

# CHIC

C O M P A S S <sup>TM</sup>

**DEBBIE  
GIBSON**  
A STAR IS REBORN



VOLUME 4 | EDITION 1



# THE Vegas Hypnosis Show

# HYPNOSIS UNLEASHED!

Starring Kevin Lepine

"Kevin's a superstar!"  
-D. Barrett  
Jimmy Kimmel Live



  
**QUEENS**  
  
HOTEL & CASINO  
Tues-Sat 9PM

[www.HypnosisUnleashed.com](http://www.HypnosisUnleashed.com)



#### **MEDIA & MARKETING**

Publisher Ann Parenti, Forgotten Song Music, LLC.  
Editor in Chief Joan S. Peck  
Fashion & Creative Director David Tupaz  
Design & Layout Jake Naylor  
Contributing Artist Photographers Jaime Lim, Megan Blair, Lisa Garrett,  
Susie Magit, Mark Gunter

#### **ART**

Contributing Writers Kendall Hardin, Joan S. Peck

#### **DESIGN**

Contributing Writers Beth Ilagan, Ann Parenti

#### **BEAUTY & FASHION**

Contributing Writers Melissa Deschenes, Joan S. Peck,  
David Tupaz

#### **LIVING**

Contributing Writers Ann Parenti, Joan S. Peck

#### **TRAVEL & DINING**

Contributing Writers Elaine & Scott Harris, Heather Turk

#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

Contributing Writers Stacey Gualandi, Samuel Novak

#### **ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**

info@chiccompass.com | 702.736.8229  
6600 W Charleston Blvd, Suite 117, Las Vegas, NV 89146

© 2021 All rights reserved. You may not copy, sell, distribute or disseminate any articles, photos or information without expressed written permission from the publisher. All requests must be in writing to info@chiccompass.com or 6600 W Charleston Blvd, Suite 117, Las Vegas, NV 89146. Articles written are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of Chic Compass. All content is believed to be accurate at time of printing.



# Contents

8

**From the Publisher**

By Ann Parenti

12

**From the Editor**

By Joan S. Peck

15

**Worth the Wait**

By Heather Turk

22

**Los Angeles  
Fashion Week**

By Melissa Deschenes

38

**Debbie Gibson: A Star  
is Reborn**

By Stacey Gualandi

52

**Travel & Dining:  
Sta. Rita Hills**

By Elaine & Scott Harris

55

**Faith First, Then Hustle**

By Beth Ilagan

62

**James Stanford:  
An Artist Shines  
in the Desert**

By Kendall Hardin

70

**A Journey of Hope**

By Ann Parenti

76

**Beti Kristof: An Artist  
Ever Graceful**

By Joan S. Peck

85

**Bridge Counseling:  
Creating a Legacy of  
Caring for Others**

By Joan S. Peck

92

**London Fashion Week**

Photography by Mark Gunter

102

**Anna Gupta**

By David Tupaz

Photography by Jaime Lim



111

Chase Brown:  
Country Music With a  
Side of "Glam"

By Samuel Novak

116

Lakeside Village in  
Desert Shores

By Elaine & Scott Harris

124

A Different Kind of  
Show Business...

By Ann Parenti

127

About Town

Photography By Susie Magit





# CHIC

C O M P A S S

## *Contributing Writers*



Stacey Gualandi



Kendall Hardin



Elaine & Scott Harris



Beth Ilagan



Sam Novak



Joan S. Peck



David Tupaz



Heather Turk



Ann Parenti



# DORIT SCHWARTZ

FINE ARTS SCULPTOR



*Vine of the Soul II* | 60 x 36 in



---

[DORITSCHWARTZSCULPTOR.COM](http://DORITSCHWARTZSCULPTOR.COM)

Las Vegas, NV 89134

| 702.768.4998





**Ann Parenti**  
PUBLISHER

# *From the Publisher*

---

It feels like the world is in some odd supercharged energy field right now. I can't explain it, but I can certainly feel it! I am experiencing it daily in so many areas of my life. I am pretty sure I am not alone in this feeling. At this writing, we are about to soar into 2022, and we pulled out all stops this time to bring you some intriguing stories.

We have the multi-talented Debbie Gibson as our cover for this edition, and she exemplifies what can happen when you have immense talent and business acumen. She is a true role model for future generations of female performers. It was such a delight and honor to have her grace our cover.

Then we whisk you off to London for the latest fashion experience presenting the trends for the next season, which Mark Gunther had the opportunity to shoot. Then he and his camera traveled to Los Angeles' Fashion Week for more fashion extravaganzas! We also share David Tupaz's article featuring Jaime Lin's photography of Anna Gupta, model, designer, and stylist. We even feature Debbie Gibson in David's couture, where you can read about the charming way they met.

We continue our travels as the compass directs us to wine country. We learned the history of the fascinating Sta. Rita Hills wine region of California. Not traveling too far, we brought you the inside scoop on one of the newest restaurants in Las Vegas, located inside the Circa Hotel with some of the best culinary delights around. Check out Barry's Downtown Prime the next time you are in the city. Next, we take you on an extensive tour de force of beautiful restaurants, shops, spas, a popular wedding destination, and even office space in the beautiful Lakeside Village of Desert Shores.

You ask, what more can we offer? Hold on then because there are two extraordinary artists to discover. You will truly be inspired when you see the stunning art of the delightful Beti Kristof and the remarkable James Stanford. Simply WOW!

Learn about what it takes to make a dream come true when you have true faith in what you do. We interviewed the powerhouse, Wanda Luna of Universal Furniture. Then we went behind the scenes to hear the story of MZA. Mitch Zerg is a representative of hospitality products, and you will



read his account of what it is like to be in a business that he was born to be in.

We can't forget about local entertainment! After all, we are the entertainment capital of the world! We got up close to witness the very talented Chas Brown in action, and we will let the photos speak for themselves. As the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

In closing, I personally offered a story of hope in a long and winding road sort of way. Many people have quizzed me about how I got into this crazy business; well, you are about to find out. We all have people who come and go out of our lives and a few who make a lasting impact and stay your friends for a lifetime. With that said, I like to think that Joan Peck is one of them. She always has my back, and she was part of the dream team of the project I will speak about in my Hope column. Then there is Jake Naylor, who makes everything look so stunning. From the website to social media posts to the layout of Chic Compass, he is the wizard behind the curtain. He also was a part of the original project mentioned in the column. What can I say about David Tupaz? Without his crazy mad talent and ideas, Chic Compass would not have the breathtakingly beautiful fashion shoots that we have. Let's just say that David knows many talented people, too. There are no words to even convey what I can say about my dedicated board of directors for the FSF foundation that you will also learn about. They are indeed a part of my family and always will be. My extended family of writers and photographers of Chic Compass that deliver exceptional work every time they are tasked are in my heart forever. If you happen to be lucky enough even to find one or two friends, as I have mentioned above, then you, too, are truly blessed.

To our treasured readers, welcome to 2022! I wish all of you a very happy year ahead, and thank you for following our compass as we take you to more chic and fabulous places this coming year!

*Ann Parenti*



**Forgotten  
Song**

**FOUNDATION**

## 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.

[info@forgottensongfoundation.org](mailto:info@forgottensongfoundation.org)  
[forgottensongfoundation.org](http://forgottensongfoundation.org)





Taking the time you need  
to find your perfect home.

I'm your Realtor.



Kimberly Klepatz, Realtor®  
Urban Nest Realty  
702.994.1527 • [KimberlySellsVegas@gmail.com](mailto:KimberlySellsVegas@gmail.com)  
[www.UrbanNestRealtyLV.com](http://www.UrbanNestRealtyLV.com)



urbannest  
REALTY

The logo for Urban Nest Realty features a stylized white arc above the word "urbannest" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Below "urbannest" is the word "REALTY" in a smaller, all-caps, spaced-out sans-serif font.



D U R E T T E C A N D I T O D E S I G N  
**URBAN RANCH**  
G E N E R A L S T O R E



## Looking for a change of scene?

From Earthy Ranch to Urban Modern, you'll find an artful, eclectic and unique selection of hardware, lighting, textiles, rugs, furniture and accessories.

Interior design services available.

[URBANRANCHGENERALSTORE.COM](http://URBANRANCHGENERALSTORE.COM)

6718 W. CHEYENNE AVE. | LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89108 | 702.368.2601 | SHOWROOM OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY





**Joan S. Peck**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

# From the Editor

---

As the cover of this edition of Chic Compass magazine, fabulous, talented Debbie Gibson brings your attention to the idea that you can create the life you want if you work hard and follow your heart. Like her, we all have dreams, and like others in this magazine, you will see how they have succeeded. And that is what this issue of Chic Compass magazine is all about ... following your heart.

Once again, our multi-talented writers have done a splendid job bringing us stories that demonstrate how that has played a part in many lives. In this same vein, it is our pleasure to share Ann Parenti's delightful winding tale of how she became the publisher of Chic Compass magazine and Wanda Luna's story of becoming the owner of Universal Furniture by never losing faith in herself.

On the health side, there's an inspiring, hopeful article regarding Bridge Counseling (headed by David Rubeck) that focuses on the lack of mental health services here in Las Vegas, especially for children. The issue of children's mental health and well-being in Nevada is mounting with an increased need for more facilities and services. At present, our valley has only two children's mental health facilities, both of which are severely underfunded and understaffed. By receiving a \$500,000 grant from Nevada Women's Philanthropy (NWP) to build a children's wing at Bridge Counseling, Rubeck shares what he and his organization are doing to make a difference and help children.

We are always excited to see what the gifted, creative David Tupaz brings us from the fashion world. He outdoes himself with every issue, and this time is no different. We'll get to see some of the fabulous outfits David has designed for Debbie Gibson, as well as photos from the London Show and the fashion show in Los Angeles, giving us a glimpse of some of the fashion trends we can expect for 2022.

Never disappointing, it's always a delight to see which artists and their work will be highlighted in each issue, and this time Chic Compass magazine shares with you articles about the work of Beti Kristof and James Stanford. Enjoy!

---

## ON THE COVER

**MODEL:**  
Debbie Gibson

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY:**  
Nick Spanos



In light of the COVID, we are still traveling and dining out. You will find a fascinating article about the history of California's Sta. Rita Hills Wine Region and all there is to celebrate there. You won't want to miss reading about the Lake Village in Desert Shores. Any bride, fortunate to have her wedding occur there at one of the different settings available, won't be disappointed. It's *the* place to be with its expansion and so many famous chefs on board with a choice of authentic gourmet food to ensure that the Lake Village is known for its True Luxury Lifestyle. It has it all!

There is so much more to share with you. We offer many exciting blogs from some of our newest writers. Catch up with our writers on all our social media sites. I can't wait for you to see what's inside this edition of Chic Compass magazine. As you read each piece, I hope that you enjoy it as much as we did to create it for you. Enjoy!

*Joan S. Peck*





# WORTH THE WAIT

BARRY'S DOWNTOWN PRIME IS A LAS VEGAS STEAKHOUSE THAT'S WELL DONE

By Heather Turk







Chef Barry S. Dakake (N9NE Steakhouse and Scotch 80 Prime at Palms Casino Resort) was always interested in having his own restaurant one day.

Dakake previously worked for celebrated chef Charlie Palmer in New York City before relocating to Las Vegas to help open Aureole inside Mandalay Bay and Charlie Palmer Steak Las Vegas inside the Four Seasons Hotel. Dakake told *Chic Compass*, “You can’t just stay stagnant and keep doin’ what you’re doin’. You have to always challenge yourself in life to get better.”

Although opening a new restaurant is always a challenge, Dakake faced unprecedented challenges when he was finally offered the chance to open up his own steakhouse in Las Vegas with his team, Make It Happen Hospitality. Located within downtown Las Vegas’ first new ground-up hotel and casino in more than four decades, Circa Resort & Casino, Barry’s Downtown Prime opened its doors in October 2020 — right in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic.

*At Left: The Garden Room, one of Barry’s Downtown Prime’s semi-private dining areas, is centered around a lush olive tree with glimmering lights. Photo courtesy of Pathfinder Productions*





“We didn’t know what the government was going to mandate,” Dakake said. “We didn’t know what would be allowed. We didn’t know how many covers we could do. We didn’t know anything! Our hands were really tied up behind our back. We just had to go and follow the laws, but we made it happen.”

One of Las Vegas’ most exquisite new restaurants, Barry’s Downtown Prime has quickly become a destination unto itself. While Dakake noted that anytime there’s a

brand-new restaurant in town, people are always ecstatic to visit and see what’s going on, he and his team truly go “above and beyond” to serve up an exceptional steakhouse experience.

The only venue at the 21-and-older resort open to guests of all ages, Barry’s Downtown Prime transports diners back in time to old-school Las Vegas with its vintage ‘50s and ‘60s glamour. Housed in Circa’s secluded bottom floor, the seductive steakhouse welcomes guests via an underground elevator entrance

situated directly beneath the restored Vegas Vickie neon sign in the hotel’s lobby. Once inside, guests will notice such touches as burnished brass furnishings and moody antique mirrors throughout the 17,000-square-foot space, as well as warm brown and white oak parquet floors and plush booths upholstered with deep velvet jewel tones and rich leather.

The steakhouse features several showstopping design elements, including an illuminated, three-dimensional, rose-inspired ceiling





in the foyer and a collection of multi-functional dining areas able to accommodate anywhere from 12 to 350 people. However, its curated art collection is something Dakake is especially proud of. More than 40 local artists created original works for the restaurant, like synthetic polymer artist Tim Bavington, who created one of Dakake's favorite paintings, "God Only Knows," inspired by the classic Beach Boys song.

"All of the artwork that's in here represents all of the owners and

things that we like in life," Dakake stated. "There are a lot of pictures of animals on the walls 'cause I love animals. I also love boxing, so there's a painting of Joe Lewis."

Even though the steakhouse is stunning, Dakake's mouthwatering menu is the true star. Sure to have something for everyone, the seasonally inspired menu offers everything from sumptuous seafood plates and succulent steaks to delectable vegan dishes and creative cocktails. Fans of N9NE Steakhouse will even notice a few

*Above: The striking bar lounge area at Barry's Downtown Prime features custom wall coverings, marble surfaces, and a gold ceiling. Photo courtesy of Pathfinder Productions*



favorites from the classic Palms restaurant on Barry's Downtown Prime's dinner menu — like the Fire Chicken with sliced red Fresno chilies and the tableside Campfire S'mores. While nothing on the menu disappoints, Dakake recommends guests start their meal with the Chilled Shellfish Platter — Maine lobster, king crab legs, East and West Coast oysters, shrimp cocktail bites and an octopus and calamari salad complemented by a spicy cocktail sauce and an apple cider mignonette — before ordering either the sautéed Dover Sole or the signature 12-ounce Rib Cap "Barry's Steak."



"I just believe it's the most flavorful, meaty piece of steak on the whole cattle," Dakake said of his namesake steak, which is meticulously roasted over fruitwood and 900-degree coals. "It's phenomenal."

Dakake also highly recommends ordering a Manhattan or Old Fashioned from the restaurant's tableside cocktail cart and pairing one's entrée selection with the steakhouse's Whole Maine Lobster Mac 'N Cheese. The restaurant features weekly specials, too, and will be offering a special prix fixe menu on Valentine's Day for couples still making their dinner plans.

Not surprisingly, the sophisticated steakhouse has welcomed numerous stars to its tables in its first year of operation, including boxers Mike Tyson and Floyd Mayweather, wrestler Bill Goldberg, actors Dennis Quaid and Jeremy Piven, and actress Gabrielle Union. The Vegas Golden Knights also recently

dined at the restaurant to kick off Barry's Downtown Prime's sponsorship deal as the official steakhouse of the NHL team, which will run through 2024.

Barry's Downtown Prime is open nightly from 5 to 11 p.m. While there's no shortage of great dining options in Las Vegas, self-proclaimed "foodies" will want to venture downtown to see what Dakake has cooked up, as his long-awaited steakhouse is genuinely a cut above the competition.

"It's definitely an experience to see what we brought to downtown with the food, the ambiance, and the service," Dakake concluded. "Everything is the complete package." [barrysdowntownprime.com](http://barrysdowntownprime.com)



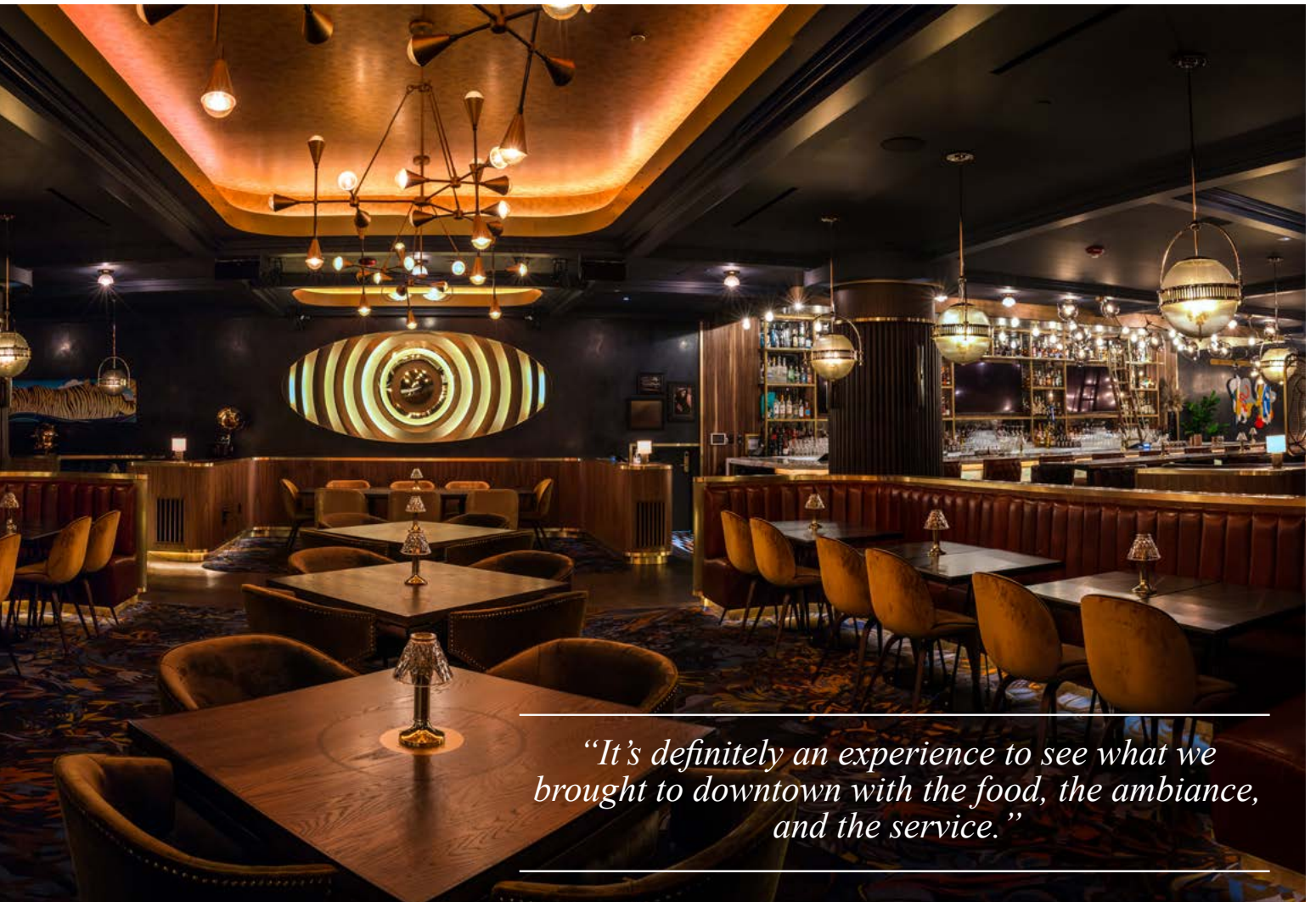




*Far Left: The Whole Main Lobster Mac 'N Cheese is one of the steakhouse's signature sides. Photo by Patrick Miyoshi*

*Left: Barry's Downtown Prime's signature cut of steak: the 12-ounce Rib Cap "Barry's Steak." Photo courtesy of Pathfinder Productions*

*Below: A section of the main dining room at Barry's Downtown Prime. Photo courtesy of Pathfinder Productions*



*"It's definitely an experience to see what we brought to downtown with the food, the ambiance, and the service."*



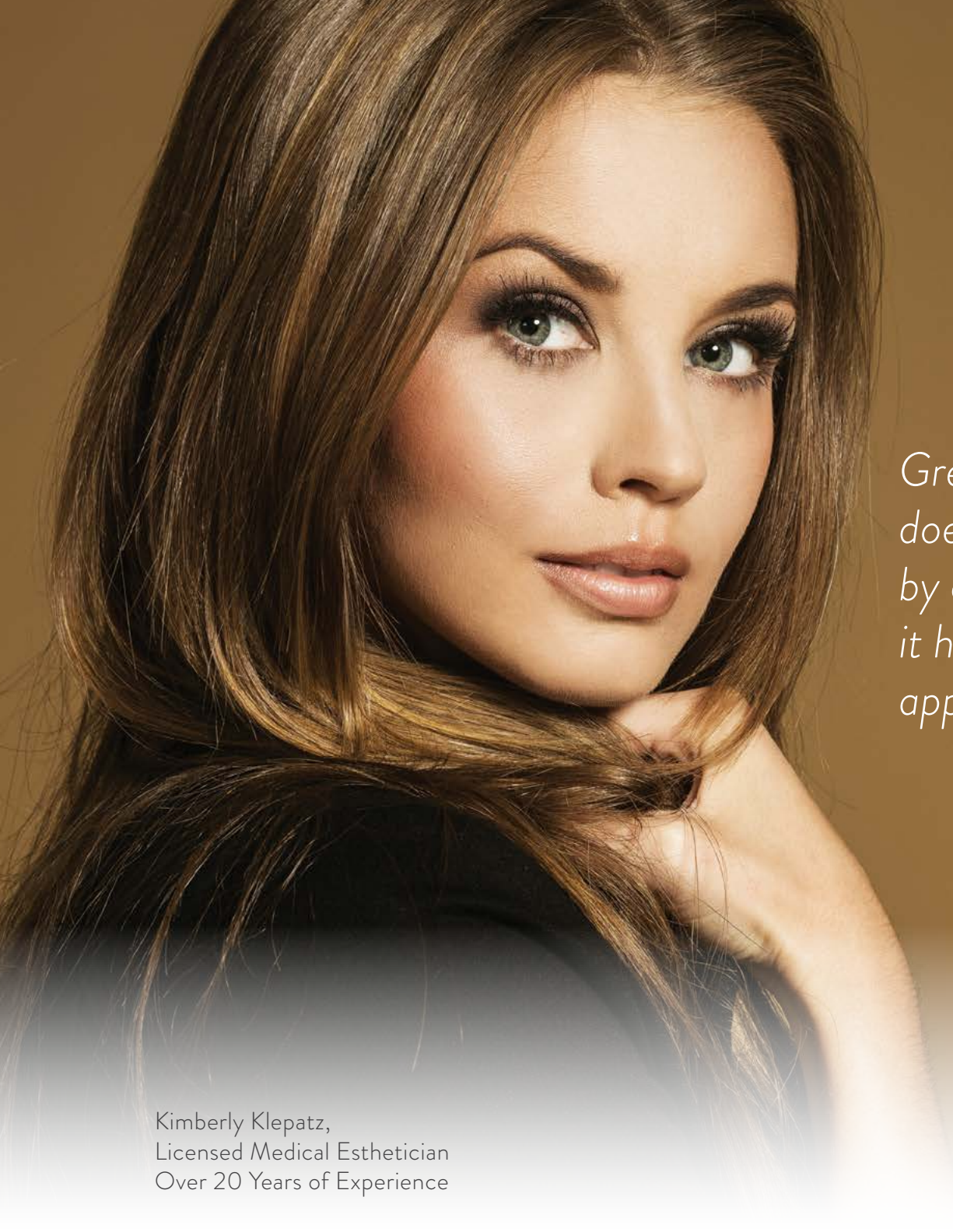
# CHRISTOPHER TODD

## INTERIOR DESIGN • FINE GIFTS

2706 North Green Valley Parkway • Henderson, NV 89014  
702.473.9119   ctdesignlv.com



# CHRISTOPHER TODD



*Great skin  
doesn't happen  
by chance,  
it happens by  
appointment.*

Kimberly Klepatz,  
Licensed Medical Esthetician  
Over 20 Years of Experience



## **SCARLET SRF**

This revolutionary skin tightening treatment provides a painless non-surgical facelift with no downtime and results last up to 3 years.

3 Sessions for \$2100 • Savings of over \$900  
Face and neck treatment per session • FDA approved  
Offer expires with this issue, call today.

**702.321.3735 • [LVLaserServices.com](http://LVLaserServices.com)**

**3100 S. Durango Dr. Las Vegas NV 89117 • Suite 108**





DESIGNER: ANNA GUPTA  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER



# LOS ANGELES FASHION WEEK

Art  s  
Fashion

**POWERED BY  
ART HEARTS FASHION**

By Melissa Deschenes  
Photography by Mark Gunter

Fashion Week powered by Art Hearts Fashion was held in Los Angeles October 14th – 17th, 2021, where national and international designers presented their collections for the spring/summer looks of 2022.

A vast array of designers, insiders, and celebrities attended this spectacular event, where we received a preview of what will be fashionable for spring/summer 2022 ... and the designs were striking.

Chic Compass was thrilled to cover this show and give you a sneak peek of the creations from these amazing designers bringing you the latest season trends.





DESIGNER: WILL FRANCO  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER



DESIGNER: WILL FRANCO  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER







DESIGNER: ALEXIS MONSANTO  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER





DESIGNER: ALEXIS MONSANTO  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER





DESIGNER: ALEXIS MONSANTO  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER





DESIGNER: ALEXIS MONSANTO  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER





DESIGNER: CHAVEZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER



DESIGNER: CHAVEZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER







DESIGNER: GLAUDI BY JOHANA HERNANDEZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER

# GLAUDI

BY JOHANA HERNANDEZ



DESIGNER: GLAUDI BY JOHANA HERNANDEZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER





DESIGNER: MERLIN CASTELL  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER



DESIGNER: MERLIN CASTELL  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER





**INFINITE  
T R E N D**

**DESIGN STUDIO**

**CAPTURE YOUR VISION**



Vegas *Life* TV  
PRESENTS

# BUSINESS MATTERS

Watch and learn from business and finance guru Joseph Amato as he features successful businesses in Business Matters.



Under the Vegas Sun was hosted and produced by Media Icon, Emmy-awardee Steve Schorr, who passed in late 2020. Carrying the baton is Joseph Amato, formerly a NY-based TV actor and model, who is entrepreneur with over thirty years business experience in every major industry and a high ranking government executive serving the State of Nevada. Joseph Amato interviews the movers and shakers who have made Las Vegas a global brand.

*Hosted By:*

# JOSEPH AMATO

**Exclusively on VegasLifeTV!**  
**Made in Vegas. For all things Vegas.**

VISIT [VEGASLIFETV.US](http://VEGASLIFETV.US) TO DOWNLOAD ALL APPS AND BINGE-WATCH ANYTIME AND ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD OR CALL +1.702.582.9508 FOR ADVERTISING, SPONSORSHIP, CONTENT AND DISTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES.







# DEBBIE GIBSON: A STAR IS REBORN... WITHOUT MISSING A (FOOLISH) BEAT

---

By Stacey Gualandi

---

In true Debbie Gibson fashion, 2021 ended on a high note, entirely on-brand for the eternally electric youth - with a pajama party.

Her "live" Q & A CAMEO event brought together fans and former music mentors to celebrate the 35th anniversary of "Only in My Dreams," the debut single that turned a 16-year-old Long Island musical theater prodigy into the "original pop princess." It capped off a year Gibson could only have imagined in her wildest dreams. Literally.

In the last year, Gibson landed her first co-headlining Las Vegas residency at the Venetian with New Kids on the Block's Joey McIntyre; released *The Body Remembers*, her first original pop album in 20 years, and debuted "Christmas Star," her very first self-penned Christmas single, all

through her own label Stargirl Records.

Says Gibson of it all: "It really is wild, and I could just cry thinking about it."

Call it a renaissance, a second act, or (my favorite) "Debbie 2.0," Ms. Gibson says 2021 was an embarrassment of riches.

"It was so great, and I kept pinching myself," says the triple platinum-selling artist. "It's really fun to be 35 years into a career having a lot of firsts."

When Gibson first emerged on the music scene as a teenage love song-writing fanatic, little did she know she was paving the way for the future Billie's, Lorde's, and Olivia's who could sing, write, and produce their own hits.

---



"Back when I started, there was only a handful of us "teen acts," and we were very much regarded as a trend that was gonna go away," says Gibson. "It's such a different world where teens are respected now, thank God. Young female writers, like Olivia Rodrigo, are respected, but back then, I was counted out."

Shame on those doubters. In 1987, Gibson became the youngest artist to write, produce, and perform the No. 1 hit song "Foolish Beat" (she still holds the Guinness World Record for youngest female artist); and, she successfully crossed over to Broadway, performing in 17 musicals in as many years.

Since then, Gibson has also executive produced and starred in two high-rated Hallmark Channel movies; toured with New Kids on the Block, Tiffany, Salt-N-Pepa, and Naughty By Nature; and she appeared as a guest star in a musical episode of "Lucifer" on Netflix.

Clearly, this latest chapter didn't just come out of the blue. It's classic Gibson, and she has every intention of keeping the (PJ) party going.

"Nobody owns me right now," she says. "Nobody owns my time, my image, my music, my schedule, and I could not live my life any other way."

## RUNWAY

For those who don't know, Debbie "does" Vegas...that is, she lives, sings, writes, produces, and records in her own Sin City home studio. The town is her literal back-drop.

Most of her musical inspiration, she says, comes from a 50-year-old, mirror-covered grand piano, once owned by the late Liberace himself.

"I feel like every time I'm sitting at that piano, writing a song, he is around saying, 'Thank you for keeping me in Vegas where I belong.'"

*Debbie Gibson in gold jeans by designer, David Tupaz.  
Photo by Nick Spanos*



The other thing that is so Vegas? Her fashion vibe...evidenced by her ever-evolving style on Instagram. Her driveway is the new runway, and she loves to show off while takin' out the trash. (I'll wait while you check out her IG feed.)

That signature 80s black hat that so many emulated (myself included) has matured with her, but long gone are the sweaters and the teen-queen hole-y jeans with the smiley-faced knees.

"When I was a teenager, I always had a very accessible style," reminisces Gibson. "You could mimic my style by going to the mall, which I always enjoyed."

These days, you can still find her in PJ's, but she will also playfully rock Spanx leggings with rhinestone Louboutins.

"Now, I love throwing on \$10,000 earrings with a t-shirt. I definitely have high-end taste, but I also have really accessible and sometimes even borderline trashy taste. Ha!"

Gibson takes couture cues from two people: her style icon Tina Turner ("It was so endearing that she had that relatable rocker down-home thing about her") and Las Vegas-based, high-fashion designer David Tupaz, *Chic Compass Magazine's* fashion and creative director.

Tupaz says Gibson stumbled into his studio one day after a workout. "Hi!" he remembers her saying. "Is it okay to come in? I'm barefoot."

"I was his dress-up doll," adds Gibson. "He instantly started showing me around the store and the things he visualized for me. It became such a great partnership."

Tupaz has since collaborated with Gibson for events, TV appearances, calendars, and he designed the black jacket with embroidered roses that she wore on stage during her recent sold-out residency. (He even got an unexpected shout-out

from Gibson while attending the show when unsolicited, Joey McIntyre said that her jacket was his favorite!)

"We always remember celebrities and great talent based on how they look, but I think Debbie is a person who expresses herself by how she performs and the music she delivers," says Tupaz. "I think she goes beyond the style."



*Debbie Gibson in a jacket by designer, David Tupaz. Photo by Nick Spanos*



He also draped her in another Tupaz original on the back cover of *The Body Remembers* CD.

"I'm a theater girl, and I love a little theatrical flair," admits the Brooklyn-born beauty, "so for me, that had like a high-end, JLo-kind-of-vibe in a way, but it felt like my own."

"I think I represent what a normal woman could do with fashion if she gives herself permission to have fun," says Gibson. "So, I think it's taking my old sense of accessibility and bringing it into now with a little more refined point of view."

## THE BODY REMEMBERS

Whether talking about her wardrobe—or her work—Gibson says she rarely, if ever, dwells on the past, but she has no problem revisiting it.

"I heard a great word the other day that I cannot take credit for. An awesome gal named Nicole, who I had a meeting with in the TV world, came up with this word ... newstalgia," says Gibson.

"[Newstalgia] is the modernization of nostalgic things that people are loving, and it makes me happy. I think there's no quicker way to age yourself and date yourself than thinking everything great was done in the past. But I think you have to have a sense of what's going on in the world now and then pull elements from everything great that ever was."

A perfect example is her iconic ballad "Lost in Your Eyes," featured



*Photo of Debbie Gibson by Nick Spanos*



*Photo by Nick Spanos*



on her 10th studio album, *The Body Remembers*. When Gibson said yes to McIntyre's request to duet on her original #1 hit—another first—her 20-year-old co-producer (and "secret weapon") Sean Thomas updated its sound with the times, yet kept it timeless.

"That's what was so fun about making this album: finding the ways and the places to be me, but not to be stuck in anything old," says Gibson. "Joey helped to breathe new life into this song and give it a whole new chapter. I get goosebumps talking about it."

Gibson also says working with "an incredible team of collaborators" allowed her to stay true to her classic sound (heard on the summer

disco bop "One Step Closer" and the Tracy Young DJ #VegasVibe Remix "Girls Night Out"), while also stretching her voice (as in "Strings" and the Fred Coury-produced "Legendary").

"I do think and hope that people were pleasantly surprised as to how modern [the album] sounds," admits Gibson.

## FREEDOM

Since its release, fans—(aka "Deb-Heads")—and critics have embraced it.

People's Brianne Tracy wrote, "Gibson took all of the hard-earned wisdom learned over recent years and channeled it..." while Rob

Sheffield of Rolling Stone said, "The time is right for Debbie Gibson to get her due as a pioneer."

Music executive Doug Cohn says he isn't surprised the "pop princess-turned-pioneer" can't shake their love. "Debbie chooses to do things that make sense for her," he says. "She knows who she is, and I don't think she's trying to be something else."

Cohn and Gibson met (and allllll-most dated!) as Long Island teenagers. Years later, he cast her as a judge on Nickelodeon's "America's Most Musical Family." Now, three decades in, they are best friends.

He's confident her career has legs, in more ways than one ("you've



*Photo of Debbie Gibson by Nick Spanos*



seen her taking the trash out in her Instagram videos...she's 50 and she's got good legs!" jokes Cohn), and believes she's just the entertainer Las Vegas needs.

"She's the real deal," says Cohn. "She's very talented, period. She can go into any room and win anyone over. She can sing any song. She can play any piano. She's got it. Secondly, Debbie's work ethic is second to none."

I'd say. Gibson wrote her new album during the pandemic! Shockingly, that work ethic has never been rewarded with a Grammy.

"I have an extreme amount of trust in the universe; that's why I'm not bitter," admits Gibson. "Me and my team feel that we made a Grammy-worthy album, which was important, and that I could be considered...but it's still a political game. I will forgo the Grammy and decide what I say yes and no to in my life without anybody pressuring me. For me, the victory is in the longevity."

## LEGENDARY

Speaking of longevity, Gibson is running full steam ahead. Right now, she's producing a full-length holiday album, due this year; she's

writing a book and planning a possible residency return in Las Vegas.

"I have a brainstorm list that looks like a 10-year plan," says Gibson. "I have a lot of big ideas, and I'm just slowly chipping away at them and prioritizing them with Heather Moore, my manager and partner-in-crime. I'd like to tour, and there are movies to be made, TV projects to be done. I'm a creator at heart."

For over three decades, when it comes to true staying power,

Gibson hasn't missed a beat. And if she were ever to produce a musical about her life, she'd call it "Eternally Electric."

"It would have the depth and richness of *Les Miserables*, with the grit of *Cabaret* and the joy of *Mama Mia*. If I could somehow combine that into one, that sums up my life."

Pajamas included. Sweet dreams, Debbie.



Debbie Gibson in gold jeans by designer, David Tupaz. Photo by Nick Spanos



# diptyque

paris



WYNN PLAZA SHOPS  
SECOND FLOOR  
(702) 735-0127



# RSTAX SERVICES

INCOME TAX SERVICE AND BOOKKEEPING

Complete Personal and  
Business Tax Services

FREE  
QUOTES!

SAVE VALUABLE TIME  
WITH

## YOUR TAX Preparation



### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

We recognize what it means to operate a business. It is our goal to build significant relationships with all of our clients by providing a high level of quality service.



### EASY SOLUTION

We stay up-to-date with changing tax laws for our clients. Recognizing the tax ramifications of financial choices can be difficult if you do your taxes yourself.



### TAX PLANNING

As your tax consultant, we are committed to planning and preparing your personal and business taxes to help you minimize your tax liability.



### EXPERT BOOKKEEPING

Delegate your bookkeeping needs to us and you will free up your own valuable time to focus on improving your brand, and achieving your goals.



#### CONTACT US

6600 W Charleston Blvd  
Suite 117  
Las Vegas, NV 89146  
(702) 592-3267  
rstaxservices@gmail.com



*Adventures in Travel & Dining*

---

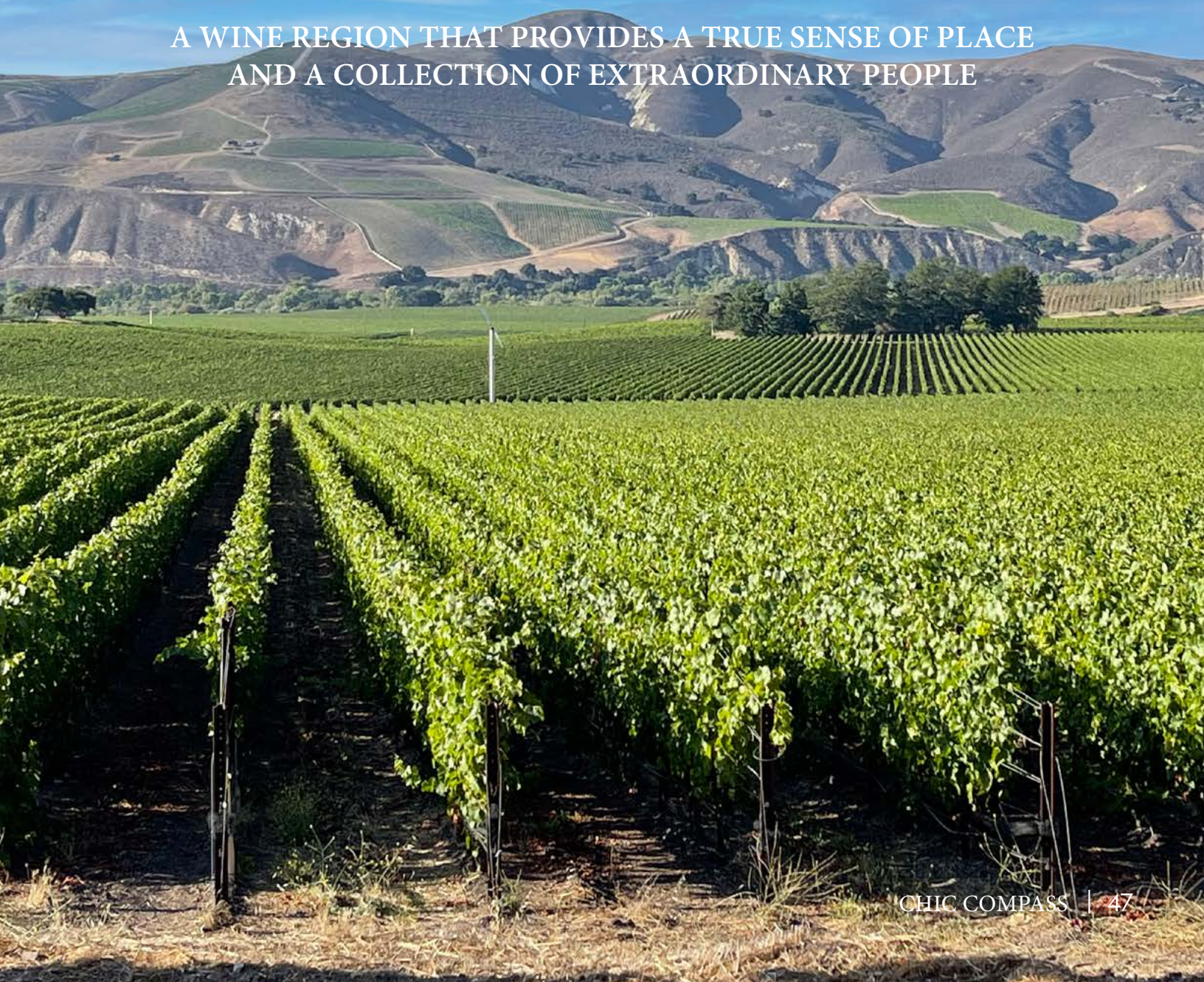
# *Sta. Rita Hills*

CALIFORNIA

---

ARTICLE & PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY ELAINE & SCOTT HARRIS

A WINE REGION THAT PROVIDES A TRUE SENSE OF PLACE  
AND A COLLECTION OF EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE







When talking about “wine country,” many think of Napa, Sonoma, and even Paso Robles and Monterey County. There is more. So much more. Just north of Santa Barbara, you will find The Sta. Rita Hills encompassing the small towns of Lompoc, Buellton, and Solvang. The Sta. Rita Hills is part of the larger Santa Ynez Valley AVA, located between the towns of Lompoc and Buellton, with the Purisima Hills on the north and the Santa Rosa Hills on the south.

From its creation in 2001 through 2006, the wine appellation was officially named Santa Rita Hills AVA. The formal name change resulted from a protest by and ne-

gotiations with Vina Santa Rita. This substantial Chilean wine producer was concerned about the AVA name diluting its international brand value. In January 2006, after some talks, lawyers agreed that abbreviating “Santa” would create adequate differentiation with a yearlong period for producers in the AVA to change their wine labels.

So, what makes this area so distinctive? One of the main reasons is vineyards benefit from the Pacific Ocean’s cooling influences on three sides, with the coast 16 miles (25km) away to the west, south, and southeast. The coastal valleys, formed by the Purisima Hills to their north and the Santa Rosa Hills to their south, funnel the cool Pacific

breezes up through the vineyards.

This unique ventilation reduces the incidence of fungal infections while cooling the vines down in the hot afternoon sunshine. Another notable reason, unlike virtually all the United States’ west coast, there is no mountain range running parallel to the sea. This unusual situation created a tectonic shift, a confluence of three moving plates making mountains on the North American plate that tore away and rotated clockwise 90 degrees. The mountain range now runs east-west and funnel, rather than block, oceanic winds, and these three ranges of mountains in the Sta. Rita Hills form the shape of a trident, pointing toward the ocean.





Also crucial for the region, with a latitude of 34 degrees north, Sta. Rita Hills lies closer to the equator than any European wine region. But rather than seeing an increase in temperature, as a result, the region's maritime influences keep daytime temperatures here within bearable limits. Fog also acts as a climatic moderator, lowering the temperatures during the hot summer months. The combined effects of the ocean breezes and fog significantly extend Sta. Rita Hills's growing season by lending its grapes extra time to develop full phenolic ripeness. Today, the AVA stands at approximately 14,000 hectares (36,000 acres). The largest concentration of vineyards ranks Pinot Noir as the premier planting, with Chardonnay ranking second, followed by smaller plantings of Syrah, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, and other grape varieties.

It has taken decades of dedicated planting, farming, and winemaking, but 30 years after Legendary Richard Sanford and Michael Benedict established the area's first vineyard, the Sta. Rita Hills finally became an AVA (American Viticultural Area). Today, the AVA includes 59 vineyards with nearly 3,000 acres under the vine.

In the beginning, Sanford and Benedict had been looking for a spot to plant Cabernet Sauvignon and Riesling cuttings they'd garnered from the Uriel Nielson Vineyard in Santa Maria Valley. They settled on a





473-acre site in the very cool Santa Rita Hills, Sanford, and Benedict and became interested in growing Chardonnay and Pinot Noir as well. They established cuttings from the historic Wente's vineyard in Arroyo Seco, clones Wente acquired from the Mount Eden Vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

As any vineyard owner will tell you, "We don't tell the varietals where we want them to grow; they tell us!" Over time, it became clear the area was too cool for the style of Cabernet Sauvignon preferred by consumers. Even though Riesling thrives, it seems it is no longer Americans' go-to white wine. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay dominate the American Palate and thrive in the Sta. Rita Hills.

To help share the word of this exceptional area, the founders got together, and in 1997 The Sta. Rita Hills Winegrowers Alliance was formed. The Alliance continues to unify growers and winemakers in the Western Santa Ynez Valley to develop their own American Viticulture Area and promote this unique wine-growing region. When you visit the area, guests enjoy relaxed hospitality, superior wines, and indeed world-class personalities.

Let's talk varietals! First should be Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir. Experts and novices alike consider Pinot Noir to be the signature grape of the Sta. Rita Hills. The combination of climate and soils delivers a distinctive discernable character, even compared to the Santa Maria Valley, which is just north and has a similar environment. Of course, any Sta. Rita Hills Pinot will be evident

from others based on vintage, site, and winemaking choices. In other words, a "Sense of Place."

Now that we have some knowledge of this remarkable area, visiting is a must. There is a good selection of tasting rooms adjacent to many of the wineries. However, many tasting rooms have joined together collectively. They have created the Lompoc wine ghetto providing first-time wine enthusiasts or seasoned oenophiles an excellent opportunity to sample some of the

area's finest wines within walking distance of each other. It's just west of the AVA on the outskirts of Lompoc. It takes just moments to stroll from one winery to another, trying wines that speak of the distinctive terrain of Sta. Rita Hills.

Chardonnay most clearly differentiates one vineyard from another by visiting the various wine tasting rooms in the Sta. Rita Hills. These Chardonnays are less fruit-forward and less heavily wooded more in a European style of Chablis.







Syrah may be the one variety that does exceptionally well in every area of Santa Barbara County. But it is also an excellent example of showing that sense of Place, especially climate. In the warmer parts of the county, the Syrah is inky, full-bodied, and loaded with rich fruit. In contrast, Sta. Rita Hills Syrah tends to be juicy and medium-bodied. The fruit is less ripe and often takes a backseat to herb, spice, black olive, and mineral.

This year in 2021 marked the 20th anniversary that Sta. Rita Hills received their AVA status and celebrated big time with the annual Wine and Fire event. Make sure to keep your calendar in 2022 to visit wineries and tasting rooms for the following year's four days of festivities.



Wine and Fire events were commemorative and emotional for many who lived, worked, and visited the Sta. Rita Hills. Not wasting any time, we jumped right in and headed out to Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Tasting at the historic Sanford & Benedict Barn. This first event focused on the first vineyard planted in 1971 by Richard Sanford and Michael Benedict in what would eventually become the Sta. Rita Hills. We were walking amongst the verdant vines while enjoying wines from the founders of the Sta. Rita Hills, offering us a rare opportunity to taste multiple vintages from multiple wineries that sourced fruit from this hallowed ground.

We could not think of a better way to start our day than indulge in The History of Sparkling Wines in the





Sta. Rita Hills seminar moderated by award-winning winemaker Adam Lee. This seminar took a deep dive into how sparkling wines started in our region and their evolution over the years. Why is Sta. Rita Hills a prominent location to grow sparkling wines? How does it compare to the other areas, and why are so many producers adding sparkling wine to their line-up? Strolling from table to table, we learned history and experienced brilliant sparkling wines from the winemakers themselves as they shared their collective sentiments. As producer TJ Barrack wrote, "In each bottle, there is more than wine; there is a memory, a story, and a feeling that is home." Being among these

respected winemakers and pioneers of the AVA, we not only felt at home, we felt part of the family, breaking bread together, sharing brilliant wines, and relishing in the story of their winemaking.

The Dinner Honoring the Pioneers of the Sta. Rita Hills-La Paulee Style got poignant on many points. Held at the renowned Alma Rosa Vineyard, this dinner was extraordinary; many of the founders of the AVA were there to break bread and share collective heartfelt memories. After a sparkling wine reception, the "Barn Party" started by honoring the late Jim Clendenen of Au Bon Climat. Richard Sanford lamented, "Jim was an

exceptional guy; he had opinions and defended them. He always had something to say and made beautiful wines from my vineyard." Laughter and tears filled the Barn as seven Pioneer Winemakers of the region shared personal experiences about Clendenen over his long career. The program continued as we paid respect to the men and women who first envisioned the promise of the wine region and have dedicated their careers and lives to the Sta. Rita Hills.

It's rare to experience when winemakers: Bryan Babcock, Babcock Winery, Greg Brewer, Brewer-Clifton, Ken Brown, Ken Brown Wines, Kathy Joseph, Fiddlehead



Cellars, Rick Longoria, Longoria Wines, Bruce McGuire, Lafond Winery, and Richard Sanford and other area notables, come together to catch up and share stories of their trials and triumphs in establishing a world-class AVA. "This is a place to experiment; we have freedom, and that spirit is still alive today," said Brian Babcock. Renown grower Kathy Joseph added, "The Sta. Rita Hills is a collection of extraordinary people; there is no place in the world like it; it's a shining star, the proof is in the bottle." Being the La Paulee dinner, many brought bottles from the Sta. Rita Hills they have been waiting to open and transfer these iconic wines with tablemates and friends and toast 20 years of the Sta. Rita Hills. Jim Clendenen often said over the years, "Winemaking in this area comes from the soul." After spending time in the Sta. Rita Hills, you find that he was certainly right!

The big FINI came the following day with the Grand Tasting at La Purisima Mission under the stars. A magical evening was found under the oaks at the La Purisima Mission, sipping fine Sta. Rita Hills wines, snacking on tasty treats, and mingling with winemakers, growers, and guests on this the last event of the 20th anniversary weekend. Any Oenophile should run, not walk, to book your visit to the Sta. Rita Hills for next year's Wine and Fire and many other lovely events throughout the year in an area where the reflection of sea, land, and vines showcase best in the glass.



*Above from Left: Richard Sanford, Ken Brown, Kathy Joseph  
Below: Brian Babcock*







# NORTHLAND

NORTHLAND FURNITURE,  
CRAFTING QUALITY CUSTOM FURNITURE  
IN THE USA SINCE 1976.



Seven Feathers Casino



## HOSPITALITY

We have been designing and building custom, quality hospitality furniture for hotels and timeshare markets from the Pacific Northwest for more than 40 years. You can rely on us to create comfortable stylish furnishings in which your guests can relax and enjoy a respite from their busy lives.

## SENIOR LIVING

Our designers and craftsmen are experts at creating accessible, safe, robust custom senior living furniture for senior care facilities and other health-care environments. Your patients and residents will find our furnishings sophisticated, comfortable and comforting, like a little piece of home.





# Faith

## Faith First, Then Hustle

Universal Furniture Design, LLC.

By Beth Ilagan

**W**anda Luna is the owner and director of Universal Furniture Design LLC, a minority-owned company established November 30, 2013. The company's philosophy is to provide quality products, superior workmanship, exceptional service, affordable prices, a reasonable time frame, and loyalty regarding furniture design and manufacture.

Her company's services include furniture reupholstery, furniture restoration, furniture refinishing, drapery, manufacturing of furnishings, and custom furniture. It also includes pickup, delivery, and installation.

Its primary customers are hotels, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, medical facilities, and also private residences. Most of their work involves custom furniture, reupholstery, and draperies for local casinos and restaurants, with the majority of their business referrals coming from repeat customers and word of mouth.



*Wanda Luna, Owner & Director, Universal Furniture Design, LLC.*



Wanda is also a board member of the Hospitality Network Board and has been its Vice President for Development. She is also the Vice President of Administration for The Hospitality Industry Network (NEWH). Her strength is in furniture marketing, sales, and design. She loves meeting with clients to discover their ideas and needs and put those on paper to execute a product that the client desires.

"I love the process of meeting clients, getting to know them, their vision, and seeing our shop manufacture it to the actual end product."

Wanda, a Christian born and raised in Honduras, immigrated to the United States when she was nine years old. Her first job in California involved working for a military contracting company assisting military families' move from different assigned locations. In 2009, she met a friend's friend who offered her a job as a sales representative in an upholstery company in Las Vegas. In 2012 (at the age of 31), she moved to Las Vegas and found her passion in designing/making furniture and home accessories.

After learning the ropes of the furniture manufacturing business, she decided to open her own furniture shop in her partner's garage. Then, she bought a house and moved the business into her garage. She moved three more times from her garage, a 1,000 sq. ft. space to a 3,000 sq. ft. area, finally to an 8,000 sq. ft. warehouse located at 2960 Westwood Drive in Las Vegas.



*Commons Club Lounge at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas*



*Custom Upholstery by Universal Furniture Design, LLC.*





*Custom Sofa by Universal Furniture Design, LLC.*

A person with a strong faith in God, Wanda firmly believes that God is always looking out for her. "God guided me all the way through. I moved here not knowing what I wanted to do, and I am thankful for the person who hired me because she saw something in me that I didn't know I had. At the end of the day, it is important to be a good person, and things just fall into place. You have to also believe in yourself—that you can do what you set out to accomplish."

Her expertise is listening to customers and putting their desires on paper as a design. "I just fell in love with the furniture industry and



*Custom Upholstery by Universal Furniture Design, LLC.*





learned that I was good at it. I love talking and interacting with people and seeing the whole furniture manufacturing process.”

She places her spiritual aspirations above material or business aspirations. Being the owner and CEO of her company, she is very aware of being responsible for making her company succeed to provide work that can help others. “If they don’t eat, I won’t eat either.” She treats her employees as her own family. “We go through the same struggles together daily and work as a team.”

As a person, Wanda has always been self-sufficient but deeply acknowledges the help and loyalty that God, family, friends, and employees provide. She has the tenacity to succeed not just for herself but also to help others and contribute

---

*“It’s all about keeping a positive relationship with your customers and loving what you do.”*

---

toward the greater good. Wanda brings a sense of awe and wonder to everything. She has a very uplifting spirit and has the vision and the determination to bring each project to fruition. Wanda is highly energetic and has a strength of purpose and a gift for networking and organization. As a visionary with a lot of courage, she pushes things beyond what is expected. She has the drive and determination to fulfill her life’s aspirations.

During the recent 2020 pandemic, her company not only survived but did even better in terms of sales. “It’s all about keeping a positive relationship with your customers and loving what you do.”

Her continuing challenges are labor shortages—needing more employees, and finding skilled workers. “The process of making custom furniture can be very tedious and stressful. You’ve got to hustle to do things, meaning working day-in and day-out and at the same time believing in yourself and your capabilities. You have actually to do it and see results, and then you know that you have succeeded.”

Her favorite thing about her career is the process of meeting the client, getting to know who they are as a person, the vision that they have, and seeing the entire process of manufacturing the item from a shop drawing to the actual end-product.





*Commons Club Lounge at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas*

The final prize is seeing the client satisfied and happy with the product they have ordered.

Wanda learned how to "hustle" or work energetically from her mother, Hilda Luna, who (as a single mom) raised three kids on her own. She is 63 years old, living in California, and is Wanda's inspiration to move forward against all odds and overcome challenges. She is the main reason why Wanda is such an enterprising entrepreneur!

According to Wanda, the latest trend in furniture design is mid-century modern design ... referring to the iconic styles of the 1940s-1960s. It prioritizes

simplicity and functionality over clutter and details. Mid-century modernist interiors feature more decorative elements, pop of color, bohemian accents, and organic shapes. "It never goes out of style and always comes back. They may have changes in fabrics, palettes, and colors, but the retro-look is always active and remains in style."

Wanda's vision for Universal Furniture Design is to have their own building where she will have separate areas to display furniture, accessories, and draperies; have a more extensive warehouse; open a retail store of furniture and furnishings; and the ability to distribute

products to other states and globally as an online business. With her keen ambition, patience, discipline, perseverance, leadership and organizational skills, and the ability to coordinate and structure projects, I do not see how Wanda Luna will not succeed in anything she sets her mind on. For sure, she will always get things done!

Watch out for Wanda Luna and Universal Furniture Design, LLC!

**Universal Furniture Design, LLC**  
2960 Westwood Drive, Unit 12  
Las Vegas, NV 89109

(702) 485-0129  
[www.ufdlasvegas.com](http://www.ufdlasvegas.com)



MONTMARTRE





# LAS VEGAS SUITE

Nathan Tanouye

Featuring Clint Holmes

and the Las Vegas Jazz Connection.



ORDER THE CD ONLINE AT:  
[FORGOTTENSONGMUSIC.COM/SHOP](http://FORGOTTENSONGMUSIC.COM/SHOP)

OR DOWNLOAD A DIGITAL COPY FROM:  
[AMAZON.COM](http://AMAZON.COM), [CD BABY](http://CD BABY), & [NEWPANTS.COM](http://NEWPANTS.COM)







# JAMES STANFORD

## AN ARTIST SHINES IN THE DESERT

By Kendall Hardin





Photo of James Stanford by Checko Salgado

Not many Las Vegas artists have their own Wikipedia page, but James Stanford's entry contains a heap of accolades and tributes spanning five decades.

His vitae praises not only his accomplishments as a visual artist, photographer, digital designer, and technical illustrator but also underscores his pioneering role as a leader, teacher, curator, publisher, and entrepreneur in the Las Vegas cultural community from its founding to today.

Jim Stanford is a native son of vintage Las Vegas, born 73 years ago in the city's only hospital when the population approached 38,000 residents. He grew up in the historic Huntridge District, the son of Bernice and Harvey Stanford, two high school teachers who resettled here in 1936 from Texas. In 1944, his father achieved local celebrity sainthood for coaching the undefeated Las Vegas High School "Dream Team" to the state championship title, outplaying the big teams that traditionally dominated.

#### DISCOVERING THE ARTIST'S PATH

Jim showed early artistic talent with an exceptional ability to draw, but it wasn't until he traveled abroad that he encountered a



rare transformative experience that thrust him onto the path of an artist.

"I was 20, and the Prado Museum in Madrid was the first museum I ever visited," explained Jim. Standing before Flemish painter, Rogier van der Weyden's monumental Northern Renaissance masterpiece, *Descent from the Cross* (1435), Jim experienced an episode of shock known as the Stendhal Syndrome, which produces an intense psychosomatic reaction.

"I fainted in front of the painting and was unconscious for 15 minutes. When I awakened, I had this uncanny insight into the painting techniques of the old masters that confirmed my devotion to making art. It was a kind of artistic conversion that made me feel whole again."

In the first graduating class from UNLV's art department in 1971, Jim received his Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree in painting. Two years later, he followed by earning a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Washington in Seattle two years later. When he returned to his Mojave Desert homeland—then more of a "cultural desert"—he faced a shortage of galleries and exhibition spaces.

"After graduation, I literally dug ditches and dealt blackjack until I established myself as an instructor in UNLV's Fine Arts Department in 1978," Jim recalled. "To survive, I produced technical illustrations for EG&G - Edgerton, Germeshausen, and Grier (Doc Edgerton's company), which performed high-speed

photography for above-ground atomic bomb explosions.

"When I set up my graphic design business, I had to leave all my traditional skills behind and become an early adapter of computer design and digital photography. At first, I was terrified of the digital age, but I soon recognized how this 'tsunami of technology' opened up a whole new world for me as an artist. The rewards have been amazing!"

### PROJECTING A NEW CREATIVE FORCE

Recognized as a trailblazer of the Las Vegas arts community, Jim served the City as Chairman of the Las Vegas Arts Commission from 1999 to 2001, at which time he created the Downtown Las Vegas "Lightscapes" installation, cited by Art in America as one of 20 leading-edge public art projects of its time.

He also served three years as President of the Las Vegas Contemporary Arts Collective (CAC), later known as the Contemporary Arts Center. He established its second location on Charleston Boulevard, where he curated numerous exhibits and oversaw the organization's day-to-day operations.

In 1998, Jim co-founded the Las Vegas-based Smallworks Gallery. Seven years later, he created Smallworks Press, a publishing company specializing in arts and culture publications, which secured international distribution through Midpoint in 2018 and later with

IPG (Independent Publishers Group).

Smallworks Press has received critical acclaim for many of its publications, including such gems as *Street Art Las Vegas* by William Shea and Patrick Lai, *Motel Vegas* by Fred Sigman, and *Compass of the Ephemeral: Aerial Photography of Black Rock City through the Lens of Will Rogers*.

In 2007, he participated in the Mayor's Roundtable to explore the future of the Downtown Las Vegas Arts District and First Friday events. Jim's artwork continued to be represented by the Trifecta Gallery in the Arts Factory until the gallery's closing in 2015.

### ZEN MEETS THE DIGITAL AGE

Jim was introduced to Seon Buddhism (Korean Zen) as a young man, providing deep spiritual inspiration and discipline for both his meditative practice and artwork. In the last decade, Jim received wide exhibition and critical acclaim for his Indra's Jewels series. He was deeply moved by the Jewelled Net of Indra, a metaphoric image in Hau-Yen Buddhism where everyone and everything is interrelated in the universe and infinitely reflected off each other as wondrous shimmering jewels.

Based on such paradoxical Zen principles as the "unity of polarity," Jim uses digital technology to transform photomontages of Las Vegas' mid-century signage, neon, and architecture into intricate, kaleidoscopic patterns superimposed on large circular discs. These exquisite



“modern mandalas” are breathtaking. They can be enjoyed for their aesthetic beauty alone or at a much deeper level, where the “magic circle” becomes a spiritual representation of the cosmic universe and a meditative guide on the path to enlightenment.

In 2017, Jim exhibited the Indra’s Jewels series in his *Shimmering Zen* exhibition at Asia Art in London. At the same time, he released a large companion book by the same title, itself an objet d’art, exquisitely published with full-bleed details of over 240 mandala creations—a tour de force of visual dynamism.

The text of this art tome is equally joyful and full of wonder. One can take a “walkabout” with the artist by following his conversation with Laura Henkel . . . reminiscing about a primordial desert landscape that welcomed a young city dotted with gambling, Nellis Air Force Base and the Atomic Testing Site



Above: *Shimmering Zen* book released in 2017. Photo by David Jensen (UK)

At Left: Mural Celebrating “Our Lady of Las Vegas.” Photo by Laura Henkel





in the outback. His tales of coming of age in the Mojave demonstrate that vintage Vegas is in his DNA ... and deeply reflected in his art.

Jim teamed up with Las Vegas fashion designer David Tupaz to create diaphanous scarves and fabrics printed with Shimmering Zen designs for Tupaz's 2018 fashion showing at New York's prestigious Fashion Week. A local fashion extravaganza followed at the Sahara West Library to complement Jim's exhibition of select *Shimmering Zen* pieces on view in the Studio Gallery.

## RE-IMAGINING THE PAST

In 2018, Jim designed a monumental mural to commemorate the beloved statue of the Blue Angel that adorned the rooftop of Blue Angel Motel (Fremont and Charleston



*Shimmering Zen* Fabrics and Scarves Animate the Runway  
Photo by Checko Salgado

streets) for over six decades, until "Our Lady of Las Vegas" was taken down in 2017 to be refurbished. The original 16-foot statue was created by Betty Willis, who also designed the iconic "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign.

*A Phalanx of Angels Ascending* was commissioned by Alison Chambers, the building's owner at

705 North Las Vegas Boulevard. The mural spans over 2,000 square feet, wrapping around all three sides of the building. With a touch of classic wit, one blue angel appears on the half shell, a nod to Sandro Botticelli's celebrated *Birth of Venus*. Multiple other angels rocket to heaven aided by the thrust of jet engines.



*A Phalanx of Angels Ascending*  
Print by James Stanford





*From the Land Beyond Beyond Mural.* Photo by Kin Lui

Jim's latest large-scale design in 2019, entitled *From the Land Beyond Beyond*, spans that south wall of the Reed Whipple Building across the street from the Neon Museum Boneyard. The 154-foot mural pays tribute to two early Las Vegas landmarks - the Stardust Resort & Casino (imploded in 2007) and the Dunes Hotel and Casino (closed in 1993 to make way for the Bellagio that reopened in 1998).

The images include two colossal lava rock Moai, which stood guard outside the Stardust's Aku Aku Polynesian Restaurant and Tiki Bar. Also depicted is the giant Sultan from the Dunes, including the tiny harem darling perched on the toe of his pointed slipper. Such fabulous kitsch! No longer a memory of the past, these life-size images are granted new life on downtown walls.

## PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

Jim has mastered a number of complex printing methods for his mandalas, depending on whether they involve single or multiple layers—employing such processes as light lasers, silver-halide photographic

paper, aluminum metal plates, and dye-sublimation techniques.

If the image involves two or more layers, then a meticulous lenticular process is used. A lenticular print positions alternating strips of images on the back of a transparent sheet composed of a series of curved ridges (*lenticules*). When light passes through the lenticules, the images “flip” one to another

through refraction and magnification to produce a single complete image. As the viewer shifts his line of sight, the image vibrates and shimmers.

I got lost peering into his Shimmering Zen works to ferret out images from Old Vegas that no longer exist: the Horseshoe Club, Sassy Sally's, Stardust, Coin Castle, and Aladdin, to name but



*Detail of the Dunes Sultan on the Reed Whipple Building.* Photo by James Stanford



*Blue Angel on the Half Shell*  
Print by James Stanford



a few. For me, his work offers up a clever, witty conceit of composition that renders pure joy. The old is reincarnated in a whole new form of exquisite beauty. Is this a form of contemplation?

Put a child in front of a lenticular piece that is back-lit, and the "dance of life" between viewer and work is instantaneous: head bobs, arms wave, and giggles emerge. The response to Jim's work is profound - whether from a Buddhist monk, an art lover, or a young child.

If it's true that talent does an old thing well, but genius makes an old thing new, then Jim has found his voice and realized his passion.

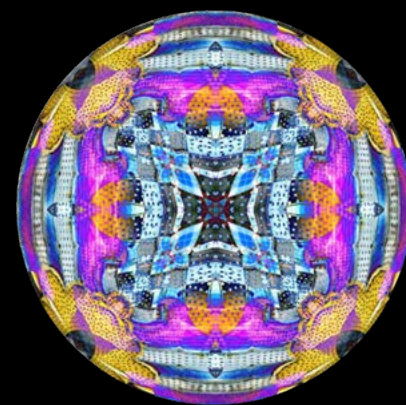
I'd say this Las Vegas homeboy didn't just make good; I'd say

James Stanford, the artist hit the jackpot.

Note: James Stanford's Private Studio + Gallery is located in the historical Scotch Eighties in Downtown Las Vegas (available by appointment).

Visit [jamesstanfordart.com](http://jamesstanfordart.com) for more details on the artist's background, his portfolio, and a list of exhibitions, as well as an array of art and merchandise for sale.

Stanford's 48" back-lit lenticular portal "Ing-Ing" will reside in the permanent collection of the Neon Museum, where readers may also purchase his book *Shimmering Zen*, scarves, 12" square aluminum prints, and T-shirts imprinted with mural images of the Blue Angel, "Our Lady of Las Vegas."

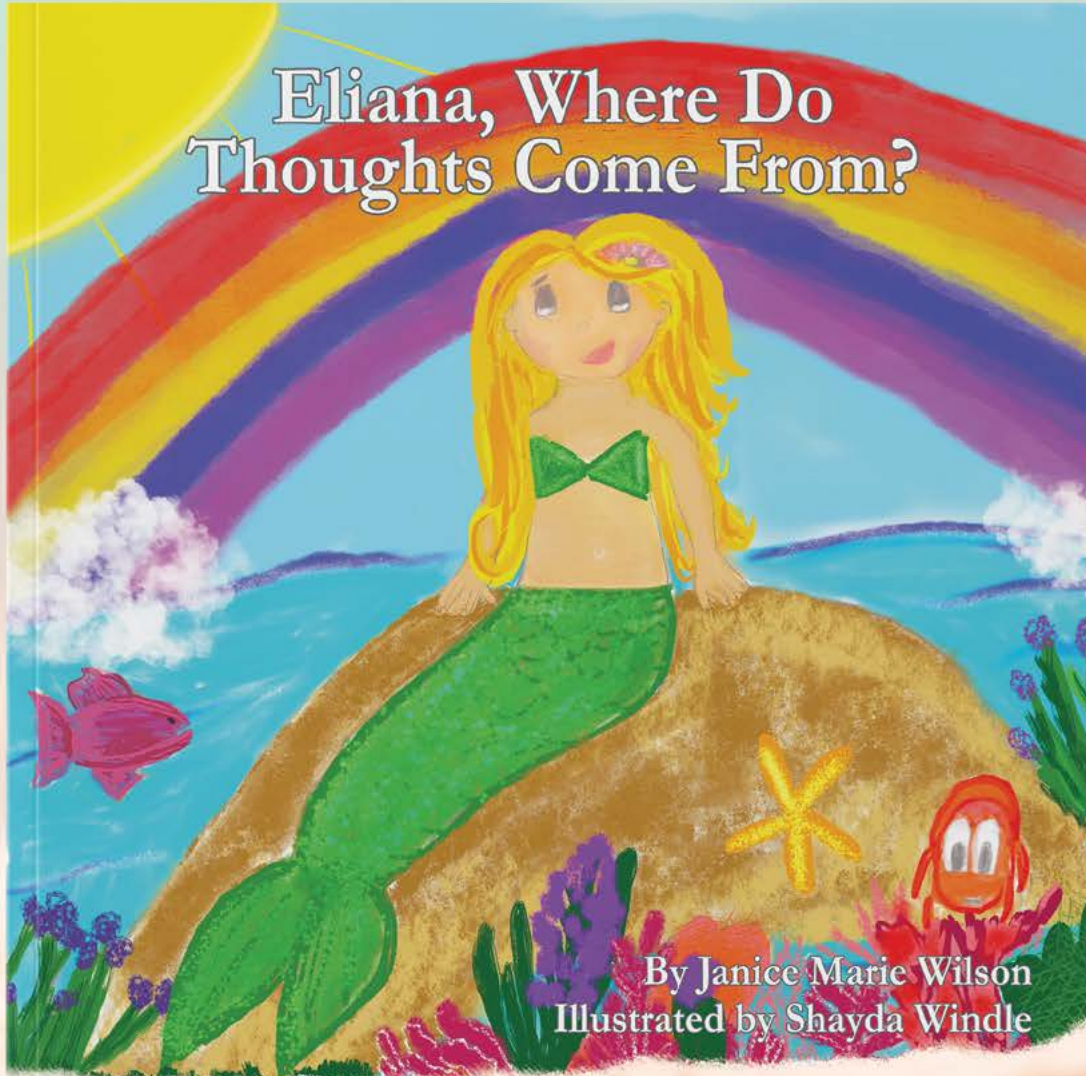


A mandala is a spiritual and ritualistic symbol that takes you to another realm, the realm of the cosmos. It can be any shape, but most conventional images are circular. To enjoy a mandala, follow this advice from James Stanford:

*"If you've never viewed a mandala before, don't let that stop you. You just open your mind to what's there and follow it. Follow your consciousness and see what happens. Put aside your concerns that you're not doing it correctly and just get into it. That's about my only advice: follow your breath and allow your vision and your breath to hook up so that your eyes are floating on your breath."*



Every child needs  
to feel loved.



*This playful, fun and entertaining book is perfect for bedtime, use in therapy, or the classroom. It is a gentle and helpful tool for creating positivity, happiness, self-awareness and confidence in children of all ages.*

**Read to them daily.**

Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)  
or email [janicewilson@me.com](mailto:janicewilson@me.com)



# hope

## A JOURNEY OF HOPE

### Honoring a Dream

By Ann Parenti

Did you ever start a project that was a deeply buried dream of yours only to find it take on a life of its own once set in motion? Well, that is what this story of hope is all about. Many people have quizzed me about what possessed me to follow my dream over the years, so here is the condensed version of my crazy tale.

It all started less than ten years ago. We were just emerging out of the wicked recession, and I had a bit more time on my hands. If I hadn't gone into my current profession (which I still am working in), I asked myself what would I have done?

I had always hoped to record a CD with a few originals and jazz

standards. So, I asked myself, if not now, when? I have written songs and played guitar since I was about 12 years old. I also wanted a little companion book to go along with it that featured a few of my artist friends, and I envisioned it in my mind as a spiral-bound book. I went to a convention in Los Angeles called TAXI, specializing in Arts and Repertoire (A&R). That weekend, I met a few folks there who changed my path for the future. One was Rob Case, another whole story mentioned later in this tale, and the other person was Debra Russell.

Debra was a speaker at the event, and I met with her in a private one-on-one meeting while at the convention. While explaining my "dream" to her, she asked, "Why

don't you consider doing a little film of the guys that play on the album since they are all seasoned jazz musicians and get their stories?"

Debra also said maybe I should consider doing an "LP" album, and that was BEFORE the big comeback of the LP! I remember saying to her, "Who will buy an LP these days?"

I didn't buy stock in Apple early on, either, oh well... So, I went back home to Las Vegas and said to myself, "If I am supposed to do this project, then I will get some messages to guide me." I am weird that way. Sadly, I only get these messages to grow my spirit, not my pocketbook. Come on, guys, could you throw me an Apple lead occasionally!



Well, less than a week after my return, I walked into a little recycle store, and way back in the store, I saw a recycled LP that was made into a spiral ring notebook! I then asked a few of my musician friends if they would like to be filmed talking about the days when they first started playing the strip. It didn't take long for the list to grow to 88 performers, artists, and poets to be a part of this project. My fate was sealed. I could not seem to figure out how so many things were falling into line at such a rapid pace. Let's just say, in exactly a year, with the help of a lot of folks, too many to mention, or this would not be a short story, we completed *Midnight Muse – Milestones in Music – Las Vegas*. It was a book, a two-CD set of various musicians and vocalists, and a film that went on to be aired on PBS – Las Vegas, based on the last 50 years of live music and jazz in Las Vegas. It is now on Amazon Prime and Golden Network TV. You can find a trailer for the film at [www.forgottensongmusic.com](http://www.forgottensongmusic.com). Ironically, I sang only one song on the CD but did write and co-write several of the songs for others to sing.

Now, fast forward a year or two later, and two dear friends asked me— Carolyn Freeman (who has since passed away) and David Tupaz—to help secure a grant for a project we would do together called *The VIVA Awards (Vegas Icon Visionary Awards)* to help raise funds for both of their 501c3 organizations. I was not a 501c3, nor did I want to be a foundation. However, I had the product that fit the prerequisite of what the grant was for. We went before



*Midnight Muse Las Vegas Book, CD, and DVD Collection*

the board of the Centennial Grant Commission as a trio, and through a series of bizarre events (again, too complicated for a story of this size), I ended up as a solo act. The board suggested I consider becoming a 501c3 and present my project of *Midnight Muse* to them at a later time if I should decide to do the one final thing to qualify—become a 501c3.

After much contemplation, I decided this was the path to take. The grant could aid in finalizing the film by obtaining a lawyer to help get releases from the celebrities we mentioned in the movie... no easy feat! It also could help me re-engineer and make new copies of the CDs and reprint the LP spiral

ring binder book. Yes, I sourced the manufacturer of that same notebook I found in the recycle store and gave them a large order. Now, here is where the story gets even more quirky. I asked my accountant to file a 501c3 request and call the foundation Forgotten Song Foundation, Inc., a sister to Forgotten Song Music, LLC, for profit. To this day, I use those words “for-profit” very loosely!

I got approval back in less than a month, which was unheard of at that time. It was just in time for the next Centennial Commission meeting, and over a few meetings, I walked out of there with two separate grants to finish the project in grand style. The film hit

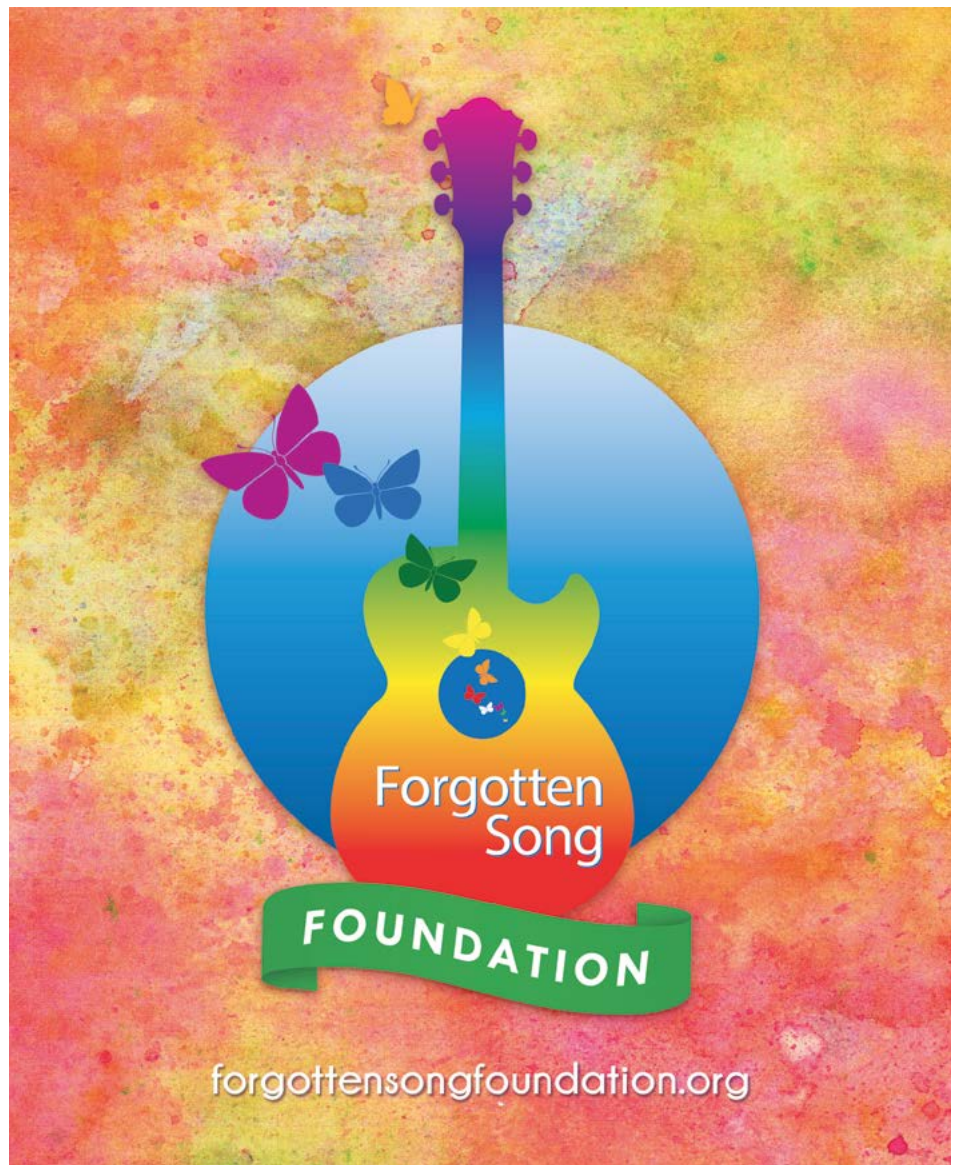


PBS within the same month we released it to the public. We also were able to secure funds to do a separate filming of classes that featured some of the jazz greats that were a part of the music scene in Las Vegas for decades. They are still online to this day and can be accessed from the website at: [forgottensongfoundation.org](http://forgottensongfoundation.org).

Our mission statement is simple. It reads as follows, "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."

Our board does its best to sustain that passion by holding special events throughout the year, culminating with our awards celebration - *The VIVA Awards*. Also, the Foundation gives out yearly scholarships to students at UNLV Jazz Studies, CSN Jazz Studies, the Visual Art Department at UNLV, The Smith Center, The Composer Showcase, and we also offer grants that we have generously given out to a few other likeminded organizations and qualified students over the years. We are proud to say that we have given out \$45,000 in scholarships and grants thus far.

We will be seven years old this coming March. We are "hoping" to give out \$100,000 by the time we turn ten years old, if not sooner. We have a dedicated board that has been with us for many years, featured on our website. My husband, Curtis McCoy, is the President of the foundation and







*Las Vegas Suite CD. Artwork by Jerry Blank*

George engineered the CD, and Gil Kaupp mastered the CD. See, I told you earlier Rob Case was for yet another story...

You can find the CD on almost any online music outlet store, including [www.forgottensongmusic.com](http://www.forgottensongmusic.com)

After Carolyn's passing earlier that year, we did a memorial concert to release the album in November 2019 at Notoriety, downtown Las Vegas. Upon their opening, we were the very first event at Notoriety. It was a time that will live in my heart forever. Imagine the sound of a 32-piece orchestra and vocalist coming off that stage that day! It was a time not to be forgotten. I am sure Carolyn was there with us that day, cheering us all on.

Then, somewhere during this crazy adventure, my friend Carolyn Muse Grant and I offered to help David Tupaz with a magazine he published called L'Vegue. Well, as I like to say, no good deed goes unpunished. Somehow (that indeed is another story all in itself), I was guided onto another path that I never thought I would wander down. Let's just say I am now the owner of Chic Compass, and Forgotten Song Music, LLC is the magazine's publishing arm. We try to collaborate to co-host magazine launches with a fundraiser for the foundation whenever possible. After all, FSF and FSM are sisters.

Now, here we have come full circle, and another calamity hits not just our nation but the world. The COVID pandemic will be in the history books one day, but until

---

*“We will be seven years old this coming March. We are “hoping” to give out \$100,000 by the time we turn ten years old, if not sooner.”*

---

has stood beside me through all of these madcap journeys over the years.

We also did a very unusual grant with Carolyn Freeman's foundation called American Jazz Initiative a few years back. With a lot of collaboration and the help of some additional angel donors, we helped produce the fabulous project called *Las Vegas Suite*. Nathan Tanouye wrote all the music and arrangements, and Clint

Holmes wrote the lyrics and performed on it. Rob Case of New Pants Publishing, Forgotten Song Music, LLC, and American Jazz Initiative produced the album. The Forgotten Song Foundation gave Carolyn's organization a small grant to help finish this most ambitious project. It was a 32-piece orchestra called The Las Vegas Jazz Connection. Jerry Blank graciously designed the art for the cover of the CD, and it was all recorded at the UNLV Recording Studio. Ron



then, we are all writing our own little piece of history on how it affected us all. Needless to say, all 501c3 foundations were taking a one, two punch during this time. How could you have a fundraiser when we couldn't even leave our own homes most of the time?

As an organization, we thought we could only give out half of what we gave yearly when this began. However, that is not how it played out. In a strange turn of events, I was tasked with caring for a close relative in the transitioning stage of passing, dying too young of cancer. That dreadful disease will continue to haunt humankind long after COVID has come and gone. If you do the numbers game like they do the COVID numbers game, you will get blown away by how many people die yearly of this vicious disease. Before passing, my cousin Sarah was generous enough to donate to the FSF foundation, and with that donation, we will give out a grant in her name every year until the money has expired.

In the summer of this year, some angels came knocking on my door—a group of interior designers and vendors who work in my industry that I still work to this day. They did a fundraiser on the Foundation's behalf and raised a considerable amount of money in that one event. With both donations, we were able to give our usual amount of gifts that we give out yearly at The VIVA Awards and have enough for next year, too!

We did a few special things this past year with additional capital. We gave extra money to CSN to help their students survive through the pandemic; we gave additional



funds to The Composer Showcase, who helped so many of our out-of-work musicians and performers in Las Vegas devastated by no work for 18 months. Yes, I said 18 months! In many cases, most of them didn't qualify for unemployment or PPP money. It broke our hearts as an organization to see our friends get taken to their knees over this. I only wish we could have helped even more.

Now, we are seeing a bit of light, ever so dimly, at the end of this tunnel we have all been living in. The entertainers are slowly getting back to work and hope they will prevail one day soon. As we all brace ourselves for the newest Omicron variant, all we can do is hope and pray this will be the final test for us all. Well, one can HOPE, anyway.



# REAL ESTATE SOLD BY A REAL EXPERT

Claire is a dedicated, amazing and knowledgeable real estate professional. She takes the time to learn about her clients. She goes the extra mile on delivering personalized service that goes beyond a simple sale as she builds true business relationships.

I would absolutely recommend working with her.

— Camila P.



## CLAIRE NAGEL

Global Real Estate Advisor | S.0179417  
702.327.2727  
claire.nagel@sothebysrealty.com  
lasvegassir.com

Las Vegas | **Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



# grace

## Beti Kristof

### An Artist Ever Graceful

By Joan S. Peck

It had been a while since I had seen Beti Kristof, and I was delighted to meet with her to learn about her latest creation. I knew that she had just completed a project for a client involving a mural (something she has done over 200 plus times), but this time, Beti had used a new technique on a size that was one of the

most expansive she had created.

To better understand Beti's enthusiasm for art, you need to know she moved to Las Vegas in 1996 from Mammoth Lakes, California, where she was a professional artist for ten years before moving here.

In Mammoth Lakes - "My work

was seen everywhere! I'm not kidding. From the flags on Main Street welcoming visitors to the town to the mosaic patterns in the sidewalk, restaurants, businesses, and private homes...I had my fingerprints everywhere, painting my way joyfully from one project to another while raising my two oldest children. My youngest was



*Beti Kristof with "Dancing Calla Lilli Garden" 73" x 32" oil and multi-media on canvas.*



born in 1997 when we all moved to Las Vegas."

"I would often say, "Have paintbrush, will travel!"

### When did you begin creating?

BK: "A lifetime of creating started when I was four years old. I remember drawing people...stuck people with eyebrows (I always remembered to add eyebrows). As my interest in art progressed, I was fortunate to expand my creative studies. It has taken me from Art Center College where I studied illustration; to Hawaii to study painting with Eva and Americo Makk; to Florence, Italy, where I was a student at Studio Art Centers International (SACI); to Joseph Shepherd and Madam Simi, also in Italy; and to California where I studied with Theodore Lukitz."

### What is your favorite medium to work with?

BK: "I'm not sure I have a favorite. The medium I've used the most is Oil. I love sculpting as much as I love painting. There is a debate on which is the highest art form. Michelangelo and DaVinci may have had their differences in opinion ... but I enjoy the tactile qualities of creating three-dimensionally. However, having drawn and painted for several decades might lend itself to my having an affinity for sculpting."

While reviewing her website, I was struck by the painting *Hold the Line* as soon as I laid eyes on it. And I was surprised that two artists created it. So I asked,

### Would you please share how the painting *Hold The Line* came about?

BK: "It's an inspired progression of two creatives blending creative efforts. This painting had been a vision and an effort to create something that told a story of 2020. The image is all about the collective essence of those who go above and beyond for others."

"The message is to honor those who have inspired the best in others and have given the best of themselves. They will be remembered for their selfless acts in making a difference in the world for good. God Bless and Thank You For All You Do."

"Hold the Line is about the emotion the painting invokes in the viewer."



*"Hold the Line" by Beti Kristof & A.D. Cook*





*Photo by Grant Mohn*

**Why is that emotion important to you?**

BK: "Original art carries an energy from the one who creates it. On some level, the viewer connects to that organic creation completing a form of communication. That makes me hopeful that we won't lose the spark of originality and the sensation of genuine emotional response in our lives."

**Do you like collaborating with other artists?**

BK: "I love collaborating—period! Whether it's artist to artist or artist to client. Perhaps the word 'creative' is a better description—creative people helping others implement their creative ideas. Either

way, collaboration is a creative energy exchange and very stimulating! Thoughts and ideas coming together make up this equation: 1 brain + 1 brain = 11! The creativity becomes exponential! That is how we inspire, add beauty, celebrate the wonderful, and provide the uplifting spirit that gives wings to our soul and puts a smile on our faces."

**You said that many are seeking to be artists. Why do you think that is?**

BK: "Without realizing it, people innately seek that awareness of better living and somehow the desire to be creative. When creatives or artists are in the realm of creativity, they automatically feel uplifted and

realize a higher power. Inspiration brings hope."

**What is one of your favorite pieces you've done?**

BK: "The Saint Jude's Children's Hospital fundraising sculpture is my pride and joy because it's so close to my heart. The fact is that the work St. Jude's does is likely a factor to the positive results of my son's battle at the age of five with childhood leukemia."

I couldn't wait to see Beti's latest creation, and when she showed me the photos of her artwork, I was stunned and speechless. It was beyond anything I imagined the mural would look like. It was magnificent! There are no words to





*Photo by Grant Mohn*

describe how the energy the piece projected made me feel. I felt connected to all that is...something that doesn't always happen to me upon seeing a work of art. I was curious to know more.

**Beti, I was blown away by the photos of your latest creation. So, how did this come about?**

BK: "I was retained to come up with a design my prospective client had imagined. It was to adorn a very tall space in a living room area (30' high). It was to be something that could enhance her art collection gathered from around Asia. We discussed a tree but had no idea it would become a Bonsai to expand from the stairwell around into the front wall of the living area. The owner of the home and I had a wonderful time collaborating, and I was entrusted to indulge my talents and artistic license.

"As the artist in residence, it was easy to become immersed in the project...I purchased a Bonsai tree as inspiration, even though the end produced nothing like its muse. One of my favorite parts of the mural, other than the expansive tree limbs and floral leaves, are the whimsical roots. Untethered, the roots take on a life of their own, incorporating the design elements of the existing stone-carved mantle tying the design elements together. It just happens!"

**What is the size of this stunning artwork?**

BK: "The mural sits in the house's entranceway and around a corner



*Photo by Grant Mohn*

that covers a huge area, 30' high x 40' across. I had to build a scaffold to work on something that high. Supports were made by drilling into the walls to hold the scaffolding in place. It was quite a feat to accomplish."

**How long did it take you to complete this project?**

BK: "It took between 7 – 9 weeks to finish. Projects tend to grow. The original discussion was not

as expansive as what ended up being created. It just felt right for the tree to turn the corner from the stairwell and drape across the 30 foot high walls to encompass the entire living room area."

**What do you call this type of creation?**

BK: "It's an organic handcrafted wall sculpture, carving... a bas relief."





*"Iris Garden," Oil, 73" x 30," by Beti Kristof*

**Are you planning to create more artwork like this?**

BK: "My next project is a sculpted mural for a beautiful home in Summerlin. It will be a living room once again sans stairs and elaborate scaffolds."

**I know you have a lot going on besides your murals. What is your next project outside of sculpting?**

BK: "Recently, I'm in the process of wrapping up a novel for a client, which will come out mid-2022."

"Also, I'm looking forward to a massive project off Colorado and 3rd Streets in the Arts District. It involves a coffee shop and artsy offerings... just a tease to keep the readers' ears and eyes open to something fun and a new hangout!

"Last year, 2020, I collaborated with Philip Corriera on his book, "My Goodnight Prayer," (MyGoodnightPrayer.com) inspired by an evening ritual he shared with

all five of his children.

"Also, I'm collaborating with Susan Haller, a noted performer, and singer from Las Vegas, who surprised me years ago with a song when I dropped by her home for a glass of wine and conversation. "I Will Give You My Hand" is written inspired by my daughter, born without her left forearm, which stopped her never! (She has gone on to win three silver medals for the U.S. in skiing at the 2002 Paralympics in Utah). Years later, Susan and I have agreed that I would illustrate the words for a children's story based on this song which will hopefully be out in Spring 2022. Perhaps the words reflect what an inspiration those are to others who seem to have to overcome so much, and they do it with grace and ease..."

A teaser... "sometimes an angel is not meant to soar, for down here on Earth you can offer much more."

**What do you most appreciate about your gift of creating?**

BK: "In the act of creating, it makes me feel like I'm in the most perfect place in the world—a place where head, heart, soul, and hand connect in an elegant and expressive experience of living in the moment."

Saying goodbye to Beti left me with much to think about. I sensed how vital her artwork was to her, and combined with her spirituality, she has the power by encouraging collaboration between creators to increase the desire in all of us for a better way of living... a kinder way of living. And I was hopeful.

You can see Beti's creations on her website and her canvas works at Centaur Gallery off Dean Martin Road in Las Vegas.

Contact information:  
 BetiKristof@yahoo.com  
 BetiKristofArt.com

inspire your life...



MARIO BASNER'S  
WORLD HERITAGE  
COLLECTION  
ART GALLERY





# DEATH CARD SERIES

Reading is a way to be drawn into another time and place. A good story can place us on a journey of words, open our minds, and inspire reflection.

We invite you to join in the journey of Rosie and her family in the Death Card Series.

It all begins here:

## Death on the Strip

Thirty-two-year-old Rosalie Bennett lives in Las Vegas and uses her psychic ability and tarot cards to predict her clients' future. But when the death card shows up and murders follow, she must use her talents in a whole new way and becomes embroiled in cases to either save people or solve murders. Things aren't as simple as they appear, causing Rosie to take things into her own hands to save the day. Her silky dog, Sweet Pea, is her sidekick, and her grandmother's

spirit still pops into her life with advice or simple expressions of love --- sometimes at the most ill-timed moments.

## Death at the Lake

When the Death Card continues to pop up in her tarot card readings and murders follow, Rosie deals with a crazed person trying to kill her. Will she survive?

## Death Returns

After Rosie brings down the person responsible for her fiancé's death, she falls into a slump. A telephone call changes everything. What will she do?

## Death in the Shadows

Danger lurks everywhere, and trouble unfolds. Rosie and Isabella join their psychic forces to bring Tiffany back from the SHADOWS. Can they find her before it is too late?

## Death on the Run

Mike tells Rosie he isn't ready to further their love relationship—where does that leave Rosie? Isn't separation supposed to make the heart grow fonder? Life throws a curveball and catches Rosie unprepared for what takes place. What will she do?

## Death Comes Calling

As time passes, Rosie finds herself to be "a woman of a certain age" ... and bored. Reviewing her life, Rosie misses her younger years when she worked with the police to solve cases. So, when Police Chief Roberto calls Rosie to help find a runaway girl, she jumps at the chance. Can Rosie save her granddaughter?



AVAILABLE NOW!

LOOK FOR THEM ON AMAZON.COM,  
JOANSPECK.COM & OTHER BOOK RETAILERS



**Some of the best  
stress relief, hands down**

**\$65**

**intro rate massage\***

**Massage Envy®**

**CENTENNIAL GATEWAY**

5643 Centennial Center Blvd, STE 135  
Las Vegas, NV 89149  
(702) 228-3689

**CENTENNIAL HILLS**

7140 N. Durango Drive #140  
Las Vegas, NV 89149  
(702) 839-9997

M-F 9a-8p | S 9a-8pm | Su 10a-8p

\*Offer valid for first-time guests only. All session times include a total of 10 minutes of time for consultation and dressing, which occurs pre and post-service. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Each location is independently owned and operated. ©2021 ME SPE Franchising, LLC. All rights reserved. M03-00185

ME-DNLD-1969-00-002-8v11



# charity

## BRIDGE COUNSELING Creating A Legacy of Caring for Others

By Joan S. Peck

*H*ave you ever met an Earth Angel? I believe I did when I was introduced to David Robeck, President/CEO of Bridge – Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic. What makes him so unique, you might ask?

As a start, he straightened out the nonprofit's mess when he joined it and made it increasingly profitable by obtaining a national accreditation and improving stakeholder relationships, which enabled Bridge to purchase a second location at 4221 McLeod Drive in 2018. Redesigning and overseeing the new reconstruction of the 46,000 sq. ft. building (the former Silver State Schools Credit Union headquarters) was a formidable task that allowed him to focus on setting up a large number of shelter beds for adults in outpatient treatment.

Where did this drive come from? Brought to Las Vegas as an infant, David grew up with both parents serving as pastors at the (then-named) Assembly Bible Church.





There weren't many social services available back then, and in cities and towns everywhere, people needing support sought out the churches to help them. Often, it was David who entertained the children while their parents spoke with his parents. It was just the beginning of David caring for others, particularly the children.

David served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Russia for two years. He specialized in business and fulfilled President Boris Yeltsin's business-focused request (David had an MBA and 13 years of banking experience at that time). He spent time advising governments and banks and connecting several new nonprofit agencies to western agencies such as Muscular Dystrophy by hosting regional, nonprofit conferences. He remained in Russia developing small business lending programs at seven banks in three

cities as a representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. After four years in Russia, David returned to Las Vegas with two sons he adopted in 1997 from Russian orphanages.

In 2003, he returned to Russia to adopt two biological brothers, completing his family with five energetic males. Always community-minded, David left his 25-year banking career and sought work with nonprofits. After leaving a position with The Salvation Army, David joined Bridge Counseling as the President and CEO. It was there that his love for helping children could be expanded, in addition to his belief that treatment was essential to move children forward in a healthy way.

How does David feel about his work there? "When I talk about this place, I cry a lot."

His reasons for tears? According to the 2020 State of Mental Health in America report, Nevada's mental health system ranks 51st in the country and 51st in youth mental health. The issue of children's mental health and well-being in Nevada is mounting with an increased need for more facilities and services. At present, our valley has only two children's mental health facilities, both of which are severely underfunded and understaffed, one of which is slated to close.

Today, many mental health issues face us, especially for the young who have suffered through COVID-19 being isolated and their propensity to escape through drugs and alcohol. There have even been reports of parents surrendering their children to child welfare with the hope of getting them mental health services.



It can be easy to forget those children too young to advocate for themselves. These children are removed from inhumane conditions such as starvation, neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and violence, and are often victims of addiction, then get taken into custody by child welfare.

In hopes of turning this narrative around, Bridge Counseling opened its doors on November 15 to its Child and Youth Community Treatment Center, supported by a \$500,000 grant from Nevada Women's Philanthropy (NWP). It adds six new state-of-the-art children's treatment rooms providing evidence-based counseling services tailored specifically for children. Also focused on children is funding for three new therapists and specialized training for all therapists working with children and adolescents.

As a nonprofit, Bridge Counseling won't turn anyone away for inability to pay, so they can help vulnerable, underserved children who need it the most. They are there to help kids build useful lives, creating a snowball effect to break the cycle for other issues in our community.

Bridge Counseling Associates is one of the first Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) in the nation, providing a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services. It employs some 50 therapists, most holding dual Nevada licensure in mental health and substance abuse.

Other services include:

- Trauma
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Abuse
- Adolescent and Youth
- Problem Gambling

The partnership that Bridge Counseling has with Nevada Women's Philanthropy is significant in light of the grant money received from them. NWP remains very supportive during the funding process and helps connect its funded agencies with one another for the benefit of the community. This goes well with Bridge's strategy, which developed over 30 formal memoranda of understanding with other nonprofit and government agencies.

### **What do you worry about most for the health of our children?**

DR: "Social media has become far too prevalent in our homes to the point of being babysitters for even the youngest children. That results in too much screen time and not enough family interaction or outdoor activity. Many children find games that require purchases to get to higher levels of success,





even using a parent's debit or credit card for such purchases. These finance companies have no obligation to waive those fees unless the parent holds the child criminally accountable. Parental controls are inadequate with young adolescents who find inappropriate friends, experience body shaming, bullying, or experience addictive behaviors to their virtual activities. Ironically, because of the COVID pandemic, schools have ignored CDC guidelines limiting computer activity by age. All of these activities isolate the child and the family, limiting direct socialization and stunting the development of good family relationships, resulting in more serious mental health issues such as anxiety and depression."

---

*"Ironically, because of the COVID pandemic, schools have ignored CDC guidelines limiting computer activity by age."*

---

**What has been the most rewarding about leading Bridge Counseling?**

DR: "From serving several hundred clients annually, I'm proud that we are now helping many thousands in Clark County and throughout the state via telehealth. I have focused our work on mental health therapy, which includes the subcategory of substance abuse treatment, allowing our clinicians to expand and deepen Bridge's level

of behavioral health. My job is not to be a top-down CEO but to be the supportive CEO that responds to the needs of therapists and support staff while eliminating obstacles that clients face in completing their treatment. I'm so pleased that clients now have very short appointment waits to see our onsite psychiatrist or one of our two nurse practitioners for medication management or medical assessments. Case managers help eliminate or improve transportation, housing,



employment, and other challenges that distract clients from their mental health recovery. Bridge will soon provide a detox facility and a residential treatment facility for adults. Just as exciting is our Community Development Block Grant that will fund a new Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for children, making it possible to provide that treatment in Las Vegas when most children today must find treatment out-of-state."

### **What do you think your future holds for you?**

DR: "Our board of directors has contracted me to remain Bridge's CEO through 2025 and support the vision I have shared to continue growing and solving mental health issues for all Nevadans. I am not a therapist; therefore, my perspective of behavioral health is unique but respected, molded by my personal life experiences, parenting of special needs children, as well as learning from clinical treatment classes hosted onsite and from my role as co-chair of Nevada's Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency advisory board which I have now held four years. Along with my deep concern for and understanding homelessness and socioeconomically challenged families, I plan to share my perspective, opinions, and new strategies that can be implemented with government and nonprofit agencies and commercial businesses. If this requires me to speak, write, and model new methods of solving community problems throughout the nation, I would be delighted to take to the road and help other communities experience the

success that Bridge has achieved under my leadership."

In recent years, Bridge has demonstrated statewide behavioral health leadership through direct and indirect legislative input and regulatory development. The state looks to Bridge as a leader and is frequently called upon for its feedback and participation in many ongoing and periodic committees. Fiscally, Bridge is now sound under David's leadership, having received clean audits and becoming a low-risk agency. However, all nonprofits have needs. So I asked.

### **As a nonprofit agency, what needs does Bridge Counseling have?**

DR: "The challenge Bridge has is in developing unrestricted and capital funds to assure our planned strategic growth. Unlike most nonprofits, Bridge cannot utilize volunteers because expensive and restrictive background checks are required; clients can't give testimonials because HIPAA regulations and ethical guidelines prohibit them, and fundraisers earn very little success because of the stigma of mental illness and substance abuse."

Using government resources and most recently winning the NWP grant, David has successfully obtained several funding sources for capital improvements and program development; however, other capital needs are more challenging to meet.

"I would like to develop an Advisory Board (separate from the governing board) with members

interested in supporting the success story of Bridge Counseling and who are sufficiently connected to identify and solicit capital funds of \$5 - \$10 million for the agency's growth and the improvement of behavioral health in Nevada over the next three years."

Interested? David is receptive to all serious inquiries. Contact information is below.

I walked away from meeting David Robeck and touring the building to view the new Children's wing provided by the NWP grant to become overwhelmed with a sense that all would be well with David at the helm. He exudes strength and determination to ensure that each person receives the help they need to guide them into a way of living that will give them peace, happiness, and a sense of value for who they are.

I was relieved to know that David and everyone at Bridge Counseling was there for all, especially the children, for they are our future, are they not?

### **Bridge Counseling**

1640 Alta Drive, #4  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

702 474-6450

[www.bridgecounseling.org](http://www.bridgecounseling.org)

KATARZYNA



KOCIOMYK



House of iKons®

A LADY K PRODUCTION

THE

*The Fashion Life Tour*

ZARADI  
EVOLVE AGE



PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER  
DESIGNER: JOJO BRAUT ABENDMODE



# LONDON FASHION WEEK

---



Photography By Mark Gunter

The House of iKons London Fashion Week featured what designers from across the globe presented as their latest collections for the spring/summer look of 2022.

A vast array of designers and insiders descended upon the city of London to take part in this extraordinary event. The fashions were spectacular and hinted at what to expect next spring and summer. Chic Compass is thrilled to give you a sneak peek of what these incredible designers created as the latest season trends.

Images courtesy of celebrity photographer and Head of Photography for House of iKons Fashion Week London, Mark Gunter.





PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER  
DESIGNER: CHAVEZ



PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER  
DESIGNER: N8 BY NATHAN VANDELDE







PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER  
DESIGNER: ORIGINAL CRACKAGE BY WES WOODS





PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER  
DESIGNER: ORIGINAL CRACKAGE BY WES WOODS



PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER  
DESIGNER: SHARON E CLARKE COLLECTION





PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER  
DESIGNER: SHARON E CLARKE COLLECTION



PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GUNTER  
DESIGNER: SAIMA CHAUDHURY



# HAUTE EATS THIS SUMMER

A NEW EXPERIENCE EVERY TIME YOU VISIT

“Barry’s is the best steakhouse in Las Vegas, hands down - and that’s a pretty tough feat considering the competition... Love this place.”

CHRISTOPHER W.



“Hosted business clients last night at Barry’s. The food, the service, and especially the vibe in this place cannot be topped! This is our go to when we want to impress our guests.”

NATE J.



“High end dining experience in a fun yet slightly formal atmosphere. Great food with service to match.”

RICARDO S.



“The warmth of the staff combined with the beauty of the room and the quality of the room makes Barry’s the best steakhouse in Las Vegas.”

TODD G..



*Barry's*  
DOWNTOWN PRIME  
Steaks & Cocktails

*Circa*  
RESORT & CASINO

# ANNA GUPTA

---

Article by David Tupaz | Photography by Jaime Lim

*A*nna Gupta is a high-end luxury brand for women founded by Designer & Stylist and Model Anna Gupta.

Anna attended the Fashion Design School in Los Angeles and is now based there. She is originally from Russia, where she showed a passion for the arts and creating from an early age. Anna presented her collections, and in December 2019, she won four Awards for her garments at the Graduation Fashion Show "Gold Thimble." In 2020, she created her brand Anna Gupta, with a mission to provide high fashion pieces that are unique one-of-a-kind designs.

Anna was honored to debut her couture collection at the Los Angeles Fashion Week in October 2021, where she received accolades.

**Tell us about your show. What was your inspiration for your collection?**

"When I was a model, I used to wear the most beautiful gowns, and I loved how they made me feel. I realized how huge the power of clothing is and the transformative quality of dressing up.

I dreamt that one day I could create clothing that would help other women feel confident ... like queens. Built-in corsets are a big part of my collection. I believe they make all women look very feminine, sexy, and beautiful by helping to create a seductive hourglass silhouette.

"Creating my collection, I was free to select and combine fabrics. I used different materials like silk, chiffon, lace, sequins, tulle, taffeta, organza, feathers, and embroidered appliques. I wanted to bring a fairytale to the runway, and I trusted my intuition when designing the collection.

"I partnered with the amazing Crown designer Aristo Crowns and two Jewelry designers, Lady Daze Fine Jewelry and Binno Jewels. Our beautiful collaboration turned into magic. I absolutely love each runway look that we created together. The LED Wall Backdrop, designed by talented artist/photographer Jaime Lim brought the audience and models into a Royal and mysterious atmosphere. Jaime was my official photographer for the evening, and his masterful work of photographing the runway took the show to a whole new level."





LI STAR QUID  
PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
DESIGNER: ANNA GUPTA  
MODEL: ANNA LUTIN



LIQSTARUID  
PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
DESIGNER: ANNA GUPTA  
MODEL: ANZHELIKA POLI





LIQUID  
STAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
DESIGNER: ANNA GUPTA  
MODEL: JUNE WALTON







LIQUID  
STAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
DESIGNER: ANNA GUPTA  
MODEL: OLIA ART





LIQUID  
STAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
DESIGNER: ANNA GUPTA  
MODEL: RYLEE SPINKS



LIQUID  
STAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
DESIGNER: ANNA GUPTA  
MODEL: KATERINA KRAZ





DESIGNER: DAVID TUPAZ AMERICAN COUTURE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: OSCAR PICAZO  
MODEL: CRISTINA PAJARA  
HAIR & MAKEUP: NEMI RAFANAN



DAVID TUPAZ  
COUTURE

DAVID TUPAZ "AMERICAN COUTURE"

TIVOLI VILLAGE  
350 S. RAMPART BLVD, STE 180  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89145  
(818) 812-0976  
[WWW.DAVIDTUPAZ.COM](http://WWW.DAVIDTUPAZ.COM)



SHEER SPLENDOR DRAPERY COLLECTION





# CHASE BROWN

## Country Music with a Side of "GLAM"

---

By Samuel Novak



Muscles and mascara. A cowboy hat and nail polish. Disco balls, line dancing, and a stepladder. It's a list of ingredients that you'd never expect to find in a one-man country show. But that's how young singer Chase Brown rolls, and the hot Texas native somehow manages to make it all work.

Sin City's reigning "rhinestone cowboy" has been gaining popularity and notoriety like never before. So, it only seems fitting that he's packing them in at a brand-new residency inside NOTORIETY Live, a popular downtown music venue at the corner of Fremont Street and Las Vegas Boulevard.

With twenty years of performances under his flashy belt buckle, Chase has earned a loyal following of fans from several different musical genres. He appeals to both young and old, gay and straight, and everyone in between. His setlist defies categorization, too...much like the man himself. A fitness fanatic with chiseled abs and finely-manicured features, Brown is a strutting combination of raw male sensuality and gentle sensitivity wrapped inside a conspicuously open, be-dazzled vest.

Last summer, Brown quite literally took his music to the streets. During the height of the pandemic, he roared through the center of Las Vegas, belting out tunes to anyone within earshot. The impromptu concert gained worldwide attention, thanks to an unforgettable encounter so picture-perfect that it almost seemed staged:

"That was as real as it gets! A pick-up truck starting at the 'Welcome to Las Vegas Sign' served as my stage as we made our way down the Strip. So many cars were surrounding us and videoing the show that the police pulled us over for obstructing traffic."

"After realizing that I was a real singer who performed all over the Strip, the officer offered to throw out the ticket if he could sing with me for thirty seconds. The rest is history! Two hundred thousand views overnight, a retweet from Toby Keith and making the news from here to Austin, Texas. Every time I sing 'Should Have Been a Cowboy,' I think of Officer Evan Spoon."

While most of his songbook is steeped in down-home favorites, a Chase Brown performance can include anything from pop tunes and rock anthems to both sides of a Sonny and Cher duet. Along with classic standards and top hits, there are plans to present some original works in the months ahead.

"I love all kinds of music. My favorite genre is completely up to the audience. I sing to make people happy, so my favorite song is the one that hits that sweet spot for that room that night. I'm working with a great new songwriter and hoping to release original music next year." Lately, Brown has been taking bigger chances, spreading his Devil-may-care irreverence to upscale venues like The Nevada Room and Star Lounge. Most surprisingly, he entertained members at the exclusive Stirling Club....in a speedo,





no less. CHIC Compass asked if there is anything too wild for a Chase Brown show:

"The first time I saw Elvis' performance on Ed Sullivan, I was hooked. The way he made those girls scream was so fascinating to me. I needed to know what it felt like. Garth Brooks, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Janet, Shania, Reba, Britney, Cher, Dolly...these were my idols. I'd be rocking back and forth in front of the TV before they'd come on. I love when an artist can get you that excited! I take from all of them and try to engage my audiences in a dramatic way, give them something to talk about."

"Even in high school, when I performed at pep rallies and rodeos, I remember being told not to tear my shirt off. Whoops, there went the pearl snaps. I've just always expressed myself that way. People don't think twice if a woman is a

showgirl or performing wearing next to nothing, so why should I be bashful as a man? I'm an entertainer in Sin City. There are no limits." Most performers have a signature move or fashion statement that makes them unique. Chase Brown comes with a stepladder. It's a mind-blowing moment that has to be seen to be believed.

"I was doing a show in El Campo, Texas, with over 1200 people - my biggest crowd to date. I wanted to see the people in the back to take it all in, saw a ladder on the side of the stage, pulled it out, and started climbing. With every step, the room got louder and louder. I straddled the top, gave it an impromptu hop to the beat, then had that damn ladder dancing all over the stage. It became my trademark overnight."

He may be from a small town in Texas, but Chase Brown was born with a heaping helping of Sin City

glam in his blood. He arrived here in 2011 and has performed in diverse venues at Gilley's, Le Cabaret Lounge (Paris Hotel), Tommy Rucker's, and the local Italian American Club.


"I was the worst thing an entertainer could be...comfortable. Making great money, performing for crowds, and winning 'Best of The Best' awards, I needed a change and a challenge and found both in Las Vegas. Now, after years of paying dues all over again, my fan base is beautiful people from all walks of life who come out to celebrate."

Chase Brown is raring to rise even higher with his overflowing talent, stunning looks, and flashy ambition. This time around, rhinestone vests won't be the only glittery weapon in his fight. "Now my ladder is covered in thousands of disco ball mirrors. It's all about the climb!"



*Photos of Chase Brown by Lisa Garrett*



 [tuffskin\\_surfaceprotection](https://www.instagram.com/tuffskin_surfaceprotection)

**TuffSkin**<sup>®</sup>  
SURFACE PROTECTION



**Guaranteed Etch and Stain Proof**  
for your natural stone countertops  
[www.TuffSkin.com](http://www.TuffSkin.com) • 702-778-2272



SCAN HERE





**TRI-TEX**  
ENTERPRISES, INC.

TRI-TEX HAS BEEN A LEADING MANUFACTURER OF WINDOW COVERINGS, BEDDING, AND ACOUSTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY SINCE 1982. VISIT [TRI-TEX.NET](http://TRI-TEX.NET) OR CALL 214.744.1246 FOR MORE INFO

# LAKESIDE VILLAGE IN DESERT SHORES

## A Luxury-Lifestyle Experience

By Elaine & Scott Harris

Las Vegas is world-renowned for its glitz and glitter, but there is so much more, less than 30 minutes from the neon lights. Lakeside Village, located in the affluent Summerlin and Desert Shores, extends a one-of-a-kind experience unmatched in Las Vegas. The cloudless western sky is a deep azure blue, and a gentle breeze caresses the palm trees

adjacent to the sparkling waters of Lake Jacqueline. All these things equate to a place to relish the unique lakeside experience along the shores of this unique pristine desert community oasis.

The Lakeside Village experience allows guests to indulge in world-class cuisine with lakeside views, enjoy a spa treatment, plan a

meeting, or celebrate a wedding of any size. Imagine pampering yourself at the award-winning salon, attending special events at the members-only wine club, and even setting up an office in the executive suites, all within a short walk around the Village.

Anyone looking for a world-class Spa experience in the Las Vegas area need not look any further than the Spa at Lakeside 2.0. With 21 years in the same location owner, Richard Spradling continues beautifying the spa treatment rooms while finding innovative, enhancing ways that contribute to customers' well-being. Package Specials are available, along with individual and couples massage therapy, bodywork, waxing, facials, and now with the addition of Yoga classes. Imagine an invigorating gentle yoga class on the newly built deck within a tranquil oasis setting overlooking the sparkling blue waters. Yoga classes are available with registered RYT200 instructor Brittani Jones. Find your bliss and beauty in the 6,000 square feet of tranquility.

The Village is even home to Rejuvenate Me Medspa that provides a premier rejuvenation of your face, mind, and body! Rejuvenate Me is owned and operated by Marilyn A., a Nurse Practitioner. Marilyn completed her master's degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner through Touro University Nevada, and she continuously expands her training in aesthetic practices through the American Academy of Facial Esthetics. Maintaining that health is linked to lifestyle, her mission is to help people look good



*Marche Bacchus*





and feel good through aesthetics and vitamin IV infusions.

Dannielle Novak at Lakeside Brides knows how to create the perfect look for your special day with the Salon services on Lakeside Village Center's premise. Dannielle and her staff will streamline the client's needs, wants, and desires for that momentous day. With thirty years of experience, Dannielle is a conscientious, licensed professional who is a stickler for PPE protocols, licensing of her staff, and her clients' safety, health, and comfort. "We are about safety, sanitation, and technique," said Dannielle. "We have the passion and talent to do it right for the bride and the bridal party. Our stations overlook gorgeous Lake Jacqueline, where our clients can enjoy complimentary beverages and treats while preparing for their big day."



For those who feel like the length of their hair limits them, extensions are available along with various makeup options from traditional, airbrushing, and fantasy. Las Vegas reigns as the world's wedding capital. Lakeside Brides and Salon holds all the essential services for those wishing to celebrate their nuptials by either on-premises or Mobile services.



"We will come to you wherever you may be to streamline your process; our Mobile services are available for those who may be staying outside of the Lakeside Village Center," added Dannielle. "We provide the safest, most hygienic situation for that all-important day, but we also want to make each of our clients know we are



a full-service salon that is right on the lake.

Angelina McKenzie, office manager at Lakeside Weddings, saw her business drop last year from approximately 35 ceremonies per month down to five or six. “Now we are seeing more micro weddings with under 50 guests,” she said. “Big weddings are not gone, especially as we move to a less restrictive environment. We still are seeing a mix of small, large, and in-between groups, but also there is a huge increase in weddings that are just involving the couple. But now things are picking up again, and we are busy”.

It is no secret that the Lakeside wedding venue is one of the best in Las



Vegas because of its outstanding lake views; sensational lake wedding packages are readily available. There are many options to choose from one of three outdoor locations that showcase stunning lake and garden views – Heritage Garden, Swan Garden, and Grand Garden. Also, a gorgeous fourth outdoor location, Waterfall Garden, features a lovely waterfall and garden view. Additionally, the outdoor venues will allow you to have an exquisite Las Vegas gazebo wedding as well.

Many people have set up a home office these days, but that can be challenging at times. Why not have an executive office with a view? Lakeside Business Suites offers prominent and elegant Lakefront Business Suites showcasing Virtual Offices, Multi-Office Suites, complete with Conference





around New Orleans, excellent food and wine have always been fundamental to them, and you can feel their passion from the moment you walk through the entrance.

Marche presents a variety of traditional and contemporary French dishes, including meat and seafood dishes and Vegetarian/Vegan and Children's menus. Renown Michelin Star Chef Andre Rochat, a pioneer in the Las Vegas dining scene by introducing the city to its first freestanding fine dining experience, is now in the kitchen creating his classic creations.

In addition to dining in, Marché Bacchus is a fully licensed food and liquor caterer for any event you can imagine. Stroll through the wine shop, pick out a nice bottle of wine, take a seat lakeside.



"Americana Restaurant is dining with a blended cultural theme of modern American cuisine with varied European interpretations," said Chef/Owner Stephen Blandino. Blandino is a Staten Island native and passionate about cooking. His food lineage dates to his two Italian grandmothers, where he would spend his time learning how to cook with them. Blandino graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park. After graduating, he worked under Charlie Palmer at Aureole in New York. After a year, Blandino moved to Las Vegas to cook at Aureole Las Vegas, working from line cook to Executive Sous Chef. In 2003, Blandino accepted an offer from Palmer to be the Executive Chef at Charlie Palmer Steak at the Four Seasons Las Vegas.

Rooms and even Kitchen Areas. Located in the heart of the Village, there are many excellent amenities. As a tenant at Lakeside Business Suites, you even have membership access to the Desert Shores Community Clubhouse and the lagoon to enjoy. The luxury business suites extend unparalleled business services and on-site amenities, including virtual offices, multi-office suites, lakefront suites, conference rooms, kitchen areas, and lounges. The Business suites have a highly trained staff, and the facility has 24-hour secured access and on-location security.

Lakeside Village restaurant row provides many options to indulge your palate, from Casual fare to Fine Dining. Marche Bacchus is well known for brilliant sizeable outdoor dining and lakeside views. Owners Jeff and Rhonda Wyatt have quite a history with Marche Bacchus. They purchased the historic venue in October of 2007 after spending the past eight years as loyal customers and friends of the previous owners, Gregoire & Agathe Verge, a couple from Burgundy, France, and never looked back. The Wyatt's are no strangers to the world of excellent food and fine wines. Growing up in and



For casual fare, enjoy breakfast or lunch at Buena Vista Kitchen. Chef Manny Garduno brings his family recipes to your palate and plate with authentic Mexican cuisine. Garduno is known for his special spices and fresh food to the delight of his guests. Dine Al Fresco or take your food to go. No matter which way you choose, you won't be wrong. "Since my early days, I have been fascinated by the Aztecs' influences on Mexican cuisine, and I started to explore everything related to Mexican foods. Some traditional Mexican food dates back thousands of years, and the dishes that the Aztecs and

others ate are still popular today. "My Grandma taught me how to take the fresh produce from the farm directly to the table, as this was the best way to create the most authentic flavors of the traditional Mexican foods. As I grew up, I traveled all through Mexico and the United States in search of the best flavors I could make for my customers and their appetites!" Garduno said with a smile.

Coming soon, James Beard Award-Winning Chef Luciano Pellegrini, who won Best Chef Southwest 2004, will bring two concepts to Lakeside Village. The menu will be

like his current Southern Highland location—Heavenly Pies but with an extended trattoria menu. The other new one will be the exclusive members-only Yacht Club with impressive views of Lake Jacqueline, bringing authentic fine dining to the Village and Desert Shores. The Yacht Club will be a restaurant and offer future lake cruises, wine dinners, live music, and other luxury lifestyle amenities.

Hell's kitchen winner Chef Scott Commings and Chef Manny Garduno combine to open The Daily Bread that will be the perfect place to start your day. Scott



Americana



Pellegrini, Chef Steven Blandino, and Chef Manny Garduno combine prestigious awards and world-class cuisine as perhaps nowhere else in the city can.

The Members-only Vino Las Vegas Wine Club is headed by Sommeliers/Journalists Elaine and Scott Harris and offers a plethora of intimate experiences. Join Elaine Harris as she guides you through your art creation as you enjoy wine in her Art and Wine Classes. Members-only options include seminars by winemakers, industry insiders, and sommeliers.

These seminars will feature domestic wines and wines from Italy, France, Spain, Mexico, and elsewhere on a bimonthly basis. In addition, pull up a seat and enjoy rare and unique wines while dining on a multiple-course paired wine dinner hosted by a winemaker or sommelier. Entertainment and having a good time is what the Vino Las Vegas Wine Club is all about. Stay tuned for many "LIVE" concerts with a lakeside view enjoying brilliant libations while dining and dancing the night away.

Lakeside Village constantly strives to elevate its guests' experience with various luxury lifestyle amenities that will make Lakeside Village your home away from home for locals and visitors alike.

Americana



Comings was a contestant on Season 12 of Hell's Kitchen and was the winner. As a result, he was awarded a head chef position at the Gordon Ramsay Pub & Grill at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The casual eatery will

offer house-made bakery items and much more throughout the day.

Restaurant Row at Lakeside Village with Chef Andre Rochet, Chef Scott Comings, Chef Luciano





Lakeside Village is conveniently located on the lake at 2620 Regatta Drive in the heart of Desert Shores, adjacent to Summerlin. We offer four award-winning restaurants, a community patio, beauty services, including a salon and spa, executive business suites, award-winning wedding and event sites, as well as numerous business services to benefit the Summerlin and Desert Shores community.

*See You at the Village!*

**Lakeside Village Directory**

**Restaurants**

- Americana
- Marche Bacchus
- Buena Vista Kitchen
- Vino Las Vegas Wine Club

**Weddings and Events**

- Lakeside Weddings and Events
- Lakeside Brides Beauty Services
- Buena Vista Kitchen Catering
- Flowers at Lakeside

**Beauty and Wellness**

- The Salon at Lakeside
- Lakeside Yoga at the Spa
- The Spa at Lakeside 2.0
- Rejuvenate Me Med Spa
- Las Vegas Brow

**Lakeside Business Suites**

- Executive Suites
- Lakefont Suites
- Virtual Suites

**Business Services**

- Legal Services
- Insurance Services
- Tax planning, CPA's and Consulting
- Security Services
- Therapy Services
- Graphic Design & Logo Apparel
- Marketing and Web Design
- Real Estate Services

**Moda Fashion Tailors and Dry Cleaning**



@lakesidevillagelasvegas

LakesideVillage.vegas

@lakesidevillagevegas





# FLOAT THERAPY

RELIEVES PAIN, STRESS & DEPRESSION



www.NVFloat.com

702-776-7766

2291 S. Fort Apache Rd.  
Suite 106  
Las Vegas, NV 89117

## NEW CLIENT SPECIAL \$65

(Reg. \$85)



# SALT THERAPY

RELIEVES ALLERGIES, ASTHMA & ANXIETY



**SUMMERLIN**  
702.228.SALT (7258)  
1958 Village Center Cir, Ste 7  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

**HENDERSON**  
702.269.SALT (7258)  
10624 S Eastern Ave, Ste G  
Henderson, NV 89052

## NEW CLIENT SPECIAL 2 for \$35

(Reg. \$35 each)

# A DIFFERENT KIND OF SHOW BUSINESS...

By Ann Parenti

*I*t takes a certain type of personality and desire to be an independent representative of manufacturers, and Mitch Zerg fits that bill without a doubt. Mitch created MZA in 1985, a manufacturers rep firm specializing in products for the architectural and design community with an emphasis on hospitality design products.

It seemed to be in Mitch's blood from the very beginning having come from two generations of furniture and showroom professionals that preceded him. In fact, his mother, Phyllis Zerg, ran a beautiful showroom in Los Angeles called Cal-Mode that was instrumental in getting him an appointment to meet with the owners of Cal-Mode to be a sales rep, and the third generation was born!

Currently, MZA represents a host of impressive brands offering furniture lines for both interior and exterior spaces, lighting, and wall décor. MZA and their Associate Reps have representation in California, Nevada, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. A total of 6 reps are covering these territories.

I asked Mitch to tell me some of the most recent and memorable



installations his firm and manufacturers have participated in. He mentioned The Virgin Hotel, the renovation of Bellagio, the renovation of Wynn Resort, and even the new Barry's Prime Room in the

new Circa Hotel—all the properties mentioned are in Las Vegas. He then recalled some of his other favorite installations that were swanky, to say the least, like Montage in Healdsburg, California,



and he loved working on the outdoor experience at the new Resort World in Las Vegas. He enjoyed the finished look of the Waldorf Astoria in Beverly Hills and The Peninsula Beverly Hills. One of the most reinventing installations was The Four Seasons in Westlake Village, California. With a territory that vast, staff of that size, and a list of clients that long, I suspect he doesn't sleep much, but when he does, he has some of the most beautiful resorts to rest in.

I remember meeting Mitch back in the '80s when I was just beginning my own rep firm that I opened in 1987. At one point for a moment in time, while mentoring my friend Jan Garrity who was interested in becoming a rep, we added Mitch's products to my offering of lines. Jan went on to open and run her own very successful firm not long after that until she passed away. Mitch and I stayed friends and colleagues throughout the years and have continued to cross paths time and time again at industry functions and trade shows. One of our recent reunions was the Hospitality Design (HD21) trade show at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas this past season. Mitch had several brave manufacturers showing, but my firms chose not to during this Covid calamity, so I went as a guest for the first time in 30 years. Since I had a little more time on my hands this time around, I got a chance to catch up with Mitch a little more and pose a few more questions to him.

I asked Mitch how he saw the design world changing over the next five years since Covid arrived?



He replied, "It will bring a new engagement in intimacy for hospitality guestrooms and public space areas. A new and fresh way of gathering will be created in commercial design, keeping comfort and social spacing forefront. A lot has already been put into play using antimicrobial textiles and wallcoverings and easily cleaned surfaces." He then went on to say, "Our clients strive to bring comfort and peace of mind to their client's projects, and with our help in creating more of these types of products mentioned, it can be accomplished with ease and not compromise the design concept at all."

I then asked him what advice he would give a young entrepreneur trying to break into our field now? His first reply was, "They better have deep pockets!" All kidding aside, he then went on to say, "The next generation of reps need to be extremely social and involve

themselves in as many of the industry organizations as possible. Not just as an attendee, but as a board member or a committee member to participate in whatever way they can. Also, they must always support their manufacturers by attending industry tradeshow and being present and attentive to the visitors that stop by even if the client is not from their territory." Mitch was trying to convey that teamwork is a standard in our industry and will always be.

This unique industry takes a person with an entrepreneurial spirit, loves working with creatives, and is a bit of an entertainer and sometimes comedian. A person with product knowledge, knows logistics, and honors clients' lead times and deadlines. They must have a heart of gold and enjoy helping others in and outside of the industry, always finding a way to smile. And that, my friends, is Mitch Zerg to a tee.

MZA

HOSPITALITY · CONTRACT · SITE · ARCHITECTURE  
R E P R E S E N T A T I O N

NEVADA

CONTRACT – PALACES – LANDSCAPES – HEALTHCARE  
COUNTRY CLUBS – CASTLES – YURTS – WINERIES  
RESTAURANTS – POOL & SPA - PAVILIONS – NIGHT CLUBS  
PUBLIC AREAS – INSTITUTIONAL – RESORTS – CRUISE  
SHIPS - GUEST ROOMS – LOBBIES – UNIVERSITIES  
OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS – CASINOS – SUITES  
H O S P I T A L I T Y

818.991.4200 - mza-usa.com



# ABOUT TOWN



**Above: #1 Birthday at MONZÚ for Jerry Jones**

**Top from Left:** Peggy Blair, Elizabeth Jones, Tad Nakano, Kelly Clinton-Holmes, Kenny Davidsen, Jerry Jones, Michelle Rothstein, John DiDomenico, Kurt Davidsen, Rita Davidsen

**Bottom from Left:** Jeff Celentano, Rob Hyatt, Clint Holmes, Dennis Blair, Anne Martinez, John Martinez

**The Pahrump Valley Winery Stompalooza**

**At Left:** Terrell Newberry, Melissa Newberry

**Below:** The Nite Kings - Skip Petronzio, Mike Candito, Angelo Mastro, Victor Moea. On Piano – David Wold, Drums – Rafael Erardy, Bass – Michael Batchelder, Guitar – Eric Walters







**St. Jude Heart of Fashion** (Photography by Susie Magit)

**Above:** Brenda Weems, Anne Fontaine, Sondra Lynch, Susie Magit, Phree Bartley

**Right:** Anne Fontaine

**Below:** Cindy Wilke Birkland, Ann Parenti, Evette Bakke, Debbie Karr, Anne Fontaine, Cheri Robertson, Sahar Halum, Anna Stewart Vian Billings, Susie Magit, Sondra Lynch



**Best Buddies** (Photography by Susie Magit)

**Below:** Cynthia Abrams Hubert, Susie Magit, Betsy Dickinson, Anna Stewart Vian Billings, Kellie Connolly, Paula Lawrence, Vickie Rutledge Shields



**18th Annual Athena Awards** (Photography by Susie Magit)

**Above:** Kate Zhong, Wendy Schweigart, Anna Stewart Vian Billings, Christina Vela-Vreeland





**2021 Annual VIVA Awards**

(Photography by Susie Magit)

**Top Left:** Philip Fortenberry and Andrea Thomas

**Top Middle:** Brent Barrett, Robert DelValle Brown, Andrea Thomas

**Top Right:** Brent Barrett, Sergio Gamboa, Andrea Thomas

**Right:** Brent Barrett, Marie Bender, Andrea Thomas

**Joseph & Pauline Amato Wedding**

(Photography by Ingo Markmann courtesy of Cashman Photo of Nevada, Inc.)

**Bottom Left:** Pauline & Joseph Amato exiting the Lavender Chapel at Wynn Las Vegas Resort

**Bottom Right:** Pauline & Joseph Amato at their wedding reception held at Ferraro's Restaurant and Wine Bar. Wedding cake provided by Freed's Bakery



---

# THE AFICIONADO

## BY VICTOR B COHEN

For those who enjoy the finer things in life, step into luxury with our latest offering from the VBC Cigars brand. Renowned for its high-quality cigars, VBC Cigars and the Aficionado shoe now invite you to experience luxury from head to toe!

These limited-edition stylish kicks are not mass produced or available at department stores. Each exclusive pair is made to order in Italy by skilled Italian artisans using only the finest Italian materials.

This sleek low profile luxury slip-on is constructed with embossed Italian leather. The external elasticated stripe adds a striking touch of color and hugs the foot for lasting comfort. A supportive padded ankle collar will have you comfortable and stylish from dusk till dawn.

Embossed with the VBC Cigars brand logo, our shoes are a perfect pairing of style and comfort. Our packaging also exudes luxury, with a limited-edition box with the highest quality printing and magnetic clasp to complement the VBC cigar box design. Every luxurious detail was conceived and designed with cigar aficionados in mind by Victor B. Cohen.

Dressed up or down, you'll be ready for a stroll in the park or down the red carpet at your next VIP event. You'll be turning heads for sure. These shoes are not only attention seekers; they're smokin'!!

Available exclusively at:

**[vbccigars.com](http://vbccigars.com)**

*Enjoy free express shipping for the USA, United Kingdom, and Europe. 100% satisfaction guaranteed and hassle-free returns. Sizing is offered US men's size 7 to 13 1/2.*





**YOUR SOURCE FOR:**



Estate & Asset Protection



Investment Advisory



Financial planning



Private Family Banking



Wealth Management



Business Succession

# ORGANIZE YOUR FINANCIAL LIFE

*The majority has never been right about anything.  
Change your thinking and you change your life.*

702.430.4400

AlphaOmegaWealth.com

5285 S Durango Dr., Suite 1  
Las Vegas, NV 89113



**ALPHA OMEGA WEALTH**

*Changing lives forever.*

Joe Pantozzi  
Founder / CEO

Securities and Advisory Services offered through Ameritas Investment Corp. (AIC).  
Member FINRA/SIPC. AIC is not affiliated with any 3rd parties mentioned.







3500 Las Vegas Blvd S, Las Vegas, NV 89109  
The Forum Shops at Caesars, Suite S35 / (702) 733-6205

ANNE FONTAINE