Stephanie Meyers or J. K. Rowling, sidewalk traffic and those attracted by her reasonably priced vintage children’s books. “An interesting phenomenon is the number of travelers passing through the area who check out local bookshops. People call from their hotel asking directions to the shop. I even have one truck driver who stops by for books while his truck is being loaded,” says Myra.

Supporting the growing number of writers in the area is important to Myra and Pat. Myra is currently working on a biography of a notable Arkansan, and her husband, in addition to lawyering, writes poetry and short stories.



Owners Myra and Pat Moran

Workshops and book signings take place throughout the year at Trolley Line Bookshop. She just formed “Literary Journeys,” a local writers’ group who meet on the third Monday each month from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Heirloom Food and Gifts, 113 South 2nd Street. Space is limited, but room remains for a few more writers.

LIVE FROM CLUB VICTORIA OPEN MIC NIGHT

Every Saturday
6:30 pm to ...
Bread & Butter Restaurant
113 West Walnut Street
Rogers, AR
479-246-0100

LITERARY JOURNEYS WRITING GROUP

Third Monday each month
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Heirloom Restaurant
113 South Second Street
Rogers, AR
Info. 479-636-1626

“Live from Club Victoria” is open-mic night for creative people to congregate, sing their songs and read poetry or short stories. This group is open and meets on Saturday evenings at 6:30 pm at the restaurant, Bread & Butter, 113 West Walnut Street in downtown Rogers.

Trolley Line Bookshop customers often thrill to discover a memory from childhood, a vintage book or a book about Arkansas. Someone is often heard saying, “I’d forgotten how much I love just holding a book.”

NUTRITION

A Personal Journey for A Local Naturopath

By Jamie Smith

About 25 years ago, life was very different for Marvin Shipman, certified natural health professional and owner of Ozark Herb and Spice in Bentonville, Arkansas.

He was a successful business owner who ran Don's Stateline Store and the Ozark Beverage Company in Missouri. Business was good, but his health was deteriorating for unknown reasons. Shipman developed a seizure disorder that started out with petite (minor) seizures and progressed to frequent grand mal seizures. "I reached the point that I was either going into a seizure, in a seizure or coming out of a seizure at all times," he said.

Shipman was given 90 days to live and told to get his affairs in order. He sold his businesses, decided to read the Bible from cover to cover and to spend time with his family. While reading the Bible, he noticed that herbs are mentioned throughout. It was during this time he discovered Ozark Herb and Spice where he learned about various kinds of natural nutrition to improve one's quality of life. He started experimenting with some of the herbs and natural supplements to see if they would help.

"It was very profound," he said. "Overnight I could tell a difference."



Dr. Marvin Shipman

Five years later with his body back in balance he knew he had found both the answer to better health and his calling from God. Shipman started studying natural medicine with fervor, and participated in seminars across the country to learn about naturopathy. At the time there was no formal schooling on the subject, but a man named Wendall Whitman changed that. "He wanted to standardize natural medicine," Shipman said.

Whitman created Certified Natural Health Professionals program, and Shipman was the second to graduate from the program.



He moved on to earn a Masters in Herbology. There was one college at the time offering a naturopathy degree, but it was too “New Agey,” according to Shipman.

Whitman created the Trinity College of Natural Health and Shipman became a board-certified naturopath from the American Naturopathic Medical Association. The state of Arkansas does not have a licensure program for naturopaths, an issue that Shipman finds ironic.

“The Natural State has not ratified natural medicine,” he said. He continues to teach seminars and continuing education for the college, providing other naturopaths with the latest in resources and information.

While Shipman was earning his education in naturopathy and training others in the art across the country, he and his family were also serving their nutritional needs right at home. Soon after discovering natural medicine, he purchased the Ozark Herb and Spice Company and operated it from the family’s home in southwest Missouri for several years. A decade ago, they moved to Bentonville and business quadrupled within 90 days, Shipman said.

In the 25 years that he has worked in natural medicine, Shipman said he has helped more than 20,000 patients. Besides selling nutrition products, there is also a chiropractor and massage therapist available at Ozark Herb and Spice. Shipman offers

multiple services, including the use of muscle response testing and the use of a biofeedback computer used by NASA for astronauts returning from space.

For the thousands of people he has served, Shipman is a God-send. His expertise and services are well sought after from people all over Northwest Arkansas and the country.

Shipman said that some believe the methods are just as “New Agey” as the theories he avoided learning many years ago. He disagrees and speaks of the organic nature of the body that God created.

“We’re an organic being and herbs are organic elements,” he said. “I’m teaching people to nutritionally feed themselves for more balanced bodies.”

“I’m teaching people to
nutritionally feed themselves
for more balanced bodies.”

-Dr. Marvin Shipman



Re-juve.me



Photos courtesy of Emmabeth Eden Winters

By Barbara King

Where do we go from here?

Baby Boomers make life choices when they approached each new age, and now there are diseases directly related to those choices! Heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure are just a few.

We Baby Boomers have never just followed our parents; as we have approached each new age, we have redefined it and made it ours. We have fought to make life better. Now we are in our “mature years”; it is time to redefine this period of our lives. Let’s make our quality of life the best and age gracefully with our health being the most important issue or goal.

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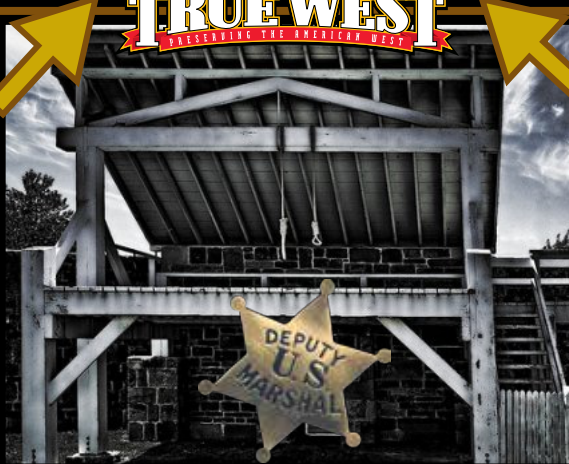
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- **Too many activities to list!**
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- Oak Cemetery
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- Tales of the Crypt is a popular, family friendly living history tour of Oak Cemetery.
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Mountain Air Organic Beds

By Jamie Smith

When Joyce Robertson worked at a traditional mattress store, she became alarmed at the number of people whose health was hindered by their mattress choices. Though they thought they were getting good mattresses, once they slept on them for a while they either realized they were uncomfortable, or worse, the chemicals in the mattresses were affecting their health.



Those people were often left without recourse because they were not allowed to return their mattress. There were many customers who came in to purchase new mattresses every few years because theirs had worn down.

The chemicals in the materials, or even something as simple as dead skin cells and other dirt that collected in the mattresses, gave customers with allergies, breathing problems. According to Robertson the dead skin cells and dust mites are also what make mattresses heavier over time.

Instead of looking the other way or simply walking away Robertson decided to take action. She educated herself about healthy sleeping, especially when it comes to healthy sleep products like bedding and mattresses. The Robertsons opened Mountain Air Organic Beds four years ago and have made it their mission not only to provide healthy bedding for customers, but to educate them on healthy, organic sleeping.

Organic means all materials used in the making of a product were produced without pesticides or other chemicals. Natural could mean only part of the product is made from nature and those elements could have been exposed to harmful chemicals.

The organic mattresses are different both in their makeup and in their construction. Each mattress contains multiple components, including three layers that are placed into the zippered mattress cover. This construction has many health and convenience aspects to it; making it easier to replace the different layers or to clean them, where traditional mattresses can rarely, if ever, get fully cleaned.

Mountain Air Organic Beds sells other products, such as organic comforters and mattresses for baby cribs. They are also exclusive sellers of the Oceanic Wave Bed, which is a base for the mattresses that causes slight movement. According to Robertson, it helps with tossing and turning and increases circulation.

The business has grown mostly from word-of-mouth; customers are delighted at the improvements to their health and mood simply because of a healthier sleep environment. "People are looking for products to improve their health," Robertson said.





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Decks add a dimension of fun and festivity to a home, but there are a few common problems that arise if you own a wood deck. In the summertime, decks provide a natural setting for barbecues, parties, and other social events. They are not only beautiful, but wood decks also add to your home's value.

However, if not properly cared for, they can quickly deteriorate and become hazardous. Wood decks, in particular, require regular maintenance.

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SealSmart is a locally founded, owned, and operated company based out of Monett, Missouri. This business has grown from one single location and crew to multiple locations and staff covering areas in Northwest Arkansas; Southwest Missouri; Kansas City, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; Austin, Texas; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Louisville, Kentucky and Indianapolis, Indiana. SealSmart cleans and permanently seals exterior wood, concrete and masonry structures. The entrepreneurial spirit that started in 1986 continues today with innovation, creativity and resourcefulness.

The owner and team members behind SealSmart have an in-depth knowledge of wood and concrete, as well as experience with the challenges they bring. The SealSmart team has extensive experience in the actual preservation and protection of industrial applications of wood, concrete and masonry.

Below are a couple of testimonials from satisfied customers:

"We cleaned and sealed our deck yearly for 10 years; last year we had SealSmart treat our deck, and now we will never have to seal or stain it again. That will save us money plus time and effort to keep our deck looking good; we love the natural look of SealSmart. They were here when they said they would be and did a very professional job. I highly recommend them."

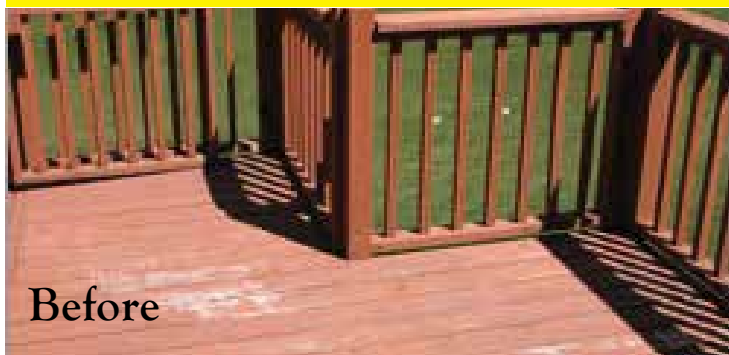
William and Karen Booth

"After seeing a demo by Seal Smart at the St. Louis home show last spring, I decided to contract with the company to restore and seal my wood deck. The staff from SealSmart arrived at the scheduled time and promptly worked their magic. "WOW" is all I can say. My deck looks new and I have received many compliments from neighbors and friends. I'm so glad that I had this done. I would not hesitate to tell anyone to have this company restore their wood deck."

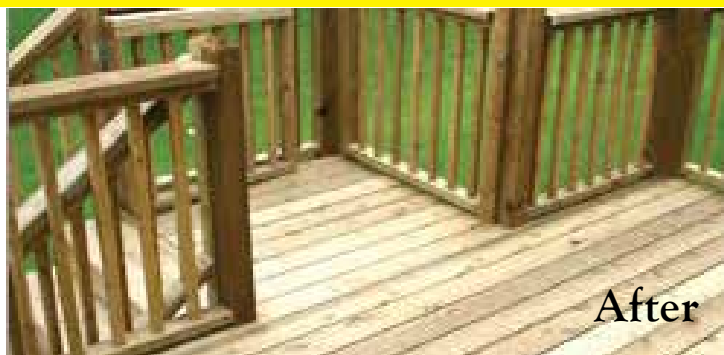
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THE WRITERS' COLONY AT DAIRY HOLLOW



WRITE TIGHT: A LESSON FROM PAPA

By Sandy Martin

As the legend goes, while Ernest Hemmingway lunched with several other writers at the famous Algonquin Round Table, the braggadocios Papa claimed he could write a long-short story in under 10 words. Ten dollar “betcha can’t” bills were quickly slapped on the table. Without stopping to take another sip of lunch, Hemmingway put pen to napkin and came up with a winner: “For sale, baby shoes, never worn.”

The stunned colleagues had to grant him victory. It was a brilliant story, indeed, with a beginning, a middle and an end. Hemmingway was a master at economic writing. His contribution of what has since been dubbed as “The Six Word Memoir” can teach us a lot about how to write tight in this age of tweeting and twittering.

According to electronic marketers, the average person has an attention span of mere seconds. Several training experts

agree that our attention spans may expand to about 10-15 minutes with an engaging presenter. E-publishers suggest electronic blog, book or web page content should be no more than 50% of what would normally appear in traditional print. Thanks to electronic communication, we do not communicate to a ‘face’ or have the advantage of human interaction. Sensitivity to how words will be read by another is very important; how many times have we all hit “send” and regretted it? Here is a Top 10 list of suggestions for tighter writing:

1. Economize. If you can say something in two words, do not use ten.
2. Do not tell your reader what you going to tell them before you tell them.
3. Use the CTRL + f function to find extra words like “that,” “however,” and “just.” Then delete them.
4. Use the same function to look for “was” and get rid of it. Example: Joe was going to the store. Revise: Joe ran to the store.
5. Avoid saying someone was about to do something. Just say they did it. Example: She started to scream. Instead say: She screamed.
6. Spot lazy verbs hiding by words ending in “ing” and “ly.”

The Writers’ Colony at Dairy Hollow provides creative residencies with uninterrupted time for writers of all genres including culinary, composers, and artists. More than 850 writers from 44 states and 11 countries have created at the Colony since its founding in 2000.

7. Eliminate helping verbs when possible. Remember those? They are words like “Is, are, was, were, be, am and been.” They clutter your writing, slow it down, and often make it passive.

8. Tighten paragraph beginnings and rearrange the structure if necessary. Example: She glanced at her shoes and then looked away. She said, “I really don’t like this color.” She sighed and sat in a chair. A better construction: She glanced at the shoes and sighed as she sat. “I really don’t like the color.” (Reduced words from twenty-three to sixteen and eliminated the subject and verb repetition).

9. Make sure every action has a reaction, even if it is non-verbal.

10. Name things. Example: “She pulled up in a car”. Instead: “She pulled her Mercedes to the curb.”

Hemmingway proved a complicated and rather tragic life story can be summed up in six words. The lesson from Papa applies to almost every story, and some are quite funny, like “I can’t keep my own secrets” or “Fired therapist. One mother is enough.”

Here’s mine:

Summing it up is six words.

ACCENTS SALON AND SPA | by Precia Godsey



AVEDA'S MISSION

Our mission at Aveda is to care for the world we live in, from the products we make to the ways in which we give back to society. At Aveda, we strive for environmental leadership and responsibility—not just in the world of beauty but around the world.

ACCENT'S MISSION

Our mission at Accents states, we will use our talents and gifts to make a difference for all those we touch and to care for the world we live in.



photo by Teddie McConnell

At Accents Salon and Spa, an Aveda concept salon that brings nature's power to beauty and wellness, guests are paramount!

Located in the beautiful South Walton Suites Hotel just three minutes south of the Walmart corporate offices, Accents has been proudly serving Northwest Arkansas since 2005. Voted by their valued guests the "Best of the Best" eight years running, Accents brings technology and beauty together to help de-stress guests while acknowledging the stress of today's busy life. iPads are incorporated to more efficiently locate and visualize the styles guests wish to attain, as well as text and email confirmation, online salon viewing and booking and a myriad of other programs that provide the most customized personal experience possible.

The passionate hair team at Accents is committed to continually stay abreast of

the changing trends and techniques in the industry through ongoing education. This dedication is not just to their art, but also to their valued guests. All guests start their hair services off with a personal sit down consultation to help determine what style and Aveda color best fits their lifestyles. The hair team offers a plethora of services from Aveda hair color, Great Lengths Human Hair Extensions and the latest trends in haircutting and ethnic hair.

The dedicated Accents spa team offers Tia, deep tissue, prenatal, hot stone and couples massage packages. Also offered are full body hair removal, Aveda rejuvenating facials and body wraps, Aveda manicures and pedicures, lash extensions and shellac gel polish.

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