

LITTLE ROCK Source

Nº1

little rock's premier city magazine

MARCH 2014 \$ VOL. 13

Kori Gordon

THE HOME ISSUE

HOUSE & HOPE

*Kori Gordon brings hope
to cancer patients at the
20th Century Club's Lodge*

Building Good

*William Clark constructs
solid buildings, honest relationships*

A Room of Your Own

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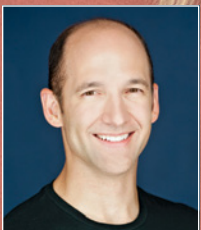
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ON THE COVER: Kori Gordon wears a Valentino dress from Barbara/Jean with a bracelet from Jones & Son. Hair and makeup by Angela Alexander. Photography by Jason Masters.



LITTLE ROCK soirée

THE HOME ISSUE

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Mother of four, pharmacist and volunteer brings hope to cancer patients seeking treatment at local hospitals via the 20th Century Club's Lodge. This month she's co-chairing the club's annual Hope Ball, which raises operating funds for the lodge.

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A self-proclaimed construction industry "lifer," William Clark, CEO of Clark Contractors, specializes not just in building solid structures, but also strong, honest relationships.

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Founder of The Van and its parent nonprofit The One, 32-year-old Aaron Reddin's compassion for the homeless runs deep. Here he shares more about his own journey and his mission to help others who are struggling.

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Need we say more? Check out Team Soirée's compilation of the absolute best cookies in the city. From traditional chocolate chip to tangy lemon, there's something for everyone in this cookie roundup.

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Who's a Vesta's Girl?

She's a woman who prefers to live life on the fringe.



Melissa Tanner is wearing deco lace pant paired with fringe vest with cutouts by **SW3 Bespoke**. Blouse by **4 Love & Liberty**.

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Photo: Jason Masters

CHANGE + GROWTH

at *Soirée*, we're party people, that's for sure. Since our first issue 12 years ago this month, we've published approximately 3,376 parties. I know because I counted them – every single one. And that number doesn't even include events we covered that for one reason or another didn't make the cut. We hate when that happens, but sometimes it does.

There are countless people giving selflessly and numerous organizations doing great work on both sides of the river, and we'd love to feature each and every one of them. But unfortunately, there's only so much room in the print issue. The most difficult part of our job, by far, is picking and choosing what to feature. But it's a job we take seriously, and believe me, there's a method to our madness.

For this reason and so many more, we're excited to introduce you to the new LittleRockSoiree.com! The brainchild of editor-in-chief Sandra McGrew, she and our entire team have been working for months to get the website just right. What we've created is an interactive piece that will act as an extension of the magazine, while also offering readers exclusive content on local restaurants, events, shopping, fashion, culture and the arts. The new site will also introduce readers to people and organizations not featured in print. The magazine and LittleRockSoiree.com will go together like peas and carrots, eggs and bacon, peanut butter and jelly. Well, you get the picture. Visit LittleRockSoiree.com to see the new design and sign up for our daily e-newsletter, "Little Rock Soirée Today."



While we're on the topic of new additions, I'm excited to announce we've re-launched our Executive Privilege feature. Profiling a local executive, this monthly story offers a glimpse into the lives of some of the city's most successful movers and shakers. Up this month is William Clark, CEO of Clark Contractors. Read all about him on page 24.

Also in this month's issue, read about Kori Gordon, who's co-chairing the 20th Century Club's Hope Ball; Aaron Reddin, who's helping the homeless with The Van; Youth Home's board president Roberta Clark; and Kevin Walsh, whose unique style imbues his work at Bear-Hill Interiors.

And if that wasn't enough amazing content, we've once again included a Room of Your Own, a special section featuring a resource guide and tips from local specialists for renovating every room of your home. With spring upon us, there's no better time than now to begin your fresh home updates. Happy spring!

See you at the Soirée,

Amanda Hoelzeman

Amanda Hoelzeman, editor

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CONTRIBUTORS | MARCH



JEANNI BROSIOUS, a veteran journalist and former syndicated columnist, knew in the fourth grade that she would be a writer. A former features writer for the *Arkansas*

Democrat Gazette, she now freelances for several magazines. She lives in Little Rock with her husband and youngest daughter, and she may be spotted at the farmers market on any given Saturday.



When MARK FRIEDMAN isn't behind the camera snapping party photos for *Soirée*, he's writing up news stories as senior editor of *Arkansas Business*.

Growing up in sunny San Mateo, Calif., Mark became a rabid fan of the San Francisco Giants and 49ers. He also has a loving wife, Holly, a daughter, Sarah, along with two dogs, Buster and Sammie. There's also room in his heart for one Beta fish, Bill.



JACOB SLATON is a portrait photographer based in Little Rock. His work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair* and *People Magazine*, among others. He and

his wife Micaiah have three awesome kids who draw pretty good pictures of dragons and princesses. His life dream is to build the biggest slip-n-slide of all time.



IRENE FORBES, senior art director at Arkansas Business Publishing Group, is our secret weapon. Every month, she works for days

toning, cropping and cleaning up our party pics. Spinach in your teeth? She's on it. Wine on your shirt? Not to worry. She's also a killer piano player and obtained her bachelor of music degree in piano performance from UALR. She's been at ABPG for 22 years and we hope she puts up with us for many more years to come.

WHAT'S ONLINE | MARCH

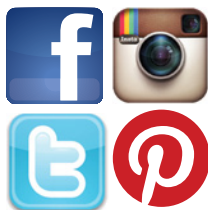


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WHAT'S ONLINE? AN ALL NEW, REDESIGNED LITTLEROCKSOIREE.COM

Soirée launches its new website and e-newsletter this month, as it expands online coverage of the city's best restaurants, events, fine arts and shopping. Readers can expect to see new contributors and features, along with our signature take on philanthropy, fashion and people in Little Rock.

Don't miss out! Sign up for the new e-newsletter "Little Rock Soirée Today" at www.LittleRockSoiree.com!



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EGGS-CITING EVENING

Youth Home board president gears up for signature fundraiser

by AMANDA HOELZEMAN • photography LILY DARRAGH

Roberta Clark was born in Herrin, Ill., and began her adult life in a small town just outside of Carbondale, Ill. A single mother of three, she came to Little Rock in 1995 to give her children a better life. She now has her MBA and is an instructor at Arkansas Baptist College and an adjunct instructor at John Brown University. She acknowledges, however, that her life and the lives of her children could have taken a different course.

"As a single mother, it was a challenge trying to balance work and take care of three children under the age of 6 while ensuring them the best life possible. It was by grace of God that I was able to raise them in a stable home environment," she says. "Many of the children and families who come to Youth Home have not been afforded that opportunity. Their situations are even more desperate because of serious underlying psychiatric disorders. I strongly believe that the psychiatric programs and services offered by Youth Home are the best mental healthcare that teenagers, adults and families can receive," adds Clark, who is currently helping Youth Home prepare for Eggshibition, its largest annual fundraiser.

SO: What should we know about Youth Home?

RC: The mission of Youth Home is to equip and empower youth, adults and families to become healthier contributing members of the community by providing compassionate emotional and behavioral healthcare. Often, the greatest challenge is getting the general public to talk about the issue of severe mental illness impacting our community. There are so many unfortunate stigmas associated with mental illness that the mission and work of Youth Home does not get the public discourse it deserves. Some find it easier to think of the teens at Youth Home as "bad kids." We see our community speak publically about physical disabilities or diseases, even those of the most intimate nature, but become uncomfortable when faced with the topic of mental illness. Any individual stricken with a disease, no matter if it is cancer or bipolar disorder deserves our attention, and those organizations working to make an individual whole deserve our support.

SO: What sets Youth Home apart from similar organizations?

RC: Youth Home works not only with the patient directly suffering from an issue, but also with the entire family. Our goal is to help the person receiving the services and to set them up for success once they return to their home setting. Youth Home provides a continuum of care, including a 52-acre campus on Colonel Glenn for residential and day treatment programs and a convenient outpatient clinic just off Markham for individuals of all ages needing therapy.

SO: Tell us more about Eggshibition.

RC: Eggshibition has raised over \$2 million for Youth Home since 1992. The event continues to feature renowned artists and celebrities who create egg-shaped masterpieces. The festivities also include heavy hors d'oeuvres, libations, gift baskets and a live auction. We are also implementing BidPal this year, which allows guests to bid from their smartphones or devices at the event. Guests will be alerted when they have been outbid, can search for specific artists or donors, or even find items with no bids. ©

EGGSHIBITION

When/ 7 p.m., Friday, April 4 **Where/** UALR's Jack Stephens Center
Tickets/ \$50 general admission; \$75 VIP ticket **Info/** www.YouthHome.org

Makeup by Bianca Reed;
 hair by Constance Clark



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MISSION-MINDED

When Kori Gordon gets nervous about her Hope Ball co-chair duties, she remembers the children she worked with at ACH, where she was a pharmacist on the hematology/oncology unit. "Those kids were fighting for their lives and they did it with a smile on their face," she says. *Adrianna Papell dress and bracelets on right wrist provided by Dillard's, Vahan bracelet on left wrist (a raffle item) by Jones & Son; hair & makeup by Angela Alexander.*



HOUSE AND HOPE

A LITTLE ROCK MOTHER OF FOUR DEDICATES HER TIME
TO HELPING CANCER PATIENTS FEEL AT HOME

by ROSEMARY HALLMARK • photography JASON MASTERS



ew people can say their lives or the lives of their loved ones haven't been affected by cancer. For Little Rock native Kori Gordon, her own experience with cancer began with her career on the hematology/oncology unit at Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) and, more recently, with the death of her father, who passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2003. "That's a devastating diagnosis," Gordon says. "I cannot even imagine hearing those words." Just over 10 years later, Gordon's passion for helping cancer patients has led her to the 20th Century Club, where she will co-chair the organization's annual Hope Ball this month, along with Kelly Thompson.

After graduating from Hendrix, Gordon went on to receive her pharmacy degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences before beginning a clinical pharmacy position at ACH's hematology/oncology unit. "I loved the time I spent working at ACH," Gordon says. "I've always loved hematology/oncology. It's always interested me." Even years later, Gordon keeps in contact with the families and patients she met while working at ACH, even some of the families whose children passed away long ago.

continued on page 20

2014 HOPE BALL

When/ 6 p.m., Saturday, March 8 **Where/** Statehouse Convention Center

Tickets/ \$250 per person **Info/** 907-1760, www.HopeAwayFromHome.org

continued from page 19

Gordon's passion for cancer patients was apparent to everyone around her, including Cecelia Blasier, whose husband, Dale, is an orthopedic attending physician at ACH. Cecelia encouraged Gordon to join the 20th Century Club, an organization of women who raise funds and volunteer for the 20th Century Club's Lodge, which provides temporary, no-cost housing to cancer patients receiving outpatient chemotherapy and radiation treatments at medical facilities in central Arkansas.

"I love Little Rock. My husband had the opportunity to join a medical practice in Oregon but he chose to come home back here and I feel blessed that we did that," Gordon says. Since working at ACH, she had dedicated much of her time to volunteering around the city. She spent seven years as a member of the Junior League of Little Rock. She volunteered at her sons' schools and had joined the board of directors for Jr. Deputy Ball Park, where she now serves as president. Though she had a lot on her plate, the idea of joining the 20th Century Club was one she couldn't shake.

Gordon and her husband, Eric, have four sons, ages 3, 5, 11 and 13, and she's made it her mission to teach them the importance of volunteering. "Eric and I strive to teach our boys that volunteering isn't something that we

The 20th Century Club provides 5,500 nights of housing and 4,000 meals to 1,200 patients and caregivers every year.

can do or need to do, but it's something that we have to do. Volunteering teaches my boys compassion and gratitude, but I also want to instill in them humility and a strong work ethic."

As Gordon was nearing the end of her seven years in the Junior League of Little Rock, she and Eric decided to attend their first Hope Ball, the annual fundraiser of the 20th Century Club, and she immediately decided to join the organization. "I was blown away by what they do," Gordon says. "The 20th Century Club's Lodge is the only facility in Little Rock that offers no-cost housing for cancer patients and a caregiver, no matter where they're receiving treatment — St. Vincent, Baptist, UAMS, it doesn't matter. And the lodge is amazing. It's beautiful. We don't just offer a bed and a

shower. We clean their rooms, we serve dinner three times a week, we play BINGO. We offer that little something extra that lets them know they're being taken care of."

The Lodge, which was built in 2011, includes 27 patient rooms available on a first-come-first-serve basis, and frequently, patients have to be turned away when the Lodge is at capacity. "We provide 5500 nights of housing and 4000 meals to 1200 patients and caregivers annually," Gordon says. "That's a big number of people." It costs the 20th Century Club about \$50 per night to house a patient, and their annual Hope Ball acts as the club's sole fundraiser.

Proceeds from the Hope Ball are used to fund annual Lodge operations expenses. Because the Lodge is relatively new, repair and maintenance costs are only going to get larger as it ages. According to 20th Century Club's Lodge Executive Director Elizabeth Clogston, "The 20th Century Club Endowment Fund was created to allow these types of expenses to be removed from our annual operating costs. Our long-range goal is to grow the Endowment Fund to \$2 million so that the annual income will cover these types of expenses." Short-term goals include a backup generator in case of extended power outages.

This year's Hope Ball, which will take place March 8 at the Statehouse Convention Center,

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will begin with cocktails and a silent auction at 6 p.m., followed by dinner, a live auction and a super silent auction at 7:30 p.m. Recognition will be given to this year's Hope Award Winner, Cathy Ellis Hendrix of Ellis Infiniti, and the Distinguished Service Award Winner, Cecelia Blasier — the same woman who encouraged Gordon to join the 20th Century Club. Guests participate in the Club's annual Fund-A-Night appeal, during which donations will be displayed

in real time on a custom scoreboard, and the evening ends with music by Tragickly White.

"When I was asked to chair the Hope Ball this year, I was scared to death. I've never done anything like this, and I didn't know if I could do it," Gordon says. She found herself facing new challenges and doing things she didn't realize she was capable of. "Asking people for donations? For money and support? I would have never thought that was something I could do. But I

am on a mission. My motivating force is thinking about those kids at ACH. When I get scared, I remind myself that this is just a ball. I am chairing a ball. Those kids were fighting for their lives and they did it with a smile on their face."

Gordon is grateful for the previous Hope Ball chairs, who pass forward a notebook each year with every necessary detail of planning the event. "It's like a manual for life," she says. "They have provided us with a roadmap. That's how Eric and I live our life. We look at where we've been, what we've done and how to bring it forward."

One of the most heartwarming and inspirational moments during each Hope Ball is the video that plays just before the Fund-A-Night appeal. This year, the video, created by New York Emmy-award winning producer Mami Kuwano Renaud, chronicles a day in the life of a 24-year-old cancer patient. "When we were in a planning meeting and someone mentioned that Charolette Williams would be the focus of this year's video, I said, 'Do you spell her name C-H-A-R-O-L-E-T-E?' and the committee members said, 'How did you know that?'" Kori explains. "Charolette was one of my patient's at ACH 10 years ago. Everything came full circle for me in that moment, and I realized how special it was that the year I chaired the event, Charolette would be in our video." ©

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DESIGNED TO LAST

Bear-Hill owner talks style, business and the intersection of the two

by AMANDA HOELZEMAN • photography RETT PEEK

“**A**bsolutely,” says Kevin Walsh, when asked if he considers himself a person with a wide variety of interests.

The seventh of eight children, Walsh opened his interior design business and showroom, Bear-Hill Interiors, in 2000, after a short stint in the banking and mortgage business, followed by cosmetology school and a decade-long career cutting and styling hair.

His evolution into the interior design world was a bit more organic than intentional. “I have always loved design, fashion, interiors, architecture, the arts,” he says, “but I’m not one of those people who is like, ‘I rearranged the furniture when I was three’ or whatever. I would tinker with stuff when I was younger, but I don’t remember ever having any epiphanies about being a designer.”

Instead, the industry more or less discovered him when, 25 years ago, his next-door neighbor asked him to come over and do some decorating for her. “And it just turned into me doing that for people,” he says. “I had a salon and a career and that whole thing going, and I never really thought about it. We’d always talked about having a shop. We found a building and it just sort of came about.”

The “we” Walsh references is Brett Pitts, Walsh’s life and business partner. The store’s namesake is derived from a combination of their mothers’ maiden names: Anita Bear, for Walsh, and Kay Hill, for Pitts.

In addition to Walsh and Pitts, two more members joined the Bear-Hill team in 2000: Kathy Goromboly as office manager and Walsh’s sister, Susan Walsh, as an interior designer.

Born sixth in the lineup of Walsh children, Susan is closest in age to Kevin. But the similarities don’t end there. “I would say if you knew us, we’re the two that are the most alike of the siblings. I’m

close to my others, but I don’t know. I can’t explain it,” he says. “We just have the same interests.”

At the beginning of Susan’s career, she worked on the east coast for Ralph Lauren. Eventually though, she obtained her design degree and found her way back to Little Rock, where she took a job at Cobblestone & Vine. “But when I decided to do this, we asked her to come work for us,” says Walsh. “She’d been in retail and she was good at it. I had owned a salon, so I knew how to own a business, but this is a different kind of business.”

In the almost 15 years since Bear-Hill opened, Walsh has continually honed his business acumen to keep the showroom and business successful. “Whenever you deal with the public, a lot of it is about listening and then trying to get clients the best products available. I really think that’s why we’re successful. We try really hard. Anytime you’re successful, you have to work really hard to get that way. It doesn’t just happen,” he says.

Another thing that helps the business thrive is passion, which permeates Walsh’s work. “I don’t ever get sick of what I do. I’m constantly consumed by it. I can go to a flea market or a thrift shop and I’m just constantly looking at things, always working.”

He scours Etsy at eBay at night, looking for unique and vintage finds to bring to his clients. Bear-Hill carries the handmade works of a ceramist Walsh discovered on Etsy and the crystal treasure boxes of an artist originally from Magnolia.

Additionally, Walsh works with other local shops, like About Vase and Tipton & Hurst for flowers, and Chris Clement and Fabulous Finds for vintage pieces. “I’m constantly seeing what’s out there, what’s new, what’s different,” he says.

Here, Walsh shares more about his own personal style and that of the Bear-Hill showroom.

DESIGNER Q&A

Q: What is a home trend you love and wish would come back in style?

A: Classic everything is always better than trendy anything.

Q: What is your design mantra?

A: Take your time, buy what you love, invest in quality.

Q: What do you regret not buying when you had the chance?

A: A cashmere sofa at an auction that sold for \$5k. It was worth around \$25k.

Q: If you could have dinner with any architect, designer or decorator, who would it be and why?

A: Interior designer: Windsor Smith. I’m crazy about her rooms; they are edgy and soft, modern yet traditional. Clothing designer: Michael Bastian, an American who creates modern and luxurious clothes with an edge.

WALSH’S FAVORITES

Chair: Louis XVI dining chair – classic!

Lamp: Always love a Murano glass lamp – it is one of my signatures.

Designer: Jan Sowers is a wonderful designer/showroom in Dallas. She is a go-to on numerous projects.

Color: I love blue. I’m currently obsessed with cobalt.

Trend: Lacquered ceiling

Pattern: Greek key

Fabric: Wool sateen



ROOM TO WARDROBE

Kevin Walsh's impeccable style extends far beyond four walls. Here he wears a Rag & Bone sports coat, a Tom Browne shirt and Gap jeans with Grenson wing tips and a Robert Talbott pocket square. Photographed on location in the Bear-Hill Showroom.



FROM THE GROUND UP

William Clark says his team at Clark Contractors can do just about any type of work, from education and hospitality, to commercial and healthcare projects, like this one, the Little Rock Medical Associates office building.

BUILDING GOOD

CEO of Clark Contractors focuses on constructing solid foundations

by AMANDA HOELZEMAN • photography JUSTIN BOLLE

When it comes to working in construction, William Clark claims he's a "lifer." The Little Rock native, husband to Christy and father of three graduated from the U of A in 1991 with a degree in business management with an emphasis in small business/entrepreneurship. Three weeks after graduation he went to work for his dad, Bill Clark, at Braggs Electric, which did all the electrical work for Dillard's.

"I started out working in the accounting department at Braggs," he recalls. About three years later the elder Clark moved William over to CDI Construction (which he also owned), and he began working as a project manager.

"When my dad got diagnosed with cancer in December 2006, I was working onsite at UAMS on the new patient tower project. A month later I was back in the office working closely with my dad to learn more about the executive side of things."

The elder Clark died about five months after that and William was promoted to CEO of CDI. A year-and-a-half later, he really put his degree to work as he started his own business, Clark Contractors.

In the five years since the launch of Clark Contractors, the company has put its mark on a number of notable projects, including too many healthcare projects to mention, the newly finished Arcade Building in downtown Little Rock and the Clinton Presidential Park Bridge. Clark Contractors is also currently working on the downtown Mann on Main renovation. "I was also the project manager on Heifer's new headquarters building, which was the first LEED Platinum building in Arkansas," Clark says.

Regarding the types of projects his company takes on, Clark says he considers his team and their abilities diverse, adding that they've done a lot of hospitality, healthcare, educational and commercial work. "We don't try to focus too much on any one particular market sector. We're capable of doing just about anything. I'm really proud of the competence of our whole team."

Clark Contractors' business values are admirable: "Family spirit, humility, relationships, service, teamwork, transparency and trust." "That philosophy isn't just something we sat down and listed," Clark says. "It's really more

an answer to a question we posed to ourselves: 'What are we all about? Why would someone want to choose us over a bunch of other perfectly qualified contractors?' I think it sums up our approach to how we treat someone we're partnering with."

Clark's emphasis on strong, honest working relationships is clearly influenced by his father, who he says was his "biggest role model." "I learned a lot watching him as I came up in the business. It's kind of funny because he and I didn't have a lot of direct conversations where he'd say, 'You need to do this or that' ... I just watched him operate and saw how he treated people."

It's no surprise then that one of Clark's favorite parts of the job is the relationships he builds while working with clients on long-term construction projects. "Sometimes the process can be three years from the first meeting to the ribbon cutting," he says. "It's so fun and rewarding watching people get to occupy their new building. And when I look at the finished product, I know it will be there long after I'm gone. That's pretty cool." ☺

FAST TRACK

Typical day? It usually starts with checking email and phone messages. Often, they lead to meeting with my team to establish a game plan to resolve whatever issue or opportunity has come up. At some point just about every day, I'm working on a board- or nonprofit-related project, whether it's prepping for a board meeting or planning for an event. I also spend a lot of time strategizing on proposals for new projects and relationships with new and prospective clients.

What would people be surprised to learn about you? I'm a big-time introvert. In my line

of work, I have to attend a lot of events with large crowds. It absolutely wears me out. I have to really gear myself up for them, and afterward I'm exhausted. I fare much better in small groups or one-on-one conversations. They're much more meaningful, and frankly, one of the things I love most about this business.

Music? It's all over the board. I grew up in the '80s, so I'm partial to hair bands like AC/DC and Bon Jovi. But I also listen to Coldplay, Elton John, Soundgarden and a lot of country.

How do you take your coffee? I'm not a coffee guy. I tried to start drinking it when I

started working, but regardless of how much sweet stuff I put in it, it just tasted like dirt water. I drink Coke in the morning to get my caffeine.

Suit and tie, or jeans? Jeans without question, and that's only if shorts aren't appropriate!

Hobbies? The hobby that takes the most of my time right now is coaching and watching my three sons in their sports. I probably saw over 100 games last year in basketball, baseball and football. I've enjoyed it more than I ever thought possible. I also try to play golf, fish and deer and duck hunt as much as I can, too.

ON SOLID FOOTING

At his Rose City warehouse and location of The Farm, Aaron Reddin stands atop an expansive pile of wood that he cuts and distributes to area homeless for firewood.



WILD RIDE

MAN WITH A VAN HELPS MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF LOCAL HOMELESS

by TODD TRAUB • photography JACOB SLATON

Aaron Reddin's guided tour comes to a brief halt when a tornado materializes inside the chicken pen.

It is sunny but cold; the icy wind has a serrated edge. It's the kind of weather, in fact, that adds urgency to Reddin's work with the homeless — but today he happily stops to watch as the gusts gather in a compact whirlwind that sends leaves swirling and the chickens into a tizzy.

"A tornado in the chicken pen," Reddin says, watching the birds scatter. "Holy cow. That's wild."

Anything Reddin finds interesting or remarkable often gets labeled "wild" or "weird," "mind blowing" or "crazy."

Reddin, after all, has experienced much worse than "weird" or "crazy," man. Crazy isn't so bad. In Reddin's world, crazy is a compliment.

Given the way Reddin's help-the-homeless projects "The Van" and his nonprofit "The One" have taken off in three years — he uses the word a lot.

The explosion of donations and growth shortly after the first van went into service?

"That's just when it really went stupid-crazy," Reddin says.

Worldwide donations ranging from the Netherlands to South Korea that helped The One make a down payment on a home for women and children?

"That's just weird, crazy," he says.

The primary requirement for someone to get into Reddin's line of work, maybe take over operation of The Van Reddin has planned for Memphis?

That person just needs to be "crazy enough" to do it.

Beginning with that first, hand-me-down van — and a lot of help from friends — Reddin, 32, has built an operation that features a 15,000-SF warehouse complex and small farm in Rose City.

As directly as it can The One, under Reddin's direction, simply uses The Van to get what is needed — food, warm clothes, firewood — to the people who need it.

"I'm just a screwed up dude trying to help screwed up people," Reddin says.

SEMPER FI

A shaggy 5-11, 240-pound ex-Marine, Reddin, would never look at home at a black-tie fundraiser, unless he was the guy called in to wire the sound system. Reddin prefers to do his good works the blue-collar way, calling on a few friends for help and rolling up his sleeves to do the job.

"We go wherever they are," Reddin says. "Camps. Under bridges. Wherever folks are, man."

He doesn't dwell on it, but under those freeway overpasses, in those alleys and behind those restaurants, he sees in each face the Aaron Reddin that might have been.

Despite a loving family and small-town upbringing in Danville, Reddin wound up, at 20, living in his car and addicted to methamphetamine.

"I guess I just got bored and made a lot of bad decisions," he says.

Seeking the stability and discipline he needed to avoid a bad end, Reddin enlisted

in the Marines, training at San Diego then getting stationed as an administrative specialist with an artillery unit at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Reddin served from 2002-2005 until a medical discharge for a bad knee returned him to the civilian world, clean and sober but still seeking meaning in his life. He should have been set with a job managing construction in Nashville, followed by a promotion and move to Richmond, Va., but he felt a deep dissatisfaction with his life and returned to Arkansas, where he tried to set up a chemical-free house in Conway that failed.

But, like the Marines say, "Semper Fidelis" — always faithful — and Reddin stayed true to his primary ideal.

"I just knew that I had a burning desire to help folks who are where I was, if that makes sense," Reddin says. "So I just started trying to figure out how to build that."

Reddin went to work running the shelter and long-term drug and alcohol program at Union Rescue Mission in Little Rock but was fired — he says — for being "too liberal," a criticism not always leveled at Marines.

Reddin moved on to St. Francis House, working largely with homeless veterans, where something he'd first noticed at Union Rescue continued to nag at him.

"I kept seeing folks coming into the shelter when I was there in the Rescue Mission that didn't have a coat," Reddin says. "I was like 'Man, that's ridiculous people don't have a coat.'"

continued on page 28

continued from page 27

Reddin turned to friends via social media and began collecting coats and other useful items, which soon led him to rent a storage unit in Little Rock and put out his plea for a van to help deliver the goods.

The first vehicle, a 1992 Chevy Astro, was donated through a friend of a friend in February 2011. In short order came other vans — one for Atlanta donated by a Twitter follower in Richmond, one in Searcy/White Co. and now one in Russellville — and the continued flow of donated goods.

The operation became too big for the rental space, and Reddin moved to some buildings in Rose City and then took over additional buildings when the auction house located there closed.

Then came The Farm, with 50 chickens and other materials donated by gardening expert and television personality P. Allen Smith.

At every stop, Reddin has been overwhelmed by people's readiness to donate money, goods or time.

"I love this state. I love our community," he says. "And we have some of the most awesome people here that care and we're just grateful to be in the middle of people who care and people who need people to care. It's not that we're doing some kind of great

awesome thing; we're just lucky enough to be in the middle of those two things."

Does he think The One is here to stay? Does it now have the momentum and resources to keep going?

"It better, man," Reddin says.

HEARTACHE AND VICTORY

On this chilly day Reddin is dressed in a hoodie that covers his ornately tatted arms. But under the left sleeve, amid the other ink, is a tattoo version of a yellow, police-line tape.

He has seen his share of unpleasantness so Reddin doesn't duck a question about the tattoo's meaning. Instead he gets up from the chair in his cramped and dingy office to retrieve a small box off a shelf.

Inside is an actual piece of police tape, and as he pulls it out of the box Reddin tells the story of a man he met while doing homeless counts for Housing and Urban Development in downtown Little Rock. It was cold then too, and Reddin didn't want to spend the 15 minutes it would take to swing by and check on the guy at the end of the day.

Instead, Reddin went home to a hot meal and warm bed, vowing to check on the man the next day, which he did.

He had frozen to death during the night. The tape marked the spot where his body was found.

Reddin carried the piece of tape with him for a time, pre-tattoo, but he didn't carry guilt — "The Marine Corps definitely taught me how to detach from my emotions to be sure," he says. Reddin simply wanted to always remember the urgency of his work.

"To remind me that 15 more minutes of sleep is not worth someone freezing to death," he says.

Finding a home for the homeless would seem like the ideal objective, but for various reasons many homeless are distrustful of others. Reddin points out that once people enter shelters they submit to rules and regulations that can be unnerving and disorienting if they have become used to the freedom of leading their own lives, rough as they are.

One complication is that often shelters are free only the first handful of nights, after which visitors must scrape up \$6 or \$7 to pay for each additional night. That can lead to a new set of desperate acts for already desperate people — Reddin mentions a woman he met who admitted to performing sexual favors for \$7 to get in out of the cold.

So Reddin's first order of business is to get people what they need. His warehouse now houses racks of clothing, including kids' clothes, as well as toiletries, blankets and footwear. The farm provides firewood, produce and eggs, which are ideal because

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they can be easily prepared as long as there is a fire.

But when he can Reddin tries to get people into a place they can call home.

One of his successes is a long-time acquaintance known as “Little Eddie” who lived with his brother under a highway overpass. The brother slept at the bottom of the embankment while Eddie, who struggled with alcohol, made his bed at the top.

Frequently Reddin would stop by and find Eddie passed out and would have to drag him by the seat of his pants up to his bed.

Little Eddie, who lived outside for 26 years, is now about to complete his first year in his own apartment, along with his brother, Reddin says.

“Just like there is no cookie cutter solution to homelessness there is no cookie cutter cause,” Reddin says. “I think the only way to have success like that — I mean I worked with him for five or six years and, I mean, it would have been so easy to say ‘Eddie is never coming out from under this bridge. Quit wasting my time,’ you know — but it’s a matter of believing in him and being his friend and showing him the opportunities that are available to get off the street.”

Reddin pauses for a minute. The yellow police tape is back in its box on the shelf but it still encircles his arm and wraps around his memory.

“It balances out, I guess, the heartache and the victory,” he says.

THE ONE

Reddin didn’t set out to start a nonprofit, but The Van expanded so quickly he felt he had no choice and followed a friend’s advice and submitted the papers.

The One won’t pay what his \$60,000-a-year construction job did, but it beats throwing newspapers or working part-time at a bakery, both of which Reddin did to make money while operating The Van.

“Rose City rich,” Reddin says.

Clearly, Reddin likes to keep things simple, and that extends to his process of naming components of his operation — The Van is a van, The Farm is a farm. But the naming of The One was more deeply sourced, Bible verse Matthew 18:12:

“How think ye? If a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?”

“A lot of what I do is driven by my personal faith, though I am a raging heretic,” Reddin says. “I kind of felt like that is kind of what we were doing. Get your ass out from behind the computer and go find people where they are that need some help. So that’s where The One thing came from.”

On the back of The One’s T-shirts is the phrase “No rules,” and Reddin is still trying to keep the red tape to a minimum when it comes

to the new home for women and children.

Still, there are restrictions — legally he can only house up to five unrelated people a night and of course there can be no smoking inside.

“We’re not broadcasting at all where it is,” Reddin says. “We’re keeping the foot traffic to a minimum so that we can operate like that and we’re not being a nuisance to the community.”

Reddin has touched base with the Clinton School of Public Service and UALR’s social work programs trying to find a house person to stay on the premises.

And beyond that? In addition to his plans for Memphis, Reddin has been approached about putting a Van in Houston and doesn’t want to stop there.

“Before I die I want at least one Van in every state,” he says. “And I wouldn’t have a problem crossing the water. The numbers of homeless kids in, like, London, on the streets and unsheltered, is just mind blowing.”

But, Reddin says, the future plans are no more remarkable than what has already happened. It’s always been just a matter of finding the right kind of people.

You know — crazy.

“Whatever we’re able to pull off, you know, it’s just a matter of finding folks that are willing to take it on, that are crazy enough to go out in the woods and under bridges in all of that, in the middle of the night, because that’s what it takes most of the time.” ©





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Spring often means only one thing: it's time for an entire home makeover or, at the very least, a few fresh updates. In this special editorial and advertising section, local experts combine forces to share tips and trends on interior and exterior design so that you might create the perfect room of your own.

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Homeowners' names:

Stephanie and Shane Smith

What was the homeowners' vision for the space? What were the most important features they wanted to include?

The Smiths came to me with a vision. Their contemporary home constructed in the spirit of Frank Lloyd Wright demanded something exceptional. First of all, the pool would have to be part of the home, so we brought the travertine floor tile incorporated throughout the home right out to the water's edge, then cantilevered it out over the pool several inches. We used black granite waterline tile everywhere so the cantilevered coping would be even more enhanced. That wasn't going to be enough though. The homeowners' vision also included a 50-foot reflective vanishing edge along the far side of the pool. Now, for the "WOW Factor," Elite added a perimeter overflow spa and sunk it right in the middle of the massive tanning ledge. Black Pebble Tech finishes the inside, and the entire project is an automated "Smart Pool™."

TOP TIPS

1. The best tip for purchasing a pool for any budget is quality and low maintenance.
2. It pays to do the legwork when shopping for a contractor.
3. Design your outdoor environment into the rest of the house via materials and architecture.



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What is important when choosing outdoor furniture?

While comfort and style are important, quality is vital. Patio décor has to be more than merely attractive to withstand the elements and provide a good value.

What current trends do you see used most often?

Garden stools still remain the go-to accessory; they add color and function, especially when used as additional seating or as table surfaces. Geometric and Aztec prints are still hot when incorporated in accent pieces – think throw pillows, rugs and poufs.

How does your design team stay on trend?

We frequent the largest design markets several times a year, from Dallas to Atlanta and High Point. It's important because it rejuvenates us and keeps us on top of what's current and upcoming.

TOP TIPS

1. Mix! Embrace different styles – choose natural, modern AND classic.
2. Shop local! From custom designs to customer service, you get more bang for your buck locally.
3. Maintain! Outdoor furniture should be cared for just as well as indoor furniture.



OUTDOOR KITCHEN



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What are the most important elements to include in an outdoor kitchen?

Start with the basics and keep it simple. Make sure these four elements are included: prep, cook, serve and clean. However, don't skimp on the grill itself, because that's what you'll use the most. Another element to include is a bar top that allows additional seating for guests and brings the party to the cook. Good lighting is also an important consideration - it keeps the party going.

Are outdoor kitchens still a good investment?

Absolutely! Any money spent on an outdoor kitchen will increase your home's value. Recent surveys have shown buyers choose homes with outdoor kitchens over homes without.

TOP TIPS

1. Do your homework. Use Pinterest and Houzz to generate ideas and help create your vision.
2. Work with an expert. Their knowledge can help you choose

resilient materials - from building materials to appliances.

3. Protect your investment with regular cleanings.



LIVING AREA



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Did the client share a vision or did you have carte blanche?

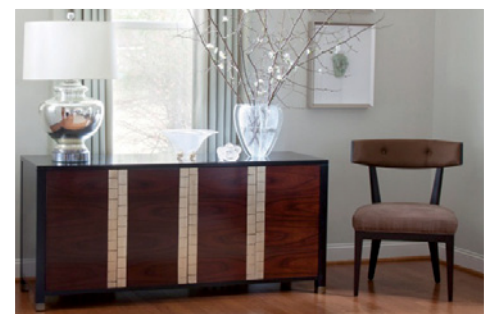
We were asked to design a timeless living room space for a young professional couple. The concept was a simple, clean, classic design with emphasis on custom finishes and vintage accessories.

Did you incorporate any current trends into the design? If so, what are they?

Starting with Sherwin Williams Natural Choice paint for the walls, the room was layered with silk sateen curtains on polished nickel rods. The upholstered furnishings have clean lines with subtle details, and casegood pieces ground the room with formality. Finishing touches include a hammered-base Bradley Hughes cocktail table with a mirrored top, a vintage Hollywood Regency mercury glass lamp, artwork by Mary Long-Postal, a collection of shagreen boxes, and Venini glass purchased while traveling abroad. The bar cart is a nod to the past, holding a collection of the homeowners' crystal decanters and other objets d'art. The overall design is a thoughtfully arranged collection of furnishings, art and accessories that create a dramatic, yet serene atmosphere.



(from left): Chandler Blank, Susan Walsh, William Lendermon, Kevin Walsh



TOP TIPS

1. We always recommend that you buy the best you can afford. It's oftentimes best to wait for the perfect piece than to settle for something of less value.
2. Collections that evolve over time create layers that make your space interesting.

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What was the vision for this Kitchen space?

Both the homeowner and the designer, Brenda Young, wanted to use black and white, so we used Caesarstone Organic White for the perimeter and Black Pearl granite for the island.

What were the most important features the client wanted included in the space?

On the backsplash Brenda wanted a mix of both granite colors in the countertops, so we opted for Calacatta marble for the backsplash. In order to have a good mix of texture, we combined 2 x 4 bricks with a herringbone pattern.

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TOP TIPS

1. When using solid colors, textured tile makes a statement. Choose a herringbone or a basket-weave.
2. Colors evoke different feelings; yellow uplifts; green comforts; red represents life and love. Don't be afraid of some color!
3. With a granite or tile design, always choose what fits your personality not what is trending.



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If the homeowner shared a vision, what were the most important features she or he wanted included in the space?

Mrs. Ferguson recently bought a second home in the Little Rock area to be closer to her grandchildren. In designing Mrs. Ferguson's space, it was important to her that we created a colorful, comfortable space for her to enjoy time with her grandchildren.

Did you incorporate any current trends into the designs? If so, what are they?

We introduced color with big orange lamps by Casa Roma and colorful rugs by Surya. An orange shag rug placed atop a multicolored large print rug provides a chic look that adds depth and dimension. A Hammary mirrored table provides an eye-catching element that is very in vogue. The result is colorful, trendy, family-friendly space for Mrs. Ferguson to enjoy during her time in central Arkansas. Most importantly, Mrs. Ferguson is happy: "It is beautiful. I love everything ... I love the 'feel' of the room," she says.



Designer Traci Bolden



TOP TIPS

1. Don't be afraid of color. In Mrs. Ferguson's room we let color create her happy, feel-good room!
2. You can use two sofas in your living room rather than a love seat. It is the same amount of money and adds extra seating.

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Homeowners' names:

Chad and Ari Fason

What were the most important features you wanted included in the space?

We were asked to design a captivating home theater that could be both practical and extraordinary while maintaining an aesthetic appeal. For the "practical" side we implemented an extremely user-friendly control system to make the space easy and fun to use – so easy that the homeowners' children can run the show! The room boasts a powerful audio system that distributes 4,000 watts between 10 speakers surrounding the seating area and a massive 120-inch screen capable of displaying cinema-quality video in 4K resolution as well as 3-D. We used detailed custom millwork and controlled dimmable LED lighting to really bring the space to life. Chad and Ari gave the space their own personal touch by designing custom displays for their sports memorabilia collection that covers the walls of the room.

TOP TIPS

1. Audiovisual quality is what defines a home theater. If you can buy it at the electronics store, then it is not what you need.
2. Always use dimmable lighting.
3. Avoid reflection and use dark colors on walls.



MASTER BATH



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What was the homeowner's and the designer's vision for the master bath?

The homeowner was heavily involved in the decision making process for this bathroom. The customer really liked the Lava Love travertine and onyx blend natural stone tile when they first came into our showroom, so that was the first thing they selected. Since the tile offers so many different sizes, we were able to create a lot of texture in the bathroom.

After they selected the Lava Love tile, we helped them choose a complementary countertop material and a design for the tile. The tub deck and countertops are finished with Burberry Lane brushed marble 3cm tile, which adds significant contrast to the Lava Love tile in the room.

Did you incorporate any current trends into the design? If so, what are they?

Our Designer suggests following a color principle commonly referred to as the "60-30-10 rule." For example, 60 percent of a bathroom or kitchen, typically the walls, should be one color of a color scheme. The color of the cabinetry and/or furniture accounts for the 30-percent figure. And accents and accessories such as plants, artwork and linens make up the remaining 10 percent.

TOP TIPS

1. Texture is good in all tile applications.
2. Always select the item you find most important first. The rest will come together.
3. Always choose neutral tile colors and a symmetrical floor plan to create a sense of serenity.



RADIANT
ORCHID

REPOSE GRAY

REPOSE *Gray*

This cool gray is neutral, relaxing and perfect for bedroom walls. We think it pairs nicely with white linens and accent pieces in **RADIANT ORCHID** – the Pantone color of the year.



Athena accent pillow in pierre

Yves Delorme, \$200 (set of two)



Sheets by Italics in cafe creme

Yves Delorme, \$480



Whimsy glass bowl

Cantrell Design Center, \$49

INSPIRED INTERIORS

LITTLE ROCK
soirée
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WHAT WE'RE LOVING THIS MONTH

THIS MONTH, we're talking about the hottest colors dominating home décor in and around Little Rock. To get the scoop, we reached out to Lindsey Binz, owner of Lindsey Binz Home Company and this year's Platinum Service Award winner for best interior designer. From paint to home accents, Binz shares how to successfully pull off the popular color trends of 2014.

by SANDRA McGREW • photography DEAN WHEELER

PEPPERCORN

CITRINE

Peppercorn

Binz recommends this dark charcoal for lower kitchen cabinets or accent walls. A deeply masculine color, it softens nicely with fuchsia or a yellow-citrine hue, like in this 1940s chair, below.



Vintage slipper chair
Fabulous Finds, \$425
(set of two)

DOVER *White*

Many designers and homeowners are currently choosing white on walls throughout homes. It's a great choice for any style, but we love Binz's suggestion to pair white with pops of color in works of art like this painting by Britt Bass.

Britt Bass painting
Georgia James Creative, \$650

DOVER WHITE



Naval

For the current vintage and painted furniture trend, this rich color is a favorite. Complement with turquoise, green or antique brass accents, like these gorgeous lamps and long striped paraffin candles.

Vintage Frederick Cooper wheat sheaf lamp

Sweet Home Furnishings, \$225



Fantastic '50s lamp

Sweet Home Furnishings, \$75



Ana Candles

Haus Werk, \$24 (set of two)



Rainwashed

Because it's soothing and spa-like, Binz tells us this light blue-green shade is popular for bathrooms. It pairs well with dark hardwood floors and light marble. A lovely complementing color Binz suggests for an adjacent room — **BELIEVABLE BUFF**.

RAINWASHED

BELIEVABLE
BUFF

NAVAL



RETT PEEK PHOTO

LITTLE ROCK SOIRÉE HOME RESOURCE GUIDE

All area codes are (501) unless otherwise noted; all cities are Little Rock unless otherwise noted. *Little Rock Soirée* advertisers are denoted with an * and 2014 Platinum Service Award Winners are denoted with a (PS).

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Ellen Golden French Antiques
5701 Kavanaugh Blvd. | 664-7746

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Mid-Towne Antique Mall (PS)
105 N. Rodney Parham Road | 223-3600
www.MidtownAntiqueMall.com

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Roy Dudley Antiques (PS)
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www.roydudleystatesales.com

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www.SweetHomeFurnishings.net

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www.JBPArchitects.com

Paul Page Dwellings LLC
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www.PaulPageDwellings.com

Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects

2222 Cottdale Lane, Suite 100 | 378-0878
www.PolkStanleyWilcox.com

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www.JettSeal.com

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Pro Energy Consultants of Central Arkansas

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www.CentralAR.ProEnergyConsultants.com

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assessments, indoor air quality testing*

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www.CynthiaEastFabrics.com

Fabrics Etc.

11121 N. Rodney Parham Road | 224-6040

Laura's Draperies & Blinds

www.LaurasDraperies.com | 803-4146

FLORAL*** About Vase (PS)**

3400 Old Cantrell Road | 603-9200
www.AboutVaseLittleRock.com

*** Tanarah Luxe Floral**

2220 Cantrell Road | 372-1400
www.DesignsByTanarah.com

*** Tipton & Hurst (PS)**

1801 N. Grant | 666-3333
www.TiptonHurst.com

FURNITURE & HOME ACCESSORIES*** Bear Hill Interiors (PS)**

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www.BearHillInteriors.com

*** Box Turtle**

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www.ShopBoxTurtle.com

Cantrell Furniture Design Center

7619 Cantrell Road | 225-0002
www.CantrellFurniture.com

*** Cobblestone & Vine**

5100 Kavanaugh Blvd. | 664-4249
11525 Cantrell Road | 219-3676
www.CobblestoneAndVine.com

*** D&D Interior Design**

2222 Cantrell Road | 221-2032
www.DAndDInteriorDesign.com

Dauphine

5819 Kavanaugh Blvd. | 664-6007

Design Inspirations

300 River Market Ave., Suite 104 | 372-7467

Full Moon

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www.MertinsDykeHome.com

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www.TobiFairley.com

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www.TuftAndTable.com

* White Goat

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Urban Pad

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www.UrbanPad.net

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5815 Kavanaugh Blvd. | 664-0030
www.BoswellMourot.com

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

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www.ButlerCenter.org

Cantrell Gallery (PS)

8206 Cantrell Road | 224-1335
www.CantrellGallery.com

Chroma Gallery

5707 Kavanaugh Blvd. | 664-0880

Gallery 26

2601 Kavanaugh Blvd., #1 | 664-8996
www.Gallery26.com

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221 W. Second St., #102 | 801-0211
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www.LocalColourGallery.com

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www.M2LR.com

Stephano's Fine Art Gallery (PS)

5501 Kavanaugh Blvd. | 614-7113
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Cantrell Gardens Nursery (PS)

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* The Good Earth Garden Center (PS)

15601 Cantrell Road | 868-4666
www.TheGoodEarthGarden.com

* Elite Pools by Scott

53 Sologne Circle | 448-2053
www.ElitePoolsByScott.com

Hocott's Garden Center

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Horticare Landscape Companies

7901 Stagecoach Road | 407-2727
www.Horticare.net

Lindsey's Pools & Spas (PS)

400 N. Bowman Road, #1 | 224-7727
www.LindseysPools.net

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9 OF OUR FAVORITES

by SANDRA MCGREW . photography DEAN WHEELER

WE HAVE A PRETTY WICKED COLLECTIVE SWEET TOOTH in our office.

When it comes to cookies, we often refer to ourselves as prolific taste testers, because who doesn't want to indulge in copious amounts of portable, bite-sized sweet treats whenever possible? A delightfully sugar-filled afternoon and a couple of pounds later (all in the name of research, of course) – we bring you nine of our favorite cookies from Little Rock bakeshops.



**1.
COCONUT
MACAROON:**

For coconut fans, this is a wonderfully sweetened and fluffy cookie that offers a perfect balance of chewy and crunchy. Melts in your mouth good.

Sylvek's European Bakery
1900 N. Polk St.
(inside The Heights Kroger)
661-9699



**2.
ICED SUGAR COOKIE:**

Classic sugar cookies with a fondant icing, these are hands-down our favorite iced cookies in town. Buttery with a sweet hint of vanilla, these are always a huge hit at our office.

Community Bakery
1200 Main St.
375-7105



**3.
*OATMEAL AND
CRANBERRY COOKIE:**

This takes the traditional oatmeal cookie to the next level. Dried cranberries add tangy pops of sweetness to this large, shareable cookie. *Also often made with sour cherries – equally delicious.

*Boulevard
Bread Company*
1920 N. Grant St.
663-5951



**4.
LEMON DROP:** A gluten-free option that is full of flavor. We love the lemony, gooey center, crispy edges and light dusting of powdered sugar.

Dempsey Bakery
323 S. Cross St., 375-2257

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5.

SNICKERDOODLE:

Boasting the perfect blend of cinnamon and sugar, this slightly cakey snickerdoodle is a 10 in our books. We will have a dozen more, please.

Sweet Love Bakes
8210 Cantrell Road
613-7780



6.

CHOCOLATE NO-BAKE:

Made with cocoa, peanut butter and oats, this cookie has a fudge-like quality that makes us want to savor each bite slowly.

Kris & Sam's
1208 S. Bowman Road
223-3110



7.

CHOCOLATE CHIP:

We love The Root's version of our childhood favorite. These beauties feature oversized, creamy chocolate chips baked into a dense, chewy cookie.

The Root
1500 Main St.
414-0423



8.

SUGAR COOKIE:

Simple in name, but not flavor. This decadent, buttery cookie has a cake-like gooey center but a delightfully crispy exterior. This could be the world's perfect sugar cookie. Yes, we went there.

Brown Sugar Bakeshop
419 E. Third St.
372-4009



9.

GINGERSNAP:

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EVENTS | MARCH

Party-Goers Give Their All at Heart Ball.....Page 56
 Jeff Long Headlines Boys & Girls Club Event.....Page 59
 Broyles Award Honors Assistant Coaches.....Page 63
 Guests Tie One On at Our House Fundraiser.....Page 65
 Gallery of Hope Benefits ACCOA.....Page 70

Plus, 11 more wonderful wintertime events!



"Faculty and Honor Students, Lewis School," 1966, Casein tempera on Masonite, 28" x 40"
 Private Collection, © Estate of Carroll Cloar. Part of the exhibit, "The Crossroads of Memory: Carroll Cloar and the American South" on display at the Arkansas Arts Center through June 1, 2014.

DATEBOOK CALENDAR

MARCH 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

1 / Saturday

Philip Mann Society event to benefit the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, 11:30 a.m., Capital Hotel and Robinson Hall. For Philip Mann Society members only. Info: 666-1761, www.ArkansasSymphony.org.

2 / Sunday

Little Rock Marathon and Half Marathon, 8 a.m., downtown Little Rock. Info: www.LittleRockMarathon.com.

Lights, Camera, Action Little Rock! 2014, an Academy Awards viewing gala to benefit the Wolfe Street Foundation, 6:30 p.m., Chenal Country Club. Tickets + info: www.WolfeStreetFoundation.org, MarkeyFord@WolfeStreetFoundation.org.

4 / Tuesday

"Les Miserables" Preview Night at The Rep, an auction, dinner and performance for the UAMS Parents Club to benefit medical students' projects and scholarships, 5:30 p.m. silent auction, 6:40 p.m. live auction, 7 p.m. curtain, Arkansas Repertory Theatre. Tickets: \$50 per person. Info: (870) 919-4498, www.UAMSComParentsClub.com.

6 / Thursday

Opening Doors to Literacy Luncheon and author discussion to benefit Literacy Action of Central Arkansas, 11:30 a.m. Tickets + info: Marsha Allbritton, 690-2162, MMAllbritton@SBCGlobal.net.

Diamond Chef Arkansas Preliminary Competition to benefit Pulaski Technical College, 2-8 p.m., Pulaski Tech Culinary Arts & Hospitality Institute. Free and open to the public. Info: 812-2324, www.PulaskiTech.edu, TCourage@PulaskiTech.edu.

Boys and Girls Club of Central Arkansas Hall of Fame Banquet honoring James Dietz, Dr. Jon Jones, Steve Jones and Dr. Russell Roberson, 6 p.m., Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock. Tickets: \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table of 10. Info: Sarah Riffle, 666-8816, www.ARClubs.org.

7 / Friday

Azalea Dinner, a catered steak dinner to benefit The First Tee. Tickets: \$30 per person. Info: www.TheFirstTeeAR.org.

8 / Saturday

Hope Ball to benefit the 20th Century Club's Hope Lodge, 6 p.m., Statehouse Convention Center. Tickets: \$250 per person. Info: www.HopeAwayFromHome.org.

Picassos, an art auction and fundraiser to benefit Pulaski Heights Elementary, 6:30-9 p.m., Museum of Discovery. Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$25 at the door. Info: (830) 469-8496, www.ParentsAtPHE.org/picassos.

11 / Tuesday

Alzheimer's Arkansas Advocate of the Year Dinner honoring Bob Shell and benefiting the Phyllis Watkins Family Assistance Program Endowment Fund, 6:30 p.m., Temple B'nai Israel. Tickets: \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table of 10. Info: 224-0021, www.AlzArk.org.

12 / Wednesday

Gathering of Friends/Father Joseph Biltz Awards honoring The Interfaith Center, Deborah Robinson Bell and William A. Waddell Jr., and to benefit Just Communities of Arkansas, 5:30 p.m., Main Library's Darragh Center. Tickets: \$50 per person. Info: 372-5129, www.ArkansasJustCommunities.org.

13 / Thursday

Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce's Serve the Rock, 5 p.m., War Memorial Stadium. Tickets: \$5 per person. Info: Graham Cobb, 377-6007, GCobb@LittleRockChamber.com.

Starry Starry Night presented by Windstream and honoring Lynn and George O'Connor to benefit the programs of ACCESS, 6:30 p.m., Statehouse Convention Center. Tickets + info: 217-8600, www.ACCESSGroupInc.org.

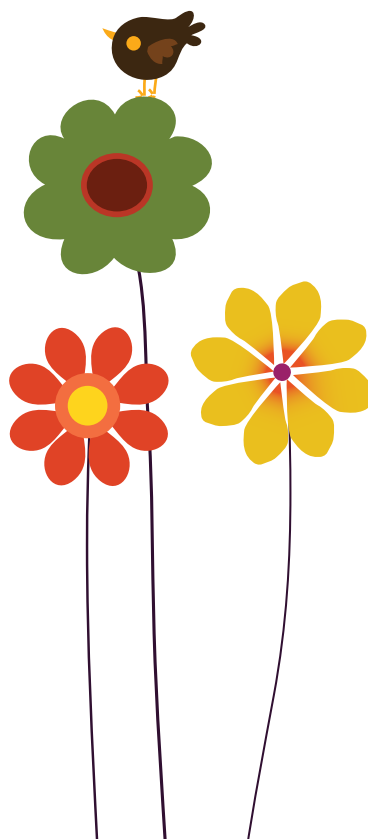
15 / Saturday

JLLR Downtown Dash 10K/5K to benefit community programs of the Junior League of Little Rock, 8 a.m., Downtown Little Rock. Tickets: 10K, \$35 in advance or \$45 week of; 5K: \$25 in advance or \$30 week of. Info: 375-5557, www.JLLR.org/downtowndash.

"So Lucky" Irish-themed Parents' Auxiliary Auction to benefit Episcopal Collegiate School's faculty development, 7 p.m., middle/upper school dining hall. Tickets: \$40 per person. Info: 372-1194, www.EpiscopalCollegiate.org.

18 / Tuesday

Union Rescue Mission Night on the Street to raise awareness of homelessness and to raise funds for local homeless, beginning at 5 p.m., River Market Pavilion. Info: 370-0808, MScroggins@URMission.org.



AROUND +ABOUT

Events taking place at a business, store or location near you



INDIGO AT PROMENADE OPENS

Indigo threw a party to celebrate the opening of its newest location in the Promenade at Chenal. Guests perused new merchandise and enjoyed grand opening specials.

1. Sarah Barton, Kate Price, Katherine Allen
2. Michelle Foshee, Luci Deere
3. Joe Sharp, Gregory May



PRINCE PLASTIC SURGERY OPENS

Prince Plastic Surgery hosted a grand opening party for its Pavilion in the Park location. Dr. Prince greeted guests, who enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres and a tour of the new facility.

4. Tina Case, Karen Phillips, Dr. Melanie Prince
5. Tracy McNeil, Lucy Pennington, Lacy Brown
6. Roger and Judy Best



THEA PARTNERS WITH CATERPILLAR FOUNDATION

Thea partnered with the Caterpillar Foundation to donate almost \$20,000 in art supplies to 13 North Little Rock school district elementary schools. A ceremony was held to commemorate the donation; Caterpillar execs, the NLRSD superintendent, asst. superintendent and art teachers were present.

7. Paul Leopoulos, Shanda Coleman, Lora Matthey-Hicks, Paul Rivera
8. Kelly Rodgers, Beth Stewart, Scott Miller
9. Mindy Reynolds, Warwick Sabin, Samantha Callahan

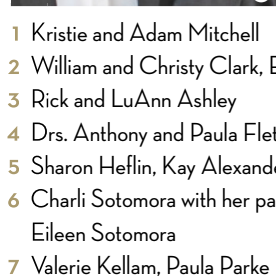


signature EVENT



HEART BALL

Chaired by **Kristie and Adam Mitchell**, the **Central Arkansas Heart Ball** was held at the **Statehouse Convention Center** and raised more than **\$850,000** for research and educational efforts of the **American Heart Association**. The event began with a welcome from the Mitchells, followed by an introduction of all **58 Sweethearts**. A white-glove dinner service included a first course of Prosciutto Roulade and an entrée of Crab-Crusted Sirloin with Creole mustard crème sauce, sautéed broccolini, oven-roasted carrots and goat cheese mashed potatoes. Dessert was a choice between sweet potatoes cheesecake or caramel banana truffle. Master of Ceremonies **David Bazzel** then introduced 2014 honorees: **Roxana Harsh Whitner, Dan Herrington and Friday, Eldrege & Clark**. Featured survivor **Samantha Johnson** shared her story of receiving a heart transplant. The evening concluded with dancing to **The Rockets**.



- 1 Kristie and Adam Mitchell
- 2 William and Christy Clark, Evans Dietz
- 3 Rick and LuAnn Ashley
- 4 Drs. Anthony and Paula Fletcher
- 5 Sharon Heflin, Kay Alexander
- 6 Charli Sotomora with her parents, Dr. Ricardo and Eileen Sotomora
- 7 Valerie Kellam, Paula Parke

- 8 Lee and Lauren Strother
- 9 Samantha Johnson, Rebecca Johnson, Charlotte Johnson (front)
- 10 Nancy Rankin, Jim Rankin, Clara Rankin, Ashley Rankin
- 11 Ed and Connie Bennett
- 12 Hayden Bradford, Laura-Taylor Burrow
- 13 Maggie Dyer, Cayman Carlisle, Caroline Cline



14 Andrew and Yvette Parker

15 Dr. Raj Chakka, Dr. Kanthi Dasari

16 Sheryl Roncketto, Caitlyn Mason, Steve Roberson, Paris Henderson, Laura Seagraves

17 Becky and Kent Streeter

18 Paige Pennebraker, John Rogers

19 Ken Harrison and Dawn Prasifka

20 Alexis and Kurt Sims

21 Jim and Fran Bailey

22 Jamee and Brandon Wittenburg

23 Dan and Stacie Herrington, Roxana and Flip Whitner

24 Dr. George and Martha Mitchell

25 Jill and Charles Johnson

26 Carol and Wayne Dyer

27 Vickie Wingfield, Tammy Quick

28 Leigh Lovett, Steve Hickman

29 Emily and Tyler Nelson

30 Anna Johnson, Grayson Greer

31 Matt and Julie Kirk

32 Corie Wedgeworth, Lacy Brown



GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

The annual Governor's Arts Awards Luncheon was held at the Marriott Downtown and honored nine individuals and one group for their efforts to advance arts in the state. Honorees included Paula Morell, Robert Hupp and Lee and Dale Ronnel, among others.

- 1 Clea and Bob Hupp, Judy Tenenbaum
- 2 Annaliese Morell, Paula Morell, Sophia Morell
- 3 Joy Pennington, Jim Rice
- 4 Linda and Paul Leopoulos
- 5 Eileen and Dr. Ricardo Sotomora
- 6 Lee Ronnel, Christina Littlejohn, Dale Ronnel
- 7 Peter Lane, Amy Herzberg, Bob Ford
- 8 Ferrell Ford (Arkadelphia), Martha Miller



FRIEND OF CHILDREN LUNCHEON

Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families held its annual Friend of Children Luncheon at the Clinton Presidential Library. Award recipients included Judge Wiley Branton Jr., Dr. Tom Bruce and the late Dr. Betty A. Lowe.

- 1 Jim Argue, Rich Huddleston.
- 2 Amanda Potter Cole, Chris Love, Mallory Van Dover
- 3 Clarice Miller, Wilhelmina Lewellen
- 4 Charlie Crow, Chris Barrier
- 5 Martie North, Katherine West, Glenn Nishimura
- 6 Nancy Leonhardt, Dr. Eddie Ochoa
- 7 Stephanie and Judge Wiley Branton
- 8 Nicky Hamilton, Molly McGowan, Judge Mary McGowan
- 9 Dr. Joe Bates with his son Hank Bates





BOYS & GIRLS CLUB HONORS LONG

UofA Athletic Director Jeff Long was the honoree at the "Leader of the Year" fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club of Central Arkansas. Guests enjoyed dinner from Corky's and a short presentation by Keith Jackson, Jeff Long and others.

- 1 Cindy Doramus, Jeff Long
- 2 Price Gardner, Matt Fox,
- 3 Keith Jackson, David Fox
- 4 Bud Whetstone, Bobby Eubanks
- 5 Coach Norm DeBriyn, Sean Rochelle



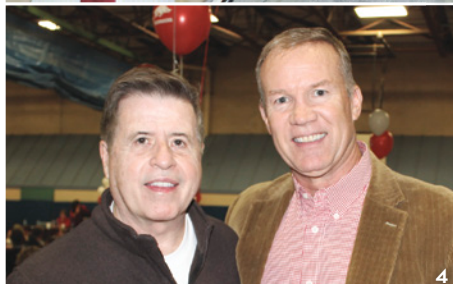
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JERRY JONES SPORTSMAN'S AWARD

Ducks Unlimited presented its ninth annual Jerry Jones Sportsman's Award Banquet and Auction at Chenal Country Club. Stephen Jones of the Dallas Cowboys was the honoree at the event, which offered guests cocktails and a silent auction, followed by dinner, an awards presentation and a live auction.

- 1 Jerry Jones Jr., Jerry Jones, Stephen Jones
- 2 Paula Gean, Ron Witherspoon, Cindy Tucker
- 3 Tom Anderson, Matt Robinson
- 4 Michael Hazlewood, Cara Wilkerson
- 5 Debby Linton, Justin Ferguson
- 6 Mike Rohrer, Brian Minchew
- 7 Steve and Stephanie Winchester
- 8 Steve Cook, Wendy Henderson, Alison Cook, Steve Smith
- 9 Andrea and Matt Devine
- 10 Barbara and Steve Bowman



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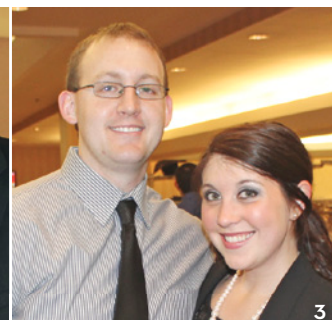
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PASSPORT TO A CURE

Benefiting Arkansas Muscular Dystrophy Association, Passport to a Cure Road Trip Arkansas was held at the Marriott Downtown and featured a live auction sponsored by Snell Prosthetic & Orthotic Laboratory, a silent auction, dinner and entertainment.

- 1 Laura Littleton, Ed Jaros
- 2 Linda and Charles Kumpuris
- 3 Ryan and Kara Evans
- 4 David Goodwin, Rachael Galloway
- 5 Faith Gonzales, Tommy Lawrence, Joy Livers
- 6 Jason and Sarah Campbell
- 7 Blanca and Paul Ayers
- 8 Nancy and Lee Archer
- 9 John and Holly Greenfield



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Baptist Health heart physicians improved Katherine's quality of life. Today, she gives her support to Baptist Health Foundation. Giving is easy. With just a \$10 text donation, you can help make amazing happen, too.

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BROYLES AWARD DINNER

Established to recognize exceptional college football assistant coaches, the Frank Broyles award was held at the Clinton Presidential Library. Honoring 2013 class finalists and spouses, the event featured a reception and dinner, followed by a presentation.

- 1 Jay Gadberry, Gen Broyles, Frank Broyles
- 2 Shawnee Hightower, Rodney Peel
- 3 Greg and Lee Hatcher
- 4 Patrick Schueck, Marge and Tom Schueck
- 5 Joe Courtright, Rhett and Lauren Lashlee, J.T. Ferstl
- 6 Ryan Tibbets, Britt Roper
- 7 Wanda Hoover, Kevin Trainor
- 8 Ed Tallach, Sharon Vogelpohl
- 9 Jason Thompson, R.E.T. Thompson
- 10 Johnny and Phyllis Rogers
- 11 Matt Jackson, Justin Lewis
- 12 Cory Lamb, Sharon Lamb, Anne Mourning
- 13 Gene Thompson, John Rafferty
- 14 Karen Fetzer, Jeff Hildebrand
- 15 Laura and Walter White
- 16 Spencer Andrews, Mark Jones, Wesley Thompson





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LITTLE ROCK CHAMBER ANNUAL MEETING

The Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce held its 148th annual meeting at the Statehouse Convention Center. The program included the Chairman and CEO of Delta Trust and Banking Corp., J. French Hill, presenting the Chamber's year in Review. The featured speaker was Jim Hannon, CEO and President of Georgia Pacific LLC, Atlanta.

- 1 Craig Lair, Mitch Bettis
- 2 Tony Thomas, Jeff Gardner, David Avery
- 3 Hugh McDonald, Randy Zook
- 4 Shep Russell, Diana Smithson
- 5 John Davis, Jay Chesshir
- 6 French Hill, James Hendren
- 7 Patrick Schueck, Seth Shrider





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TIE ONE ON

Our House hosted its seventh annual Tie One On at Pavilion in the Park. Presented by Staley Electric, the event featured aprons designed by artists, silent and live auctions, music food and drinks. All proceeds benefited the mission of Our House to provide the working homeless with shelter, housing, job training, education, childcare and youth programs.

- 1 Jordan and Angie Johnson
- 2 Andrew and Meghan Collins, Morgan and Isaac Smith
- 3 Fizul and Gwen Haniff, Donell Meadows
- 4 Heather Allmendinger, Mickey Willett
- 5 Justin and Brittan Sanders, Sophie Moore, Kennetha McGruber
- 6 Emily Wilson, Valerie Shively
- 7 Sherri and Jerry Damerow, Jill Lawrence



7



Thea Arts Festival

APRIL 26th 2014

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APRIL 28th 2014

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CELEBRATE THE MOMENTS 9

The Tidwell Project hosted Celebrate the Moments of the Season 9, an evening of music and dance and special entertainment by Brian McKnight at the Statehouse Convention Center. Proceeds benefited the Tidwell Project's mission to provide exposure to the performing arts in the economically disadvantaged community.

- 1 Annette Fisher, Thelma Taylor
- 2 Dr. Renee Crater, Michael Tidwell
- 3 Jesse Mason and Dr. Gail Reede Jones
- 4 Stephanie and Dr. Wiley Branton
- 5 John and Penny Burkhalter, Susan and Dr. Alonzo Williams
- 6 Dr. Donna Brown, Treloni Flournoy
- 7 Kaelin and Mia McNeal
- 8 Drs. Frances Harris and Joe Hargrove
- 9 Akia Reed, Travis Johnson
- 10 Dr. Nancy Collins, Ron Watson, Dr. Ronda Henry-Tillman
- 11 Marilyn and Dr. Cortez McFarland
- 12 Sylvester and Adrienne Smith
- 13 Charlotte and Jim Studdard
- 14 Merica and Jacob Profit
- 15 Myron Jackson, Supha and Richard Mays
- 16 Stephanie Hobbs, Rashunda Bowers
- 17 Keith Fountain, Kim Anderson
- 18 Aeiress Lewis, Stephen Broughton
- 19 Tracey Nelson, Todd Lawrence



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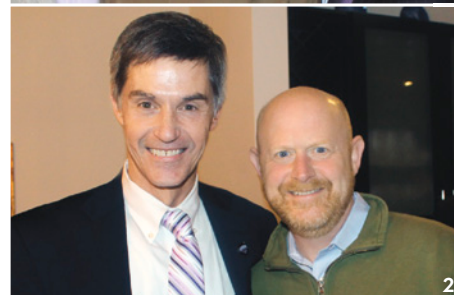
SHAKESPEARE THEATRE RECEPTION

UCA President Tom and Melissa Courtway and Shelia and Judge Larry Vaught hosted a reception at the Vaught's 300 Third Tower condo to support the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre program. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, drinks and a short presentation.

- 1 Judge Larry and Shelia Vaught, Tom Courtway
- 2 Gilbert Baker, Jay Barth
- 3 Jennifer Morgan, Jay Jennings
- 4 LeAnne and Sam Bird, Mary Ruth Marotte
- 5 Mary Louise and Mickey Wilson



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BOWIE KNIFE VIP RECEPTION

The Historic Arkansas Museum held a reception to kick off its exhibition, A Sure Defense, the world's largest bowie knife exhibit ever assembled. Guests at a special VIP kick-off reception included locals and museum staff, knife lenders and the editor of Knife World magazine.

- 1 Melissa Whitfield, Benjamin Whitfield, Bill Worthen
- 2 Gloria and Gary Blakney
- 3 Mike Worley, Landon Petty (both of Baton Rouge)
- 4 Jason and Tracey Hendren
- 5 David Etchieson, Tim Richardson
- 6 Bob and Jerry Fisk, Caroline Millar
- 7 Tom Kilgo Brazil, Mark Zalensky



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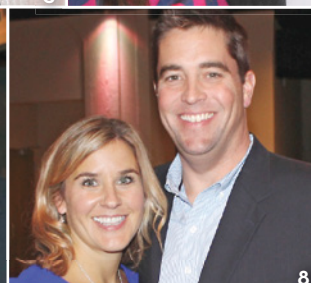
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SVI LUNCHEON

St. Vincent Health System & Auxiliary and Volunteer Services held its annual Christmas Luncheon at Embassy Suites Hotel.

- 1 Ray Harris, Jon Timmis Neil Gaiser, Tim Osterholm
- 2 Suzanne Grobmeyer, Laura Cook
- 3 Larry and Pauline Jegley
- 4 Mark Binns, Suzanne Banister
- 5 Jan Gardner, Breda Turner
- 6 Charles Presher, Frances Deleuil
- 7 Barbara Ward, Emma McCoy
- 8 Eileen Dishongh, Olene Brown



GALLERY OF HOPE AUCTION

The American Childhood Cancer Organization Arkansas presented its annual Gallery of Hope art auction at Next Level Events. The event included a cocktail reception and auctions to benefit Arkansas' youngest cancer patients.

- 1 Catherine Tapp, Dr. Peter and Carla Emanuel
- 2 Lauren Davis, Joeline Brown
- 3 Jason and Megan Monroe
- 4 Tiffany and Richard O'Brien
- 5 Cory Davis, Angela Davis
- 6 Ali Beebe with her parents Kevin and Courtney Beebe
- 7 Marcy and Dr. Mark Doderer
- 8 Jennifer and Mark York
- 9 Heidi and Clint Speer

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 Dr. Mimi Lee Comprehensive Vein Care · BKD, LLP

We thank our many table sponsors & patrons as well.

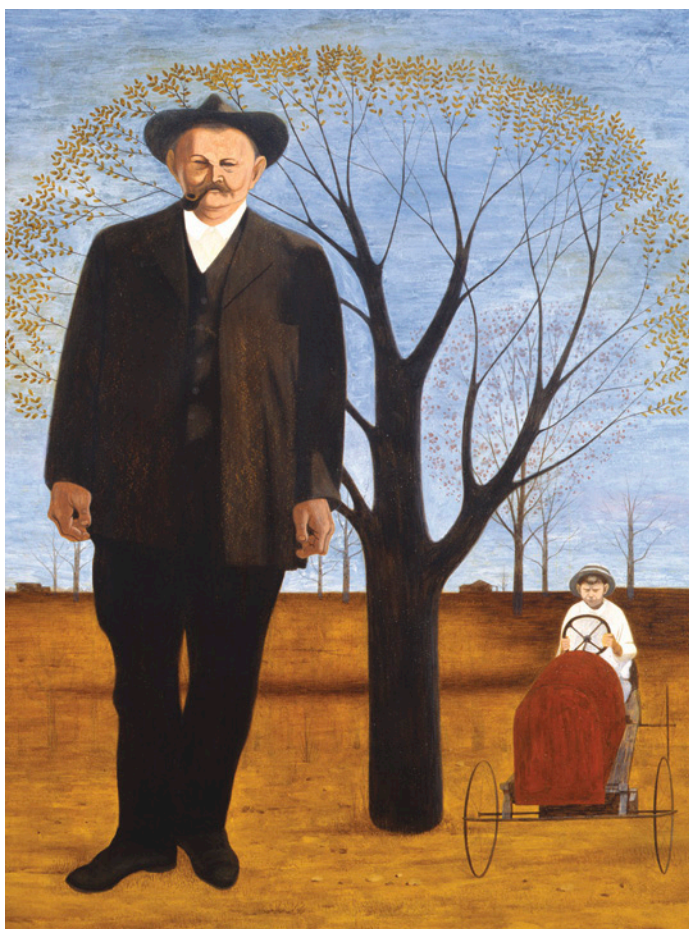


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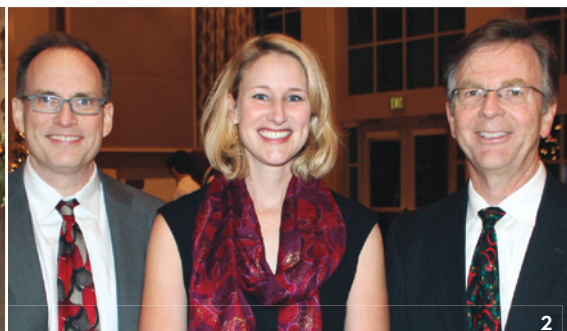




FESTIVUS FOR THE BEST OF US

The Quapaw Quarter Association held the third annual Festivus for the Best of Us at the Governor's Mansion. Guests enjoyed music, food, an open bar and a silent auction, all to benefit the QQA's historic preservation efforts and advocacy.

- 1 Joe van den Heuvel, Laura Sergeant, Ted Holder
- 2 Chuck Cliett, Vanessa McQuin, Ed Sergeant
- 3 Ray and Diane Hanley
- 4 Robin Smith, John Kushmaul
- 5 Dana and Sam Boyster
- 6 Anthony and Shelia Brooks
- 7 Anne and John Jarrard
- 8 Dr. George and Cara DeRoock
- 9 Rachelle Walsh, Robbin Walsh



LEADERSHIP ARKANSAS PRESENTS WOMENCAN!

Professional women are coming together at **Verizon Arena** on **March 18** to discuss leadership strategies, career empowerment, professional development and networking.

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Media Commentator and
Author of "Powering Up!"



Sonja Hubbard
CEO of E-Z Mart Stores Inc.



Korto Momolu
Fashion Designer and
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Stephanie Streett
Executive Director of the
Clinton Foundation

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NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY

The Arkansas chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals hosted its annual luncheon at the Embassy Suites to recognize individuals and organizations that enable nonprofits in the state to meet critical needs and enhance the lives of thousands of Arkansans. Honorees included Janet and Dr. Glenn Davis, Melissa and Martin Thoma and others.

- 1 Whitney Wellborn, Marge Schueck
- 2 Nan Selz, Georgia Mjartan
- 3 Vivian Trickey Smith, Donald Wood, Judy Waller-Breece
- 4 Diana Smithson, Angele Forrest
- 5 Sara Brown, Matt Cleveland, Catherine Marhenke



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A DAY IN LITTLE ROCK

MARKET HOPPING

{BY JEANNI BROSIUS}

A few crocus peek out from beneath the cool earth giving me the heads up that springtime is near. When February meets March, the air begins to warm and lovely greens are fresh at the local farmers markets.

My daughter Madelyn and I moved to Little Rock in the fall of 2009. It was the following spring that we discovered the glorious bounty of locally grown foods. She had recently turned 3, and one Saturday morning in March we visited two markets within the city.

Her long curls bounced over the back of her bright pink jacket as she skipped down the sidewalk toward the tent-covered farm stands. Stopping to ask a man if she could pet his yellow lab, Madelyn smiled like I had not seen her smile in months. Genuine happiness flowed through her small body, from head-to-toe, this little city girl finally seemed at home.

At our first stop, we tasted odd jelly combinations from the small glass sample jars that were lined up on the edge of the table. Ginger, lavender, lemon and thyme were listed in some of the names of the different jellies. Lemon Drop turned out to be my favorite.

The farmers seemed to be just as taken with Madelyn as she was with them. They took the time to talk with her and answer her questions, and one lady even gave her a few herbs to take home and plant.

Between visits with the farm-stand vendors, Madelyn took

slices of her morning to visit with the dogs who were leading their owners up and down the sidewalk, allowing them to stop from time to time to purchase a bag of radishes or spinach. There were big dogs and small dogs, they were all friendly and loved the attention Madelyn gave them.

By the time we reached the end of the line of covered stands, I knew this would turn into a Saturday morning ritual for this mother-daughter duo.

Several springs have come and gone since that first visit to the farmers market in 2010. It remains a Saturday morning tradition for us, and now that Madelyn is 7, she still looks forward to talking to the farmers, trying their fruits and vegetables and bringing fresh flowers home for our dining table. Some of the regular farmers know

Madelyn now and seem to miss her when we don't make it on a certain Saturday. They've even inspired her to plant her own garden. She saves seeds from apples, lemons, pumpkins and watermelons for future gardens.

I'm so thankful for the hour or two that we take on Saturday mornings to visit the farmers markets in the city.

Each year when springtime comes around, and the jonquils poke their lovely yellow heads out from beneath the soil, I know the redbuds, dogwoods and roses are not far behind. And I look forward to the abundance of fresh foods that Arkansas farmers bring to town for those of us who may live in the city but are still country girls at heart. ☺

*The farmers seemed to be
just as taken with Madelyn
as she was with them.*

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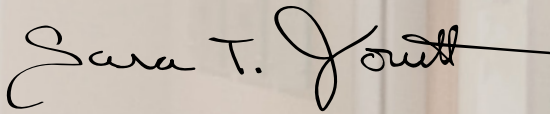


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