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Ann Parenti
MANAGING EDITOR

From the Publisher

Welcome aboard the Chic Compass spring edition! We packed our bags and went globetrotting for you once again.

This time we are visiting Kuai, Hawaii to play a little golf and then we are traveling to London to do a fashion photo shoot. How about a tour of the Liberace Museum at the Thriller Villa in Las Vegas! After the tour, stop in at Old Soul to check out the great atmosphere and food after reading about the Chef behind the vision. While downtown, check out the stunning gallery of Rachel Cline for a fun afternoon of art browsing.

After hours you can check out a show at the Smith Center called Composer Showcase. One of our newest writers, Jonathan Scott, got a personal interview with the creator and founder of the show Keith Thompson. There is always the Henderson Symphony Orchestra that has a stellar show going on with their high energy and incredibly talented music director Alexandra Arrieche. We also welcome Judy Tarte to our staff and she will give you the inside track to our jazz scene and what is going on in the city.

If that isn't enough, learn about the newly renovated exclusive Stirling Club inside Turnberry Place in Las Vegas. The Faith, Hope, Grace and Charity stories are back with more inspiring spirits that fit those characteristics. We would also like to welcome H.L. Greenberg, M.D. to the writers' team who will be sharing with us his insight of the latest in skincare and dermatological advances.

We also got the lowdown from Alpha Omega Wealth on how to hire a financial planner. Oscar Picaso is back this time bringing a little back story of how he became one of the top fashions and beauty photographers in the country and his latest photo shoot.

There is so much to read and so little time for me to expand on what you will find in this next edition.

So, sit back, enjoy a cup of tea and perhaps a scone and visit London ... next stop Paris but you will have to wait for that next time... Enjoy!

Ann Parenti



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OUR MISSION

Forgotten Song Foundation, Inc., a registered 501c3 organization, is dedicated to recognizing, remembering, and sustaining the visual artists and performance artistry of live music for future generations.

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Carolyn Muse Grant
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

From the Editor

Welcome to our new edition of Chic Compass!

In each of our editions we break all records by having our fabulous writers...writing about awesome subjects. And we feel very blessed to have these very talented and inspiring writers contributing to our magazine.

In this edition you will be amazed to see all their contributions. When we first started this magazine, we had talked about fashion, travel, food, art, music and a few other subjects. We are still doing it and there is more!

As we move forward with our life in Chic Compass, we can't express enough thankfulness for our writers and those about whom we can write. It is at this time, I learned with great sadness that Alex Huerta, one of the treasures from the local art community that I had the pleasure of meeting and doing a story about, has passed away recently. We are very grateful for the opportunity to have met him and are thankful for his wonderful art.

Today you will love all of our subjects including places to go, clothing to wish for, a yummy place to eat, wonderful music productions, intriguing places to visit here in Vegas, and more! The Las Vegas history is without a doubt one of the best ever...and guess what - our subjects and writers today will join our intriguing history.

So, enjoy...and we can't wait to fascinate you in the next issue!

Carolyn Muse Grant

COVER PHOTO

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Photo Courtesy of: Michael Tessler
Location: The Stirling Club



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A STIRLING (CLUB) REPUTATION

By Stacey Gualandi



Las Vegas is synonymous with reinvention and renewal. The persistent practice of taking something old and making it new again is almost built into the city's DNA.

The Stirling Club is no exception.

This exclusive enclave-for-elites opened in 2001 as a private club for Turnberry Place residents, and within a short time, became the go-to hot spot for members and their guests. Local entertainers, impersonators and headliners—like Tom Jones and Clint Holmes—would pop in every weekend to join Kelly Clinton-Holmes and her band for a jaunty jam session.

It served as a monolith of luxury, with a rich Vegas history...until recession forced the once-prominent club to close in 2012. But after several attempts by different investors to revive the property, DK Hospitality Management partners Richard Ditton and Debra Kelleher eventually won out and The Stirling Club was back.

In 2019, the upscale 73,000 square-foot private city club and event space re-opened in the heart of the city, across from the Las Vegas Convention Center and

At Left: The Stirling Club
Photo Courtesy of Mahsa Razavi/The Stirling Club



Above: A charcuterie selection at The Stirling Club
Photo Courtesy of Mahsa Razavi/The Stirling Club

minutes from the Las Vegas Strip. Hoping to “attract the clientele of today’s Vegas,” Kelleher and Ditton—the visionaries behind its rebirth—are also relishing a return to its posh past.

“We need to weave the history of this place into it,” says General Manager and COO Tony Angotti. “But we can’t only rely on the history of this place to move forward.”

The new investors originally brought in Angotti as a consultant, but the well-respected food and beverage industry pioneer now has full au-

tonomy. His “sterling” reputation as a premier restaurant operator (Jeremiah Tower’s “Star’s” in San Francisco; Michael Mina’s “Aqua” in Bellagio; Joël Robuchon’s “L’Atelier” at MGM Grand, to name a few) and his historic years overseeing F&B for MGM Grand and Mandalay Bay, made perfect sense for a project of this magnitude.

“I think in 2020, we will be fully functional,” says a candid Angotti. “We want to have a hundred

percent of the club working, and today it’s not...but the finish line is really close, finally. The vision is to say, ‘Hey: Now that we’re fully functional, we can show new and old members what we can do and what the club really has to offer.’”

Those offerings include an opulent oasis of options to explore: a top-of-the-line fitness center; an amenity-filled wellness and med spa; a spectacular pool and pickleball court; the return of the Spirit Lounge



Above: Cigar Lounge at The Stirling Club
Photo Courtesy of Mahsa Razavi/The Stirling Club

and Stirling Dining Room; a cigar and wine room; and endless event space ready to rent. Angotti even confirms a future Starbucks.

“In addition to taking care of our existing membership and address-

ing the day-to-day operations, we really want to start focusing on getting large groups in here so we can take a deep breath, run this the way we need to, and have a steady increase in revenue from private events,” says Angotti.



Above: Pot Roast served at The Stirling Club
Photo Courtesy of Mahsa Razavi/The Stirling Club

One thing is for sure: this self-described poker enthusiast loves a challenge and is willing to make a bet he can honor the past while welcoming the future of The Stirling Club 2.0.

CHIC COMPASS: Was there much of a learning curve when you came on board?

TONY ANGOTTI: No. I was at Mandalay Bay for three years as vice president of food and beverage [and MGM before that]. In those three years, I was responsible for \$1 billion in food and beverage, so everything [was] on a massive scale...like on steroids. Everything you look at is one little tweak, and you save either \$1 million or you lose \$1 million. All of that made me acutely aware of what the minutia has to do with the big picture, but also kept me focused on if you stay true to what that is, and just deal with the minutia in accordance to how it feels in the big picture, you'll never be unsuccessful.

CHIC COMPASS: How much are you relying on The Stirling Club's history?

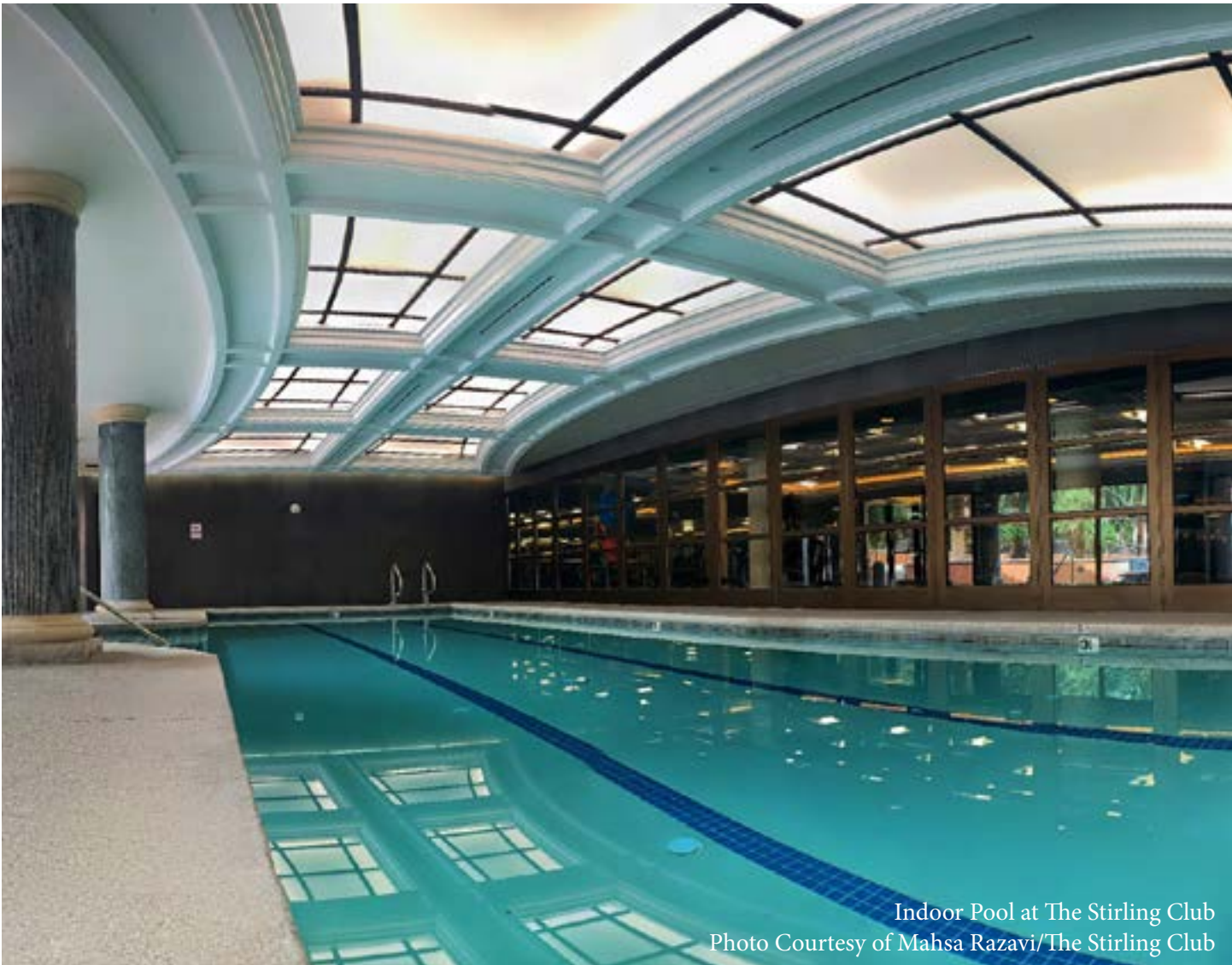
TONY ANGOTTI: We will always respect [the Club's] past and never lose sight of the people who were here from the start, but what we are trying to do now with every event or with every opportunity we have, is to weave something more modern into it. The times have changed in the last 20 years and so some of that old stuff is cool, but a lot of people are doing that—the nostalgia, the glamour—but it's not going to help us capture new membership to do things the old



Men's Sauna, The Stirling Club
Photo Courtesy of Mahsa Razavi/The Stirling Club



“The vision is to say, ‘Hey: Now that we’re fully functional, we can show new and old members what we can do and what the club really has to offer.’”



Indoor Pool at The Stirling Club
Photo Courtesy of Mahsa Razavi/The Stirling Club



Yoga Room at The Stirling Club
Photo Courtesy of Mahsa Razavi/The Stirling Club

The Stirling Club Entrance
Photo Courtesy of Ana Studios



way. We have to rethink what we did in the past and reinvent for the future.

CHIC COMPASS: What changes have been made?

TONY ANGOTTI: If you look around, [there are] no big tapestries, no overblown furniture, and, for lack of a better term, the overdone gaudiness of something. It doesn't exist here anymore. It's still comfortable, but it's cleaner. As long as you're comfortable in a room, it doesn't really matter what it looks like; but it does to us, to

be able to say this is the vision of us moving forward and the kind of people we want to attract.

CHIC COMPASS: What about entertainment?

TONY ANGOTTI: We had two guys who call themselves "The New Black": they are a part of a crazy heavy metal band. They understand that we're trying to get hipper and cooler, but they can't do heavy metal, so they put together a fun, lounge-y soft rock thing. It's amazing. We're [always] trying to do things like that so people

understand who we are, where we're going, and how we're going to get there.

CHIC COMPASS: There are several different membership opportunities, but are non-members still welcome?

TONY ANGOTTI: We are private now, but we do enough things that are still public that people can come to. If you're not a member, you can't come for lunch, unless you come with a member. But we do a couple of different things each week that people can come

to and can see on our website now. On special occasions, like New Year's Eve, we give members the opportunity to purchase tickets first and then anybody outside can purchase. We also do a dinner and magic show where we give members the first shot for a week to buy tickets, and then open it to the public.

CHIC COMPASS: As someone who enjoys poker, do you have a poker analogy for your role in bringing back The Stirling Club?

TONY ANGOTTI: I was dealt a great hand and I've played it perfectly I think. Ha!

RIGHT: Men's Sauna
BELOW: The Stirling Room
Photographs Courtesy of Mahsa Razavi/The Stirling Club



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Design: Nessa Apostol
Photography: Oscar Picazo
Model: Mariah Armknecht
Makeup: Oscar Picazo

BEHIND THE CAMERA

OSCAR PICAZO

By David Tupaz | Photography by Oscar Picazo

One of the most challenging forms of art is photography. It is said that photography is the most expensive creative endeavor. The costs add up quickly, starting with the expense of the actual camera, then the lenses and lighting equipment, not to mention the numerous gadgets you can acquire all for the sake of the best shot imaginable. This is the world that the artistic photographer dwells in to create their vision of perfection. This is the world of Oscar Picazo, who has a unique vision of his subject that only his mind's eye can compose.

Considered the top glamour and beauty photographer in Las Vegas, Oscar is the most sought after artist representing that genre. Born and raised in the city of Poza Rica, in the state of Veracruz, Mexico, he was gifted with creative genius from the start. A natural talent full of promise as everyone can witness with his work. He captures the moment with the use of composition, proportion, color, and details at that key moment with the click of his shutter.

I met up recently with Oscar, who has been a dear friend of mine for several years now and got a chance to ask him a few questions about his inspiration and vision. As a big fan of his work, I am honored that he is sharing his new superb collection with Chic Compass.

Design: Nessa Apostol
Photography: Oscar Picazo
Model: Eryka Yar
Makeup: Oscar Picazo



DAVID: You are considered the top fashion and beauty photographer in Las Vegas. Why did you choose to live in Las Vegas?

OSCAR: When I arrived in the United States, I lived in Los Angeles, and after about two months, someone called me from Las Vegas to make some murals in a banquet hall, so I moved to Las Vegas. That was 15 years ago.

DAVID: Your visions of beauty is almost ethereal. What inspires your work?

OSCAR: Everything around me inspires me, the light, a landscape, etc. But above all, someone who has a special beauty for the concept I am carrying out.

DAVID: As your subjects are mostly women, how do you describe the "Oscar Picazo Woman"?

OSCAR: No one in specific. I like naturally beautiful faces, those chosen by God to be beautiful. Although now, in these times of so many fillers and surgeries, the concept of beauty has changed a lot. You must also change as a creator

to be competitive in the industry.

DAVID: What does beauty mean to you?

OSCAR: The concept I have of beauty is a bit strong because my work is totally visual. I quickly realize who has real beauty anywhere. One day, I took a tourist bus in Washington, DC, and in front of me sat a beautiful Russian teenager, and she opened the window. Between the lighting, the wind, and the expression on her naturally fleshy red lips, it was a beautiful show. Beauty does not

last forever; that's why I'm here to make beauty live longer in time with an image.

DAVID: What future projects do you have planned that our readers can look forward to?

OSCAR: I always have ideas and new projects from book covers, billboards, casino advertising, and much more. You can follow my work on Instagram, @oscarpicazophotographer. There I have my most recent posts, and if you can take a walk through the Luxor Hotel, you can see an exhibition that

I made especially for them with an Egyptian theme. Thank you so much Las Vegas! My favorite place in the world!

DAVID: In closing, I am very proud of the many talented artists who live in Las Vegas. Oscar Picazo (pictured at right) is a deserving candidate in this category. Art doesn't just give meaning to human emotions, dreams, and visions, but something that lives on forever, the human extension of the never-ending Divine mystery of creation.



Design: Nessa Apostol
Photography: Oscar Picazo
Model: Mariah Armknecht
Makeup: Oscar Picazo



Design: Nessa Apostol
Photography: Oscar Picazo
Model: Amy Lefevre
Makeup: Oscar Picazo



Design: Nessa Apostol
Photography: Oscar Picazo
Model: Eryka Yar
Makeup: Oscar Picazo



Design: Oscar Picazo
Photography: Oscar Picazo
Model: Mariah Armknecht
Makeup: Oscar Picazo





Design: Nessa Apostol
Photography: Oscar Picazo
Model: Jade Kelsal
Makeup: Oscar Picazo







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Hot Spots

**Where to Find
Cool Jazz
in the Desert**

BY JUDY TARTE
PRESIDENT, LAS VEGAS JAZZ SOCIETY

In a recent “round table” discussion at the Las Vegas Jazz Society headquarters, longtime supporters, promoters and entertainers discussed the plight of Jazz in Las Vegas. The conversation centered primarily on how to reach audiences and rebuild momentum for the once thriving Jazz community that had existed here in years past.

Funding, venues and connecting supporters from around the Valley to the where and when the music is occurring is of primary concern. Oddly enough these concerns are pretty much the same as they’ve been since I began my association with the Jazz Society in the mid-70’s.

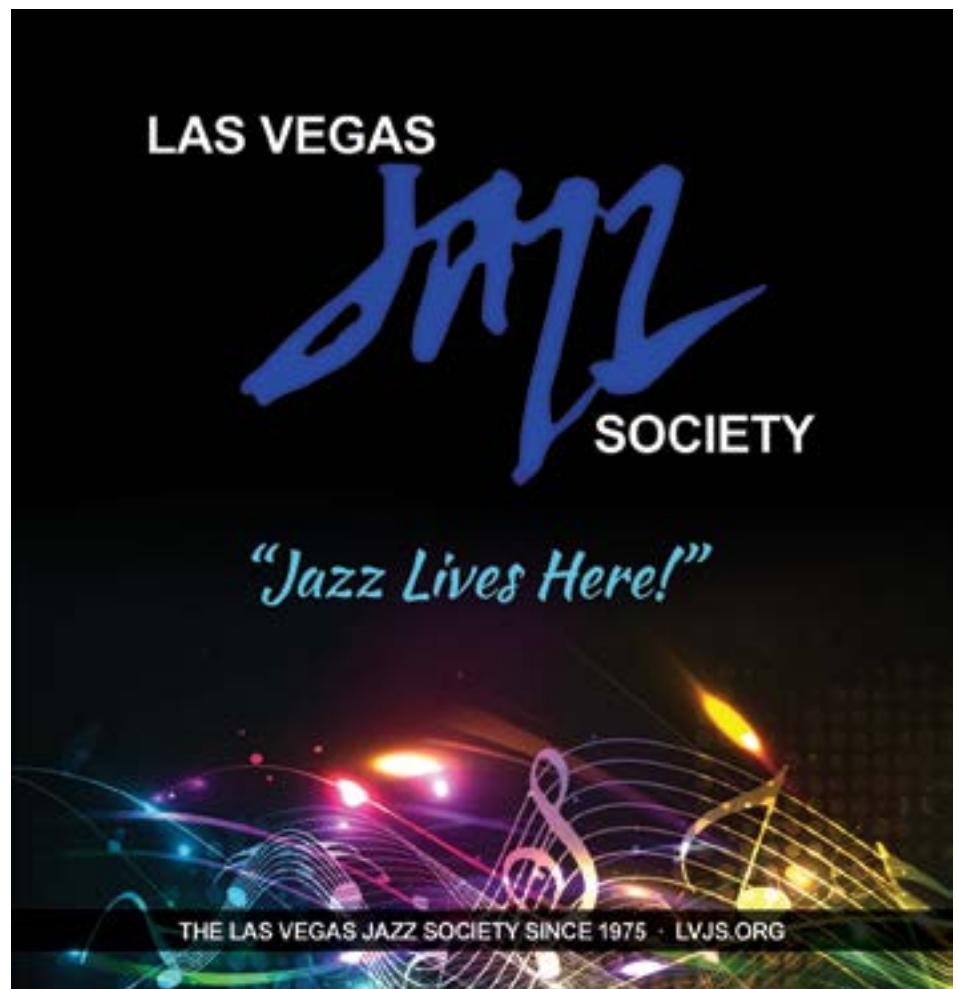
The Las Vegas Jazz Society has been a mainstay in the support of Jazz since it was established as a non-profit 501(c)3 entity in 1975 by jazz musician Monk Montgomery (from the Montgomery brothers clan, Wes, Buddy and Monk). The mission of the LVJS is to provide opportunities for those who appreciate jazz in all its various forms to meet and to promote a wider appreciation through education and sponsorship of performances and cooperation with other organizations having common interest in preserving our cultural heritage. A primary task is to foster a greater understanding in young people through teaching and performances.

Many organizations and venues are sponsoring and promoting fine jazz events open to the public. The Forgotten Song Foundation,

Inc. a 501(c)3 non-profit, gives scholarships and grants every year to UNLV and CSN jazz students and other organizations that are aligned with their mission. The Jazz Outreach Initiative sponsors the Essentially Ellington band festival annually in conjunction with UNLV. The Jazz Studies Department of UNLV has a wide variety of concerts open to the public, free or minimally priced. Smaller clubs such as the E-String, the Dispensary, German American Social Club, Italian American Club as well as some of the hotel-casinos such as the Tuscany and Barrymore room at the Royal Resort offer a variety of Jazz on a regular basis. The Jazz Society has been offering a

monthly Sunday afternoon series at the Bootlegger Bistro for several years. The music is consistently fine at all these venues and worthy of any Jazz club found anywhere in the world. Yet we hear people say, all the time... “I didn’t know about that event” or “If I’d only know about that, I would have been there” or “the Las Vegas Jazz Society, I didn’t even know there was one.”

Online listings for many of the events and venues can be found at lvjs.org, eatmoreartvegas.com, lvjazzconversations.webs.com, and evandavisjazz.com. Check us out...you’ll be surprised at what’s happening!



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IT'S NOT ABOUT THE ANSWERS. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE QUESTIONS.

By Chic Compass Staff

Chic Compass sat down with Joe Pantozzi of Alpha Omega Wealth recently. We talked about questions to ask yourself in preparing for your future. Here are some of the insights that came out of our conversation.

CHIC: What keeps your clients up at night?

JOE: I'm getting very consistent answers on this: independence, taxes, government chaos, markets, their children's security, charitable intent, and choosing the right planner! I have seen that these kinds of concerns are foremost for 95% of my people.

So, with 500,000 financial professionals in the US, why are most having difficulty reaching financial Nirvana? The pros can't agree on the meaning of SUCCESS and how to achieve it. More urgently, neither can the client, who should be calling the signals. (Hint: It's not just "more money".)

CHIC: Where do you start?

JOE: One primary question is: Are they prepared for the future? For 30, 40, even 50 years of independence? As an advisor I must identify my client's primary issues so that we can craft effective strat-

egies to meet their needs into the indefinite future and those issues rarely involve dollars!

Can they tolerate another 30% market correction and if so, how long can they tolerate it? Is diversification for cowards, as Warren Buffett says?

I ask many direct questions of my clients in order to find the best solution for their personal lifestyle and family makeup before making recommendations.

THE UNMANAGED MANAGERS

CHIC: Give me an example of a real client scenario

JOE: This scenario involves a client's business and who should succeed him. The client wants his heirs to manage his business the way he's done it, hands-on, ten hours a day, six days a week for the last forty years. Not practical, on many levels.

He is concerned that his heirs won't be grateful and at peace no matter what he leaves them. The business might need intervention or a cash infusion; he might own raw land producing no cash flow; or a bundle of securities managed

by some codger (me) his kids have never met! The business might not be worth what he thought it was the last time he thought about it, which could be years ago. The kids might not accept their father's business partner who has been there for decades.

CHIC: Doesn't a will help?

JOE: I have to say, that depends. I'll ask my client's attorney to evaluate these issues, which do play a huge role in the disposition of the business. *(Do they have a proper family trust in place? Who was that lawyer again? Didn't she retire, move away or relocate to Costa Rica? We nominated trustees, didn't we Sweetie? No, I didn't, I thought YOU did!)*

More questions! If the client named trustees, were they informed? Did they accept? Do they know what they got themselves into? How long are they willing to serve? Who serves if they quit? This a crucial component in planning a client's family's future, yet it goes ignored 80% of the time.

CHIC: What's the plan in the long run?

JOE: Clients ask often the follow-

ing questions. How far out should our Master Plan take us? Age 85? Age 100, just in case? Do the kids know that we just might need or want to move in with them if one of us got ill? What's our Plan B? Are we prepared to leave our kids THAT much money in a lump sum? How can I make sure they don't blow it, or just run out of money? These are just a few of the questions with which your financial advisor must assist you.

CHIC: At the end of the day is it really all about the who, what, when, why and how?

JOE: Yes, it truly is. Clients main concerns on these issues are usually the following questions. What about us? What do we really want to create as our legacy? Why? Who needs to be brought up to speed today, right now, on our desires? If money were no object,

what would we be doing? Is there anything besides money that is holding us back? If I found out that I have only 2 or 3 years left, what would I do differently? Finally, I'll ask my client to polish up their crystal ball: *If we were sitting here three years from today, looking back on the 36 months that have just passed, what would have to have happened in our lives, both personally and professionally, for us to be deliriously happy with our progress?* This question helps us dive deeply to our clients' motivations and true desires for a sound financial future. So, just as we begun...

*It's Not About the
Answers – It's All
About the Questions.
Just ask us!*



Joe Pantozzi is the CEO of ALPHA OMEGA WEALTH, a financial advisory firm with nationwide reach. His focus is creating, protecting and transferring generational wealth by intention, and assuring that every master plan for every client succeeds under every and any scenario, whether foreseen or unseen.

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The Glory and Power of

Faith

By Joan S. Peck

If you've never met Jennifer Main or have never seen her expressive, colorful art, you've missed out on both accounts—Jennifer, the person, and her artwork are extraordinary, exhibiting an aura of fun and a sense of spiritual well-being.

Jennifer is one of the most beloved native Las Vegas artists. As a young child, she relished the joy of using her imagination to create something out of nothing. She was passionate about her art and used it as a more comfortable avenue to communicate and express herself rather than using her voice. At an early age, she knew from deep within that her calling was to be an artist.

When she was in her teens, she applied for and was accepted into the Las Vegas Academy of International Studies, Performing and



At Right: "Girl on Piano"
by Jennifer Main

Visual Arts as a fine art major. It is there where her own style began to emerge. She also attended the prestigious School of the Art Institute of Chicago for a pre-college program.

At the age of 17, she showed her work at a local gallery called Art Encounter, and it began to sell within the first week. "I was so excited!" Jennifer recalls. Through her faith and her belief in God, Jennifer made up her mind that she was going to become a full-time artist. So, instead of attending college, she got the keys to open her own art studio just before high school graduation with the money from her art sales. By choosing not to attend college, she'd lose the financial support from her parents at the age of 18. Jennifer poured herself into her work—"I HAD to make it work." Again, it was because of her faith that she'd succeed that she was able to move ahead.

She became the Art Encounter Gallery's best-selling artist, and the owner, Rod Maly, took notice and became her exclusive agent and marketed her and her work in Las Vegas and around the country. Jennifer became an artistic phenomenon in her teens, and today is well known as an international artist.

Jennifer's artwork uses bold, vibrant colors and keeps a sense of whimsy. She paints exaggerated abstract figures from her imagination and uses her work to illustrate the ups and downs of life's beautiful journey. Jennifer is drawn to the duality of everything and enjoys themes of good vs. evil, happy vs. sad, light vs. dark, and pain



Street painting by Jennifer Main

vs. pleasure. "You can't have one without the other."

"I have learned from experience that some of the best things can potentially come out of the darkest times. I struggled with severe anxiety, depression, and addiction, but in the darkest point of it all, God answered my cry for help. I got to experience the supernatural power of His love and grace, which ultimately set me free. I came to know Jesus in a way that is so real that most of what I paint is inspired by how amazing God is! It just flows from my heart and onto the canvas!"

In January 2012, Jennifer and her husband, Jason, sold their house, packed what they wanted from their two-story home, and loaded it into a small U-Haul attached to the back end of their colorful paint-

ed cargo van and moved to Los Angeles. Following a hunch and a compelling desire to be there took faith on their part to believe it was the right move for them despite having no idea where they were going to live.

Faith is everything to Jennifer. I asked what faith meant to her. "As the bible says, it's the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. In other words, God gives a specific direction, and I have the faith to walk that out."

In Los Angeles, Jennifer and Jason found a work-live loft and made it function as both gallery and home. After a time, the loft life lost its fun factor, and the thought came that her dream of having a storefront retail space might be possible. They began the search and

found a perfect spot, which was “a complete answer to prayer!” The Jennifer Main Gallery officially opened on Wilshire Blvd in downtown L.A. Jason took care of the gallery while Jennifer painted. All was going well, but when opportunities to travel with her art came up, they realized that they’d have to close the gallery because they didn’t have any staff to help out. Ultimately, they decided they wanted more flexibility, rather than the routine of operating a store. When Jennifer prayed about this, a vision came to her of chains around the gallery’s doors, indicating it was okay to close the retail space.

“We moved back into a work-live space, which was perfect! This space has actual rooms—haha!—

and was exactly what we wanted. We’ve loved it so much that we’ve been here ever since.” Despite all going well, Jennifer began to feel some frustration and burnout by being an artist. She had been painting for the past 20 years and felt stuck, not knowing what to do next. “While at church one day, I had a vision of my paintbrushes burning, and I heard God say to put them down and to trust him... so I did!”

What happened during those years?

JM: “It was a reset and a refresh. I discovered more about who I am apart from being an artist, and I have more confidence to fully be me—the fun, quirky, colorful me—

without caring so much about what other people think!”

You’ve begun painting again. How does that make you feel?

JM: “It feels great! There is a newfound joy from the Holy Spirit that has made its way into my art. It’s even more colorful and more whimsical.”

Is there anything different about your painting this time?

JM: “For the first time, I began painting faces with a smile.” We both laughed.

What’s happening in your newly reinstated artistic journey?

JM: “I’ve been working on rebuilding a new website, which will have much more video content about the paintings. I have plans to start a YouTube channel where I can share the inspiration behind my work, share insights on faith, and testimonies of the supernatural.”

Where will your gallery be located?

JM: “My husband and I are working to have our current downtown LA space ready to be opened to the public by the end of January. It will display my artwork and operate as the Jennifer Main Gallery. In the beginning, it’ll be open by appointment and during set times, where I will hold creative classes, events, and times of worship and prayer. It’s going to be called “The House of Joy” and will be a 501c3.



Jennifer Main

"I'm designing the space to be like you're walking into one of my paintings. Everything will be filled with bright, happy colors and quirky novelty items that I believe will spark that childlike wonder in all of us. My goal is to begin creating more merchandise from the artwork—clothing, plush toys of my characters, and other things like bags, greeting cards, adult coloring books, etc."

Do you still create yearly calendars? If so, are they available for the readers?

JM: "I have a 2020 calendar out which features new work from this past year. It is still available on my website, and I plan to make a new one each year. The main way that I make my artwork available for

sale now is through my website and social media."

Do you do commission work?

JM: "I am also finishing a series of secret paintings for a long-time Las Vegas collector of mine. All the pieces he has commissioned me to create is going to be revealed in a big way. I have to keep it secret until I get closer to finishing the project, which probably won't be until the end of the year."

"The last project I'll share with the readers is a brand called Wonder Freak. It's about celebrating our individual uniqueness as well as the weird world of the supernatural. This brand gives me a place to play in more of my quirky side, and it is available at a lower price

point than my usual work. Wonder Freak artwork is a little more cartoonish with a freak show poster influence and will have a section on the JenniferMain.com site. You can also find it on Instagram @wonder_freak.

"At times, I show my work in local LA galleries. When I paint live out on the street, I've found it's a fun, exciting way to create and meet people!"

Gratitude and giving back is important to you. Are you still involved in donating your work for charities?

JM: "There are so many people to thank for supporting me. An artist is nothing without those who support it."

"I remain active painting live for certain Las Vegas charities to raise money as they auction off my work at their fundraising galas." [One of her paintings sold for \$32,000 to benefit St. Jude's Children's hospital.]

Do you have any words of wisdom you'd like to pass along?

JM: "Let the desires of your heart and faith lead you – anything is possible!"

It's been a while since I've seen Jennifer or her artwork in person, but she has the ability through her faith and the way she creates her artwork that I find uplifting. Whenever I see her creations, it puts a smile on my face because there is something in it that reminds me of our humanity—and we humans can be a humorous lot. I can't wait to see her all of her new work!



"Girl Laughing" by Jennifer Main

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By Joan S. Peck

hope



*I*n our lifetime, we meet many people who we find interesting, and, once in a while, we happen onto a person who awakens in us the awareness that we've met someone special. It is a person who inspires us and humbles us as we learn how they've maneuvered through life and what they've accomplished. For me, and many others, Aimmee Kodachian is that person.

As a young girl, with undiagnosed severe dyslexia, she was ridiculed and bullied, never making it beyond a 4th grade level in school. One beautiful, sunny day, she was talking to her older brother about her desire to become a teacher. In spite of that seeming unlikely, he encouraged her to aim for that. As she left him to pour him a cup of tea, a bomb came into their Beirut home, killing him and destroying their house. They were left with nothing, and that bomb was the first to announce the beginning of the 1975 war in Lebanon.

To save 12-year-old Aimmee, and her six-year-old brother, her parents sent them to a school high in the mountains. It was crowded with children who were there also to escape the war, and most of the time, the only food they had to eat was a piece of bread. It was when she saw her little brother hunting through the garbage for food that her heart broke, and she realized it was up to her to protect him. Often, she gave up her food and passed it onto him. As she accepted responsibility for her brother and needed to survive for him, she felt a sense of self-worth that had been missing, and it gave her a cause to live...a need to exist.

As a young girl, frightened, confused, and alone, Aimmee had her upsets. One day, she was leaning against a tree, crying, wondering what was going to happen, and if she would ever see her parents again. She looked up and be-



Aimmee at 12 years old.

seached the heavens to please help her. When Aimmee talks about this moment, it is possible to sense the peace that overcame her as she connected to her higher power (God, Buddha, the Universe – whatever your name for it) to begin to let her inner being guide her and give her hope. That is something that has remained with her to this day. She has always trusted her inner knowing.

In time, Aimmee and her brother returned home to Beirut, where they stayed with various families and friends since their family was homeless. Unable to support her, her mother persuaded Aimmee to marry at the age of 14 so that she could have a better chance in life, and would be taken care of and safe. At the age of 15, Aimmee was driven to the hospital amid bombs dropping and gave birth to

her daughter, Silva. The marriage was not a happy one with Aimmee becoming a single mom, left with no money, no education, and no skills. It was only the beginning of her long, harsh journey.

Once again, as she had done for her brother, she became responsible for another life. Aimmee fell in love with her daughter, and with her need to protect her, she found ways for them to survive during wartime.

Aimmee lived 13 years through the Lebanese Civil War.

In 1988, Aimmee had the opportunity to come to the United States. She had less than \$200 in her pocket and a 10-year-old daughter to raise. She couldn't read, write, or speak English. Now she found herself faced with many different obstacles and challenges than she had during the war. As reality sank in, everyone started telling her, "How are you going to make it? You don't have money, education, or skills, and you don't speak English." However, Aimmee was determined to make something of her life.

Aimmee's idea of HOPE is not the common definition that it's a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. Aimmee looks at it in a much broader sense, which allows a person to become more aware of the choices they have to create their life. In other words, for us to take advantage of the possibilities that are presented every day and do something with them.

Aimmee with her husband Tom Riley.



Arriving in Las Vegas in 1990 with a two-year permit to work, Aimmee could barely speak English, had severe dyslexia, a 4th-grade education, and a 12-year-old child. What was she going to do? At one of her lowest points, she gave in to her friend's badgering and agreed to attend the Christmas party that her friend was attending. It is there that she met Tom Riley, who Aimmee refers to as her "soul mate." She says, "When I met him, I knew that we were going to be together for life. I believe he was given to me by God."

They married in 1993, and together they set up several businesses. It soon became apparent that Aimmee was a true entrepreneur and was successful in setting up several businesses. They were the first business in Las Vegas to sell and outsource pre-paid telephone cards that were especially popular with people who worked here to support their families back home in their prospective countries. Aimmee and Tom opened the Quick

Mail store on Paradise Road. "I felt like flying!" After several years, technology came into play, and they lost nearly everything when the pre-paid card business ended because the cards were no longer valid.

By then, Aimmee had already started another career. In 1995, Aimmee was coming back from an executive meeting and found herself crying over the fact that here she was now a successful entrepreneur in the United States despite being that girl back in Lebanon who had struggled. "I pulled over to the side of the road, and that is when I heard my inner voice telling me, *you need to write a book*. My response was, No way am I going to write a book. I do everything to hide the fact of my lack of education, and now you want me to tell the world I only have a fourth-grade education? Then my inner voice said, *this is not about you. You are to share your story so they will know anything is possible. They will listen to what you*

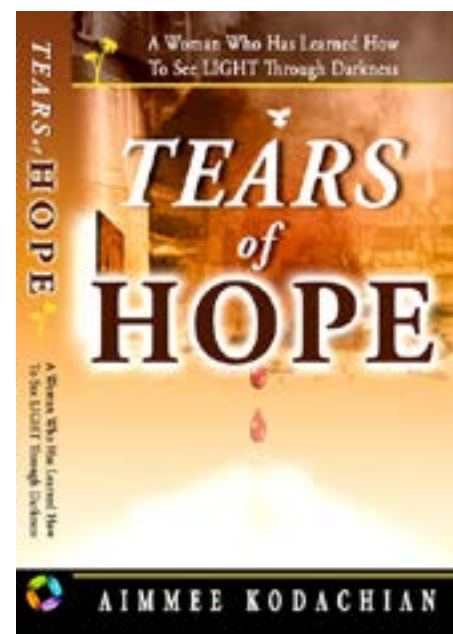
say and know they will find a way too."

"I became DRIVEN to write it. I researched all about writing a book and what it took to complete it. In 1995, I began to write it with a ghostwriter recording my words, and in 1996, I handed my husband my completed book, "Tears of Hope."

Aimmee was asked to be on a podcast to talk about her book. She said, "I froze. It was very difficult for me to be talking to others about my personal experience – it brought up so many sad memories. Afterward, my daughter called me. 'Mom, you did not do good. How are you going to promote your book? It was uncomfortable to listen to you.'"

"Well, I said. I'm going to become a motivational speaker now."

I laughed. It seems that anything Aimmee sets her mind to do, she says, "Let me find out how to do



it,” and she does it. She researches it and succeeds in phenomenal ways.

Today, she is the inspirational keynote speaker she wanted to be, talking about her experience to live in darkness with no hope or opportunities and her belief that she is here to empower humanity to see light where there is darkness. She has created, produced, and directed her television show Empowering Humanity, which can be seen on EZWAY Network Channel available on Amazon Fire TV, Roku TV, Hulu, and Apple TV.

Aimnee’s mission is to empower and elevate humanity’s consciousness through education and inspiration worldwide. She believes that Empowering Humanity through Education and Inspiration is vital for our business and life’s success. Her goal is to help them ignite their creativity and inspire them to develop and share ideas that will impact their Lives and Community.

Essentially, she wants to expand the TV Show Networking Live Audience transformational event program to different cities in the United States, and eventually, to different countries.

Aimnee has served as a keynote speaker for many groups across the country. If you are interested in her as a speaker, you can contact her below:

What is the most valuable thing you learned from your experience in Lebanon?

AK: What keeps us going is the

“I don’t believe we have a choice of when we leave this earth, but I believe we have a choice of what we leave behind.”

love and relationship we have with other people. I don’t need to have money or anything to survive—all I need is harmony in my heart and to keep serving.”

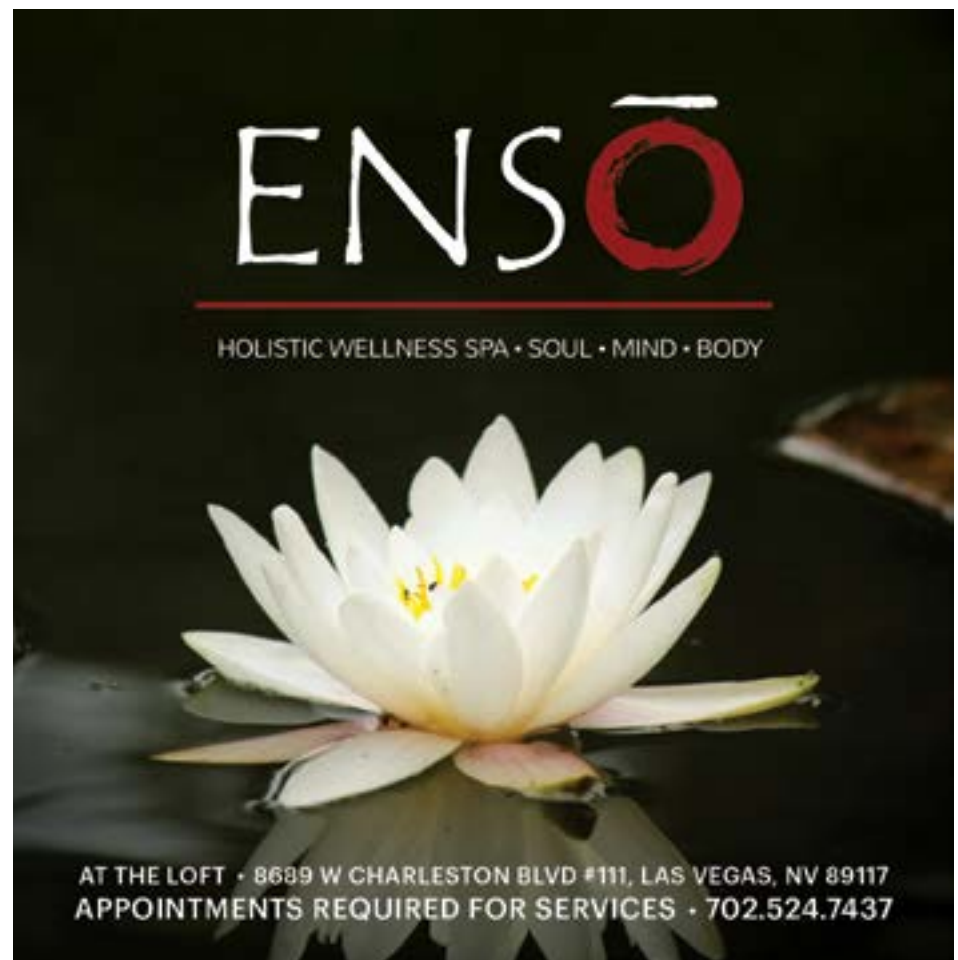
Any last words?

AK: “I don’t believe we have a choice when we leave this earth, but I believe we have a choice of what we leave behind.”

I’ve had the pleasure of knowing Aimnee since I moved here in 2003. She is a marvel, and it’s a joy to step into the power of her

spiritual energy. She’s had a partnership with God since she was a child, and it is that inner peace that resonates with her when you are near. But then again, it is many other aspects of Aimnee that make her such a delight.

Contact information:
EmpoweringHumanityTV.com
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grace

“There but for the grace of God go I.”

By Joan S. Peck

The proverb “There but for the grace of God go I” is an expression of humility. It’s an acknowledgment that outside factors, such as God’s grace, have played a role in a person’s success in life. For many of us, we know that is true, particularly when we look around and see so many who are not as fortunate as we are, especially with Las Vegas being a place with a large number of homeless people.

Where can those people turn for help? If you think you know everything about The Salvation Army, you might be surprised. I know I was when I learned all that is offered through their organization.

I wanted to know the history of The Salvation Army and was surprised to learn that it was founded in 1865 in the East End of London by William Booth, a one-time Methodist Reform Church minister and his wife, Catherine. They wanted to help the poor and destitute in addition to preaching the gospel to them. Their goal was to

meet both their “physical and spiritual needs.”

It was originally called the Christian Mission but changed its name to The Salvation Army in 1878 and gives its clergy titles of military ranks. It is an international charitable organization, present in 131 countries, running charity shops, education, shelters for the homeless, and disaster relief and humanitarian aid to developing countries, as well as many, many programs for those in need. In 1879, Lieutenant Eliza Shirley held the first meeting of The Salvation Army in America in Philadelphia.

I went to visit The Salvation Army’s five-acre campus located at 35 W. Owen Avenue here in Las Vegas. I was met there by Leslee Rogers, a beautiful lady who exuded light and loving energy as she walked toward me with a smile. I soon learned she was not a newcomer to serving at The Salvation Army, having spent time volunteering alongside her husband, Ron, before she was hired full time as the non-profit’s Public Relations Director



Leslee Rogers

in 2011. Ron served as Chaplain to the homeless and those with addictions from 1997-2015. After her husband passed away two years ago, Leslee was asked to come back to The Salvation Army and serve, as she says, their “mouth-piece” in her role as Donor and Public Relations Director. With her experience in living with grace and her background of marketing,

she does a fabulous job making all those she meets feel loved.

When I mention that her article was going to be under the title of Grace as part of the Faith, Hope, and Charity section, Leslee smiled. "Perfect. Grace is part of all that, and that's what we at The Salvation Army are all about."

I was surprised to see so many buildings on campus, many of which displayed the red shield of The Salvation Army. Eight buildings within the campus help to accomplish aspects of the organization's desire to transform their clients' lives.

- Overnight shelters for Men and Women
- The Men's Hostel (74 beds) and The Women's Hostel (44 beds) rented out on a nightly basis for \$20.
- Lied Dining Facility has a large kitchen serving 1000 meals each day
- A free medical clinic offering services from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Housing for veterans
- Safety Dorm housing (18 beds) for transgender men (the only place in the city to offer that)
- Horizon Crest Apartments, located just down the street, has 12 units case-managed by The Salvation Army staff for individuals transitioning to living on their own.
- Within those buildings are several veteran's programs, and vocational training programs, in addition to case management available to homeless guests and program participants. There are also transitional apartments and more.



Jeremy Wood, Executive Chef/Dining Room Manager

I was interested to see the dining facility and to meet the Executive Chef/Dining Room Manager, Jeremy Wood. The kitchen is very large with enough room and equipment to easily feed more than the 1,000 people who come each day to eat at no cost. The kitchen is spotless and has two employees other than Jeremy, and the rest are volunteers.

Jeremy is a large, handsome man who is friendly and open to sharing his history with The Salvation Army. "In 2008, I was an IT guy, and with the financial crash, I lost my business and everything! Too embarrassed to tell my family, I became homeless and took advantage of the free lunch offered at the campus for three years...all the time wishing the food was better," he laughs. "Then, the chef at

that time encouraged me to take the culinary classes to learn to become a cook. I found I really liked it! When a paid position opened to work in the kitchen, I took it, and have been lucky enough to move up into the position I now have." Curious, I asked what his favorite meal was to cook. "Short ribs with a red wine reduction sauce, and..." (He had me at the red wine reduction sauce). "I make sure that my meals are filling enough that if this is their only meal of the day, it will sustain them. We also have a Campus Corner Café open to the public, where we use the finest ingredients to make the Valley's best traditional and new world pizzas. You can choose one of the House Specials or create your own." Call 702 747-0207 to order!

Have an event coming up? Jeremy caters to corporate events, parties, and family gatherings. Call the above number and speak with Jeremy to create a tasty menu.

I met a cheery Juan Salinas, Director of Social Services. He is responsible for tracking it all – family services, financials, homelessness, among other things, monthly. He shared a story about Anthony who had moved to Las Vegas in 2017, whose life began to unravel on October 1, 2017. He attended the "Route 91 Harvest" music festival. As the gunshots became apparent, he grabbed two women he didn't know and positioned them under a table that proved unsafe. As they took off running, it wasn't until he was ushered into a security area of one of the resorts that he realized he'd been shot in the arm.

The next few days were a blur with surgery, pain medications, and a sense of loss. He had no way of contacting his family back in Florida since his phone was in his backpack on the concert field. He soon found himself turning to alcohol to dull the emotional pain and memories. Within a few months, he was destitute, living on the streets and addicted. He entered The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center where he spent the next six months attaining sobriety while rediscovering his sense of purpose and self-worth. He entered the 10-week Culinary Arts Program which Jeremy Wood helps to facilitate.

Where is he now? Anthony is working in a restaurant associated with Zion National Park. "I'm very thankful for The Salvation Army and all the donors who help the people out here and give them another chance at life."

The Salvation Army provides live-in rehab services for both men and women about a mile north of the Homeless Campus at 211 Judson in North Las Vegas. It is a 6-month residential treatment program, supported fully by donations and The Salvation Army Family Thrift Stores. For further information, please call (702) 399-2769.

Juan Salinas, Director of Social Services



Recently, the City of Las Vegas approved a ban on sleeping and camping in a public right-of-way if emergency shelter beds are available. Another proposal was approved to restrict sidewalk usage further. The Department of Operation and Maintenance will designate certain hours for public sidewalk maintenance and cleaning, and it will become a misdemeanor to sleep or sit down in certain areas—"no person shall sit, lie, sleep, camp, or otherwise obstruct the cleaning of the designated public sidewalks." If arrested, it comes with an up to \$1,000 fine and up to six months in jail.

What is the issue?

The Corridor of Hope – the area north of downtown where homeless shelters and services are concentrated – are at capacity. Each night, there are more than 6,500 homeless people, and between the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Shade Tree, The Las Vegas Rescue Mission and others, there are beds for less than 1,500 people.

Want to help?

If we are truly to live in GRACE ("God's grace gives us the desire and power to do his will") on an individual basis, we need to step up and do something to rectify this situation.

One of the buildings on the Salvation Army Campus is empty and ready to be renovated so that it can shelter more homeless people day and night. What is needed? Money, of course. Any amount helps. Please send your contribution

to Leslee Rogers at The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 28369, Las Vegas, NV 89126, or call Leslee Rogers to make a credit card donation or donate online by visiting SalvationArmySouthernNevada.org and clicking on the Red Kettle in the upper right corner of the home page. Please indicate that the donation is for the homeless shelter.

I drove away from the campus, and the homeless who were gathered along the street humbled to see so

many others less fortunate than me without a safe place to put their head each night. It is disturbing to know there is so much contrast in our world today with an increasing divide between the haves and have-nots with many unable to afford housing, food, and the simple necessities. At the same time, I left the campus uplifted at having experienced the grace of those I'd just met to recognize themselves in others and to love them for who they are. There is hope, faith, charity and grace in that.



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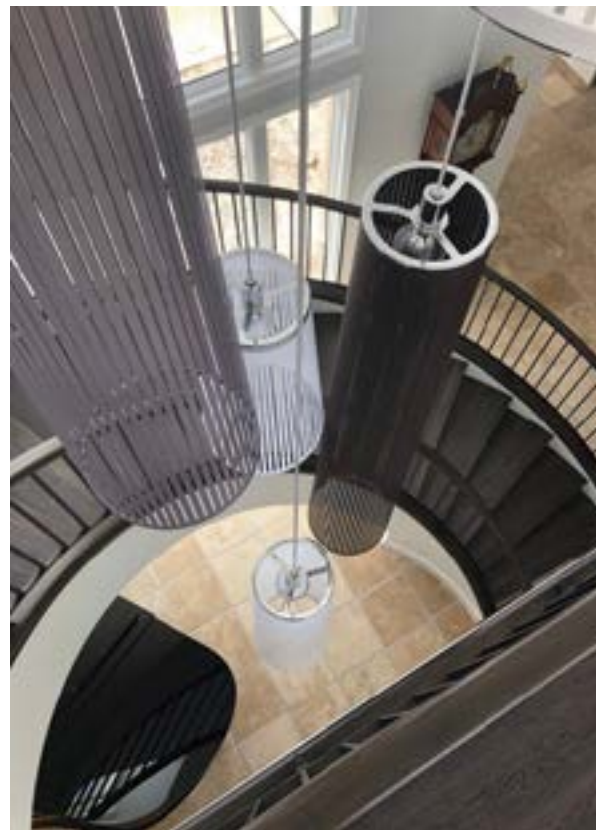
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charity

Charity Begins at Home

By Joan S. Peck



I was delighted to meet with Patrick Duffy to learn more about the Nevada School of the Arts located in the Historic Fifth Street School in old downtown Las Vegas. When I was told that, thanks to both Mayor Goodman's, the city owns the building and it belongs to the community, I naturally thought of the proverb, "Charity begins at home." After all, with its meaning that a man's family should be his foremost concern, it made sense that the city would step in to provide a place for its inhabitants to take advantage of what the school has to offer in the way of music, and the arts.

Formerly called the Las Vegas Grammar School, the Historic Fifth Street School was constructed in 1936 on Fifth Street, which later became Las Vegas Boulevard. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 20, 1988. It is one of the few remaining intact mission-style buildings of its era, and it is a

cultural oasis amid downtown Las Vegas' office and legal corridors. It is the home to an assortment of local arts and architectural organizations, one of which is the Nevada School of the Arts, a music organization. The complex consists of 27,500 sq. ft. of space in multiple buildings, some of which are available for use or rent for public or private functions.

These areas include a multi-purpose performance area/auditorium capable of accommodating up to 400 people, a gallery space for exhibitions, and smaller meetings able to hold up to 200 people and a 30-person conference room. Also, there are open courtyards available for outside activities, as well as the 16,000-square-foot Centennial Plaza that can be used for outdoor gatherings. It's a beautiful place, not necessarily fancy but comfortable with a sense of history.

Nevada School of the Arts ["NSA" NevadaSchooloftheArts.org] is a non-profit 501(c)(3) cultural institution with a 42-year history. NSA became Nevada's first member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education and received the Governor's Arts Award in 2010. It is fortunate to have some of the most respected teachers and educators from around the world serve as the school's faculty.

The Music Programs are varied, and each one exciting and rewarding.

- Music Mind Games - for young musicians ages five and up. Created by Michiko Yurko, it is

a method for producing music literacy and theory.

- Suzuki Talent Education Program - for beginner and intermediate musicians age four and up for the highest quality private or group instruction.
- Preparatory Orchestra - for young string players, comfortable reading basic pitches and rhythms, to develop skills and techniques needed when performing with an ensemble.
- NSA Chorale - for students in grades 4 to 6 to study vocal techniques as well as musicianship, performance and social skills.
- Piano Studies - for students of all ages (beginners to advanced) who have the option to perform or compete in local, state, and national events each stage of development.
- Private Lessons - for students of all ages (beginners to advanced) for hands-on training in a one-to-one teacher/student setting for training in technique, repertoire, sight-reading, and performance skills.
- NSA Chamber Orchestra - for advanced 8th grade through High School musicians by audition only to engage with repertoire from the 17th century to the most contemporary.
- School of JAZZ at NSA - for jazz musicians of all ages and ability to actively participate in its interdisciplinary jazz education program.

Patrick Duffy became NSA's President and CEO of Nevada School of the Arts in 2018. He was the former president of the Las Vegas Art Museum, former



Patrick Duffy

chair of UNLV's galleries board, and a former Smith Center board member. He and his late partner of more than two decades, Wally Goodman (who died in 2008) built the Goodman Duffy Collection, featuring works by artists from around the world — and Las Vegas. (many of those artworks are on display at such renowned museums as Chicago's Art Institute and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; you can learn more at goodmanduffycollection.com.)

What made you decide to take on this role?

PD: "We're going to make the music program, as great as it is, even better. I thought to myself this is an opportunity to take that business acumen and create an art and culture buffet for the valley, so there's something for everyone."

How long have you been in Las Vegas, and what brought you here?

PD: "I've been here for nearly 20 years. I came here because I was offered an opportunity to become a regional director for Neiman Marcus at one of four choices: Tampa, Scottsdale, Newport Beach, and Las Vegas. When I presented them to Wally, it boiled down to Las Vegas, and here we are."

How did you get involved with the arts?

PD: "Through my life with Wally Goodman. He was a liberal arts scholar, educated from opera to symphony to poetry to painting. He taught me ALL. Now, I share that knowledge and experience with my husband, Luis Valazquez."

What exciting thing do you have planned for this year?

PD: "This year is the 100th birthday for legendary saxophonist, Charlie "Bird" Parker. We are celebrating

it by presenting the program, "Bird with Strings," which will be performed at the Smith Center's Myron's Cabaret Jazz (featuring Music Director Justin DiCioccio and Saxophonist Dick Oatts) on August 28-29, 2020.

"You may remember Charlie Parker was instrumental in changing the face of music when he hit New York in the 1940s. One of Bird's dreams was to record with a string section, which was realized through "Bird with Strings." Those studio sessions joined the faces of Classical and Jazz communities, creating Symphonic Jazz and broadening jazz trends in the 1950s and forward."

What is one of the most important things you want to accomplish at the NSA?

PD: "I want to make sure that the community recognizes that the Historic Fifth Street School and

our program is non-exclusive. We are looking for those people who want to develop and expand their musical abilities and appreciation for the arts.

"For all the several thousand students that have passed through Nevada School of the Arts, their music and skills they learned have stayed with them. For students from CCSD valley schools, music and art have helped propel them to success, to thinking, acting, and maturing in society, achieving higher incomes and professional standing."

Do you have scholarships available for those who need them?

PD: "We do. If someone needs help, I want them to come and see me so that we can make that happen. Our scholarships are not full rides in the aspect that the parents have to participate, as well. As we know, if you don't have "skin in the game," it doesn't work well. And the parents love being a part of providing their child the gift of attending NSA."

I walked away from the Historic Fifth Street School heartened to know that the NSA was in the good hands of Patrick Duffy, who with his expertise, knowledge, and love of the arts is doing all he can to bring his touch of collaboration to enliven the arts community right here in Las Vegas.



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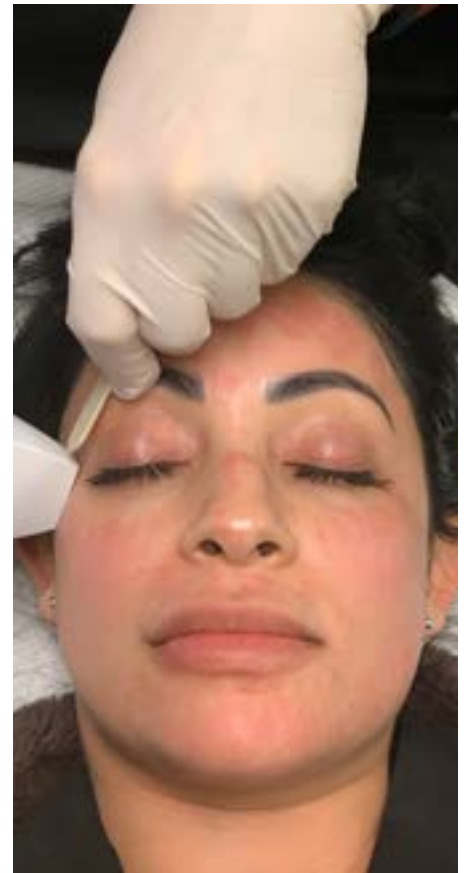
Great Looking Skin For 2020 & Beyond

By H.L. Greenberg, MD

I'm often asked, "What is beautiful looking skin to you?", and my favorite reply is, "cancer free; everything else is preference." Most people enjoy skin that is youthful in appearance with good volume, even skin tones and wrinkle free. As a Board Certified Dermatologist, who completed an extra year of Dermatology Research and three years of Internal Medicine Residency- I have 11 years of formal medical training after college. Each year I give a talk in Europe at the 5-Continent Congress Cosmetic meeting and I attend multiple other conferences during the year. With my training background and interest in what is state of the art, I have a number of opinions on how to make skin look its best depending on the person and the tools available. At Las Vegas Dermatology, the practice I founded in 2007, we have five different lasers and multiple other tools and devices like the SkinPen, Venus Viva and Hydrafacial to improve skin pigmentation, wrinkles, texture, tattoo ink and unwanted body hair.

Each device has its own unique selling feature. The SkinPen is a brand new micro-needling device which creates small holes in the skin allowing for controlled wound healing and skin tightening. The

Venus Viva is a radio frequency device, which utilizes electricity and heat to tighten skin, reduce fine lines and shrink pores. The Hydrafacial is an excellent tool to clean the skin removing debris, oil, sebum, dead skin and allowing for your natural beauty to shine. Lately, I've been really into combination therapies which use different treatment modalities for best results. An example of a combination therapy would be doing a Venus Viva radio frequency



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treatment immediately followed by the SkinPen microneedling device and adding in your own Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) using your blood's platelets to speed wound healing and improve long term results- which would be improvement in the appearance of fine lines, smoother texture, reduced redness and healthier appearing

skin. Knowing which device is necessary for which person and in which order to use them separates experts from novices. Once you have had a treatment performed, you will need a proper skin care regimen to maintain best results. I recommend washing, topical care (medication or cosmeceutical product) and a good moisturizer. At Las Vegas Dermatology, we have two Board Certified Dermatologists and a laser trained aesthetician.

Make your appointment for great looking skin today at lvderm.com.

Dr. H.L. Greenberg is a Board Certified Dermatologist who loves the field of dermatology and started Las Vegas Dermatology in 2007 because he wanted the type of practice he would like to

attend as a patient. He enjoys making dermatology videos, and the YouTube channel (lvderm) has over 5,000 subscribers and 1 million views. He blogs monthly under the pseudonym, "Dr. Vegas" and in his spare time Dr. Greenberg travels and runs half marathons. The goal of his practice is to assist others in their quest "For a Healthier and More Beautiful Life."



H.L. Greenberg, M.D.

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LONDON

FASHION WEEK

Photography by Mark Gunter

The House of iKons presented at London Fashion Week where designers from across the globe presented their latest creations for the Fall/Winter look of 2020.

There was a vast array of designers and fashion insiders that descended upon the city of London to take part in this extraordinary show.

The Fall/Winter 2020 looks were spectacular. We are offering a hint of what was featured for the season. In the spotlight is Will Franco, from Columbus, OH who had some very exciting looks and Joan Madison who traveled across the pond to showcase for the first time in the United Kingdom. Chic Compass is thrilled to cover this show by giving you a sneak peak of what these amazing designers created and sharing the latest season trends.



London Fashion Week, February 2020
Designs: Will Franco Designs
Photography: Mark Gunter



London Fashion Week, February 2020
Designs: Joan Madison
Photography: Mark Gunter



London Fashion Week, February 2020
Designs: Joan Madison
Photography: Mark Gunter



London Fashion Week, February 2020
Designs: Will Franco Designs
Photography: Mark Gunter



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Designs: Will Franco Designs
Photography: Mark Gunter

London Fashion Week, February 2020
Designs by Joan Madison
Photography by Mark Gunter



London Fashion Week, February 2020
Designs by Joan Madison
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London Fashion Week, February 2020
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Adventures in Travel & Dining

KAUA'I

Golf's Emerald Jewel
By Janice Marie Wilson



For the past five million years, Kauai has been passionately ravaged by nature, shaped, sculpted, and chiseled into an infectiously beautiful island. The allure of this island's beauty has enticed the world's most esteemed golf architects to transform the "Garden Island" into "Golf's Emerald Jewel."

This rare jewel is naturally blessed with verdant tropical foliage, lush rain forests, spectacular waterfalls, and rainbow covered coastlines that take your breath away. But it's the elegance, brilliance, and architectural mastery of Kaua'i's golf courses that made my heart race. Through an expenditure of millions of dollars in renovating their top courses, Kaua'i has created the quintessential golf experience. It's visually astounding, emotionally thrilling, athletically challenging and deeply rewarding. The game of golf becomes fifth dimensional in Kaua'i! It is a regal pleasure and seduction of paradise.

Golf can be a game of battling your inner demons. It's learning how to maintain concentration under pressure. It's mastering how to avoid the mental and physical tensions that will sabotage any shot. It doesn't matter if it's a simple two foot putt or a bunker seeking tee shot. When you play golf, you're always contending with that "nagging inner voice" that says, "how can I keep from messing up this next shot?"

But when you play golf at the the Makai Golf Club on the North Shore, you can't wait for that next shot. The beauty of the terrain makes your inner demons disappear. The pristine attention to architectural golf design heightens your concentration. Your insecurities vanish as you walk onto the firm surface of seashore paspalum turf tee box. Your confidence builds with the overwhelming beauty of each signature hole. The hidden secret to your golf game is revealed. With each chip shot, sand wedge,

fairway play or putt, your natural instincts are unleashed. You begin to listen to the land and the sound of a well hit shot. The Makai Golf course delivers the golfer's ultimate dream. It gives you the opportunity to improve every aspect of your game. This Robert Trent Jones, Jr. golf course, allows you to experience more than a game of golf. With every dramatic shape of their bunkers, the configuration of their green complexes, coupled with the beauty of Hanalei Bay, and the North Shore's breathtaking mountains, you're given the key to the perfect golf swing. This course holds the secret that makes champions of us all. A par 72 course, with four sets of tees and 7,200 yards, has mastered the uncanny ability to teach you the penultimate pleasure in playing the game of golf... the art of relaxed concentration!

As I stood on the tee box of Hole #3, I perused the architectural artistry of the hole. The Pacific trade winds blew behind me. The surreal view of the mountains merged into the radiant blues of the sea. Glancing down the enormous 100 foot drop to the green, I was taken aback by two of the most dramatic white sand bunkers surrounding the green. They appeared like waves rolling into shore. The hole plays 180 yards from the tips, but they told me to play at least two clubs less because of the winds and drop. Would I be able to clear the mirrored lake fronting the green and avoid the bunkers?

I gave a nod to the gods before I hit my heavenly seven. As if on cue, the trade wind caught my ball and

it magically soared over the lake and the first bunker. I heard it plop on the green. I watched the white speck gently roll off the green and flirted an inch short of the second bunker. But it was the second putt that gave me the rewarding chill of hearing the “kerplunck” of the ball drop into the metal cup. Par!

Hole 7 - Par 3 is a temptress. The championship tee box is perched on a cliff overlooking the serene Hanalei Bay and blue waters of

the Pacific Ocean. I loved the feeling of being on top of the world. But the trajectory to the green was exceptionally frightening. My professional partner for the day Doug Sutter didn't seem phased. He teed up his ball. His back swing arced to perfection. At the end of his back swing I noticed that the focus of his eyes remained directly on the back edge of the golf ball, as his hips rotated towards the green, he kept his upper body totally passive and his head still. At the precise

moment his club head struck the ball, the “thrack” of a well hit shot sent shock waves through me. He had to carry that shot 213 yards above the most rugged, terrifying cliffs I'd even seen. The ravine was 160 feet deep - with white swells churning against the black rocks at the bottom. The green was fronted only by a cliff opulently covered with red boganvia trees and tropical vegetation.

I watched his ball soar higher and higher. The white speck against the deep blue sky grew wings. Unfortunately the green below was surrounded by the magnetic pull of several dazzling white bunkers. Did Doug's ball have a protected force field around it? The surreal view of the mountains meeting the white tipped waves of the ocean was nothing compared to the aerial stunt his Nike ball performed. Overcoming the beastly odds of nature and Robert Jones Jr.' architectural golf mastery, his ball flew over the bunkers, hit the green and gracefully rolled two inches from the cup. This course deserves its rating as one of the top five in National Geographic Traveler!

The mischievous Menehunes (Hawaiian Leprechauns) of the Makai Golf Course were everywhere that day. The rain intermittently poured down in liquid sunshine for exactly 52 seconds at a time. Rainbows appeared out of nowhere. On the 8th hole of the course, an attractive blond haired gentleman with an impish smile, blue golf hat, burgundy collared shirt and confident presence, introduced himself to us as Bobbie Trent Jones Jr. With great pride, he





volunteered to give us some pointers about the design of his course. Wow! I practically jumped out of my saddle shoe designed golf shoes.

I found Mr. Jones to be an artistically astounding man, gifted with a passion for golf, story telling, politics, poetry and designing golf courses. Delighted to ride in the golf cart and golf with the man that designed those brilliant white bunkers, and terrifying tee shots, I asked him what was the most important part of designing a course. He gave me a thoughtful smile and told me without hesitation that a "good golf design possess an overall mood or rhythm that engenders feelings of anticipation, mixed with nostalgia in most players when they reflect on the course. The architect produces this effect

in a fashion similar to the way in which a great composer creates a symphony. Each hole is deftly adapted to the site's natural attributes. A great course also has balance, which derives from the melding, in a pleasant order, of holes of varying degrees of difficulty. For me the hallmark of a great course resides in a golfer's ability to remember and visualize all the holes after playing the course once."

Mr. Jones has succeeded in making the Makai Golf Course great! I can close my eyes right now and visualize every bunker, tee shot and breath taking scenery from that day.

I remembered the Aloha feeling and the island spirit of Ahupua,(living in balance with nature) when I recalled the beauty of the luxuri-

ous accomodations on the island. I can still see the grand lobby of one of the luxury resorts. There were 4,000 pieces of glittering Murano glass that sparkled from the ceiling chandelier. The vision echoed the stunning brilliance of the Na Molokam Mountain waterfall on the island. The expansive views of the sea and the hotels built into the cliffs above the Hanalei Bay are firmly etched into my imagination like a rare emerald glittering in the sunlight on my beloved ring finger. I remember Makana, the landmark peak that was immortalized as the mysterious Bali Hai Island in the film South Pacific, as mystically enchanting.

But it was the play of light, through the grey mist along the coast line of deep green vegetation that captivated my imagination for Kauai's

magic. There were tiny rainbows that sparkled in the air from the warm droplets of rain, thousands of prisms were dancing every where. The sun played peek-a-boo with the clouds. And then the big light show began. A double rainbow emerged between the shore lines and arced across the sky. The colors radiated and faded three or four times, with at least eight different rainbow images painting the sky with blues, purples, pinks, oranges and yellows. I remember the shimmering light of the last rainbow as it fell upon my sandaled feet. I was the recipient of a rare prize of Princeville's majestic beauty, the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It was me!

If the Makai Golf Course is the Empress of Golf, the Prince Course at Princeville is the Emperor. Mr. Robert Trent Jones Jr. is the original architect of this course. It is magnificent by nature with views from 300 feet above the Pacific Ocean. You truly feel that you are placed between heaven and earth. The strategic design of this course is billed to give golfers of all skills a run for their money. It is not for the weak of heart. You have to bring your best game to this 18-hole par 72 golf course and then know how to pray. The rolling terrain climbs slopes and careens down hills. The demanding layout requires you to use your best strategic skills to plan out your shots. The land, challenges you to overcome the worst of your golf demons. The course is designed to reward you with the thrill of overcoming the worst of obstacles. And just when you think the course has exhausted your best shots, you are deep-

ly rewarded with the most breathtaking natural water fall. It's the "Prince's" gift of rejuvenation. The cascading waters renew the spirit of "relaxed concentration." This is why you love to play the game! It's your lasting reward for playing one of "America's Top 100 Golf Courses," in the world.

Kauai's numinous charms are further captivated at the Poipu Bay Golf Course, the host of the PGA Grand Slam of Golf from 1994-2006. This spectacular course is located adjacent to the Grand Hyatt Resort and Spa on Kauai's sun-soaked South Shore. And yes, it's another masterpiece created by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., with 210 acres of ocean front vistas along the rugged Poipu Bay's coastline. The course features 85 bunkers, five water hazards with wildly varying trade winds. Distractions abound with the panoramic vistas, with over 30 acres of tropical plants and flowers.

I'm an amateur golfer that gets easily distracted by the views, and the scenery. In fact, if it wasn't for Chad, my personal pro for the day, I would have just stopped and me-

andered the course utterly lost in its beauty. Chad professionally reminded me that this course has a reputation in "making Champions of us all. He certainly had his work cut out for him.

I usually "thwack" the ball about 135 yards off the tee. Sometimes it hits the fairway, sometimes it slices right, once in a while I'll miff it badly a few feet, it rolls and sometimes I shank it out to left field. Chad was thoughtful as he made his way towards me. With his lay back Hawaiian ways, he paused and asked if he could show me something. He used what he called the "Aloha" spirit in his teaching methods. He explained that Aloha is not only a greeting, it's the ability to be "present to your breath in the moment. Golf has a lot to do with breathing, as well as the positioning of your body," he stated.

He showed me how to take my breath in on the back swing and let it out as I came through the ball and finish high, with my hips rolling towards the target first and the club head following. He instructed that the hips moving before the club give the golf shot it's power and





control. And when both hip bones finish facing the target for the ball, you gain greater distance and precision.

He made it seem so easy. Breathe in... breathe out... be present... and use the placement of your hips to ignite your power. I stepped up to the tee box to experiment. The prevailing trade winds whispered "aloha". I gently inhaled with my back swing, and hula'd my hips

through the ball. Releasing my breath as my hip bones swung through the ball, my club head finished high and both hip bones faced forward. I watched my ball soar for 200 yards and land firmly in the middle of the fairway. "Ah.....LOHA!"

The course is nestled among the gentle contour of Poipu Bay, and sculpted from a rolling plateau eight stories above the Pacific

Ocean. It is bordered by ancient stone walls, and Hawaiian heiau (places of worship).

To my delight the first shot wasn't a fluke! For the rest of the 18 holes, the wildlife of nene geese, Hawaiian monk seals, and green sea turtles all held witness to my "Aloha" swing.

I later learned that these places of worship, Heiau, were specifically built on sites deemed to have the most "mana".....a spiritual power that emanates from sacred places. No wonder my game improved so miraculously!

A great golf game can only be surpassed by an amazing Lomilomi massage, a beautiful hotel room at the Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort and Spa, a swim in their one and one half-acre saltwater swimming lagoons and two freshwater outdoor pools with meandering "river pools", all followed by a succulent dinner fare at their Tide Pools Restaurant.



The Lomilomi massage was the highlight of this Four-Diamond Hyatt. It succeeded in soothing every aching muscle that comes from four days of golf. In this 45,00 square foot open aired Anara Spa, I discovered lokahi - the healing Hawaiian custom that inspires - unity-harmony and balance. This custom uses the restorative power of nature to reunite your mind, body and spirit as one. It couples massage with their locally - grown herbs and exotic botanicals. I languished for an hour feeling my mind release from the stress of wanting to always hit that perfect

golf shot. It unkinked the knots from my neck and back and smoothed out my sore arm muscles. My spirit felt light and at ease. But the best part of this inspired treatment is that "lokahi" returns to me whenever I close my eyes and think about it. Wow!

Not all of Kauai's golf courses have an expensive resort price tag. The Puakea Golf Course proves to be just as amazing. It's a public course as great as the others, with a green fee that encourages you to play more than once. Visitors can experience a Ho'okipa Special for \$79.00 that includes a \$25.00 golf rental, warm up balls at their range, complimentary rider/junior. This course is a must on your Kauai golf tour. It has the charm, the intensity, the challenges and the beauty of all the others with a grace and ambiance that is truly relaxing. The beauty and expansiveness of the mountains and scenery inspired the film directors of Jurassic Park to use it as a set location. You can almost hear the whine of the dinosaurs in the distance.

The Kauai Lagoons Golf Club is a golfer's dream. But if you've come with your family and feel guilty about leaving them behind when you play golf, the Kauai Marriott Resort is your answer. It's family friendly with a beautiful sheltered beach on Kalapaki Bay, with an array of water activities for everyone. They have the largest single level swimming pool on the islands, with an extensive children's pool. The grounds are heavenly Hawaiian. The staff goes out of their way to make sure that you



have everything you would ever need. The food at the six restaurants is delectable. The rooms are charmingly beautiful and cozy. This golf destination has something for the whole family, so no one will feel left behind! Everyone gets what they want! Great golf...fabulous shopping....any kind of water sports, and a beautiful place to gather and share stories at sunset!

Kauai's Emerald Jewel is a golfer's dream come true. There is no other place in the world where you can learn to master the secret to golf with such beauty, elegance and

championship designs. The natural beauty of Kauai has worked for 5,000 years to give you the penultimate golf experience landscaped by the genius of golf's greatest architects. You'll learn to listen to the land. Breathe the "Aloha" golf swing. Master the "art of relaxed concentration." Yet, the penultimate experience of Kauai's golf, is that at any moment you can close your eyes and visualize in vivid color your golf game coming alive! These emerald jeweled memories are irreplaceably priceless.

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CHEF NATALIE YOUNG: OLD SOUL

By Janice Marie Wilson | Photos by Angie Ortaliza

*A*n Old Soul is a person who feels much older than their age reflects. This feeling is often accompanied by the gift of empathy, high intelligence, intuition, and keen insight into the human condition. Old Souls are relatively rare and compose a small

percentage of the world's population. Old Souls are not common in today's society.

Old Soul restaurant in the World Market Center embodies all these qualities. The minute you walk into the restaurant, you have a feeling

that something very rare and special was created. The restaurant's décor is vintage 1920. You feel a special connection to the care that was chosen in each piece as if you were visiting your grandmother's home.

The restaurant exudes a grandmother's love and joy for her family. The menu and fare have the flair of giving you the hearty nourishment from a forgotten past. Remember when we loved sitting around the dinner table and felt the familiar love of our grandmother's cooking. Everything was home-made, nourishing, fresh, and delicious. That is

what Old Soul restaurant embodies. It is a rare and treasured find.

Chef Natalie Young, restaurateur and owner of Eat and Old Soul restaurants, is the intellectual powerhouse that created this experience. Her intuition and keen insight into the human condition gives the dining experience a memory to treasure.

Chef Natalie is an Old Soul by definition. An Old Soul focuses on irreplaceable things that bring them lasting fulfillment and joy. This is what you will find at her restaurant.

She embodies Rilke's poem, "Go to the limits of your longing. Let everything happen to you, beauty and terror. Just keep going, no feeling is final."

Chef Natalie Young wanted to be an artist. Her dad told her, "Get a job!" Born in St. Louis and raised in Denver, Colorado, she came to Las Vegas to get sober. "I lost everything, my family, my partner, my job. I did anything I could for work, trimmed trees, cleaned up after horses. I look around at everything I have now, and it seems absolutely unbelievable."

"I never thought I could own a restaurant," she states unabashedly. I asked her how she became so successful. She attributes everything to something/someone bigger in charge. Without hesitating, she told me, "I'm a f...ing miracle. I don't have the ability to think this big."

She's now been sober for nineteen



years. Arriving in Las Vegas, she spent two months in rehab. "If I can, you can." Her brown eyes sparkle and ignite a flame from within. "I can't believe I get to do what I get to do. I am so grateful. I feel I owe. I need to pay it forward. I don't need anything. I have enough."

She is a woman who believes in focus and grind. She doesn't question things. She lives by the principle that she is not a victim. All are key ingredients for the recipe of success in the culinary world, and life.

She really never gave up her dream as an artist. She just traded paintbrushes and canvases for fruits and vegetables that create art on a plate.

A professional chef for over 20 years, she has worked in some of the country's most celebrated—and most demanding—kitchens, including stints alongside such notable chefs as Mark Miller

(Coyote Café) her favorite, and John Joho (Eiffel Tower) for seven years, where she was awarded her coveted Chef title. She also helped open the Hard Rock Hotel. Although she acquired her love for food out of necessity, her artistic soul nourishes every kitchen, job, and person she meets.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Chef Natalie at her Old Soul restaurant at the Las Vegas World Market Center. Meeting Chef was a transformational experience. Her signature style of tattoos, close-cropped shaved head covered by a straw hat with a worn crease, and overalls shattered my preconceived perceptions of the white frocked celebrity chef. Despite her unorthodox appearance, I am told Chef Nat is all Biz in the kitchen.

As she sat down at the antique table in Old Soul, she treated me like an old friend. She was warm, down to earth, authentic and humble. She brings her signature style to the culinary world, the art of

*“A potato comes out of the ground.
Enjoy that potato.”*

breaking bread to the dining experience. She wants her customers to feel at home whether you're a food critic or a valet. Chef Nat wants her restaurants to feel approachable. "I love this space," she exudes with enthusiasm. "People are surprised by the way it looks and feels." Old Soul is filled with antiques Chef Natalie purchased on Main Street, in Las Vegas. It's like having a cherished meal on your grandmother's fine china.

Her mantra is simple. Make the menu simple and approachable, "A potato comes out of the ground. Enjoy that potato."

She has created the Old Soul's menu to be simple without being predictable, blending East Coast dishes with Southern-style flair. For example, the smoked trout appetizer swaps corn cakes in place of traditional latkes. That nod to soul food pops up throughout the menu, in starters like fried green

tomatoes (Chef Nat's favorite movie) and fried oysters and entrées such as liver and onions. Don't fret if you didn't grow up on these old American staples; there's plenty more to explore, like grilled branzino with wilted arugula and house-made chimichurri, or braised short rib risotto with English peas and truffle oil. The bread pudding with pineapple and vanilla ice cream is killer too. The cherry pie is served in a black skillet iron pan, that sizzles with an explosion of



Grandma's sweetness. Make sure you order one with a French press coffee to share—or skip dessert and go straight for an after-dinner cocktail of bourbon, like a true old soul. Relax and savor the ambiance, as you watch the black and white projections of silent films featuring Charlie Chaplin on the silver screen.

Chef Nat's menu is as authentic as she is. She works at not hanging so tightly onto things and strongly believes life is a journey, not a destination. It is the experience that determines how you live, not how you die. She proudly shows off the black letters of her knuckled tattoo WALK AND CRY, as she recounts the story of a young friend who was dying of cancer at the young age of 21. They were walking on

the beach in Venice, California, and Natalie was crying and feeling sorry for her dying friend. Her friend looked at her and firmly commanded Natalie to "Walk and Cry. I don't have much time."

Natalie's no victim mentality comes from her dad's advice. "You've got to go out and get yours. Nobody cares. Look what they did to Jesus. People are in fear when they're not being nice." She smiles, warmly recounting his words. "I kinda do what I want. I don't know what I'd do if someone told me what to do."

She recounts one of the penultimate moments, when Anthony Bourdain came into her restaurant and greeted her with, "Hi Chef!" Natalie beamed with the pride of an actor

winning an Academy Award. "I worked my whole life to have him call me this," she beamed.

Chef Nat, God certainly takes care of you. Thank you for being a steward to a nourishing soulful culinary experience for all of us.

Need to let you know that if you're going to the Smith Center for a concert, Old Soul is the place to have dinner, drinks, or dessert before or after the theatre. And don't forget to tell a friend. Places like Old Soul and people like Chef Natalie need to be shared and loved by all of us.

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RACHEL CLINE

FIRST LADY

By Brian G Thornton, IIDA

*F*irst Lady is an unofficial title used for the wife of a non-monarchical head of state or chief executive. First Lady also describes a woman seen to be at the top of her profession or art. Rachel Cline's story is about the latter. Sometimes introductions are not required. Their persona in the room is a known entity or, in this case, intriguing enough to want to know more. When we look at the arts and the history, more pointedly, the recent blossoming of the visual arts culture of Las Vegas, Nevada, a quizzical look glazes over many a face. We have an art culture? Yes, we do. It is not exclusive nor is it relegated to neon signs, felled casino body parts, or even a forest of digital pylons and billboards. We have a legitimate, vibrant, and globally diverse arts culture in Las Vegas. There is a lady to introduce: meet Rachel Cline.

So, for a little provenance, Rachel was one of the first ladies this writer met from NEWH in 2006 [elevated to President in 2011]. A recent transplant to Nevada and directing design at MGM MIRAGE's Design Group, Rachel planned a meeting with me to introduce her art consulting firm. This first meeting led to later collaboration on a few hospitality projects with other clients. I was initially struck by her demure demeanor and looks of an artist's muse. Even her subtle Mona Lisa mischievous smile while idling at zero was intriguing. It was no accident that the fashion and model vibe was not far off. More about that later.



First, let's begin with present day Rachel Cline: committed entrepreneur to the arts via her bespoke gallery R. Cline ARTS, and her frenetic schedule of sourcing, curating people and their craft. As Rachel puts it, "identifying great work is where I am best."

R. Cline ARTS was founded a little over 13 years ago, and for a number of years operated without a gallery of any sort since most of her projects are a combination of consulting and sourcing. Still, the majority of artists she works with never enter the gallery space; they are from all over the world. In 2011, Rachel Cline and husband, award-winning architect, Dwayne Eschenbaugh, AIA, moved into a space in the heart of the arts district. Along with his firm, NOVUS Architecture, their collaboration has contributed to the development of the downtown community. She admits, "There's always something new and something changing."

Specializing in custom artwork and art packages for commercial, hospitality, healthcare, and residential application, Cline's manufacturing process has changed significantly over the past five years. Projects that require large scale production that at one time would have been produced overseas can now be competitive with domestic production. This is a result of advances in printing and materials, but also trade and freight changes in recent years.

In the last three to five years she says, "we have started generating content in-house in the form of custom digital murals, identity packages, and solutions that work in conjunction with concept development and branding. Ms. Cline finds this "a rewarding process as we get to work with a lot of exceptionally talented and creative people."

In early 2019, she was contracted as an advisor to a fairly major brand to develop an in-house art advisory committee and art selection standards. She has also been consulting with a couple of groups on means and methods to set up artists in a residency program. When asked about this, Rachel says, "I really enjoy this work as it makes my brain work in a different way, it's academic and measurable."

Another first for R. Cline ARTS is they've never sold product online until last year. E-commerce was established in conjunction with the launch of an annual event and fundraising effort, ART FOR GOOD. The Shade Tree of Las Vegas was the selected recipient this year, and they will select a new benefactor each June. As a part of the fundraising efforts and in partnership with the participating artists (Melissa McGill, Rebekah Andrade, Homero Hidalgo, Robert Beckmann, and Linda Alterwitz), small scale limited edition prints by the five participating artists were produced. Each is a very highly regarded artist in the community, and the proceeds go

to The Shade Tree. As a benefit, she plans to offer a new set of art prints each year with proceeds going to the selected cause, available until the edition sells out. It is anticipated that this eventually is going a little larger scale and become a separate e-commerce site, but for right now, they are still available on the R. Cline ARTS website. "I'm hoping some people will become collectors, like me," Cline says.

It's always interesting to know the influencers or people who make creative people interesting and relevant. Rachel Cline is no different. When asked about her favorites, she answers:

"Identifying great work is where I am best."



"So, so many people fascinate me...Frida Kahlo, Anais Nin, Jane Goodall were her first response. Then she continued with environmentalist and activist Winona LaDuke, who I had the opportunity to meet about 10 years ago. Former First Lady Michelle Obama - to me, she's like a modern-day Audrey Hepburn, nothing but style and grace. Economist and social entrepreneur Muhammad Yunus - I highly recommend reading *Banker To The Poor*. Right now, I am reading his newest book, *A World of Three Zeros*. And I really can't get enough of Laura Brown's (InStyle magazine editor in chief) Instagram feed, she has such a unique sense of style, plus it's filled with kangaroos and other cute animals that she supports through her volunteer work."

And no surprise, a nod to her husband, Dwayne. "He came from a small town outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, of only 2000 people. He was the first to get a college education in his family - his career and beliefs have evolved over the years in a way that I admire greatly. He's authentic, kind, and wildly talented as a designer, all very sexy traits." So, with all these influencers, she is asked, "Is there a topic or subject that is purely Las Vegas, or uniquely American, that you want to exhibit next?" Cline: "I have a couple of exhibits I am working on now that I am very excited about, one features indigenous people working in non-traditional mediums, another is works on paper by artists over 65 and a third is contemporary photography captured on film."

Getting to know this dynamic woman required first getting to understand her unassuming background in Salt Lake City, Utah. Rachel Eva Cline was named after a great-grandmother she never met. Sadly, she passed in the late seventies before Rachel was born yet was very, very close to Rachel's mother. So, what was it really like growing up in the capital city of the state? After some thought, she responded:

"To be honest...it was a little strange. My parents were not married. I lived with my mom and brothers, but my dad was very engaged and in my life every day. I grew up fairly low income, we ate block cheese, shopped second-hand, etc. My family lived in the worst house on the block in a middle-class neighborhood. Because of the after-school care I was in, my mom was able to get a waiver for me to attend elementary school in a more affluent area on East Bench, one of Salt Lake City's affluent residential communities. Growing up poor and essentially non-Latter Day Saint in an entirely LDS school, in a predominantly LDS school and city affected my early childhood in a unique way. When I was sick one day in first grade, my teacher, Mrs. Clark, took the opportunity to tell the classroom that I was 'different' from them, meaning poor and non-Mormon. I had one friend at school, I was picked on a lot, for anything from my name to the second-hand purple corduroy pants I wore. In fifth grade, I was able to transfer to a different school where I finally made friends."



**Above: Artwork by Alan Alldredge, represented locally by R. Cline ARTS
Opposite Page: Prints for Good, limited edition small-scale prints created for the annual fundraiser organized by R. Cline ARTS.**

So how did these humble beginnings lead to life in Las Vegas and, more specifically, growing into one of the highly respected first ladies of our art scene and culture? Rachel continues: "Despite these challenges, I was fortunate to have nurturing and engaged parents and other extended family members in my life. My mom taught us kindness, confidence, and a sense of curiosity. She was and is a courageous woman, even when she's uncomfortable being so. She earned a dual master's with three kids at home and working full time. My dad worked in graphic design when I was young, and later, he

went on to work in the medical field. He's always had the spirit of a true artist; he is adventurous and taught me to love arts and the outdoors. Both parents encouraged my interest in the arts; my mom started buying me art and art history books every year for Christmas in elementary school, but my dad's drafting table filled with markers, calligraphy pens, and paints always intrigued me."

"I have great memories of nights filled with sketching and experimenting with watercolors in his kitchen at a very young age. My dad bought me my first camera,



which I still have. A peek at her Instagram feed will amplify her captured interests through the lens. My uncle was a significant figure in my life in Salt Lake also. He is now a retired Catholic priest and well-traveled. He instilled in me a value of culture and travel, especially since he took me to Europe my first time. I was quite close to my maternal grandmother. She was my earliest model of femininity, both bold and elegant. She had a handful of husbands and many affairs and was always surrounded by a tribe of sisters. Her contagious personality made everyone she met fall in love. I wish I had the opportunity to have a relationship with her as an adult.”

So, let's go back to style, talent, fashion, and modeling. Rachel has come a long way from the purple

Above: Kiton at Wynn Las Vegas, Artwork by Melissa McGill, Art Consultant: R. Cline ARTS, Design Architect: B+Architects, Photography by Shay Velich, Architect of Record: NOVUS Architects

Below: Rachel Cline at Casa Azule (Frida Kahlo's Home), Photography by Dwayne Eshenbaugh



corduroy pants. She was asked if she was a “muse to her style and talent.”

“As for a muse to my talent, there could be some truth to that, but most people who are self-employed or entrepreneurial have a passion for what they do, they work a lot, and the line between professional life, personal life and creative life blurs, that is the case for me. Life is both a privilege and an art, and I am fortunate and grateful that my conditions allow me to live this way, many people don’t have the same privilege.”

“It’s not really an exciting story, I was naturally long and lanky, fairly tall, dark-haired and a little exotic looking, this was the late 90’s, and I fit that waif sort of look well. I was approached by agents and scouts frequently. It didn’t go far, a little bit of film work, some run-way jobs; I honestly don’t think I fit commercial print work well. I was told I needed to pursue Europe and Asian markets, so I sort of lost interest and did other things. A few years later, I ended up working in the cosmetic industry and got into make-up artistry, which was a lot more creative than I expected. I started doing some film work for Showtime and Disney. The

schedules are extremely irregular, (and) I already had some background studies in photography and art history. One day I walked by a gallery in Salt Lake City and met the owner. We talked about their work with the design industry and corporate clients. It was a role I had never thought of in the arts industry. The next week I started work for them part-time in-between make-up jobs, and things progressed from there.”

Below: Rachel Cline in the downtown studio.

Photo by Brianne Hidalgo

Artwork by Joseph Kucinski



So, are there any other 'firsts' we may see from this lady? "Last year, my husband was President of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and his president's initiative was affordable housing. I served on the committee and participated in the design charette. AIA LV has decided to make it a permanent committee, and I intend to stay engaged. It's such a challenging issue facing most large cities. Something has to be done, and it is going to take people from a mix of industries

and backgrounds to create a solution...and exercising their privilege to vote. I also have a secret educational project engaged with climate change I am developing. Hopefully, I can disclose that this summer. I anticipate being able to connect my love of art and my creative contacts in this project."

As this introduction began, Rachel Cline is in many ways a lady first and a first lady. First lady in art resourcing and consulting. First lady former president of NEWH Las

Vegas, champion of First Friday Downtown, wife and partner to architect Dwayne Eshenbaugh, and "First Mom" of three dogs. So, if you want to get to know her firsthand, R. Cline ARTS is located at 8 East Charleston Boulevard in the heart of the Las Vegas Downtown Arts District.

Below: "Periodic Empath"
Artwork by Jennifer Wagner





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Liberace's Second Act

By Stacey Gualandi



Above: The Playel piano, c. 1885, was used in the film about Chopin in 1945 called “A Song to Remember.” The film inspired Liberace’s use of the candelabra.

The late, larger-than-life Liberace once famously said, “You can have either the Resurrection, or you can have Liberace. But you can’t have both.”

Well, it appears Liberace is having a resurrection of his own.

“Mr. Showmanship,” as he was known around the world, would be celebrating his 100th birthday if he were alive today. But the master pianist never let anything like mortality keep him from taking center stage: As of this writing, there are efforts toward naming a Las Vegas street after him; a “Liberace Grill” restaurant is in final stages of completion in Southern California; and a reality television show called *Finding Liberace* is in development.

But the crowning jewel of the Liberace legacy is his recently revived eponymous museum collection in Las Vegas, the city he called home for years. It is magnificently on display throughout the “Thriller Villa,” a sprawling Hacienda-style estate that was once home to Michael Jackson until his death in 2009.

“The collection was curated by Liberace himself. This is the holy grail,” says Jonathan Warren, Chairman/CEO of the Liberace Foundation. “We’ve expanded it, and it’s a far bigger collection than it’s ever been.”

The museum boasts thousands of iconic pieces—from Liberace’s pristine pianos and captivating candelabras to his showy self-portraits and flashy feathered frocks,

curated throughout the former residence of the King of Pop, once a friend of the King of Bling.

The reunion of these two former child prodigies is quite a coincidence. As I learned on the two-and-a-half hour tour, they crossed paths several times during their careers; they once roomed together at Trump Tower; and Liberace was a tremendous early influence on Jackson's stage style (hello sequined glove!)

Warren is masterful at sharing the stories and myths surrounding these legendary artists during daily and evening tours for fans of all ages. "It's all public history. I'm just regurgitating it," he jokes.

But his first memory of Liberace goes back to his childhood growing up in Las Vegas. "Every day after school, I'm watching TV and there's Liberace over and over again in these ads that were hilarious...my brother and I used to make fun of the ads with all these Midwestern ladies running down to the stage to touch [him]."

Now Warren is credited with saving the museum that Liberace once built. In 2013, the original foundation was forced into bankruptcy, and the collection was nearly donated or sold off.

"To lose that nucleus of Las Vegas artifacts that are Las Vegas culture would have been a nightmare to me," says Warren.

But as a board member at the time, Warren stepped in, and within 5



Above: Artists Vault - an iconic 1969 Liberace costume by Frank Acuna stands guard.

years, the Glitter Man was back for good.

"All we have to do with Liberace is get out of his way, draw back the curtain, sit down and he'd do it himself," admits Warren. "And that's exactly what happened."

In its new home, the museum collection thrives on original pieces

as well as artifacts on loan. Recent donations include one from a family who used to build Liberace's stages. They donated a valuable piece of history: a concert jacket that once belonged to a former stage manager from Liberace's final Radio City Music Hall show in 1986.

Says Warren of their ongoing

success: “We at this moment have virtually no overhead, no payroll, and no debt. It’s completely stabilized, and now we’re about to go launch into the next stratosphere.”

And that includes a soon-to-be-announced new board of directors (“a Who’s Who of Vegas”); the aforementioned reality TV show to find the next Liberace (in the unlikeliest of places); and the restaurant chain licensing the Liberace name.

But Warren says he won’t rest until the Las Vegas marquees all go dark and a “Liberace Boulevard” is officially proclaimed for the once highest-paid entertainer on the Strip, preferably before Liberace’s 101st birthday in May.

“I know it’s possible, and I hope somebody decides that they’d want to go down in history for having done it rather than going down in history for not.”

In the meantime, there’s no doubt the King of Bling is here to stay, and his influence will continue to make a mark on the city for years to come. Just like he planned.

“Liberace is the reason why Las Vegas looks like Las Vegas,” says Warren. “The reason why it’s known for glitter is because he literally invented it here. His influence is so extensive. I think we’ve been successful at getting that across, at least according to the reviews on TripAdvisor.” :)

At Right: The gold leaf Wendl double keyboard piano, c. 1910, was probably made for Austrian royalty, acquired by Liberace in 1952.



Above: Susan Liberace of Philadelphia with sculpture of Liberace by artist Marcos Marin of Monte Carlo, at Monte Carlo Fashion Week, 2019. Photo by Jonathan Warren



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ROCK STAR CONDUCTOR ALEXANDRA ARRIECHE

By Kendall Hardin

*I*f you've never met Alexandra Arrièche, you'd swear she was a model or film star - with her long gleaming tresses, dazzling dark eyes, and sexy Brazilian accent. Can she help it that she is undeniably drop-dead gorgeous? That she's fun, charming, and totally approachable? Or that she shines as one of the world's next-gen orchestra conductors who just happen to be uber-talented women?

Working with today's icons in both classical music and pop

entertainment, Alexandra summons her unique talents and international skills to switch gears between genres in what she calls the "cross-over universe."

How did the São Paulo native become a conductor? She started composing music when she was 11 years old and studied piano. She wrote her first orchestral work at 16, and to perform it with her assemblage of teenage musicians, she needed a conductor, so she stepped up and grabbed the baton herself.

"I really hadn't considered conducting because I had heard people say, 'If conducting is hard for a man, just imagine what it's like for a woman.'" So, she continued to concentrate on writing music and studying piano. In her early 20's while majoring in music in Brazil, her composition professor encouraged her to consider a career in conducting. He kept insisting, "Try it. You can always come back if it doesn't work out for you."

Once she shifted her focus, her career took off like a hot rocket.

In 2010 she received a full scholarship to be part of Maestro Harold Farberman's studio at Bard College. The next year she won the Taki Concordia Conducting Fellowship, followed by the Baltimore Symphony Conducting Fellowship in 2012. Since then, she has been working with Maestra Marin Alsop (one of the first women to conduct a major American orchestra) as Alsop's assistant in Baltimore, São Paulo, and the insanely popular Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in California.

In Cabrillo, Alexandra reconnected with her early roots as a composer and became an advocate of new music, working with some of the most innovative composers of her generation, such as Jennifer Higdon, Mason Bates, John Corigliano, John Adams, Anna Clyne and Jennifer Beller (who also resides in Las Vegas), to name but a few.

In 2015, she was invited to conduct the prestigious European Emmy Award-winning spectacle Night of the Proms (see the sidebar on The Proms). Since then she has been part of NOTP productions as the Principal Conductor, performing side by side with such stellar icons as the Pointer Sisters, Bryan Ferry, Simple Minds, Al McKay (Earth, Wind & Fire), Natasha Bedingfield, Chaka Kahn, Suzanne Vega, Roger Hodson (Supertramp), Peter Cetera (Chicago), Alan Parsons, The Hooters and John Miles.

She spends November and December each year, traveling through Belgium, Germany, Holland, Poland, and Luxembourg



for non-stop performances on tour. Imagine sold-out concerts for up to 20,000 audience members with jumbotron screens, massive sound and special effects equipment, a huge orchestra, and a rock star conductor who comes out in black lace and leather, brandishing the baton that will direct the entire night's electric line-up of entertainment. All hail this woman in charge!

In 2016, Alexandra was selected as Music Director of the Henderson Symphony Orchestra (HSO), a community orchestra founded in

1986 by musicians from across the Vegas Valley. Since then, Alexandra has elevated both HSO and the entire arts scene in Las Vegas with her fresh and exhilarating concerts- collaborating with an array of other art forms, including the visual arts, dance, opera, and even the culinary arts. Under her leadership, the Henderson Symphony Orchestra has blossomed into one of the few orchestras in the country that offers a complete season of free concerts in a variety of venues, as well as innovative outreach programs for families, students, and young artists.

Inspired by the lack of opportunities for young conductors in Brazil, Alexandra also started a Conducting Studio in Brazil in 2015. This summer, with funding support from the National Endowment for the Arts, she adapted and directed NSO's inaugural Conducting Camp here in Las Vegas, which attracted aspiring conductors nationally and internationally - concluding with a young Polish conductor winning the conducting rights to Henderson Symphony Orchestra's winter concert.

When I inquired what young audiences ask about her conducting skills, she mused, "They are more mystified in how conducting is



done . . . as if my baton is more of a magic wand out of a Harry Potter book." The recipe for a good conductor calls for a profound understanding of music and instruments through the ages, creative insight into crafting novel concerts, the ability to coach and coax a bevy of individual orchestra musicians into producing the finest ensemble performance possible, plus that inexplicable "it" factor of star appeal. With today's generation, there's simply no appetite for the egotistical, tyrannical behavior that characterized so many of the legendary male conductors of the last century. "We love her!" one HSO violinist gleefully volunteered. "She pulls the best out of every one of us in the orchestra, and we always come through for her."

What distinguishes Maestra Arrieche? "I think being a composer helps me understand other composers, and I am certainly passionate about the music. But I see my job more as helping and guiding the musicians to deliver their personal best in order to bring something amazing to audiences of all ages. I am totally into collaborating with other artists and turning community needs into opportunities." She is also upbeat about becoming a lecturer at UNLV this semester and guest conducting at other prestigious symphony orchestras around the country.

When I asked Alexandra where she'll be in another decade, she grinned. "When the door of opportunity opens, I'll be ready." For our sake, let's hope Las Vegas remains her home base forever. Rock on, Alexandra!

SIDEBAR ON THE PROMS

Not to be confused with the celebrated dances American high schoolers attend every spring, Night of the Proms (NOTP) is the biggest annually organized event in Europe.

Night of the Proms was created by two Belgian students, Jan Vereecke and Jan Van Esbroeck, in 1985. The concerts consist of pop music and popular classical music (often combined), highlighting celebrated musicians and groups in global entertainment. Over the last 35 years, the list of over 300 participating artists reads like an iconic Who's Who in pop, jazz, country, and classical music. The extravaganza concerts have grown in scale and geographic reach, with shows traveling outside Belgium to France, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Denmark, and Sweden. Future plans include bringing the Night of the Proms to America at venues on the East Coast.

Night of the Proms was based on concerts of the BBC-broadcasted Proms, a series of 70 or so classical concerts held yearly in the Royal Albert Hall in London going back to 1895. The Proms, short for "promenade concert," referred to outdoor concerts in London's pleasure gardens, where the audience was free to stroll while the orchestra played. With the BBC Proms, "promming" referred to the standing areas inside the hall where tickets were lower than for seating. Proms concert-goers are sometimes referred to as "Prommers" or "Promenaders."

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KEITH THOMPSON

& THE HISTORY OF THE COMPOSERS SHOWCASE

By Jonathan Scott

Keith Thompson is the “Son of a Preacher Man” from down South in Alabama. Encouraged by his High School choir teacher, Keith went on to college, graduating with two music degrees from William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. College friends introduced young Keith to the music of Broadway through show business luminaries like Ethel Merman, Barbra Streisand, Judy Garland and Liza Minelli.

Keith quickly turned his direction from writing religious songs to writing Musical Theatre. A tiny local

theater group wrote and produced a show, believe it or not, called, “Cleavage – A Titillating New Musical Comedy” or, the more PC, “A Musical Close to Where the Heart Is.” It must have been the comedic influence of Keith’s friends that provided him with his hilarious on-stage persona, “Honest and Real!”—real funny that is!

Staying in NYC after “Cleavage” closed, Keith worked the Dinner Theater circuit until he landed a job in “Les Misérables” on Broadway as a “sub” on and off for three years while also teaching at NYU. In New York, Keith got to work

with a lot of very funny people like Buddy Sheffield.

Keith and Buddy worked on “Roundhouse,” a show on Nickelodeon, for which Keith moved to L.A. for a short while. He went back to NYC where he worked on various shows such as, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” with Donny Osmond and the first national tour of “Mamma Mia,” before moving to Vegas for “We Will Rock You” the Musical, and the chance to work with Brian May of Queen.

JS: How did Composers Showcase start?

KT: While I was working on "We Will Rock You" I was writing songs and putting together demos using the people I worked with in the show. I was getting to know the Las Vegas theatre community. Then "Hairspray" opened. The female lead actress had been one of my students at NYU and had performed in one of my original musicals Off-Broadway. Michael Brennan, Wayne Green, Richard Oberacker and I were all writing musicals in Las Vegas. The group suggested getting together and sharing three or four of our original songs each month and The Composers Showcase was born.

The Composers Showcase started at a tragic little bar called, "Suede" and the president of the Liberace Museum came and saw us and said, "Hey, we have a little Cabaret room, why don't you do the showcase there?"

The Composers Showcase was at the Liberace Museum for three and a half years. The Theatre community in Las Vegas was thriving with shows like "Phantom," "Avenue Q," "Hairspray," "The Producers" and "Spamalot". "Jersey Boys" opened in 2008 and I was hired to be the Musical Director. The theatre community was healthy and ALIVE!

Then the Liberace Museum closed in 2010 and the Composers Showcase had no home. We floated around for about a year and a half, looking at different venues and trying to keep the idea of the Composers Showcase alive.



When I say "we," I mean "me!" I was the one-man driving force. But anytime I reached out, people would say "YES" and support the effort.

Then the Smith Center opened in 2012.

JS: I am often amazed at how quickly the crew changes the set around and how well the show is paced and orchestrated. How much of the musical arranging do you do?

KT: If a composer comes to me with their band, great! But, if someone has a song that needs a string quartet, or a horn section, I will agree to write the charts and make it happen.

JS: Composers Showcase is a bit of an incubator with songwriters like Daniel Emmet almost winning "America's Got Talent" and Richard Oberacker's show, "Bandstand," going to Broadway and winning a Tony Award. How does that make you feel?

KT: It makes me very happy. When we became a non-profit organization, we had to focus on our mission which is to provide a platform for writers who are seeking to get their music out there and to support their efforts the best we can. We now offer a scholarship at UNLV for young writers who major in composition or jazz composition. We've just started that and it's the beginning of a four-year journey for us.

JS: Your performance as jovial host of The Composers Showcase is pretty consistent each month, but are there similarities to each show?

KT: Each Composers Showcase is very different. We know our audience likes to laugh and enjoy funny songs so we invite back songwriters like Mark Wherry from the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), Danny Roque from L.A. and comedian Dennis Blair who is a brilliant stand-up comedian, but who writes some of the saddest songs you've ever heard. Vita Corimbi, (Menopause, The

“My advice is simply to keep writing. If you’re a songwriter, then you write every day about everything that happens to you.”

Musical), was one of our original songwriters in 2006 and she has always been one of my favorites. I am crazy about her.

JS: Do you get a lot of celebrities at The Composers Showcase looking for new material?

KT: We’ve had a lot of very successful and famous songwriters and performers join our fun. Stars like Olivia Newton John, Debbie

Gibson, The Righteous Brothers (Bill Medley & Bucky Heard), Susan Anton and even Priscilla Presley have participated in our showcase.

JS: What advice would you give to a young songwriter?

KT: My advice is simply to keep writing. If you’re a songwriter, then you write every day about everything that happens to you. You

have to listen to other people’s music and take that into account. Don’t be afraid to take the advice of other writers, but also, don’t be afraid to ignore it.

We’re celebrating our 8th year at Myron’s Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center in April. The Composers Showcase is a “Must-See” show that brings together songwriters, singers and an audience, many of whom are experiencing the Smith Center for the first time.

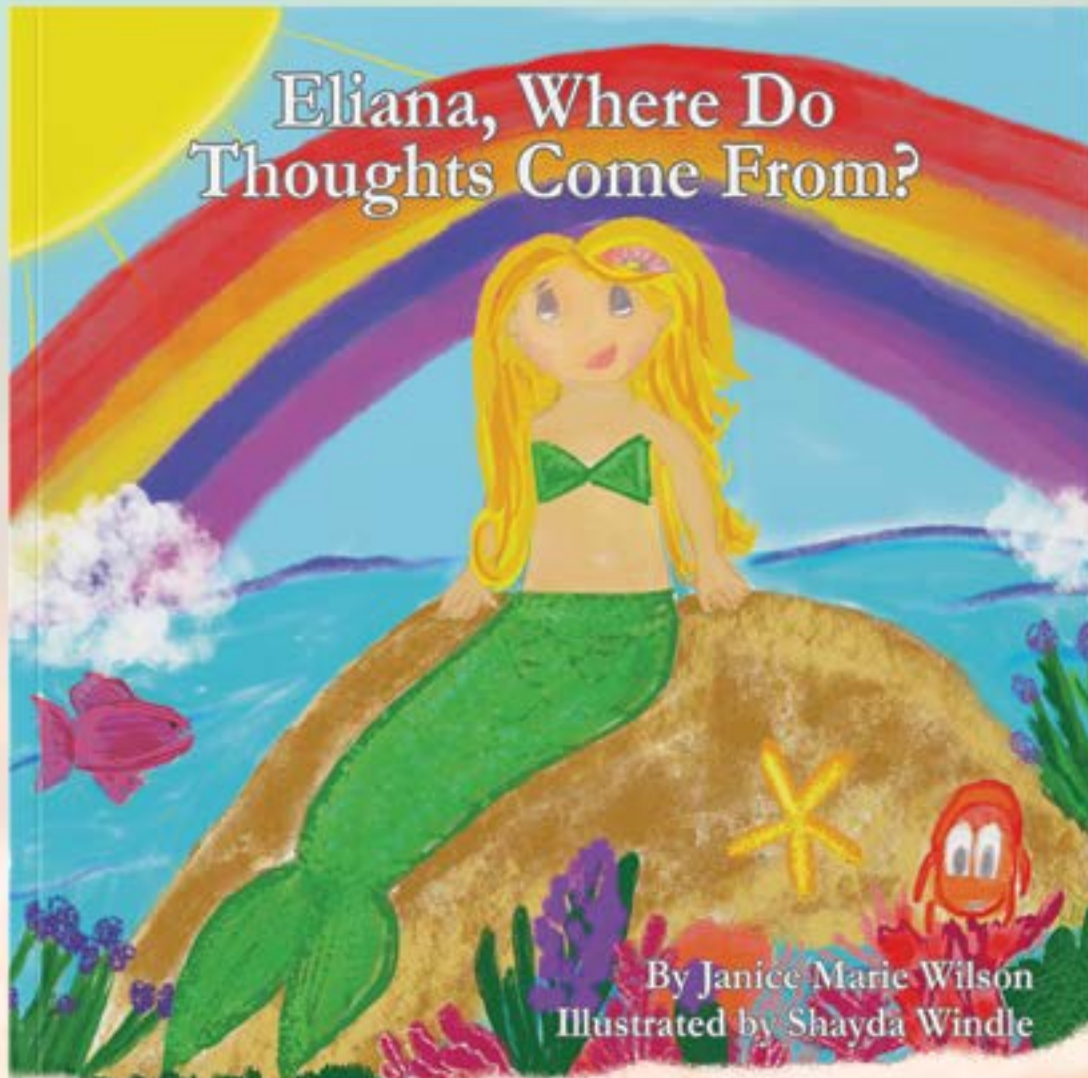
JS: Keith Thompson’s favorite lyricists are Alan and Marilyn Bergman, fittingly the writers of “How Do You Keep The Music Playing”.

To watch videos from past shows and purchase tickets to The Composers Showcase, visit their website at:
www.thecomposersshowcase.com

Jonathan Scott is the Host of #VegasNonStop, listen in on Saturdays at 8am on 920AM, Las Vegas and find him at #VegasNonStop on Social Media



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ABOUT TOWN



Chic Compass Magazine Launch at European Kitchen and Bath inside the World Market Center Las Vegas (Photos courtesy of Ann Parenti)

Above: Katarzyna Kociomyk next to her painting she donated for silent auction for Forgotten Song Foundation.

Left: Christopher Todd and the Charcuterie Display donated by Christopher Todd Design for the Lost Vegas Holiday party.



Las Vegas Suite Live Concert at Notoriety on Nov. 10, 2019

(Photography by Talbot Snow)

Above: Sharon Resch and Nathan Tanouye

Left: From Left - Patrick Duffy, Clint Holmes, Kelly Clinton-Holmes, Ralph Foles





Las Vegas Suite Live Concert (Cont.)

(Photography by Ed Foster)

Above: Las Vegas Jazz Connection Horn Section

Right: Clint Holmes

Below: Toscha Comeaux & Gary Fowler

Bottom Right: Don Cunningham

Bottom: Las Vegas Jazz Connection Strings Section



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