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INSPIRATIONS

Sherry Glines: Gracious Steward of a Nurturing Space

Sherry Glines might have officially retired from corporate life, but that word hardly describes her life today, with her artistic pursuits and accounting support to her children’s businesses. A walk around her carefully landscaped property and through her immaculate home emphasizes the love and care she extends to family, friends and community.



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TIE THE KNOT



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SPARK JOY!

Oops!

We are sorry that the SJ Medical Society Scene and be Seen feature in February had the incorrect photos! They were the photos from their previous year’s event. Throughout the month we will be posting the correct photos on social media and all digital platforms. We are excited for their new president, Cyrus Buhari, and wish him a successful term as president! To err is human. And we did!

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FRESH STARTS



Spring is right around the corner, and it's one of my favorite times of the year! Not only are we entering a time where we get to work in the yard and do some spring

cleaning, the weather is getting nicer so we can move the parties to the outside patio and gather for some delicious, home-cooked meals.

My love for spring has been in my blood since I was a little girl. Some of the best memories of my childhood were running around in my grandparents' backyard and sneaking tomatoes off the vine in their garden. I still love the smell of fresh-cut grass (golfers, you know what I'm talking about), and seeing the fresh blooms on citrus trees. It was always a chore clearing the flower beds, but I now find great joy in it, knowing that I get to pick out new plants for the coming season. With the beautiful weather right around the corner, I am super excited to get outside, dig in the dirt and work with family and friends on projects around the house!

This issue is chock full of ideas for "fresh starts"—new additions to your garden, updates to your home, and for some, wedding ideas! Additionally, you will see an article on Sherry Glines. She has a gift that

inspires me. She is extremely artistic and is talented in creating spaces that are welcoming. Her home is filled with intentional spaces to connect with others in an environment that is relaxing.

So, let's stroll through Sherry's home and be inspired to create a space for gathering with family and friends where we can create memories that will last a lifetime.

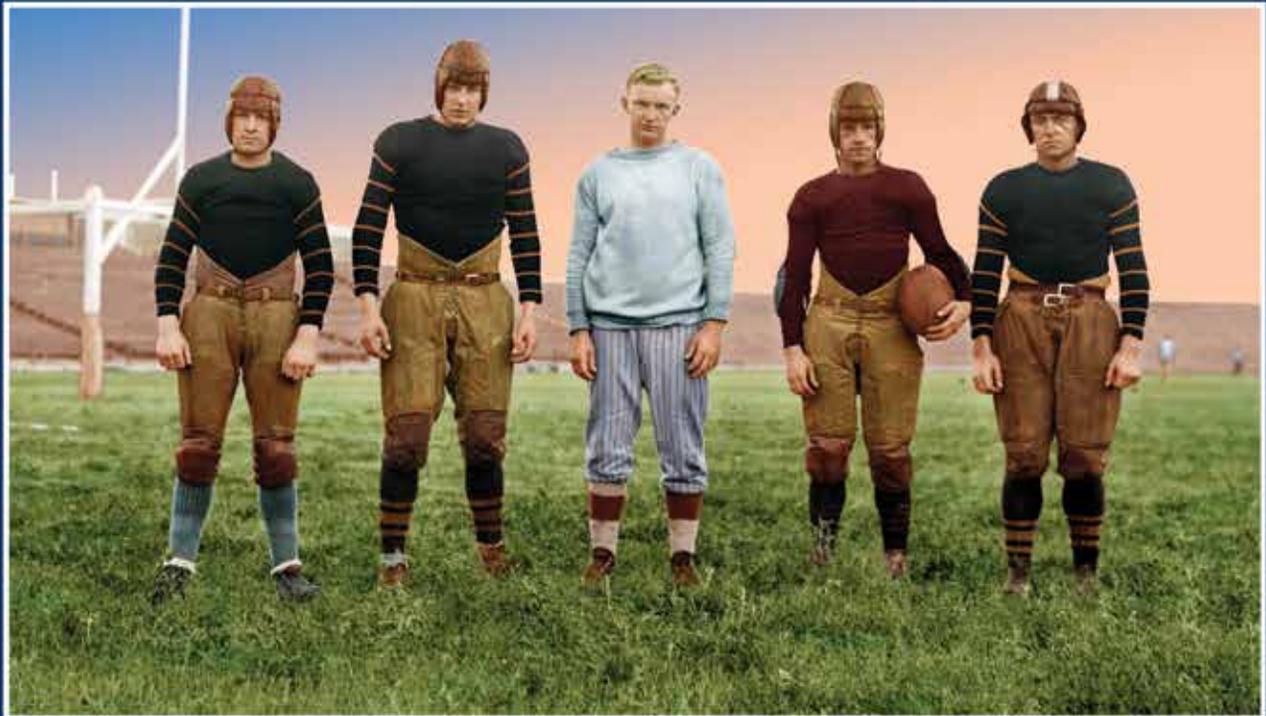
Kids Shining Brightly and Wag Tales have been my favorite parts of the magazine! Take a look as we highlight McKenna Anderson. I am amazed by her servant's heart. McKenna, who currently serves as the student body president for Lodi High School, volunteers any chance she gets to do good for others. In Wag Tales, you will read about Emi, who rescued a four-week-old cat and regularly helps other animals in need. Her acts of kindness are a reminder that with a little love, you can change a life. I hope these young ladies don't just inspire you but lead you to take a step toward doing something that benefits others within our community!

Enjoy every moment,

Anna
ANNA SASS

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M A G A Z I N E

PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Carrie Sass
carrie@herlifemagazine.com

Anna Sass
anna@herlifemagazine.com

EDITOR

Marilyn Isaminger

ART DIRECTOR

Elana Bell

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Casey Olson

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Monica LoBue
monica@herlifemagazine.com

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Meg Dieter, Rachel Fenton, Jeff Gamboni, Jack Jacobs,
Kathleen Jennison, Mary Raffetto, Catie Watson, Janelle Wilkinson

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Caroline's Photography, Rachel Fenton, Ann Ishii,
Helen Ripken, Sydney Spurgeon

CONTACT HERLIFE[®] MAGAZINE

628 Lincoln Center
Stockton, CA 95207
209-475-8896

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CVINFO@HERLIFEMAGAZINE.COM

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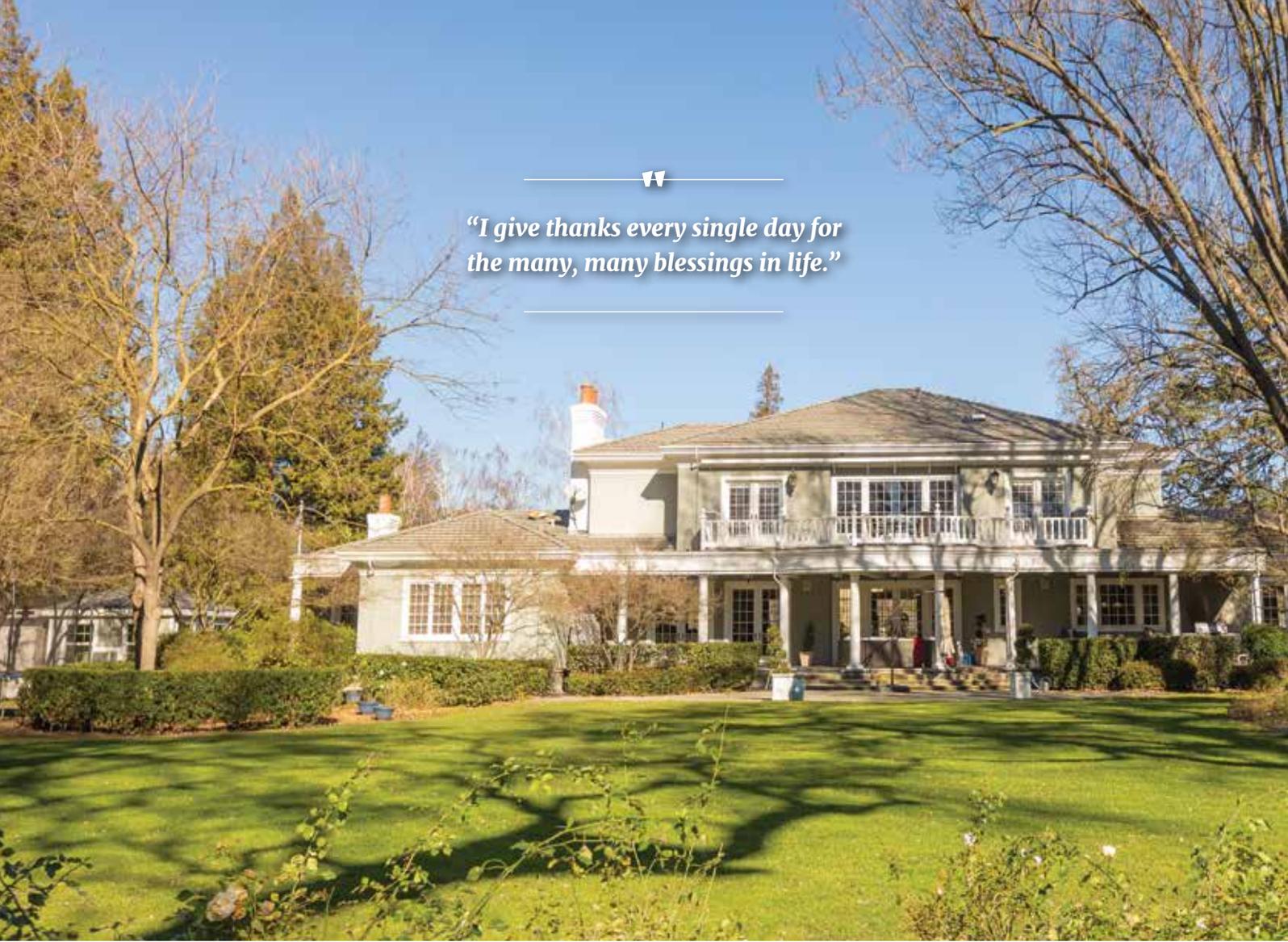
GRACIOUS STEWARD OF A NURTURING SPACE

BY MARY RAFFETTO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANN ISHII

Before she retired in 2007, Sherry Leddy Glines was a traveling CFO for psychiatric hospitals. Her expertise was always in demand and kept her moving from one locale to another; she often navigated snow and bitter storms to get the job done. “I was a California girl; I wasn’t used to that kind of winter!” she said. “Six months in Chicago, then Oregon, then Ohio. In Virginia we had a hurricane and I had to spend the night sleeping on the floor in the hospital!” Perhaps it’s no surprise that “cozy” and “comfort” figure so largely in her decorating style to this day.



*"I give thanks every single day for
the many, many blessings in life."*





As a CFO, precision was everything, creativity not so much. Sherry never thought she was artistic whatsoever during those years. It was only later, when she received her first set of acrylic paints as a gift from her now-grown kids, that she discovered a love of painting. A gorgeous rendition of a red barn hangs over her fireplace and Sherry nodded when asked if she painted it. “It’s very therapeutic” she said, smiling. Her style is a far cry from the pinpoint exactitude of managing hospital finances. “I’m not super into details; I’m more impressionistic,” she explained. Although Sherry sees painting as a hobby, she recently produced a series of angels that were sold to benefit the Animal Protection League. She continues to create her serene impressionist works as inspiration strikes and she has painted several series of churches and old barns set in peaceful landscapes, all gentle yet vibrant, like the artist herself.

SKILL SETS

The years of working at one hospital after another are behind her, but Sherry isn’t letting her financial expertise languish. She does all the bookkeeping for several local establishments, including her son-in-law’s produce company and her son’s boat repair business, and she spends at least three days per week at TrendE, her daughter Erica’s Elk Grove clothing boutique. Erica Jordan inherited her mom’s hospitality gene and regularly organizes parties for her customers featuring charcuterie and champagne, much to their delight. “There weren’t a lot of boutiques in Elk Grove,” Sherry related. “The customers are very appreciative, plus we have a lot of Stockton and Lodi shoppers who come by regularly to check out the latest apparel, gifts and jewelry.” For every purchase, TrendE donates \$1 to a select charity. “We call it Purchase with Purpose and it’s a nice way for us to give back.”

Giving back is something Sherry does very generously at her own residence as well, where she and her husband, Tim, have hosted numerous charitable events, including the Garden Fair, Policeman’s Ball and several weddings. “I just like people to enjoy it,” she affirmed. “When we moved in, we met what we like to call our Ladies of the Lawn, two garden experts who had been tending the property since it was built.” The ladies told her that, of all the owners, she was the only one who worked hands on in the garden. Sherry especially enjoys filling the pots and containers with colorful flowers throughout the year and finds that hosting special events gives her an added incentive to make sure everything looks its very best.

PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT

Beside the grand drive stands an elegant, tiered fountain welcoming guests and beckoning them to enter. Redwoods and heritage oaks abound, some more than a century in age. These grand trees preside over the stately Southern traditional home, its dove gray elevation crisply edged with white trim. Tucked among the trees, just behind the home, sits a charming art studio, built by a friend’s son, where Sherry goes to create, and where she encourages her grandchildren to paint when they visit. As if nestled in a forest, the quiet is punctuated only by birds and busy squirrels. The stillness

feels lush and timeless, the perfect setting for creativity to flow.

Approximately three acres, the property is landscaped specifically to create the sense of “rooms” or special areas in the garden. Whether one is lounging beside the crystalline swimming pool, visiting the gazebo or strolling the lawns, each area provides a unique experience. The koi pond is large enough to entertain the grandkids racing on kayaks; it’s surrounded by crape myrtle trees whose brilliant blooms explode with color mid-summer while Japanese maples, calla lilies and lush ferns thrive in the cool shade beneath. Three large egret statues nestle among the plants, creating extra visual interest, while on the other side of the pond mature pines line the perimeter of a sprawling lawn with a hammock and Adirondack chairs for relaxing and enjoying the view. The gazebo overlooks the pond and serves as a beautiful spot for photos and portraits, especially at dusk when the fountains are illuminated, creating a magical ambiance.

Behind the pond, a massive fig tree grows beside lemon, orange and grapefruit trees. Nearby, a shadowy nook is home to Sherry’s “frog garden,” a charming display of stone amphibians merry making around a fountain, all gifts from family and friends. In addition to the art studio, there is a play area for the kids. It includes a playhouse painted to match the house, kid-size lounge chairs complete with umbrella, a swing set and a trampoline. Walkways meander throughout the property, connecting the different areas. “I love walking with the dogs every morning, taking in the beauty of my surroundings,” she described. Framed by verdant hedges, the expansive landscape features bronze statues and an array of hydrangeas, white baby roses and agapanthus, all blooming seasonally among the white birch trees and Japanese maples. It’s no surprise that Sherry said “the yard,” as she humbly calls it, is her favorite part of the residence.

ELEGANT COMFORT

Touring the home’s interior is every bit as wonderful as walking the gardens. In the foyer, a large round table makes a stunning first impression, adorned with Jan Barbaglio accessories in a chinoiserie theme while a 1918 Steinway grand piano, an anniversary



gift, sits in the alcove. A beautiful iron stairway winds gracefully up to the guest bedrooms and, Sherry noted, “it provides a great photo spot for showcasing a bride.” Designed with comfort and beauty in mind, the guest bedrooms feature French doors and large balconies overlooking the grounds. They are nicknamed The King’s Room and The Queen’s Room, a nod to the more masculine and feminine decor of each, while The Grandkids’ Room has three twin beds and whimsical art, making it a space they dearly love to visit.

The office, just off the foyer, showcases a Resolute desk, a replica of the President’s desk in the Oval Office. It has the open door made famous by little John-John Kennedy as he peeped out while his dad, John F. Kennedy, worked. “I’ve replicated that photo using my small grandkids!” Sherry laughed. Across the extra-wide hallway is the formal dining room where Sherry keeps the table decorated year-round highlighting different themes and holidays. “From a beautiful chinoiserie and lemons theme to using my grandmother’s Franciscan apple dishes and creating a festive apple theme, it’s one of my favorite things to do!”

In the formal living room, white sofas face one another over a gleaming marble-topped coffee table from CR Porter Home. Large bookcase armoires flank the fireplace, adding to the room’s cozy elegance that is further enhanced by a Persian rug more than 100 years old. A collection of Sid Dickens tiles adorns one wall, while accessories and pillows unify the room with a teal blue color scheme. Just down the hall, the Primary Suite features a boutique-style closet, which, to Sherry’s surprise, came with a washer and dryer. At first, she thought it was excessive and that she would never need them. Now, totally won over by its practicality, she said, “It’s a new must-have for me!”

Sherry described the family room as “truly all inclusive. Our two rescue German shepherds are the main accessories here. The decor is casual, and our well-behaved dogs know the furniture is off limits!” The adjacent five-car garage is partially occupied by Tim’s woodworking shop, where he creates frames for her art, among other things. Above the garage is a 1,200-square-foot apartment with all the amenities of a home. It is beautifully decorated by Tammy Kelley and truly embraces a cozy nest aesthetic enhanced by the views that overlook the grounds.

TRUE TO TRADITION

An avid fisherman, Tim enjoyed boating on the California Delta, but ultimately he fell in love with Clearlake, where the couple

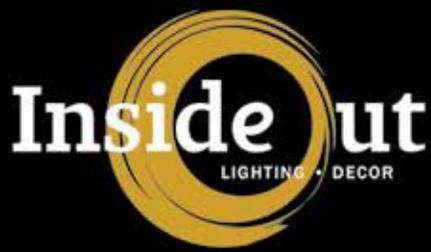
eventually bought a second home. Built into a hillside, it overlooks the lake where Tim and guests enjoy fishing for largemouth bass. The climate and deer are not conducive to a garden, but the motto is “all fishermen welcome!”

Sherry, however, was raised in Watsonville, and she longed to spend time closer to the coast. She had several friends in Carmel and was thrilled when she found the perfect investment, a 1980 Cotswold-style cottage right next door to one of them. “I love a project!” she said with delight. Guided by her interior designer, Tammy Kelley, renovations began and soon the cottage was bursting with charm inside and out. The Carmel climate keeps flowers blooming year-round. Just inside the quaint wooden gate, primroses, cyclamen, begonias, heathers and boxwoods create a joyful symphony of color along a winding brick path leading toward the front door.

The interior, furnished in peaceful shades of light blues and greens, has whitewashed cabinets, pale hardwood floors, woven wood blinds and plump white slipcovered sofas and chairs perfect for entertaining or just enjoying some quiet time. “A visitor once described sitting beside the wood burning fireplace as like getting a warm hug,” Sherry smiled. She also took extra care with the backyard sitting area to ensure the comfort of her guests. “It’s an ideal spot to enjoy a nice charcuterie and wine from one of the many surrounding wineries.”

Sherry is a talented decorator in her own right but prefers to give all credit to her interior designer, Tammy Kelley. “She was instrumental in helping me stay true to the architecture of each home, from my traditional Southern to the lakeside cabin and Carmel cottage beach house styles. At the time we furnished these homes, Tammy owned CR Porter Home in Lincoln Center. We went to market in Los Angeles and Las Vegas to purchase furnishings and accessories. Tammy has since sold CR Porter and continues to offer design services as TK Designs.”

Whether she’s carefully tending to the business of bookkeeping, designing a garden or creating a space to nurture loved ones, Sherry always focuses with gratitude on the positives, her family, grandchildren and friends. “I give thanks every single day for the many, many blessings in life.” ♦



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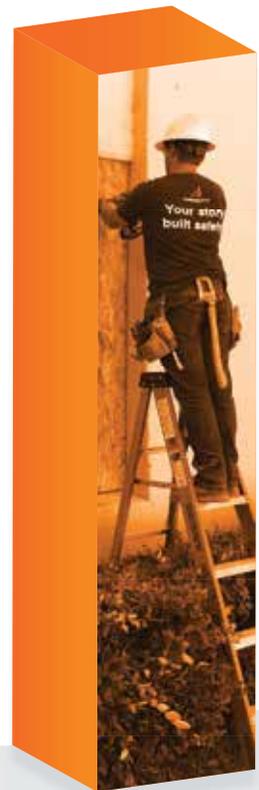
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JACKIE LUNA

BY HERLIFE STAFF

Jackie Luna, a Realtor with Cornerstone Real Estate Group, sat down with HERLIFE Magazine recently to share her dedication to family and community.



HLM: How long have you lived here? What do you love most?

JL: I've lived in Stockton all 40 years of my life and love the people and passion of our community as well as the location! My first love is travel, so being able to go both to the mountains as well as the beach in an afternoon is perfect.

HLM: How is your heart inspired to serve the community?

JL: We are blessed that our community has so many people doing immense good for our local charities, organizations, animals and causes. I take such pride in supporting and serving a multitude of these organizations both in Stockton and Lodi.

HLM: What sparks joy for you?

JL: There are so many joy sparks in my life: morning coffee with my husband, bikes rides with Aiden, long walks with the dogs, dinners with friends. The most joy in my life comes from times spent with my husband, son, friends and family. Any and all moments that have brought me joy have included the people I love the most.

HLM: Top three bucket list goals?

JL: Golf index to be a single digit; run a half marathon; fluency in a second language.

HLM: What accomplishment are you most proud of?

JL: Recognition as a Lodi Association of Realtors Master Club member my first year as a full-time Realtor. Receiving this recognition was such an honor and a true testament to my dedication and commitment to the profession as well as my clients. It's one thing to do what you love, but it's another to be recognized for it. True honor.

HLM: Can you describe a key event that had an impact on your life?

JL: Becoming a mom. I had always heard the phrase "the love for a child is like no other," but never fully grasped the meaning of it until

my Aiden graced my world with his presence. His kind and gentle heart, sense of humor, infectious smile and zest for life have had me enamored since day one. Becoming Aiden's mom is and will always be the most important job and purpose for my life. God has blessed me in so many ways, but becoming Aiden's mom takes the cake!

HLM: How do you spend time outside work?

JL: My first passion is traveling. In 2022 we set off on so many beautiful adventures (Lake Tahoe, London, Paris and Florida to name a few). Apart from traveling I love reading, golfing and anything involving my husband and son. My golfing was put on hold this year due to an ankle break, but you'll be seeing me back on the golf course come spring 2023.

HLM: What's your favorite quote?

JL: "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style." - Maya Angelou

HLM: What are you currently reading?

JL: *The Untethered Soul* by Michael Alan Singer.

HLM: Favorite food or dessert?

JL: Cheesecake - anything cheesecake is my absolute weakness! I can honestly say I've never encountered a cheesecake I didn't like. ♦

RENOVATING YOUR WHOLE HOME?

You Need a Team

BY KATHLEEN JENNISON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAROLINE'S PHOTOGRAPHY



It's finally time to tackle that whole-home renovation project that's been on your list. Ideas are plentiful, but between meetings, travel and the kids' activities, time is lacking. And even if you had the time, are you confident enough that you can produce the cohesive results you have in mind on your own? It's not long before the dreaded decision fatigue begins to set in.

Fortunately, there's a better way. You can create the home of your dreams with the

right people by your side. You need a team. It's important to understand hiring a team for your home renovation, how each member plays a crucial part in the process, and when to hire the right people.

STEP 1: HIRE THE RIGHT FIRST TEAM MEMBER

You're renovating your entire home. The rooms should flow together effortlessly, and the overall design should feel intentional. Al-

though it may be tempting, it's best not to begin by exploring showrooms and home improvement stores and choosing individual elements for your project. That piece-by-piece method will usually lead to costly mistakes.

For example, your traditional living room furniture should flow with the modern update of your kitchen. By selecting furnishings one at a time, there's a good chance it won't. After a whole-home renovation, you don't want to have to remodel the remodel (we don't want this to happen to you!) or spend even more money on furnishings that match. Instead, start with a clear plan and start with the right team member. Start by hiring an interior designer.

WHY AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?

When we at KTJ Design work with families on whole-home renovations, we follow our tried-and-true design process, get to know your needs, and create a comprehensive plan before any purchasing, demolition or renovating begins. Your budget guidelines are important to us, and the best way to respect that is by avoiding costly mistakes from the beginning.

In order to pave the way for smooth, efficient progress with your project, we plan everything ahead. From furnishings to hard finishes, it's all accounted for in the budget before one penny is spent.

So, what does our design process entail? Here is a quick summary...

1. We get to know your family, needs, lifestyle and goals.
2. We develop a comprehensive floor plan with custom-designed features as needed, including built-ins, storage solutions and cabinetry.
3. We advise on the best materials, finishes and other design elements to fit the functionality, style and price point of your home. We care about your ROI.
4. We create two or three comprehensive design plans that fit your needs and vision. We'll present 3D renderings with preliminary ideas for floor plans, furnishings and materials for your project.

We can alter all the plans above as needed until we find the perfect solutions for you. Now, doesn't that sound so much better than roaming the aisles of a tile showroom? Honed over many years, our process



delivers the best possible results. Want to see for yourself? These are the exact steps we took for our recent Sun West Lodi renovation.

STEP 2: HIRE THE RIGHT CONSTRUCTION TEAM

With a meticulously detailed design plan for your whole home in hand, you're ready to hire the

team members who will bring your vision to life. But with so many options, choosing these team members could potentially be yet another overwhelming decision to make, especially if you're unfamiliar with the industry.

However, an added benefit of working with a designer ahead of time is that we generally have our own team of contractors, or if not, we can make recommendations based on previous projects. If you've received referrals from family and friends, it's worth the time spent to vet them thoroughly before selecting one. It's a big investment and you want to feel perfectly comfortable and confident with the team you're hiring and inviting into your home.

Quotes and timelines will come in from contractors, and thankfully, you still have your trusted designer to assist you during this part of the process. The time spent carefully selecting every material, finish and element for your new home pays off with the accuracy of the quotes you receive. Armed with your vetted options, quotes and guidance from your designer, you're ready to select and hire your construction team.

STEP 3: LET THE CONSTRUCTION BEGIN

Your team is assembled! At this point, your designer will play yet another essential role in the renovation process. Once construction is ready to begin, we oversee the entire project from start to finish. We will communicate with both the construction team and you, ensuring that all design decisions are carried out and the project runs as smoothly as possible.

Remember, costly mistakes are often made when the team members are hired out of order. Therefore, it's critical to get a designer on your team first, so you can have a solid plan for a cohesive and comfortable home that you'll be proud to share.

STEP 4: DON'T FORGET THE FURNISHINGS

Many homeowners will forget that their fully renovated home is going to look a little familiar if they move in all their old, worn furniture, especially if they had no great love for those items in the first place. My opinion? If you're putting in the work to renovate your entire home, you deserve to move into a space that looks and feels



Breathtaking kitchens, show-stopping master suites, and swoon-worthy living rooms are all in a day's work for Certified Interior Designer Kathleen Jennison. She specializes in helping creative, stylish homeowners take their spaces from basic and bland to beautiful, functional and truly unique. Starting with a brand-new home? Kathleen and her team at KTJ Design will take away the stress, worry and decision overload and help you make first-rate selections every step of the way. Remodeling your existing place? She's got you covered there, too; her award-winning combination of wisdom, experience and fabulous taste will turn your big vision into reality while saving you from costly mistakes. With her extensive credentials, including a bachelor's degree in interior design and business administration, and stunning portfolio of past projects, Kathleen Jennison is the accomplished designer you've been looking for.

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like new.

Another advantage to working with our team is that we will help you select the right furnishings for your home during the process, blending old and new, if desired, to create a fresh sense of style that still feels like your own. We'll discuss your furnishings investment during our preliminary conversations to make sure that we're allocating the right funds toward furniture as needed. Then, we'll oversee the process of procuring furnishings during construction to have as many ready as possible to install after construction wraps-up. Easy. ♦

REAL ESTATE INVESTING: THE OPTIONS

BY CATIE WATSON

Residential real estate is a dependable long-term investment if you're willing to spend time and money on a rental property. An attractive alternative is an REIT, or real estate investment trust, which lets people invest in residential real estate without taking on homeowner responsibilities.

An REIT is a company that owns and operates income-producing real estate, making it possible for everyday investors to profit from property ownership. An REIT uses money contributed by a group of people to buy housing and rent it to tenants. The properties covered by a residential REIT include single-family homes, apartments, townhomes, condos, student housing and manufactured housing. When properties are bought and sold by an REIT, it's always with the goal of improving the return to investors.

Like stocks and mutual funds, REITs pay dividends to investors; they are required by law to return 90 percent of their income. Investors can sell REIT funds for a profit when they increase in value. They don't come risk free, however, because there's no guarantee that an REIT's assets will increase in value during the time your money is invested.

Some REITs are also in the housing development market. One example is The Peak Group, an REIT in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area, which builds homes to add to its investment fund. The company calls this the build-to-rent approach to property acquisition and believes it will become more popular as the millennial generation starts families while facing student loan debt and the lack of affordable housing for sale.

REIT VS. DIRECT REAL ESTATE INVESTING

There are distinct differences between putting money into a residential REIT and buying real estate directly. When you invest in property such as a single-family home or apartment building, you make money from rent and property appreciation. You are also eligible for



tax breaks for property management and maintenance costs and may get a break for property depreciation.

In exchange for these benefits, direct investing requires the investor's time and energy. You must secure financing, find suitable tenants and deal with maintenance issues. Once you've bought some investment property, you've tied up your cash and it won't be available if you need it in an emergency. Not

keeping up with mortgage payments means you'll default on the loan and may lose the property.

One of the biggest advantages of an REIT is that it allows many people who otherwise couldn't afford it to invest in real estate. Experts note that you can invest in an REIT fund for as little as \$500. REITs are stable investments that offer dividend yields of 5 percent or higher. The liquidity of REIT funds is another attraction. You can sell public REITs on an exchange like stocks.

Investors may experience some disadvantages with REITs. There are no tax breaks for money invested in an REIT, and fluctuating interest rates may affect the value of the fund. Also, if an REIT fund isn't spread across several real estate markets, oversupply in one market can hurt occupancy rates and reduce rental income.

REIT IMPACT ON THE SINGLE-FAMILY MARKET

Although REITs may be beneficial for investors, many wonder if the rising popularity of REITs is distorting the market for single-family homes. Forbes Magazine notes, "The goal of the traditional home buyer is the manifestation of a dream, but for the REIT it's something else. For them, it is all about the ROI." Homeown-

ership has long played a big part in the American dream. For many families, it's the sole source of generational wealth. Do REITs pose a threat to that dream?

Home prices are rising across the nation. In many regions, first-time home buyers are being priced out of the market. As a result, demand for rental properties is also high. Many people must rent while they save for a down payment and build up their credit to qualify for a mortgage. Increasingly, the property they rent may be owned by an REIT.

In the real estate market, REITs have an edge over individuals. They can pay cash and above market value to make quick deals. REITs have created a new class of property owners: institutional investors who some accuse of widening the gap between poor and wealthy Americans.

On the other hand, although many feel REITs contribute to the concentration of real estate wealth in the hands of the few, they are a small slice of home ownership in America. The National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts reports that REITs owned about 3 million residential properties out of a total market of 140 million properties at the end of 2020. In most areas, local ordinances that block new construction are a bigger threat to renters who want to become homeowners than REITs. ♦

SOURCES: *theatlantic.com, forbes.com, investopedia.com, nareit.com and rocketmortgage.com.*



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With Garden Flair



FURNISHINGS AND ACCESSORIES TO PERSONALIZE YOUR HOME AND GARDEN

BY JANELLE WILKINSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SYDNEY SPURGEON

A love for gardening, entertaining with friends and family and over 50 years of retail background gave birth to With Garden Flair, located in the heart of the Miracle Mile in Stockton. Owners Rick Ladd and Jeff Gibson will celebrate 18 years in business, proudly serving the San Joaquin Valley area, in April 2023. The store carries outdoor furnishings, decorative garden ornamentation and unique accessories for the home.



Whether you're dreaming of a new dining area or entertaining, With Garden Flair can assist you in fulfilling all your outdoor needs. With Garden Flair has a wide variety of furniture vendors including O.W. Lee, Hanamint, Summer Classics and Winston, from which you can choose from hundreds of fabric options that will speak to your style and personality to customize your outdoor space. In addition, With Garden Flair carries Treasure Garden umbrellas and cantilevers that will add a perfect shade solution for you and your garden.

One of the newest additions to With Garden Flair are the beautiful and fun Alfa pizza ovens, which are imported from Italy and will knock your "dough" socks off. A variety of pizza oven sizes cook pizzas, but they're not limited to just pizza; home chefs can cook meat, fish, pasta and other dishes in them, making them perfect for your outdoor entertaining needs. Available in wood burning or propane/natural gas, Alfa pizza ovens can reach up to 1,000 degrees, ideal for making the perfect Neapolitan pizza.

Rick and Jeff are constantly searching and traveling for inspiration to bring in new, unique and extraordinary items for customers. They carry a wide assortment of interior gifts and accessories that include silk flowers, decorative pots, greeting cards and candles. Also in the store, you will find an indoor and outdoor statuary from a 110-year-old family-owned company in Chicago. They carry a wide variety of beautiful and unusual wall plaques, fountains, containers and planters.



One of the newest additions to With Garden Flair are the beautiful and fun Alfa pizza ovens, which are imported from Italy and will knock your "dough" socks off.

Come October, With Garden Flair is transformed into a beautiful holiday winter wonderland. The store is filled with holiday trees, ornaments, gifts and stocking stuffers for people of all ages. With Garden Flair showcases the largest Mark Roberts assortment of fairies, Santas, elves and ornaments here in the San Joaquin Valley. Included in their holiday assortment is JingleNog, known for heirloom-quality European glass ornaments made in Italy and Poland. Have you ever wanted to have your tree decorated for the holidays? Look no further, Rick and Jeff have been decorating trees for more than ten years now; book your home today for the next holiday season.

With Garden Flair has been fortunate to have the support and loyalty of its incredible customers and community for the past 18 years. Rick and Jeff enjoy watching neighborhood families grow. Small kids that stood next to Santa Claus during the holiday season are now off to college, and families pop in with their dogs to say hello and grab a dog treat. Be sure to visit With Garden Flair on the Miracle Mile for your gardening, entertaining and gift-giving needs throughout the year. ♦



2023 PLEDGE TO YOUR HEALTH!

Presented by Pacific Homecare Services, the St. Joseph's 14th annual 5K Fun Run/Walk for Wellness was held on January 28 at University Park in Midtown Stockton. It was a family-friendly community event and all proceeds stay locally to benefit St. Joseph's Cancer Institute. ♦

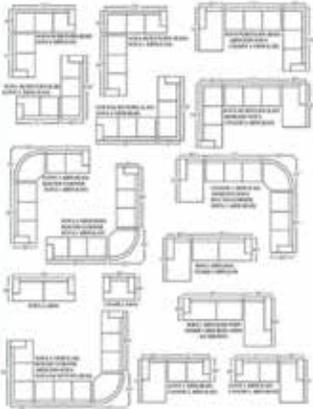
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SIMPLICITY

Not an aesthetic, but
rather a lifestyle.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RACHEL FENTON

The days have slowly grown longer with sunlight lingering past 5:00 p.m., and the trees are starting to wake up with buds on their branches. Despite the frost on our grass in the early morning, I've been bitten by the cleaning bug that always accompanies spring. My house has weathered a great purge and cleanse as I ruthlessly go through each room, dusting and organizing and sorting. There are still a few places I haven't been able to organize (don't look at the guest room closet!) but all our major spaces feel airy and clean. It's like a breath of fresh air. It helps me appreciate my home: even though it's not finished or perfect, it's ours.



Bout I confess, I don't appreciate my home as often as I should. The comparison game sneaks in and needles me as I scroll through social media. My house, with its overflowing bookshelves, piles of materials for my numerous fiber arts hobbies, jars full of the summer's bounty, and empty Mason jars waiting to be filled, does not compare to the pristine houses displayed on Instagram. No one could ever accuse me of being a minimalist.

The minimalist aesthetic is extremely popular these days, and often it gets praised as the ideal for every home. We live in a society that enjoys collecting stuff to a fault, so isn't less stuff a good thing? After all, doesn't everyone want a clean and decluttered home?

But the minimalism shared on social media and in celebrity mansions takes it a step further than simply clean and organized. This social media minimalism tends to get rid of things for the aesthetic; there's no need to have extra of anything on hand. If the shelves are clean and clear, it doesn't matter if you get rid of things that still serve a purpose or could be useful later. There's an underlying assumption that instead you can go out and purchase what you need when you need it.

Instead of this minimalism, I suggest an alternative: simplicity. It's not an aesthetic, but rather a lifestyle, one of mending and making do with what we have. Simplicity cherishes our items, their makers and the homes that hold them all.



Rachel Fenton is a writer and mother who homesteads on the family property with her parents and grandparents. When she's not running after her baby, you can usually find her knitting, reading, writing or gardening. Follow their homesteading journey at fiveacresfourgenerations.wordpress.com.

And while I'll constantly strive to cultivate simplicity, I have given up on minimalism. In fact, I've come to see my home's unique beauty because of its joyful collection of things, not in spite of them.

Our kitchen will always have stacks of Mason jars and drying herbs and bags of scraps in the freezer waiting to be made into broths or botanical dyes. Instead of seeing my multiple mugs and dishes as clutter, I see them as preparation for guests who happen to stop by for a meal.

My studio will always be ready for people to spend the night with extra linens and towels (even if they're mismatched). And as a knitter, sewist and spinner, I will always have an abundance of materials waiting to be made into something soft and warm and beautiful. Instead of seeing the shelves overflowing with skeins and fabric as clutter, I see the raw materials for making things to wrap my loved ones in warmth.

Our living room will always have bookshelves stacked double, art on its walls and muddy garden boots by the door. Instead of seeing my piles of books and art as clutter, I see stories to love and to share, and conversations waiting to be had.

My main hope for my home is that it is a place of rest and a place of beauty. I think about the simple homes I loved in books, or that shared their warmth and beauty with me as a child, and that is what I strive toward. Even if my home is not picture-perfect, may it be simple and ready to embrace all who enter. ♦



STOCKTON BEAUTIFUL

It All Began With Roses!

BY JEFF GAMBONI | PHOTOS COURTESY OF STOCKTON BEAUTIFUL

Stockton Beautiful, a local non-profit agency with a focus on beautification, was founded by Gerry Dunlap and Charles Lester, who were inspired by the sight of wildflowers blooming at the newly begun Brookside neighborhood. They invited two dear friends, Marilyn and Dr. Ross Bewley, to serve on the first board of directors, amongst the other 26 committed volunteers.

Gerry, the club's first president, was impressed with the roses planted by CalTrans along the highways in Napa County. With her

quick wit and winning charm, she quickly raised funds to acquire Meidiland® roses that were planted at our freeway on-ramps in collaboration with the City of Stockton and the Council of Governments.

Gerry Dunlap had other plans, too. By 2002, Gerry was promoting a grand project, the introduction of a civic Rose Garden, something common in other California cities, next to the Haggin Museum. In time, this project would become an overdue replacement for the former Rose Garden that stood where the Holt Wing of the Museum is locat-

ed. During the '60s the garden's remaining roses and ornamental trelliswork were removed to allow for the addition's construction and were never replaced.

Stockton Beautiful embarked on a multi-year project that included collaboration with the Stockton Rose Society, the City's Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation and the City Manager's Office. The project would grow to include built elements such as the cast stone columns, steel archway, benches and monumental trellis. The project was completed at a cost of over \$300,000,

which was fully funded by the efforts of the board of directors.

The new Rose Garden, dedicated in 2007, is a showcase of more than 250 different roses, which the club continues to maintain through the efforts of not only board members but also volunteers at large, the Stockton Garden Club and Stockton Covenant Church. Rose enthusiasts meet annually in early January to prune the roses under the direction of Terry Reilly.

Board members were regularly asked to look for significant eyesores in the community that might be worthy of attention. SB cofounder Charles Lester identified two locations on Pacific Avenue that might serve as gateways to the University of the Pacific and Miracle Mile neighborhood, just south of the Calaveras River and just north of Harding Way. He marshalled his committee together and, after a request from Kevin

Dougherty, prepared preliminary designs for the development of those two locations including monuments, decorative ironwork and plantings. Resulting from these efforts were sponsorships by the university and the city's redevelopment agency to fund the projects' construction documents. Upon the completion of the documents, the city found funding for the shovel-ready project. The resulting improvements have created safe and memorable gateways to this beloved central Stockton neighborhood.

In 2021, the board completed the renovation of the planter in front of the Haggin Museum, where Marilyn Bewley, who died in 2013, tended the annuals. The remaining plants were replaced with significant specimens including the center piece, a Mediterranean fan palm flanked by four Sago palms that introduce structure as well as grandeur. Two new Sago palms are situated in the ornamental urns that greet the visitor at the top of

the stairs.

Currently the board is focused on a master plan to renovate the Gerry Dunlap Rose Garden with a view toward replacing roses where necessary, upgrading the irrigation system as necessary, pruning adjacent trees, improving signage and identification for the roses through the creation of an internet-based mapping system.

Who would have guessed that 30 years later Stockton Beautiful would still be working in concert with its allies, members and admirers to enhance our favorite city? Keep up the good work! ♦



Laurie Eager is the author and illustrator of *In Papa's Garden*. A seeker of beauty every day, she works part time as an interior designer, loves adventure travel, all things French and dark chocolate. She lives in Stockton with her husband, Steve, and can be found most mornings enjoying a cup of coffee and the first rays of sunshine in their abundant vegetable garden.

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ANN ISHII

BY HERLIFE STAFF

Ann Ishii, a photographer and business owner, sat down with HERLIFE Magazine recently to share her dedication to family and community.



HLM: *How long have you lived here? What do you love most?*

AI: I have lived in this area most of my life. We did have a ten-year stretch in the USMC where we traveled and lived in other states. However, there is nowhere like home and California! I love our community here! I love how everyone knows everyone and we are always willing to help each other!

HLM: *How is your heart inspired to serve the community?*

AI: My children always inspire me to serve our community. The best investment we can make is in ourselves and the people around us! I really enjoy giving back to the community through donations and volunteering for youth events.

HLM: *What sparks joy for you?*

AI: My family, friends and work! Family time is incredibly important to us. We spend that time playing family games or heading outdoors together. Photography brings me so much joy, all in different ways. Newborn sessions just have a way of touching your heart in a very special place. Knowing that the photos taken at that moment will never be able to be recreated and how they will be cherished for years to come. Weddings are another favorite. I cry at every father-daughter dance. I never had those moments with my father, so I hold such a high value on capturing those very raw moments of happiness. Those are the moments and photos that will be reflected on the most.

HLM: *Top three bucket list goals?*

AI: To always be the best person I can be; open an event/wedding venue of our own; I have always wanted to travel the world!

HLM: *What accomplishment are you most proud of?*

AI: My best accomplishments are my children. As far as work, I think it would be photographing Fairytale Disney weddings. That was incredible to travel and do that. It is an opportunity I never would have imagined I would have. I am also proud of my accomplishment to grow my business from the ground up into what it is today.

HLM: *Can you describe a key event that had an impact on your life?*

AI: I grew up very poor and I knew I always wanted to do more! It has taught me that through hard work and dedication anything is possible. I have learned the value of relationships, family, money, success and even failures.

HLM: *How do you spend time outside work?*

AI: I love sports and the outdoors! You will always find me with my children. Depending on the time of year we always have a sport going on and/or gymnastics. We also enjoy traveling and spending time with close family.

HLM: *What's your favorite quote?*

AI: "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." -Thomas A. Edison

HLM: *What are you currently reading?*

AI: HERLIFE Magazine.

HLM: *Favorite food or dessert?*

AI: Anything chocolate! ♦

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EVERYTHING YOU COULD WISH FOR

BY MARY RAFFETTO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANN ISHII

Julie Van Noate has a gleam in her eye as she describes how excited she is about all the goodies on their way to her store, Best Wishes, in Stockton's Lincoln Center. Just back from ordering new inventory at the gift show in Las Vegas, she is busy doing what she does throughout the year, bringing surprise and delight to her customers, some of whom have frequented her store for nearly 50 years. To be clear, Julie was not running Best Wishes as a five-year-old, but she was brought up in the business since she was so small that she honestly can't recall precisely when she formally took over.

For over 30 years, Julie has made it her mission to keep the store fresh and exciting for the five generations of customers, many of whom have become friends. "Pulling everything together so the store is always a new experience is a challenge but a very satisfying one," she affirmed. The greatest pleasure of all, she added, is seeing people run into old friends at her store and catch up, sometimes for hours, strolling as they shop and visit. "It's pretty magical," she said with a smile.

NEW IDEAS

Part of making the store, in Julie's words, "a special experience for each visitor," is the art of creating themed displays throughout the space. The wide selection of high-quality inventory is the result of Julie's trained eye and careful curating. She credits her longtime staff with not just helping customers find the perfect item but making them feel like family. Whether it's the holidays and the store is decked to the rafters with Christmas decorations, or really any season, Julie

reported, “We are very lucky that such wonderful people have chosen to spend their time working with us! Our staff are always here to welcome and assist everyone and to provide our free gift-wrapping service. People just like to come in to feel part of it all.”

The store’s diverse selection ranges from home to hearth, with treasures for grandparents, grandbabies and everyone in between. There are bar items, small kitchen appliances, gourmet foods, greeting cards and gadgets galore. There are beautiful soaps, lotions, hostess gifts, pet-themed gifts, sparkling jewelry, fine candles, cookbooks, serving ware, charcuterie boards and more. So much more.

FASHION ADDED

Amid purses, ponchos and pashminas, Julie took a leap about five years ago and added clothing to her inventory. “It was always a dream of mine to coordinate fashion with accessories for the home and display everything in a complementary way,” she reported. Julie’s chic fashion selection has a casually elegant vibe and just may be the softest, most cuddly clothing around. That applies to the fun bachelorette- and bridal-themed items as well. Cozy slippers, sweatshirts, jammies, customized wine glasses and party favors are always a hit with brides-to-be and their wedding parties. As with all the fashion items, there are exciting new selections every season.

From darling doormats and dishtowels to colorful flags and garden accessories, the store is a shopper’s delight in every way. “It’s kind of a one-stop shopping opportunity with something for everyone and every occasion. It’s really a lot of fun,” Julie summed it up. ♦

Visit Best Wishes at 325 Lincoln Center, Stockton, California, or call 209-478-3220.





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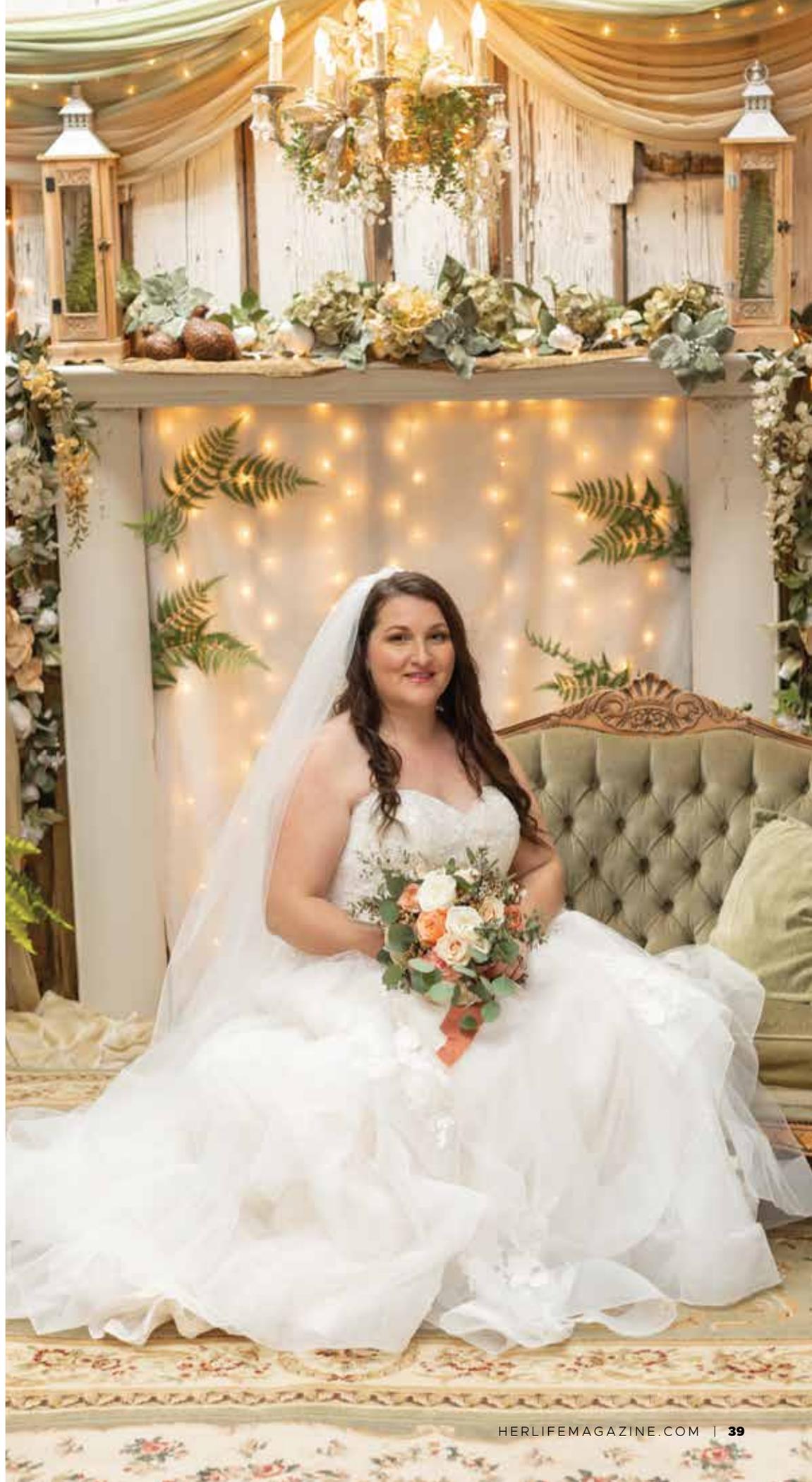
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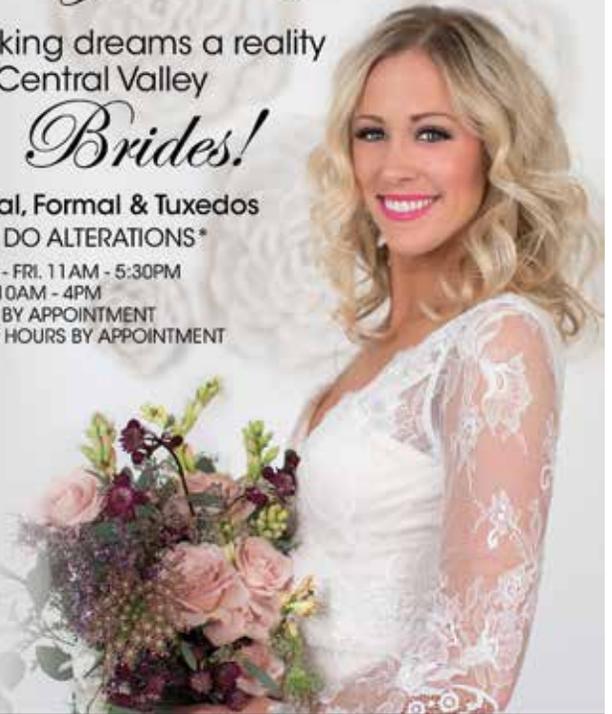
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Nichole and Blair
Anterseher

- December 10, 2022 -

STORY BY MARY RAFFETTO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANN ISHII PHOTOGRAPHY

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain."

And dance they did! Even in the midst of an unusual one-day storm, the beautiful wedding of Nichole Foppiano and Blair Anterseher was enjoyed by family and close friends at the Durst Winery and Estate in Acampo.

Blair and Nichole met at Delta College through a mutual friend and went on several dates. Ten years later, when Nichole moved back to Stockton, they reconnected, and after one year they became engaged.

Against a backdrop of glimmering Christmas trees, the elegant pre-ceremony reception created a warm and inviting atmosphere that set the tone for the event. As music played, guests were welcomed with individual charcuterie cones, local wines and refreshments before bearing witness to the nuptials.

Blair is the owner of Play It Again Sports in Stockton, and he said it was especially important to him and Nicole that they support local businesses as they planned their wedding. They were careful to use local vendors including the venue. Their wedding is only the second to be held in Durst Winery's brand-new barrel room.



The stunning bridal party wore champagne satin dresses topped with elegant faux-fur capes and carried bouquets of rich evergreens for the finishing touch. Nichole was escorted down the aisle by her father, Robert Foppiano. With her brunette hair flowing, the bride was all radiance as she carried a bouquet of seasonal greenery highlighted by ivory and antique gold roses that accented the floral-patterned lace of her gown.

The service was thoughtfully delivered by officiant Ed Williams as the bride and groom exchanged vows. Immediately afterward, guests were invited to celebrate the union with more dining, dancing and desserts. This was one party whose joy could not be dampened by rain or storms.

Both outdoor enthusiasts, the couple honeymooned in Maui, where they enjoyed as many adventures as they could pack into ten days. ♦



PHOTOGRAPHY
Ann Ishii Photography

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CHOOSING TO BE A GREEN BRIDE

BY CATIE WATSON

*Eco-friendly weddings are continuing to gain in popularity, with good reason. According to Kate Harrison's *The Green Bride Guide*, the average American wedding produces 400 to 600 pounds of garbage and more than 60 tons of CO₂ emissions.*

Planning an eco-friendly wedding is a beautiful way for a couple to show their love while fighting the problem of wedding waste. An added bonus is that many eco-friendly wedding ideas are budget friendly and more creative than traditional choices. Here's an overview of some eco-friendly wedding trends.

RUSTIC WEDDINGS: BACK TO NATURE

Choosing the rustic theme for a wedding provides many opportunities to incorporate eco-friendly products and practices. Popular rustic venues include barns, farms, orchards or any natural setting. Rustic decorations that are trending for eco-friendly receptions include lanterns, Mason jars and burlap table runners, with casual bunches of wildflowers and swags of greenery replacing formal floral arrangements. Using chalkboard surfaces to display information, such as seating arrangements and menus, is a popular rustic touch that reduces paper waste.

Rustic trends for eco-friendly bride and bridesmaid dresses include styles that are less structured and more romantic in natural organic fabrics such as cotton, silk and linen. Many brides are choosing bouquets created from loosely gathered seasonal foliage and blooms for their rustic-themed weddings instead of traditional formal arrangements.

VINTAGE WEDDINGS: REPURPOSE AND RE-USE

If you've always dreamed of a glamorous wedding, you may not gravitate toward the rustic theme. As an alternative, many brides are using a vintage theme to create a glamorous or romantic mood for their wedding while supporting the eco-friendly goals of recycling, repurposing and reusing. Vintage elements that are trending for wedding events include antique furniture pieces, vintage crystal and china and vintage lighting such as candlesticks and chandeliers.



A vintage gown that fits your style can be tailored to fit and altered for a more contemporary look. Besides being eco-friendly, a vintage dress that was originally worn by the bride's mother or grandmother adds sentimental value to the occasion. If nothing but a new wedding dress will do, look for a designer who is committed to using sustainable, organic fabrics.

ECO-FRIENDLY WEDDING RINGS

Now that mining for diamonds and gold has been tied to human rights violations and destruction of the environment, choosing a wedding ring has become an ethical decision. A vintage ring or a ring made from recycled gold is an eco-friendly alternative, since it saves the energy that would have gone into the creation of a new ring. Lab-grown gems are another alternative, and today's reputable jewelers are very conscious of the sourcing of diamonds, avoiding the blood-diamond trade.

KEEPING IT LOCAL

The concept of local can be incorporated into any wedding theme. Keeping it local means cutting down on the amount of transportation required for all aspects of a wedding, from guests to flowers and food. Less transportation means lower CO₂ emissions.

Many brides are opting for out-of-the-box wedding destinations that are close to home, such as public gardens, museums and historic homes. Also expect to see more all-in-one events that minimize guest transportation by combining wedding and reception. The farm-to-table food movement provides another way for couples to minimize the transportation impact of their wedding. Caterers who specialize in serving organic foods and wines that are produced locally are becoming more popular for wedding receptions. When it comes to food service, the eco-friendly choice is a plated meal, since it generates less

waste and fewer dirty dishes than a buffet.

Flowers and plants that are grown locally are a much better choice for the environment compared to out-of-season or exotic flowers that must be shipped in from remote locations. Many brides are using succulents, ferns and blooming branches either in place of flowers or in combination with local blossoms. Encouraging guests to take home centerpieces and floral arrangements after the reception is becoming a popular practice, as well as donating flowers to a local church or senior center.

You can also go local when it comes to wedding favors. Instead of giving guests a trinket that was probably made overseas, eco-friendly gifts such as food and small potted plants are trending. Sending guests home with sweets from your favorite bakery or your grandma, items made by local artists or craftspeople, or handcrafted seed packets are other unique options for favors.

MIX IT UP

With so many ways to plan an eco-friendly wedding, there's no reason to think that you have to sacrifice style, tradition or the wedding of your dreams in order to help the environment. Whether you incorporate one or two eco-friendly ideas or base every decision on how it affects Mother Nature, you will be making the planet a better place. ♦

SOURCES: *brides.com, greenweddingprofessionals.com and theknot.com.*



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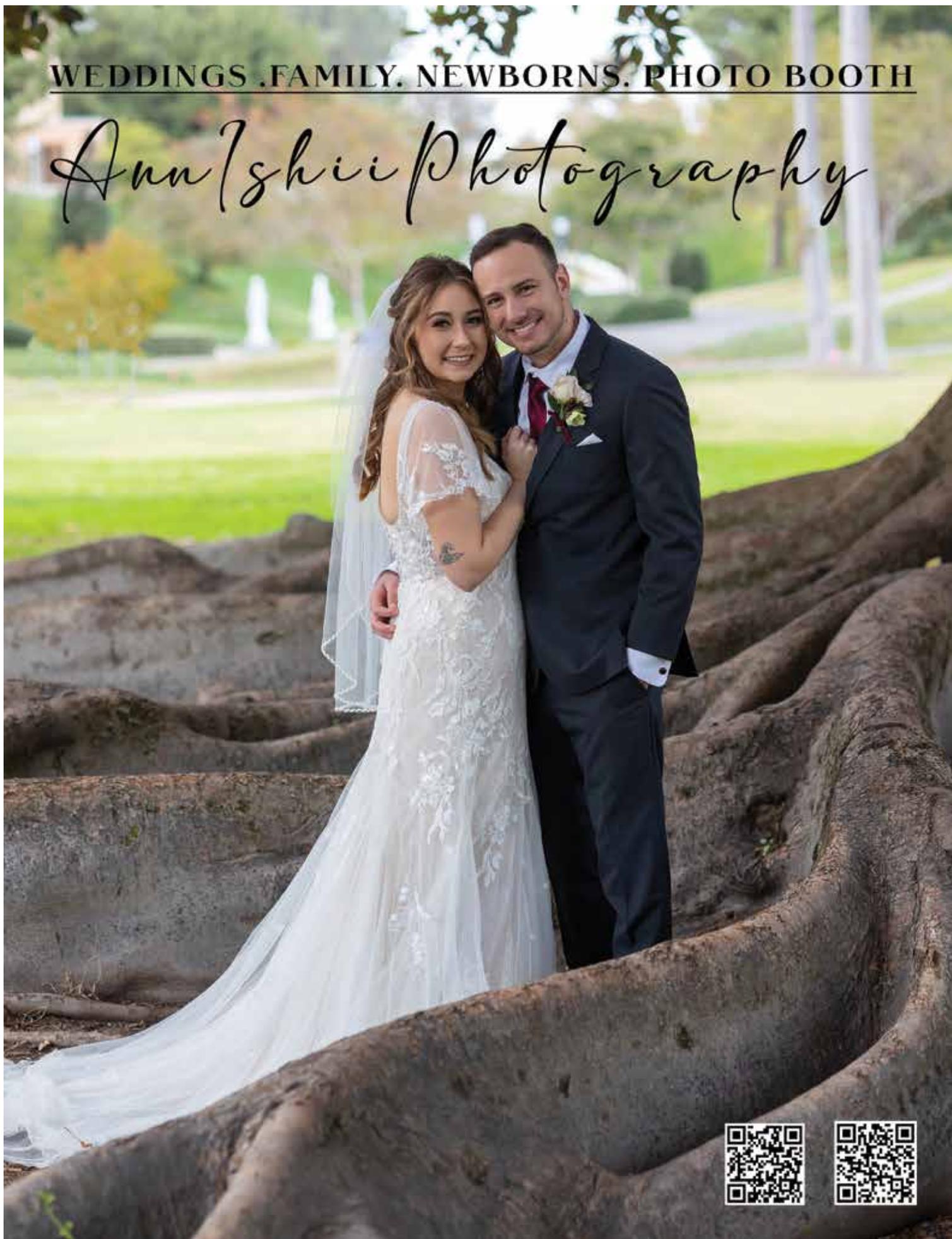
The Lodi Chamber of Commerce held its 100th Year Celebration on January 26 at Hutchins Street Square. The chamber highlighted their service to Lodi for business growth, a convener of leaders and influencers and always a champion for Lodi. Newly retired CEO Pat Patrick was honored for his many years serving the Lodi Community. ♦

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HELEN RIPKEN



WEDDINGS .FAMILY. NEWBORNS. PHOTO BOOTH

Ann / shii Photography



FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR NEWLYWEDS

BY MEG DIETER

One of the most important planning elements goes beyond budgeting for the big day: financial planning as newlyweds.

Money might not be the preferred topic of conversation as you and your fiancé cook dinner or walk through the park, but it's truly the foundation for building the life you wish to live. Have a proper, thorough discussion on spending habits; does your partner live paycheck to paycheck or save every penny? What are their thoughts on large purchases? If you disagree or find differences, don't panic. Acknowledge and communicate separate habits as you work through this financial checklist.



diately after you've exchanged vows.

First, update your beneficiaries on investment accounts, 401(k) plans, savings accounts, retirement accounts and insurance policies. Second, give your spouse power of attorney and designate them as a health care proxy. This provides you with peace of mind, knowing your partner

can make important legal decisions regarding your health and finances in the event that you become ill or disabled. Consult with an attorney to update or write your will. These to-do list items will ensure that your assets are inherited by your spouse and your wishes are adhered to properly when you pass away.

ID BASICS

If you're changing your name, contact the Social Security Administration to download the application for a name change and instructions. You'll need to provide identification and proof of marriage; if you don't visit a local office in person, original documents can be provided by mail and will be returned to you. Having the correct name on documents discussed here is crucial.

Next, update your driver's license, employer records and voter registration records. Don't forget bank and credit card accounts, too.

CRUNCHING NET NUMBERS

You've sacrificed a femininely decorated (mostly pink) apartment and he's learned to love your rom-com binge sessions; now it's time to unify yet again, on the fiscal front. Calculate your net worth as a couple to recognize where you stand monetarily. Gather a list of combined assets, debts, credit card statements and personal credit reports. Analyze these together and keep this report in mind as you brainstorm your financial goals.

NEW TO-DOS

Post-nuptials, your focus is probably enjoying your Hawaiian honeymoon. Nevertheless, there a few significant steps to take imme-

INSPECT INSURANCE

In addition to reviewing personal accounts, take a look at your various insurance policies. Ensure that there are no lapses in coverage or duplicate coverage. If you don't have life insurance, now, the start of your new family, is the time to contemplate buying some.

Consider the type you might need, whether it's to support your family, cover education or replace income. Combining households usually means obtaining a single renter's or homeowner's insurance policy. Review health insurance policies to decide if it makes more sense to keep both plans or add your spouse as a dependent to one policy, depending on employer restrictions.

GOAL-SETTING SESSION

Setting financial goals is essential to starting your marriage off on the right foot. You've probably already discussed individual debt, retirement plans and maybe even when you'd like to start your family; now's the time to list your combined goals and plans of action.

Are you dreaming of renovating an old Victorian home or traveling the world together in retirement? Maybe you'd just like to pay off your student loans within the next five years. Whatever your goals are, it's important to physically jot them down as well as a feasible time frame.

Review every few months to ensure that you're staying on track.

BASIC BUDGETING

As you send out the last of your thank-you notes and swoon over the wedding photos, make "create a spending plan" one of your final newlywed action items. Transitioning from being the sole supervisor of your expenses to combining and balancing accounts can be trying. Creating a budget will allow you and your spouse to have spending control without nitpicking each transaction.

Calculate your combined income and all the monthly purchases you generally make. Subtract your monthly purchases and bills. If you have money left over, discuss where this money will go, whether it's into savings, a treat for yourself, a rainy-day fund or debt repayment. Agree to review your budget regularly and keep up with your financial goals. The reason behind creating a budget is to guarantee that you're on the same page when it comes to making joint decisions; communicate any disagreements or unexpected expenses.

Studies show that money problems are a leading cause for divorce. You can prevent this by coming together and discussing your spending habits, budgets and savings plans before tying the knot. As the saying goes, "what's yours is mine, and what's mine is yours." Approach financial discussions openly and as a team. Start strong, affirm spending and savings habits together, then check in frequently to keep your finances on track. ♦

SOURCES: *davisandcompanycpa.com, forbes.com, k-state.edu and thebalance.com.*



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KIDS SHINING BRIGHTLY

McKenna Anderson

JOYFUL SERVANTHOOD

BY HERLIFE STAFF

As associated student body president, or ASB, of Lodi High School, McKenna Anderson attends monthly meetings with the district board, represents her school at conferences and then brings back information to the student government. Each Thursday she leads the weekly student government meetings and discusses past events and upcoming plans. Working closely with her teacher, the pair delegate jobs to the team and then she works on whatever needs to be done. McKenna stated “Being ASB president has given me more responsibility in a school setting, and I have learned the greatest leader is the best servant.”

Mckenna had the opportunity to attend Camp Barnabas in Purdy, Missouri, a ministry that provides Christ-centered camping experiences to individuals with special needs and chronic illnesses. While there she experienced how to fully lean into her faith. She was able to spend a whole week with a camper, Kenedi, whom she assisted emotionally, physically and spiritually. Through her faith, she found a true purpose in serving. “Being the hands and feet of Jesus and handing Him all the glory is truly what makes my soul thrive,” McKenna shared. “Relieving people who are dealt difficult life situations of

their pain makes my heart light up. My favorite part of the camp was hearing the laughter and seeing the smiles of the campers.” We are sure that McKenna was a huge contributor to making the laughter and smiles happen!

McKenna would like to work where she can exercise her leadership, people and hospitality skills. Several times a year, she volunteers at elementary schools as a part of LHS’ Hope Collaboration Club, as well as campus clean-up projects. She also enjoys volunteering in the kid’s Sunday school room at her church. ♦

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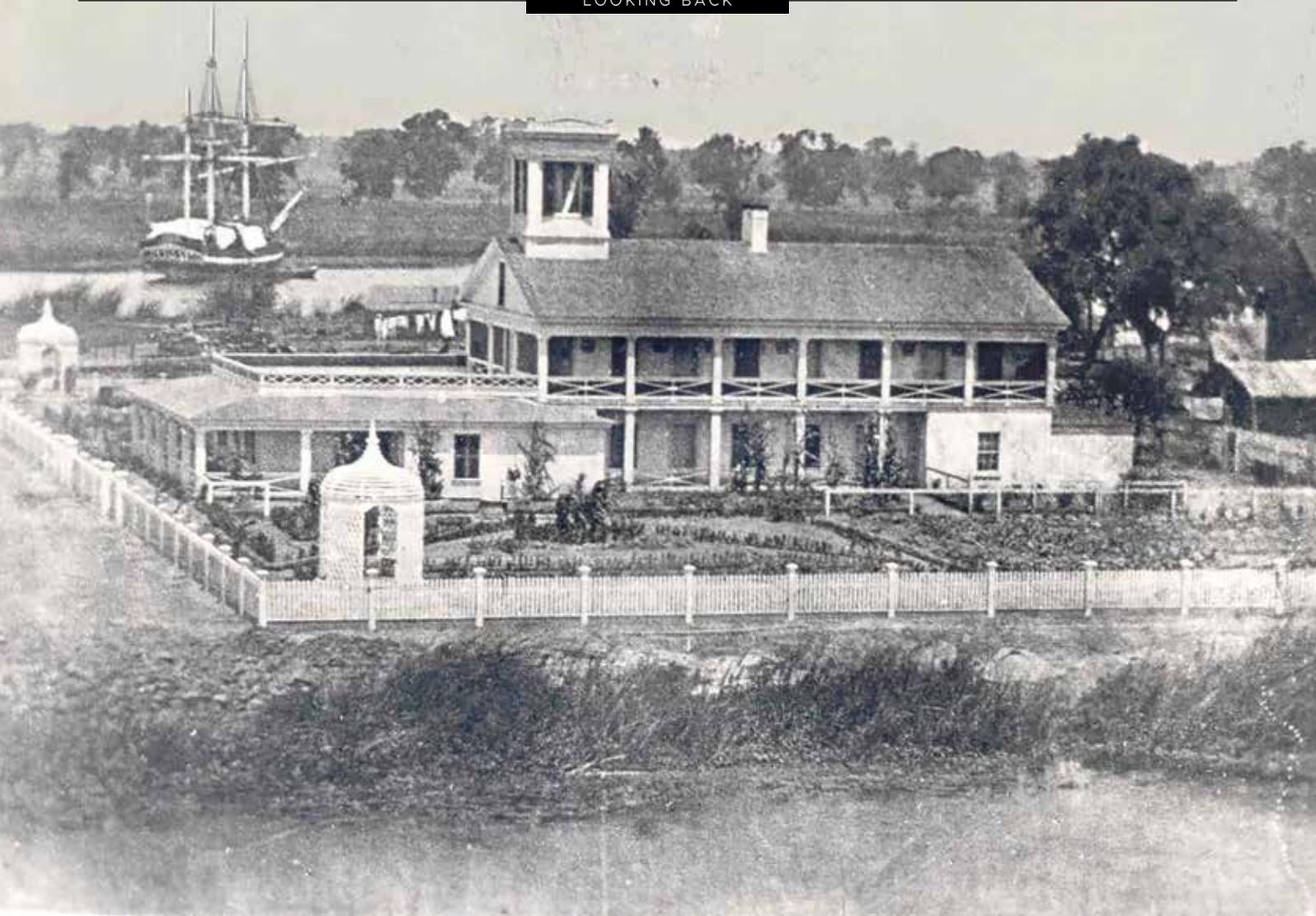
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STOCKTON'S FIRST HOUSE

Weber Cottage

STORY BY JACK JACOBS, DOCENT

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

When Julia Weber built her house at Weber Point on the Stockton Channel in 1892, she made sure it had a connecting corridor to her father's 1847 cottage that she used for her kitchen and dining room. Both houses have been gone from

downtown Stockton for a long time now, but they have found new homes on the campus of the San Joaquin County Historical Museum at Micke Grove Park.

The connecting corridor is long gone, with only a pond, a levee and short expanse of hardpan separate the former homes of



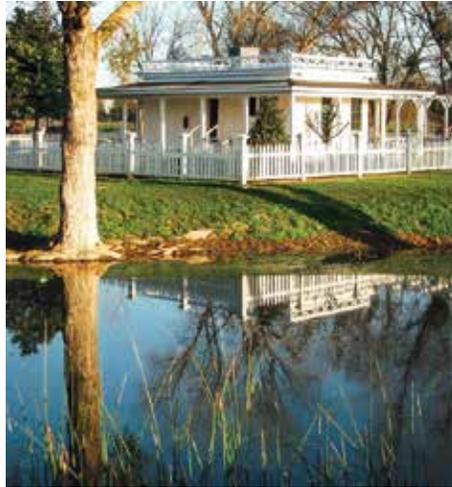
Stockton's founder, Captain Charles Weber, and his only daughter.

The Weber Cottage is the oldest wood-framed building in San Joaquin County. It was moved to the museum grounds on November 9, 1984, and it's easily accessed from the museum's Sunshine Trail, a meandering

stroll past “talking benches” strategically placed along the way for visitors to sit and listen to how Stockton’s first house came to be.

In 1847 there were no lumber mills in the Sierra Nevada and no wagon roads that would allow lumber to be brought down to Stockton. Captain Weber turned to the Woodside area of the Santa Cruz Mountains, where two lumber mills already operated. The harvested redwood was then brought by oxcart to Redwood City on San Francisco Bay and then barged up the San Joaquin River and the Stockton Channel to Weber Point. Here Captain Weber built his house and store that served him so well after gold was discovered at Sutter’s Mill in Coloma on January 24, 1848. A talking bench on the trail near the museum’s Dry Gulch Mining Camp tells the story of Gold in the Mines and how Weber and his house benefited from the discovery.

In 1850, when the captain married Helen Murphy, he built a new house attached to the cottage for his new bride. The floods of 1861 and 1880 so decimated the two-story adobe that its walls had to be braced. Elev-



en years after the Captain’s passing in 1881, Julia and her brother Charles Weber II had a new two-story Victorian built on Weber Point using the glass, doors and windows from the family’s original adobe structure. It was here that Julia lived until the turn of the century.

In 1900, Julia decided to move her entire house and cottage by Holt steam tractors to property she owned on West Lane just north of the Calaveras River. That is where she

lived until her death in 1935. In memory of her mother, she christened the estate Helen’s Oaks, the name a subdivision on that site retains to this day.

On June 30, 2001, Julia’s house moved again, this time to the northern end of the San Joaquin County Historical Museum campus, just a long stone’s throw from her father’s original cottage. The interiors of both homes are closed to the public except for the weekend of the museum’s Festival of Trees, when the inside of the Weber Cottage is decorated for the holidays with the captain’s original Christmas ornaments, and museum docents regale visitors with stories of the Weber family and the houses they called home so long ago.

The outside of Julia’s house has been completely restored and repainted to its 1901 gray. Her furniture, displayed in the Weber galleries of the museum’s Erickson Building, include a recreation of her bedroom complete with her chamber pot, a nod to the fact her home had no indoor plumbing until after she passed away. ♦

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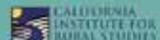
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Chance

A HAPPY FELINE

BY *HERLIFE* STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SYDNEY SPURGEON



Q: What's your full name?

A: Chance

Q: Tell us about yourself.

A: I am happy and playful all the time and my family says I have a sweet meow. I am a quirky cat since I enjoy playing in water, especially in the shower, and love the rain. I get along with all of my cat and dog siblings and even helped take care of a litter of foster kittens.

Q: What's your favorite vacation spot?

A: I have never been on vacation, but I think I would love going somewhere with water, maybe the beach.

Q: And if you went along?

A: I would probably love exploring new places and trying new treats.

Q: Your best play spot?

A: I love wandering in my backyard, hiding under bushes and in stick piles, and climbing the trees. I have plenty of catnip in the backyard and it's my favorite place to take an afternoon nap. I also love playing and wrestling in the garage with my younger kitty sister.

Q: Do you have a guilty pleasure?

A: I have a bowl of milk every morning. If my people forget, I meow to remind them.

Q: Are you ever a naughty kitty?

A: I love to be up high and learned to balance on top of the shower curtain rod and TV. My family was not thrilled.

Q: What's your feline obsession?

A: I love feather toys on a stick and catnip. I love cuddling with my dog sister and kitty sister. The three of us sleep together.

Q: What's your favorite treat?

A: My favorite treats are all cat treats. And milk.

Q: Where do you go for pampering?

A: My people! I really love my face and cheeks being petted and rubbed by my family. I also love being brushed all over.

Q: Where were you born?

A: My family found me after I had been hit by a car at four weeks old. I must have gotten separated from my litter and wandered into the road. Luckily only my tail was injured and was removed. My family took really good care of me while I healed up and gave me all the love I could ever want. I hope people stop and help animals when they need help.

Q: Who are your human parents?

A: Emiko Tanaka and her family. ♦

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Info: law.pacific.edu

MARCH 6 *WOW Science Museum Summer Camp Registration Open*

Info: wowsciencemuseum.org/science-learning-camp

MARCH 7 *Farm Safety Day*

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
Info: lodichamber.com

MARCH 10 & 11 *Backyard @ the Grape*

Lodi Festival Grounds
Backyard BBQ contest
Info: fireitupevents.com

MARCH 11 *7th Annual Red, White & Brew Craft Beer & Wine Tasting*

MRPS Hall, Manteca, VIP: 3:00-7:00p.m.
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Info: allevents.in

MARCH 11 *Lodi Camp Caterpillar*

Location: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Lodi
Kindergarten - 8th grade
Info: hospicesj.org

MARCH 18 *First Annual Lambda Theta Phi Masquerade Ball*

American Legion Hall, Lodi
Info: stocktonlambs.com

MARCH 20 *Lodi Salvation Army Annual Dinner*

GracePoint Church
Info: 209-369-5896

MARCH 23 *Central Valley Asian- American Chamber of Commerce*

Community Awards Dinner
China Palace Restaurant
Info: 209-405-2630

MARCH 25 *Women's Empowerment Conference*

University of the Pacific
Info: dmoua@pacific.edu

MARCH 25 *Lodi Police Chief Gala*

Lodi Grape Pavilion Grounds
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MARCH 25 *Stockton Civic Theatre Black and Gold Gala*

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