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On the Cover

Kari Shannon, owner of FELS Photo & Retouch, photographed model Adot Gak (Runway Model and Talent) at Adventureland Inn for this issue's story on swimsuit fashion (page 164). Others involved in the project included Jessica Miller, stylist; Aurilla Goldsmith, hair; Danielle Stewart, makeup; Ryan Damman, photo assistant; and Maggie Dickman, style assistant. To learn more about how the shoot was done, turn to page 24.



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beauty

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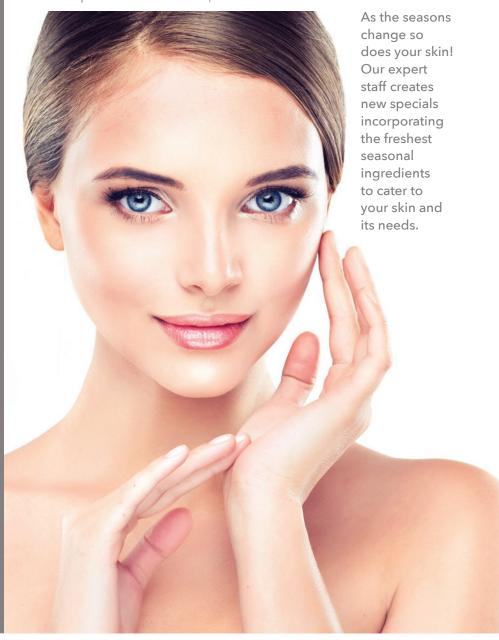
fashion

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DOWNSIDE #16:

YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BUY NEW SWIMSUITS.



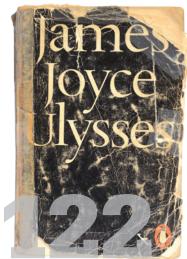


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A local animal rescue group got its start with a quest to save one pup tossed from a truck along a busy highway (page 156).

One reason for Sherman Hill's popularity in the 1880s was its elevation, which spared residents from factory smoke (page 174).





August 8, 2016 | Glen Oaks Country Club



Acura of Johnston





VIDEO

Listen to Megan Jean and the KFB perform at Jay and Katie Byers' home.

David Safris provides insights into collecting urban street art.

dsmWEEKLY

Be sure to read our weekly newsletter. It's chock-full of news we guarantee you won't want to miss on arts and culture, style, design, philanthropy, food and dining. Plus, sign up to get it delivered free to your inbox every Tuesday.

PHOTOS

View party pics from local philanthropic and social events, and find instructions on how to submit photos for consideration in our rsvp section.

dsmMOBILE

Download our free app for your iPad and iPhone. Go to the Apple App Store, type in the keywords "dsm magazine," click the icon and download the issue you want. That's all there is to it!

GET SOCIAL

Check out our Facebook page for fun finds, party pictures, updates on the arts and philanthropic scenes, and more. ■

In a video on dsmMagazine.com, David Safris explains his fascination with urban street art. In this issue, read the story on page 136. Safris' collection includes works by Keith Haring, such as the one pictured above: "Icon Dog" (1990), silkscreen on paper with embossing; estate signed and numbered.



JIM AND JENELLE SARCONE & their stylist ANNA



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RELATIONSHIPS ARE EVERYTHING



THEODORE ROOSEVELT IS CREDITED WITH SAYING, "NO ONE WILL CARE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW, UNTIL THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE."

Roosevelt was spot on. The relationships we at *dsm* have built over the past 13 years with our contributors, sources and readers are at the core of every decision we make. That engagement enables us to deliver relevant local information and insights not found elsewhere (and *not* dependent on the number of "clicks" a story is expected to generate), whether the article focuses on a critical issue our community faces or showcases the intriguing and dynamic people, places and things that keep our city perched atop all those "best of" lists.

Our medium—a glossy, beautifully designed publication—reinforces our connection with you, our readers, as do our unveiling parties and other events that typically draw hundreds of people. In our view, a printed magazine and a party sure beat staring at an electronic screen filled with digital content determined by algorithms.

To foster even better communication with our readers, we're launching a reader advisory board. We'll gather

three times a year for dinner (and drinks!), where our board members will tell us where we went wrong and what we did right, offer their ideas and share their insights. If you'd be interested in being a part of the board or if you have any questions, I'd love to hear from you: dsmeditor@bpcdm.com.

In the meantime, enjoy the issue you have in your hands—and the exceptionally exciting summer coming up. If you remember, as I do, summer in Des Moines as a slow, lazy time with little to offer other than trips to the public pool, snap out of it! Thanks to the Des Moines Arts Festival (page 130), Art Week Des Moines (page 136), the newly revamped Wonder of Words Festival (page 121), Des Moines Metro Opera's season (page 30), 80/35 and so much more, summer in the city has become that much hotter.

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backstory

Behind the scenes at dsm



KARI SHANNON

Des Moines photographer Kari Shannon, who owns FELS Photo & Retouch LLC (felsphoto.com), initiated the idea for the swimsuit feature that starts on page 164. She arranged for the shoot to be done at Adventureland Inn in Altoona. "As I love shoots involving water, what better way to bring swimsuits back to dsm than with the use of an indoor pool?" she says. "Thankfully, we were able to keep our models dry when we were shooting images in front of the wall murals at the location. The murals made it look like we were shooting outside on a bright sunny day and provided a great contrast to our darker water images."

The most challenging part of the shoot, she says, "was getting just the right splash in the shot—along with enduring hours in a cloud of chlorine."

JESSICA MILLER

Jessica Miller was the wardrobe stylist for this issue's swimsuit fashion feature (page 164). "This story was shot at Adventureland Inn in the dead of February. The pool and tropical surroundings sound awesome, right?" Miller says. "But after spending six hours in the heavy humidity and chlorinated air, it was uncomfortable, and everyone's eyes were completely bloodshot."

Miller adds that the Sunday afternoon shoot drew families to the pool who wanted to take a swim. "We got a lot of questions," she says. "We provided quite the entertainment to the hotel's patrons."





JAMI MILNE

Several months ago, Des Moines photographer Jami Milne approached dsm about a photo essay project she was working on. The subject was girls who practiced martial arts. "As I set out to create this story, I imagined the images would prove a story about girl empowerment in nontraditional sports," Milne says. "But what I found at the three locations I visited were women of all ages. I found that it wasn't unique for these girls or women to be there. They belonged there."

Milne says the project "was one of the more challenging photo essays I've ever done. All the locations were mostly windowless spaces, complete with fluorescent lighting and, in one case, flying swords."



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY KRISTI COBB



YNN P. KUHN



Copy Cop

I loved your editor's note (March/April issue) about the importance of copy editors and, most specifically, the brilliance of Steve McIntire. I worked at Business Publications for two years and learned so much from him! I forgot about the clues and examples that expanded my knowledge beyond the grammar corrections. As soon as I read that, I could hear Steve doing his best Joe Pesci from "My Cousin Vinny": "These two yutes (youths) ..."

Lee Ann Bakros Marketing and Public Relations Director Des Moines Community Playhouse

I couldn't put down my copy of the March/April issue of dsm when I got home from the unveiling party. I read it cover to cover. Thanks for the fabulous party and the very touching "Ode to a Copy Editor," Steve McIntire (the editor's note).

And what an incredible surprise to see Hoyt Sherman and this magical place highlighted in a feature story ("Who Was Hoyt Sherman?"). Thank you.

Robert Warren **Executive Director** Hoyt Sherman Place



For the Love of Reading

Just a note to thank you for publishing Barb Boose's article, "Page Turners," about my book group (March/April issue). It was beautifully written and captured who we are. The entire magazine was wonderful.

Kathy Elsner

An Artist's Journey

The article about Amer al-Obaidi (March/ April issue) really touched me. I am so disappointed in myself that he was at the unveiling party and that I didn't at least thank him for the beautiful cover and the story that he shared with our community. I am grateful that dsm brings stories like his to light, so poignantly, so elegantly. It's so important to hear more stories like these.

Megan Aronson Minnesota Cabinets

Of Airports and Artists

I wanted to share with you a recent observation. While meeting with some fellow creatives, one told a story about chatting with a woman who had just arrived at Des Moines International Airport and who had picked up a copy of dsm magazine. After the two exchanged pleasantries, my friend and the woman each returned to their own worlds. Soon, my friend overheard her state, "Now, this is what a real magazine should look and feel like." If ever there was a calling card to beckon newcomers to our community, dsm is it.

Your publication continues to evolve in wondrous ways, and I was especially drawn into Tim Paluch's story about artist and refugee Amer al-Obaidi (March/April issue). Al-Obaidi's journey is amazing, soultouching and inspirational, and your choice to have Paluch serve as the conduit is a testament to the magazine's journalistic excellence.

John Busbee Producer, "The Culture Buzz," KFMG radio

A Passionate Pro

Writer Gunnar Olson is a true professional who is passionate about his work ("Healthy Homes for Healthier Kids," March/April issue). We don't welcome just anyone into our home, but from day one, he understood our story and made us feel comfortable throughout the process. Thank you.

Brad Gilbert ■

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"We offer high-quality products not available anywhere else," says Stanco, a native of Avellino, Italy, who also operates a Lord Midas showroom in New York City. Michael Wergin-Droll, who previously worked at Badowers, is the Des Moines store's manager.

We also love that Lord Midas is located on the first floor of the Des Moines Building (405 Sixth Ave.), in the heart of the city's business district—it gives us hope that retailing can once again thrive in the downtown core. For more information, check out the store's Facebook page, facebook.com/lordmidasdesmoines. View goods from Stanco's line at massimilianostanco.com, and visit the e-store at lordmidas.com.







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Join the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines in celebrating the metropolitan area at the organization's annual Celebration Luncheon & Report to the Community. Noon, Des Moines Marriott Downtown. \$20; desmoinesfoundation.org.

Catch StageWest Theatre Company's Midwest premiere of Linda McLean's "Every Five Minutes," the soulful story of a former prisoner of war tormented by memories as he seeks a path toward healing. Through May 22 (dates and times vary), Des Moines Social Club's Kum & Go Theater. \$15-\$30; stagewestiowa.com.

Lose yourself in the dynamic force of a two-hour all-Tchaikovsky finale to the Des Moines' Symphony's season.
7:30 p.m.; also May 22 at 2:30 p.m.,
Des Moines Civic Center. \$15-\$60;

The Des Moines Art Center opens the first one-person museum exhibit in the United States of London-based artist Glenn Brown. The show will include paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints by the acclaimed artist. Through Aug. 28, Des Moines Art Center. Free admission; DesMoinesArtCenter.org.

Golf legends will compete in the Principal Charity Classic tournament, which has raised more than \$7.7 million for nonprofits in the past nine years under Principal Financial Group's sponsorship. Through June 5, Wakonda Club. \$20–\$250 daily; principalcharityclassic.com.

Above: Glenn Brown, "Wooden Heart" (2008); oil paint on acrylic over plaster and metal armature; 58 1/4 x 27 1/2 x 35 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery. Photo courtesy of the artist.

dmsymphony.org.

SUMMER LOVES staff picks



"At long last summer is here...sunny skies, long days, warm weather adventures, and backyard gatherings. Soak up all the best summer has to offer and enjoy the easy livin' with some of my favorite summer must-haves." -TAMI NIELSEN, BUYER ACCENTS + INTERIORS

^{1.} Keen on easy to clean? When this mildew and fade resistant INDOOR OUTDOOR RUG gets dirty, just hose it off! 2. When you dip, I dip, we dip - enjoy worry-free outdoor dining with this melamine CHIP & DIP SERVER. 3. This 100% natural, unrefined COCONUT OIL is perfect for keeping your hair and skin healthy and hydrated. 4. This whale of a BOTTLE OPENER makes popping tops a little more fun. 5. These colorful SUNGLASS READERS mean you don't have to choose between squinting and styling. 6. In the oven or on the grill, this SOAPSTONE PIZZA STONE will make you look like a pro. 7. Make every day a party with this fun INSULATED TUMBLER. 8. Celebrate the best of summer with a COOKBOOK dedicated to the fresh flavors of the season. 9. Make the most of your summer evenings - these CITRONELLA CANDLES keep the ambiance going and the bugs at bay.



Savor the foods of top local chefs, each partnered with a winery to create inventive and palate-pleasing pairings. Winefest

Des Moines' Prima Dinners will be served at six unique locations—fine homes and restaurants. \$250; for tickets, call 515.244.0039 or email natasha@winefestdesmoines.com.

For details about additional Winefest events, go to winefestdesmoines.com.

Take blankets and picnic baskets to "King Lear," presented by Repertory
Theater of lowa as part of its
Shakespeare on the Lawn series.
7:30 p.m., through June 19, Salisbury
House & Gardens. \$15-\$30; rtiowa.com.

The Wonder of Words
Festival returns after a
year's hiatus with author
appearances and other activities. See
related stories, starting on page 121.
Through June 19, Western Gateway
Park. Free; wonderofwordsfest.com.

Art Week returns for its second year with a variety of events, including exhibits, studio tours, even a bike ride. Dates, times and venues vary. Most events are free; artweekdesmoines. com. Art Week ramps up to the Des Moines Arts Festival June 24-26 at Western Gateway Park. Free admission; desmoinesartsfestival.org. See related stories, starting on page 130.

Des Moines Metro Opera's season opens with Verdi's "Falstaff," followed on June 25 by the dinner gala and Jules Massenet's "Manon." The season also includes "Orphée et Eurysice." See story, page 28. Performed on a rotating basis through July 17 (times vary), Blank Performing Arts Center in Indianola. \$46-\$95; desmoinesmetroopera.org.

Join us for the unveiling of the July/August issue of dsm. The arrival of every issue is a special occasion in our world—and reason enough for a party. 5-7 p.m. (short program at 6 p.m.), Willis Auto Campus, 2121 N.W. 100th St., Clive; dsmmagazine.com.

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POSTCARD COURTESY OF ANTHONY HORVATH PHOTOGRAPH: DUANE TINKEY

eing in the center of the action isn't anything new for Court Avenue. The heart of today's entertainment district once was a hub of general commerce, surrounded by busy train depots, hotels, warehouses and retail shops. Long gone are the horses, trolley cars and many of the buildings from a century ago.

Today, the Polk County Courthouse shines anew with its recent renovation, and the buildings that contain Johnny's Hall of Fame, Spaghetti Works and Court Avenue Restaurant and Brewing Co. stand as timeless fixtures linking "now" and "then." Johnny's has operated on this corner since 1983 in the Lederer-Strauss Building, built in 1890. The brewpub across the street is located in the 1881 Des Moines Saddlery Company Building, which housed a century of manufacturers before venturing into the hospitality business.



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dsmDining

Alba's Winning Combination

Chef Joe Tripp creates dishes that provide the satisfaction you get from a longtime favorite, plus the excitement of the unpredictable.

REVIEWER: WINI MORANVILLE
PHOTOGRAPHER: DUANE TINKEY

n a recent visit to
Alba, I was slightly
surprised and even a
bit dismayed to see
butternut squash
soup on the menu.

Certainly, I like butternut squash soup just fine, but it's a familiar routine. What chocolate molten cakes became for the dessert course, butternut squash soup has become for the first course: the safe, predictable, inevitable offering.

What was it doing on the menu of one of the city's most visionary, chefdriven restaurants?

"A few weeks earlier, I had sunchoke soup on the menu," executive chef Joe Tripp later explained to me. "But it didn't sell. Butternut squash soup sells."

So, what's a chef, in love with sunchokes and other off-the-beaten-path finds, to do? Take the cynical route, throw up his hands, toss a few pans around in the kitchen, and turn out some rote butternut squash soup, while muttering under his breath, "OK, Des Moines, I've got your butternut squash soup right here"?

Or take a more loving route: Keep the cherished savory-sweet soup mostly intact, but nudge the diner forward with an unexpected package. Present a shallow bowl, empty of soup but striped with spiced pecan butter and squash-seed granola, plus a few dots of maple-syrup marshmallows and cooked squash scattered here and there. Bring it to the table with the silky soup in a pitcher. Allow the diner to behold the thoughtful accompaniments before the soup is poured into the bowl.

Do this, and the diner will never look at butternut squash soup in the same way. She'll always remember how each bite brought new character to the dish—the way the granola brought nuttiness and texture, the way the marshmallow filled the mouth with phantom maple sweetness, how the crispy sage registered bright, peppery contrasts.

She'll also remember how, thanks to the squash itself recurring throughout the presentation, the soup never lost its focus. Above all, she'll remember why everyone fell in love with butternut squash soup in the first place.

Memory, in fact, plays a significant role in this chef's cooking. "Food is psychological," says Tripp, who graduated from the University of Iowa with degrees in philosophy and psychology before shifting full time into the restaurant business. "The times when I can hit those notes of memory or

recognition in unexpected ways are the dishes that strongly connect with people."

Other standouts I tasted on recent visits did exactly that—crossed that sense of well-being derived from a longtime favorite with the surprise and excitement of the unforeseen.

No doubt, you've had that other inevitable starter, calamari, but how about its cousin, octopus? In Tripp's first-course salad, you'll recognize the seafood's sweetness and density, but you'll thrill to the dramatic presentation: The swipe of homemade Chinese XO sauce (a spicy, salty-from-the-sea condiment anchored by dried fish and seafood) and the tangle of grilled bitter greens spotlight the sparkle of the octopus.

You've had French onion soup; you've likely loved the caramely sweetness of the onions in a beefy broth and that sheen of melted Alpine cheese bubbling atop the toasty bread.

So how about this: Transform it all into a main dish that stars a spoontender beef short rib in a rich French onion broth and a scattering of herbed croutons, with the Gruyère cheese reborn as a smooth, luscious fondue dolloped into crisp-tender cippolini







dsmDining





Above: Tripp's travels influence his creations and their presentation, such as this plate of scallops.

Above, right: Where else can one find a ginger mochi cake served with roasted grapes, grape jam, ginger crumble and sake lees ice cream? onion cups. It's the best of both worlds: the familiar comfort of the classic soup, but in a fresher, more polished presentation.

Tripp, who was nominated earlier this year for a James Beard Foundation Award for Best Chef—Midwest, moved up the ranks in Denver's esteemed Fruition Restaurant before heading back to his native Des Moines, where he's been at Alba since 2012. He continually energizes his cooking through short-term stints in high-end kitchens such as Coi in San Francisco and Alma in Los Angeles.

It was in L.A. that Tripp discovered the sake lees that eventually made their way into his cooking. Lees are the residual yeast particles left over in winemaking, and when Tripp tasted the sake lees in a savory dish, he began to think about what they might do in a dessert.

Hence, Tripp's ginger mochi cake with sake lees ice cream. The sweet

Japanese-rice (mochi) cake arrives with roasted grapes, grape jam, ginger crumble and the ice cream. As it turns out, what lees bring to wine, they do equally well for ice cream. That is, they bring a sensation of smooth, creamy roundness and hints of vanilla-like flavors. Look closely, however, and at its heart, the exotic dessert echoes something that's delighted you for decades—cake and ice cream.

A caveat—and one that applies to most of the city's fresh-and-local-focused restaurants: The beautiful food you see on these pages will most likely not be on the menu when you visit.

Tripp changes his menu weekly, and rarely repeats a dish.

It's not just a matter of what's fresh and in season (though that certainly comes into play). Rather, Tripp seeks to continually move forward. As this article went to press, he was preparing for a trip to Vietnam to further inspire his cooking.

Still, Alba's food does have a certain predictability to it. While you may not be able to order your "usual," you know that whatever you order will be fresh, thoughtful and lifeenhancing—in ways that are both familiar and out of this world.

Alba

524 E. Sixth St. 515.244.0261; albadsm.com ■

Wini Moranville, author of "The Bonne Femme Cookbook," covers food, wine and dining for dsm. Follow her on Facebook at All Things Food DSM-Wini Moranville.

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in the bag



Ian Miller Artist

Hand Crafted: I never found a bag that had a simple enough style for me—I like a single flap—so I made this one myself about four years ago. It's hand-stitched and made out of leather.

Helping Hand: Most of the artifacts I gather are utilized in my work. The icon of a hand has been part of a long-standing project. Right now, I have mannequin hands all over the house; they can serve as a prop and showcase the utility of things.

Book It: I always carry a book for intellectual fodder. I've been studying mythology lately and read Joseph Campbell's "Flight of the Wild Gander" before this one. I shop at Beaverdale Books.

In the Cards: I recently returned to the tarot deck to divine insight. Each card tells a story and has its own meaning. Today, I drew the moon card, which has to do with how you incorporate your personal fantasies into your life.

Tea Time: I buy all my tea at Gong Fu. This is a vial of milk oolong tea.

Something Scented: Oil just helps me stay fresh. This is my personally blended oil of patchouli, Texas cedarwood and bergamot. Creative Calling Card: I carry "The Nitch" (the leather-bound book at the top of the photo) so I can show people what it is and what I do; otherwise, the project can be hard to explain. Currently we're working on the e-reader and audio versions of the project. These versions will be released this year. (To read more about "The Nitch," go to dsmMagazine.com.)

Take Note: I carry a notepad so I can jot down ideas as they come into my head. I get my notebooks at Domestica.

Rock Solid: The stone helps me stay grounded—and can be useful for particularly nasty bullies.

20/20: I found these reading glasses and case in Galena, Illinois, although I typically shop local. ■





AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

BY ROXANNE BARTON CONLIN AS TOLD TO CHRISTINE RICCELLI

Throughout her career, well-known attornev Roxanne Barton Conlin has been a barrier-breaking and passionate advocate of equality and justice. Her distinguished career and her public service include a long list of honors and firsts: She was the first female president of the 60,000-member Association of Trial Lawyers in America and the first woman to run for governor of lowa, among many others. Conlin, 71, also served as co-lead counsel in the highprofile Comes v. Microsoft case, winning a \$180 million settlement from the software company in 2007. She and her husband, James Conlin, have been married 52 years and have four children. Here, in a conversation condensed by dsm Editor Christine Riccelli, she reflects on her journey, from fighting her personal demons to fighting for a more just society.

FACE YOUR FEARS

I'm the oldest of six children. We were mostly pretty poor, particularly during my teenage years. My dad was an engineer and extremely intelligent but had trouble keeping a job, in part because he was an alcoholic and in part because he would not hesitate to tell his bosses what they ought to do. So he didn't last very long at any one

place. This caused our family serious disruption; we moved from South Dakota to Sioux City to Clinton to Des Moines.

My father was a vicious, violent drunk. One of my earliest memories—I think I was about 2 years old—was of him hitting my mother.

I didn't know it at the time, but domestic violence always escalates unless there is intervention. When I was 16, he threatened to kill us all. I can't remember exactly how I got him out of the house, but he was on the porch and I called the police, locked the doors and had everybody go upstairs except for me. The police came and took him to jail. I went to court the next day and testified against him. The judge let him out of jail, but he sent deputy sheriffs to the house with my father for him get his clothes so he would not be alone with us.

I can't remember how long he stayed away. He continued being emotionally and verbally abusive, but he never hit my mother or me again. My mother didn't fight him, but I did. I'm not a good victim. But I think for many women, what I did would not be possible. For many women, particularly back then, the man would be walked around the block and sent back home and then he'd kill somebody.

STAY THE COURSE

We moved to Des Moines when I was 14, and I went to St. Joseph's Academy, then an all-girl Catholic high school. It was a nun who suggested that I be a lawyer. My intention was to be a movie star. But she told me, "If you're a lawyer, you can use your talent for drama and use your brain at the same time."

St. Joseph's was a good experience for me, though I didn't get along very well with the principal because, frankly, I was a smart aleck. I can't imagine how insufferable I must have been. So I left high school at 16 and went to Drake. There was a program back then where if you could get a 99 on the college entrance examination boards and some other tests, you could get in.

I worked at all kinds of jobs while I was in college. I worked at Tiny Tots from 6 a.m. until 9 a.m. and from

how I got here

Lessons on Life, In My Own Words

3 p.m. to 6 p.m. After that, I would go to my job as a waitress at the Holiday Inn, and then I had a baby-sitting job that started around 10 p.m. I did all these jobs while going to school and taking 21 hours a semester.

I got married (to James Conlin) and shortly thereafter got pregnant in law school. That had never been done before, and I certainly did not mean to be the groundbreaker in that regard, but I had my daughter over Christmas break my senior year at law school.

Back then, there was a double standard in law school. There was a rumor that I was sleeping with the professors to get good grades. I was a good Catholic girl, so the rumors were very distressing to me. I thought that getting married would solve that problem, but instead, there were rumors I was an adulteress! Then when I got pregnant, there were rumors that it was not my husband's child. Fortunately, our children looked just like my husband.

I would get overwhelmed with school, work and family responsibilities, but most of the time, I just did it. You put one foot in front of the other and you do what you're supposed to do. I was extremely determined.

I did four years of college and three years of law school in five years. I graduated from law school and became a lawyer at 21. My goal was to get out of school as quickly as possible because I had siblings who needed to go to college. As the oldest of six children, if I could not put my siblings through college, nobody could.

CHOOSE YOUR LIFE PARTNER WISELY

I always tell young women to choose a life partner who will support you no matter what. When my husband and I met, I told him, "I don't wash, I don't iron, I don't cook, I don't clean, and I never will." And he said, "OK." And I thought, "I have to snap up this guy. This guy is *mine*." So we got married two weeks and one day after we met. And now we've been married 52 years.

When I was young, every man in my life thought that law school was just a whim, that I'd get over it when I got married and had children. That is not what I thought—ever, ever, ever. And that's not what James thought.

BE TRUE TO YOUR CONVICTIONS

When I graduated from law school, the percentage of lawyers who were female was something like 1 or 2 percent.

I faced blatant discrimination.
There's no hiding that fact. After graduating, I applied for a job at a downtown law firm, and they said, "We are not going to hire you because our clients will not take advice from a woman."

I got a good job at an insurance law firm downtown, but I just wasn't suited for that type of law, so I moved on and became an assistant attorney general for the state of Iowa for Attorney General Richard Turner, a right-wing Republican whom I loved; we got along wonderfully. I had just had my son, and he hired me on a part-time basis. When I look back on it, I think about how Richard was way ahead of his time, because that was not the norm. People certainly predicted that I would fail as a lawyer if I did not devote myself full time. I wanted to practice law, but I also wanted to practice parenthood.

I worked for the attorney general from 1969 until 1976. I became kind of the go-to person for antitrust cases in the state. I was also the first person to head the Department of Justice's Iowa Civil Rights Section. Of course, it was easy to be the head, because I was the only person in it! I tried the first case ever tried under the Iowa Civil Rights Act. Being part of the development of the law to forbid discrimination on the basis of sex was so fulfilling and exciting. It made me absolutely intolerant of injustice. ...

The attorney general and I used to joke about how conservative members of the Legislature would come to his office at least once a week asking that he fire me because of my politics—I was an outspoken advocate for a woman's right to choose. But whenever it came up, I would always say, "This is not the opinion of the attorney general; this is my personal opinion." I thought I was doing the



how I got here

Lessons on Life, In My Own Words

right thing, but controversy followed me wherever I went.

One day, the attorney general just got sort of enveloped by party people who thought I did not belong in that office. He called me over and he said, "Why don't you just resign so that I don't have to fire you?" And I said to him, "OK, fine." He gave me a big party, and I left.

BELIEVE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

I knocked on doors for John Kennedy. When he won, it was a wonderful feeling. I thought I had helped make a real difference, and I loved that feeling. So I stayed involved. When I was 19, I became the president of the Polk County Young Democrats. ...

I ran for governor in 1982. It was so much fun. It wasn't a campaign; it was a cause. I had thousands of volunteers and ran the campaign on \$800,000. People would volunteer 40 hours a week or more because they thought that it was time for a woman to be governor. But it wasn't that time.

One of the worst things about losing an election is disappointing people who have given so much of their time, their money and their energy. It felt terrible to me to let those people down. But I got thousands of letters from people who had been my supporters—many from girls in grade school and high school. Many women who were trained in that campaign

went on to become public officials themselves.

When I ran for U.S. senator in 2010, things had changed so dramatically. When I ran in 1982, I did not do any fundraising. Now when you're a candidate, you spend the bulk of your time raising funds, calling people on the phone and begging for money. It's demeaning. It's exhausting. It's distressing. Where is the time to study the issues? Where is the time to go out and meet the voters?

I am done running for public office. But I am by nature an optimist. I believe in the civics book version of government.

I believe that anyone who is committed, caring and compassionate can make a difference. You just have to keep trying.

CONFRONT YOUR DEMONS

In 1992, a police officer followed me home, and I was arrested in my driveway for driving and drinking. It forced me to confront that I am an alcoholic, that I had a disease that would kill me—and that I didn't want to die.

I was great at diagnosing alcoholism in others. But I didn't see the signs in myself because I drank only wine and I drank only occasionally. I didn't get hangovers and never missed work. My conceit made me think the disease had skipped a generation.

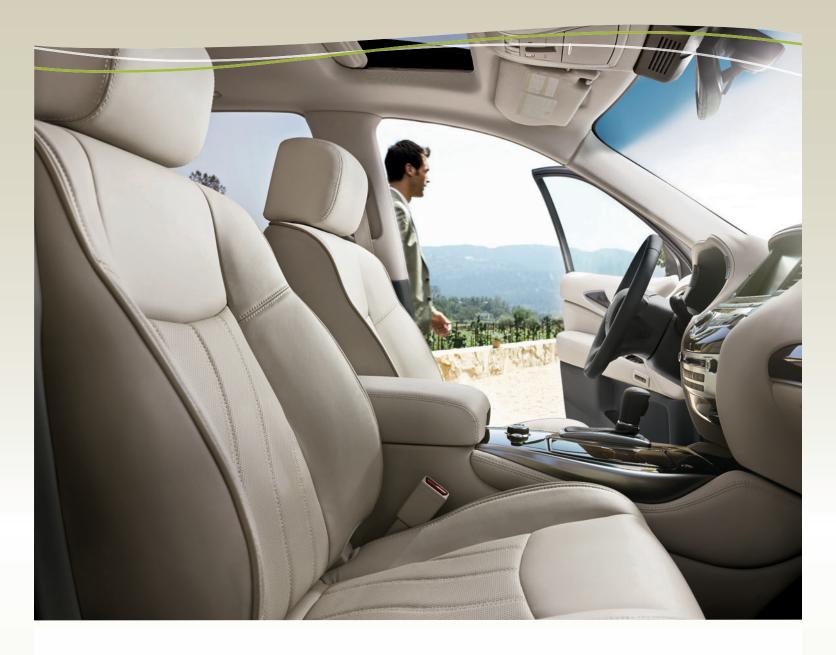
Many people think that to acknowledge a problem is to show weakness. The truth is that it takes strength to face our personal demons.

PURSUE YOUR PASSION

After the 1982 election, I went into the private practice of law, where I have been ever since. Where there is injury, there needs to be a remedy and that's what we try to do, whether the law provides one at the time or not. One of the things my office does is law development. Where does the law fall short? How can we make the law better? How can we make the law a tool for justice? And so, I take cases—sometimes cases with no economic value—in order to move the law forward.

I truly love what I do. I love going to trial. I would try cases all day every day if I could.

There are times when I get tired. There are times when I get discouraged. There are times when I think, "Why don't I retire?" I can retire, but I don't because I think people need someone like me to speak for them in court. I have absolutely amazing clients, people who have endured difficult, sometimes unbelievable, circumstances and who deserve justice. It's my job to give them that justice.



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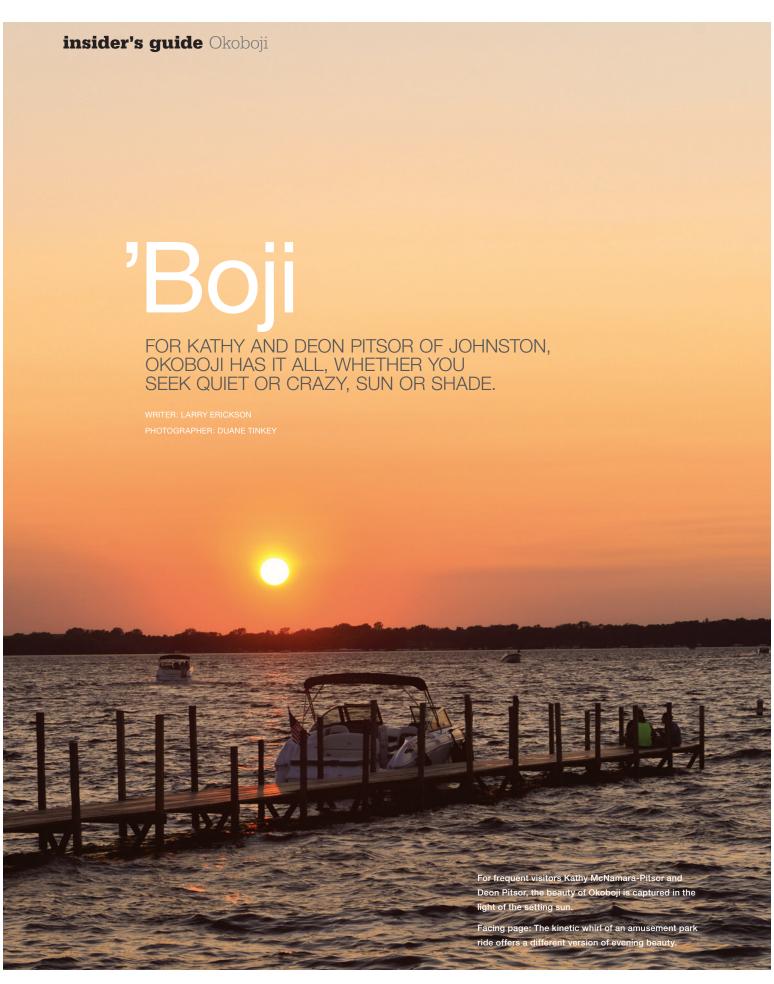












koboji. Nothing says summer fun in lowa more joyfully. A glistening playground for the masses, the region offers everything from campsites to luxury homes, with dining and recreation options to fit every taste and budget.

For many visitors, it's one big raucous party. For others, less is more: "We love the peacefulness," says Kathy McNamara-Pitsor, a Des Moines health care consultant who has been a 'Boji regular since the idyllic summers of her childhood. "We would go to Okoboji most every summer to vacation for many, many years." Growing up in Omaha, she and her family had condos by Brooks Golf Club, the most prominent of six courses that thread among the region's lakes.

"My favorite time is late in the evening with the sun going down," says McNamara-Pitsor. "It's just gorgeous."

That beauty is spread over quite a landscape, a gift of glaciers that carved through northwest lowa a while back. The Okoboji "brand" encompasses a chain of lakes and surrounding communities, a region marketers call the lowa Great Lakes. Water covers 12,000 acres traced by 70 miles of shoreline. Largest in the chain is 5,700-acre Big Spirit Lake, where waves lap over the Minnesota border.



But the big dog in this pack is sparkling, spring-fed West Okoboji Lake—the shimmering poster boy of lowa lakes, with tranquil bays, rocky points and 19 miles of rambling shoreline. Adjacent East Okoboji Lake is smaller, with the quiet dignity of a suburban neighborhood (albeit with a few rowdy neighbors).

The Pitsors—Kathy and her husband, commercial banker Deon Pitsor—have made the trip countless times with their sons, Joe and Jack. At the end of the road, Okoboji offers a wealth of variety; a typical visit for the Pitsors includes golf, boating, dining and blissful relaxation.

Family Fun

"We rent a boat from Parks Marina, a pontoon boat to tool around and eat dinner," says McNamara-Pitsor. "And we rent another boat for tubing."

Fishing is popular on all of the area's lakes, as are sailboat regattas. "We enjoy watching the races from down by The Inn (at Okoboji)," says McNamara-Pitsor, referring to a landmark of Okoboji lodging on West Okoboji's eastern shore.

"When the kids were younger, we did Arnolds Park amusement park all the time," McNamara-Pitsor says.

Popular family entertainment today also includes miniature golf courses and go-kart tracks, she adds. She also recommends Bridges Bay Resort, an East Okoboji complex with a water park—"a great place for families with kids."

And if you're planning a family vacation, save time for the Dickinson County Nature Center, she says: "It's fun for hiking and learning about animals, fossils and things that are interesting for kids."

Grown-up Diversions

For golfers like the Pitsors, the area has attractions apart from the lakes. "When we're there," McNamara-Pitsor says, "we always do a round of golf at Brooks or Emerald Hills," two of the best among

insider's guide Okoboji

the region's six well-maintained courses.

Just east of the amusement park is Preservation Plaza, where the Pitsors enjoy listening to outdoor concerts with West Okoboji as a backdrop.

"We also like to go to the annual art fair the first weekend in August," McNamara-Pitsor says. Art is prominent in the lakes area. The Pitsors enjoy visiting the Wine Bar and Art Gallery in Arnolds Park, "a fun little spot with local artwork," she says.

More formally, the free Pearson Lakes Art Center on Highway 71 has six galleries and a performing arts theater. "It's a beautiful spot," McNamara-Pitsor says, "and they have different exhibits that come in and out all summer."

For a memorable evening, she suggests visiting "the fabulous Okoboji Summer Theatre." It features professional actors performing with students from Stephens College in Missouri, whose drama department operates the program. Shows are entertaining and lake-life casual.

Local museums include the lowa Great Lakes Maritime Museum, the genuinely amazing Okoboji Classic Cars, a museum of money, a regional rock-'n'-roll hall of fame and the Abbie Gardner Sharp Cabin, site of an unpleasant interaction between early settlers and the region's prior residents.

Okoboji Flavors

You could spend a summer at Okoboji and never repeat a meal. Dining opportunities range from ubiquitous



Clockwise, from left: The O'Farrell Sisters is an enduring institution, famous for breakfast; Okoboji dining doesn't get much finer than a meal at Maxwell's; the amusement park at Arnolds Park has been delighting gleeful children for generations.





fast-food outlets to quirky local favorites. "I'm partial to Maxwell's," McNamara-Pitsor says. "It's a little pricier than others, but the food is always consistent." If you want a table on the weekend, you'll need a reservation, she adds.

Another recommendation: Bracco World Cafe and Island Bar is located at Bridges Bay Resort on East Okoboji Lake. "You can't beat the atmosphere," she says. "For just a burger, there's The Ritz," she suggests. And don't miss breakfast at O'Farrell Sisters: "You have to go there for the atmosphere."

For a very different atmosphere and a younger vibe, find your way to the Barefoot Bar, a Tiki hut cluster of fun. "Everybody goes there. It's on East Lake, with tons of boat parking and a total party atmosphere with live music," McNamara-Pitsor says. Friends, boats, music and fun—just some of what's great at lowa's Great Lakes.

Ready to Go? For information on accommodations (from campgrounds to condos), entertainment, dining and nightlife, start your online search at vacationokoboji.com. It has links with addresses and phone numbers for most of the Pitsors' recommendations.

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TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST YEAR OWNING THE BUSINESS. As of March 1, 2016 I have owned R Jones for one year. Time goes by fast! It has been such a wonderful year. I can't thank my family,

friends, vendors and employees enough. The transition went very smoothly. My techs knew they were getting a seasoned owner and they have been very supportive. I'm so excited to see what 2016 and beyond brings.



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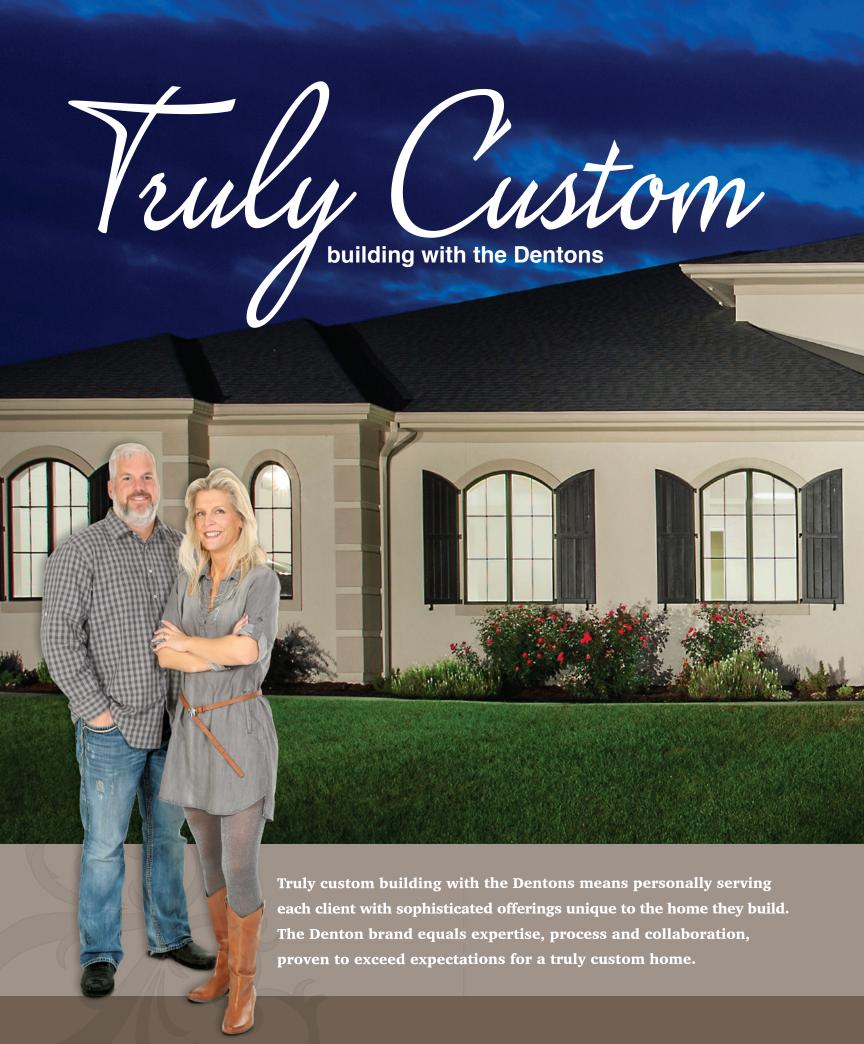
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Molly Phillips in Detail

As executive director and general manager at Iowa Public Television, Molly Phillips relies on the sage advice of her mother: "Live every day to the fullest, and have fun doing it." Here are some fun facts about the public TV boss.

WRITER: LARRY ERICKSON



Number in her 1985 graduating class in Sidney, lowa, where she grew up on a farm—"castrating hogs, clipping eye teeth; it was far from a silver spoon."

Oprah

The person she'd most like to meet.

FONDEST MEMORY

HER GRANDPARENTS LIVED NEAR HER SCHOOL. EVERY DAY, "GRANDMA WOULD HAVE MY LUNCH FIXED. THAT WAS AWESOME!

"I'M KIND OF A HOTHEAD."

WHAT SHE'D CHANGE ABOUT HERSELF.

"Everything!"

WHAT MAKES HER LAUGH. "IF YOU CAN'T HAVE FUN, FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO DO!"





"I love cake!"

Favorite indulgence: birthday cake and cupcakes.



HER BLISS

A sunny day at seaside with her family, which includes her husband, Steve Phillips; twin sons Taylor and Trevor, who are seniors in high school; and a daughter, Courtney, a teacher.

"SURVIVOR": HER FAVORITE NON-PUBLIC-TV SHOW. ALSO "CHICAGO FIRE."

"GREASE": HER FAVORITE MOVIE.

Can't start the day without ... "checking my phones." Plural. One personal, another



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"Tea. Earl Grey. Black."

ST. MARTIN: HER FAVORITE DESTINATION.

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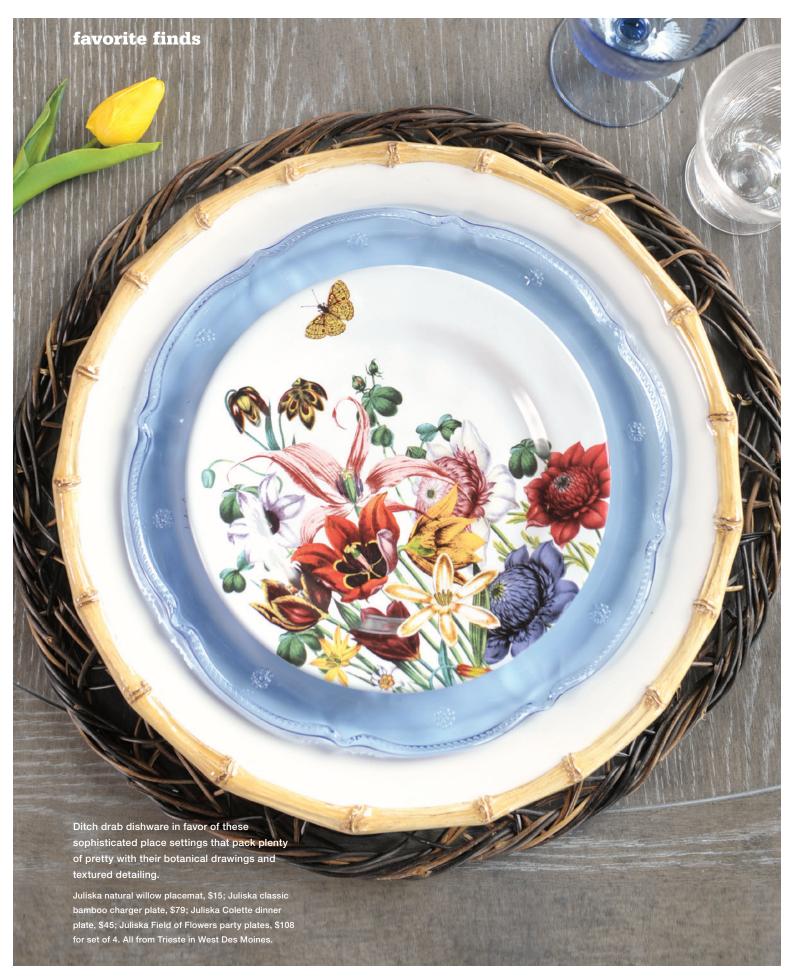
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passions

of performing and bringing that joy to people. People would just lose themselves in dancing. To see people light up like that was addictive for me."

What was originally meant as a one-off performance in Iowa City's pedestrian mall turned into a regular spot on the Diplomats' stage, as Sawyer became hooked on the alchemy of performing for a live audience backed by the Diplomats' luscious Hammond B3 organs.

"We did a tour in Italy and France together," she recalls. "It was a thrill. I organized the rest of my life to make that band work. I had a day job and friends, but nights and weekends were band time. I was so in love with that experience of performing. When I had a show at night, that whole day would be on cloud 9. It had an energy all its own."

Eventually, Sawyer made the difficult decision to leave the Diplomats—and lowa—as she pursued the opportunity to study for her master's degree in film and media in New Zealand. The move, which she undertook with Chris LoRang, the man who would become her husband and playing partner in her band, Abbie and the Sawyers, proved to be one of the best decisions of her life. Not only did the experience open her up culturally and intellectually, but it also gave her the opportunity to make the subtle transition from singer to musician.

"We found this house to live in," she says. "The couple who owned the house also had a recording studio in the basement."

Sawyer recalls international jam sessions with other students and traveling musicians, stints that might include LoRang on saxophone alongside a French pianist and an Italian guitar player. Sawyer sang backing tracks for a Kiwi hip-hop act. She also learned to play the guitar.

"The thing about playing with the Diplomats was that I always had this incredible backing band," she says.
"When I left, I still had ideas about songs I wanted to write, but now I needed a way to accompany myself."

Her New Zealand hosts had a guitar among the gear in their recording studio and were happy to help her learn. "I remember sitting in our kitchen," Sawyer recalls. "The fog's coming in, and I've got this classical guitar that I barely know how to play. My fingers are numb, but I'm strumming away. That's how I wrote my first songs."

Now back in her hometown,
Sawyer splits her time between two
acts: the NOLA Jazz Band, and her own
Abbie and the Sawyers, where she is
joined by standup bassist Alex
Clemons, banjo player Lorin Ditzler and
LoRang.

Sawyer and LoRang, a chiropractor who owns Capital Chiropractic in the East Village, have now been together 10 years and married for four. Though they have both always played music in a variety of acts, playing together was not a natural fit.

"When we started collaborating, it was really difficult," Sawyer admits. "We

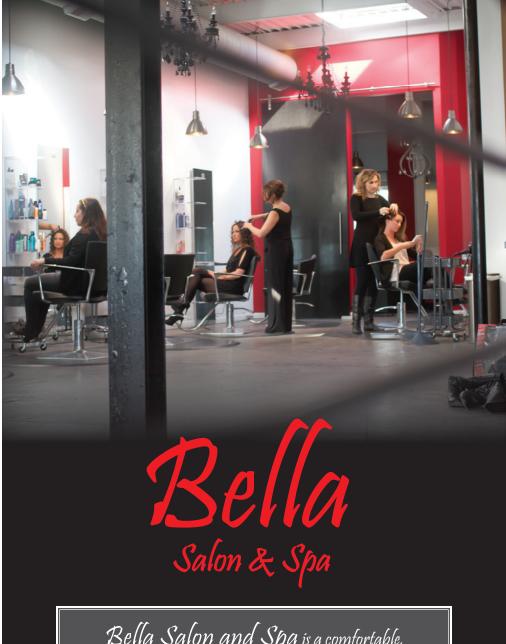
MAKING MEMORIES WITH MUSIC

WRITER: CHAD TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHER: DUANE TINKEY

"Why say it when you can sing it?" has been Abbie Sawyer's mantra for as long as she can remember. But it wasn't until the Des Moines native was at the University of lowa that her love of music found its first true outlet, in the form of the legendary lowa City soul/funk act the Diplomats of Solid Sound.

"The Diplomats were my first band," says the now-31-year-old Sawyer. "I absolutely fell in love with the experience





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passions

"THE FOG'S
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HOW TO PLAY.
MY FINGERS ARE
NUMB, BUT I'M
STRUMMING
AWAY. THAT'S
HOW I WROTE MY
FIRST SONGS."
ABBIE SAWYER

collaborate really well in every other way, but when you're making music, it's a different kind of vulnerability. Neither of us wants to let the other down. It's brought a whole new level of gentleness and acceptance, playing music with someone you're so close to."

That level of vulnerability and acceptance is clear in the band's music, as Abbie and the Sawyers' unique blend of backwoods Appalachia and Midwest charm creates a sound that is stunningly intimate. And though she has been around the world playing music and learning along the way, Sawyer knows better than most that there is no place like home.

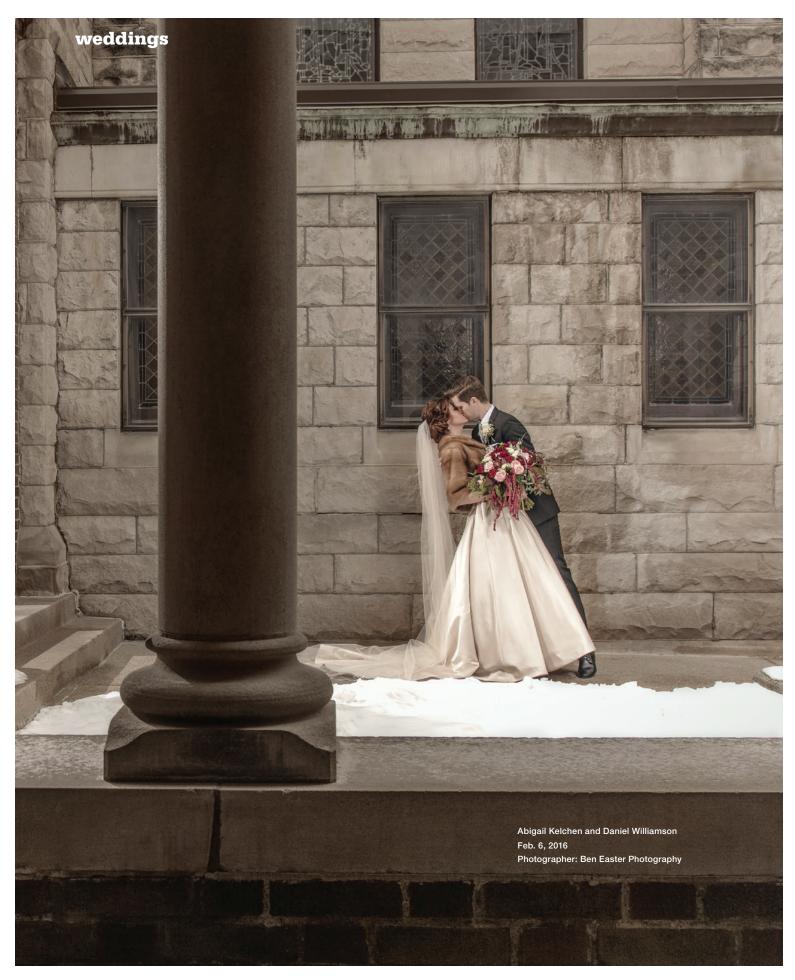
"There's nothing like playing a hometown gig," she says. "People coming out and knowing they're going to have a good time. I'm not looking to be famous, I'm not looking to be wealthy. I'm looking for that thing that I love most: connecting with an audience."

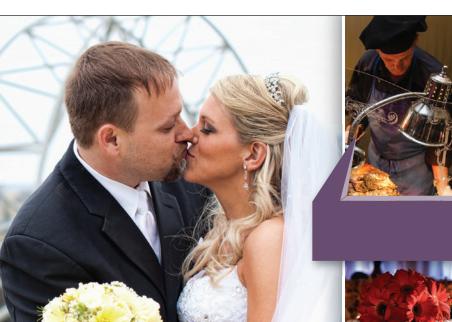
Chad Taylor covers music, autos and other topics for dsm. He also writes for Cityview and appears regularly on KFMG as well as KCWI's morning show, where he talks about music, movies and pop culture.



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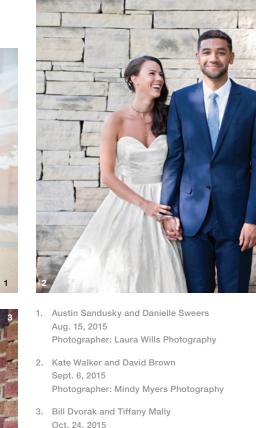


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weddings







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The pace of the action rises and falls with the water level and its flow rate, so it pays to check ahead and plan accordingly. **Riverfront Park** covers 23 acres and includes the whitewater course that stretches three-quarters of a mile. It presents a series of three carefully engineered water features: Dam Drop, Doc's Drop and Exit Exam. There's no charge for any of it if you bring your own gear. Otherwise, local firms rent kayaks, tubes, canoes and related equipment. For information: **ccwhitewater.com**

Fly-fishing in rugged northeast lowa is every bit as exciting as a mountain stream. And you'll be in good company: The **Iowa Driftless Chapter of Trout Unlimited** is based in Decorah, gateway to the region's chilly spring-fed creeks and larger troutstocked streams. Find them at iadriftless.org. Or find your own way with the guy who wrote the book on the subject, Jene Hughes of Des Moines. He authored "The Complete Guide to Iowa Trout Streams," 184 pages of essential information available through his website, **Iowaflyfishing.com**.

Water parks offer man-made family fun.

Adventureland lures sun-seekers with its water park Adventure Bay, complete with big slides and private cabanas. As a bonus, its brand new Monster roller coaster with a 2,500-foot track and speeds up to 65 miles per hour is opening this season. Lost Island Water Park in Waterloo boasts big slides, big rides plus lots of options for the littles. Or, make a splash at one of the many community aquatic parks.

To experience nature at a more leisurely pace, check out life on Iowa's lakes. While Mother Nature did not bless us with many, we made our own. The top 10 visited lakes are:

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LAKE MACBRIDE
EAST LAKE OKOBOJI
LAKE RED ROCK
BIG CREEK LAKE
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CORALVILLE LAKE
SAYLORVILLE LAKE







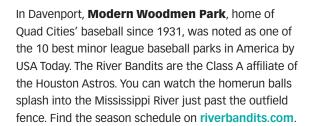
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▲ The 11,000-seat **Principal Park**, nestled between the two rivers in downtown Des Moines, is home to the **Iowa Cubs**, an AAA affiliate of the Chicago Cubs. The top-notch ballpark has undergone several renovations in recent years. More than 10 million fans have walked through the stadium's gates to watch the team play and enjoy views of the Iowa State Capitol and downtown skyline. A big bonus is the fireworks show following every Friday night game. The I-Cubs season runs until early September; single tickets can be purchased at the gate. Visit **iowacubs.com** for game times.









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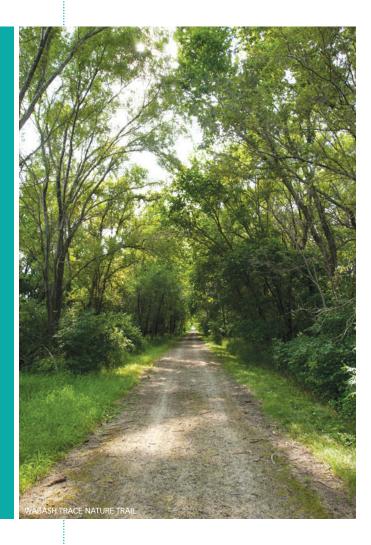


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▲ The **Wabash Trace Nature Trail** spans 63 mostly flat miles in western lowa, with a trailhead just east of Council Bluffs. Developed in the late 1980s and 1990s, this trail was one of lowa's first rails-to-trails projects. There are 74 bridges along the route. Several of the smaller towns have camping options and guest houses.

If hiking is more your speed, there are 85 state parks and 6 state forests to explore. **Wapsipinicon State Park** is located just south of Anamosa and named by Fodor's as one of the "10 best spring hikes in the U.S."

The 1.4-mile trail has streams and small caves.

Sandstone ledges that rise up 100 feet gave Ledges

State Park near Boone its name, which has 13 miles of hiking trails. The trails at **Waubonsie State Park**, located on the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail near Hamburg, overlook views of four states. The 10 miles of trails at **Hitchcock Nature Area** near Honey Creek allow you to explore some of the last remaining prairie remnants in lowa.



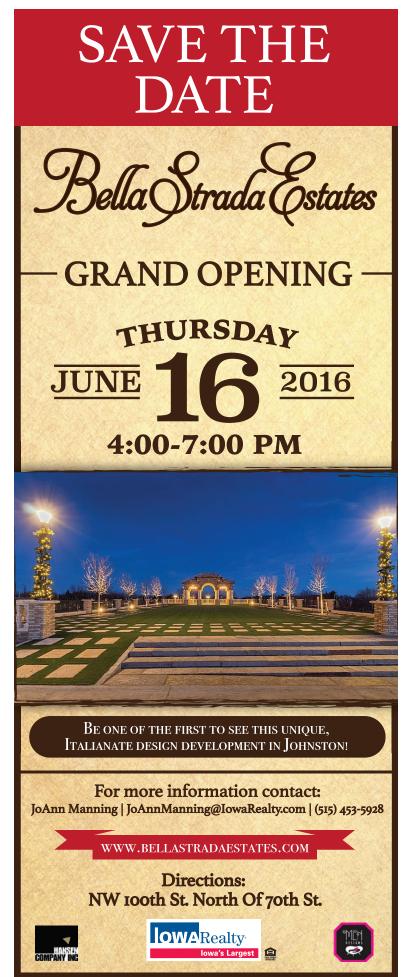
▲ lowa also has plenty of public gardens and arboretums. The **Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden** has invested more than \$18 million to revitalize the geodesic domed conservatory and create seven acres of outdoor gardens and a water education center. Themed horticulture exhibits change every six to eight weeks.

Just south of the Iowa State University campus in Ames is **Reiman Gardens**, where you can watch 800 butterflies flitting through the 2,500-square-foot Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing. Tour a wide variety of gardens on 17 acres, including a Children's Garden.

The **Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden** is recognized by the National Hosta Society as the largest public hosta garden in the United States, with 700 varieties and 13,000 plants. More than 60 types of gardens are open at no charge.

In Des Moines' Water Works Park, the **Arie Den Boer Arboretum** is home to 1,200 crabapple trees
representing 300 varieties established in 1930 by
renowned horticulturist Arie den Boer. The **Brenton Arboretum** in Dallas Center has 2,600 labeled trees
and shrubs representing 468 species, hybrids and
cultivars; walking paths; prairies; streams; and a small
lake and pond with boardwalks and bridges.

One of lowa's largest tulip trees lives in the **Buxton Park Arboretum** in Indianola, where a self-guided tour takes you through the 5.4-acre park. And the state's largest arboretum, 378 acres, is the **Iowa Arboretum** in Madrid. It includes alpine rock and trough garden, peony labyrinth, hosta collection, herb garden, butterfly garden, ornamental grasses and more. It was started by the Iowa State Horticulture Society in 1966 to celebrate its 100th anniversary.





A MOVABLE FEAST FOOD TRUCKS SERVE UP CAREERS ALONG WITH CUISINE. WRITER: BARBARA DIETRICH BOOSE PHOTOGRAPHER: BOB BLANCHARD 102 DSM MAY JUNE 2016



"TRY THIS!"

says Shon Bruellman, presenting a bowl of seasoned tofu. We're in the kitchen of his Polk City home, where he is experimenting with a meatless option for fried tacos—the signature item that he and his wife, Julie, serve from their shiny new Big Red Food Truck. The couple is part of Des Moines' movable feast that, in just its second year, is on a roll.

When the Des Moines City Council gave the go-ahead for a pilot program for mobile food vendors to begin in April 2015, it fueled a platoon of palate pleasers to hit the streets. The program accepted 17 food trucks serving everything from Korean barbecue to buttermilk fried chicken waffle cones in four zones downtown. The program was set to end Oct. 31 but was extended for an additional three months, which attracted an 18th truck. At its Feb. 8,

2016, meeting, the City Council voted to make the program part of the municipal code.

"We take a lot of satisfaction in making people happy," Bruellman says. "We have a lot of support from the community. We're honored to be part of the food truck industry here and are positive about the direction we're going."

That direction appears to be onward and upward. Nick Kuhn, co-owner of 515 Pi (previously Pyro's Pizza), predicts that at least 10 more food trucks will be on the streets this year. "We have a lot of chefs here who are passionate about food," Kuhn says. "It's been the perfect storm."

On the following pages you'll get a closer look at Big Red Food Truck and 515 Pi, along with Street Eats DSM.



Who would expect a complete wood-fired pizza oven on wheels? No wonder there's often a line wherever 515 Pi is parked. MAY JUNE 2016 **DSM 105**



TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

NAME: Aaron Byrd

TRUCK: Street Eats DSM

FOOD: Gourmet "sammiches" stuffed with various ingredients (such as chicken, slow-roasted pork and grilled young jackfruit), handmade fries and specialty sauces; also regular fries, cheese fries and poutine—fries topped with Wisconsin cheese curds and seasoned gravy.

MENU INSPIRATION: "The plan I took to the bank was to do french fries," Byrd says. "I had a long talk with Zack Mannheimer [owner of the food truck Powered by Fries]. It would have been fine to have two trucks serving fries, but I wanted to be something original and different. If people are going to get off their chairs and out of their offices, I wanted to offer something they can't get at home. Plus, meat and potatoes go together. This being lowa, that could be a winner." Byrd now hand-cuts up to 70 pounds of potatoes a day during the food truck season.

PAST LIFE: Byrd's first job was at a Hardee's; he was manager by age 17. He opened 16 restaurants for Outback Steakhouse and then became its corporate trainer. He also has owned a catering company and a bar, and he says he has served three presidents and "several rock stars."

WHY DES MOINES: "I had a decent life in Kansas City," Byrd says. "A friend in Des Moines threw a party to set me up with someone. There were 35 people there, and I was the only one who didn't know what was going on." He and his wife, Sarah, "dated over the highway" for five years before he moved to Des Moines and they married; she helped support his truck rollout financially. "I have my wife to thank for this," he says.

BEST PART OF HAVING A FOOD TRUCK:

"It's my own," he says. "My food truck is not a gateway to get me into a restaurant; it's to get me out. In a restaurant, there are the guys who buy this, those who cook that, the manager and the person who counts the money. Well, that's all me. This has been very empowering for me. I don't have to consult with anyone but my 2-year-old."

BEST LOCATION: "I like being around the sculpture park," he says. "I have an awesome view out of my office window."

AMAZING, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT:

"We [food trucks] had one complaint last year, from when we all were by the sculpture park," he says. "There was a school field trip at the park, and one of the teachers said the smells coming from the food trucks were so good, it distracted the students."



Aaron Byrd enjoys the changing view from his "office window."

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET ROLLING

Steering a food truck to success requires more than equipping a vehicle, which in itself is no small feat. In Central lowa, food trucks are inspected the same as restaurants and undergo possible spot inspections at festivals and other events. Would-be truckers must submit an application to the city clerk's office; once mobile, they must operate within set zones and hours and provide trash receptacles, proof of insurance and bathroom access for their employees, among other requirements. They can't do business within 100 feet of any restaurant. And fees are involved as well. In Des Moines, these include:

- \$570 application fee for a permit, valid March through February.
- \$100 Fire Department inspection (not required for vendors who don't use hot or cold food-handling procedures).
- \$200 cash bond.
- \$1,180 for each meter hood (two hoods are required for units needing two parking spaces).
- \$35 deposit for each meter hood.

LIFE OF PI

NAMES: Nick Kuhn and Brad Bormann

TRUCKS: 515 Pi (previously Pyro's

Pizza); Deez Greenz

FOOD: Pizza, salads and smoothies

PAST LIVES: Kuhn once employed 175 at his structural engineering company; Bormann is a former inventory control manager for EFCO Corp., a Des Moinesbased firm providing concrete forming systems for clients worldwide.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE: Last August, Kuhn became president of the Legion of Food, Des Moines' food truck association. In that role, he was chief organizer of the Fall Food Truck Showdown held last October at the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park. (That followed an inaugural fivehour Throwdown in the Des Moines Social Club's courtyard last May. It attracted 10,000 people, which overwhelmed the 10 participating trucks, several of which ran out of food.) "I'd never planned an event in my life, but we needed to hit a home run with the City Council and with the customers," Kuhn says. "We thought 5,000 was a good number to expect, given the weather. Two days before the event, I told the guys I thought we better expect 10,000. Why? Facebook. We estimated we served 12,000. We had 23 trucks, a nine-hour service window and a much larger venue."

BEST PART OF OWNING A FOOD TRUCK:

"The people," Kuhn says. "You hand them their food; they're really happy and then they sit outdoors and talk. One of my side missions is to support conversations." Bormann loves the flexibility the business offers. "It's a lot of hours, but I'm my own boss," he says. "There's also a lot of the trucks helping each other. It's almost like a really good friendship. We like to be parked together—we make more money that way."

HOW THEY GOT ROLLING: The two men were sitting in Kuhn's backyard using his wood-fired pizza oven. "I could tell Brad was just itching to work on that oven," Kuhn recalls. "We'd had a few beers and thought, 'Why couldn't we throw it on a truck?'"

FEEDING APPETITES, FEEDING SOULS:

Kuhn points to the Legion of Food's motto: "Wherever there is hunger, you will find us." He organized a pilot event last November in which his truck, Street Eats DSM, and the truck Heart and Seoul fed 215 Central Iowa Shelter and Services (CISS) residents in under 90 minutes, for free. Pending discussions with staff at CISS and other local shelters, Kuhn hopes to have three trucks serving those in need at one or two locations once a week during the food truck season. He's also reserving a staffing slot on each of his two trucks for a CISS resident.







LITTLE RED GOES BIG

NAMES: Julie and Shon Bruellman

TRUCK: Big Red Food Truck (previously Little Red Food Truck)

FOOD: Signature fried tacos (taco meat, fish or tofu) and hand-pounded tenderloins.

PAST LIVES: The couple owned Shon's Taste of Home restaurant in West Bend, lowa; they also served specialty meals at a bed-and-breakfast owned by Shon's parents (Prairie Oasis Country Inn in Whittemore, Iowa). They came to Central Iowa and became real estate agents, but the food industry's hold on them was too strong. Shon says, "If I could do anything I wanted, I'd cook all day long. My mom, Verda, taught me to cook. Our restaurant motto was 'We do simple food good.' "

TRUCK CASTING: Julie: "He's cook; I'm window. We try to be fast, because people are on their lunch hour."

Shon: "From the time Julie gets the order, I can get it to the window in about 45 seconds."

STARTING FROM SCRATCH: "I bought a truck from a guy who did egg rolls and fried rice. We had to redesign it ourselves," Shon says. "Our first year was good enough that we wanted to keep doing it and get a bigger truck."

BEST ASPECTS OF FOOD TRUCK

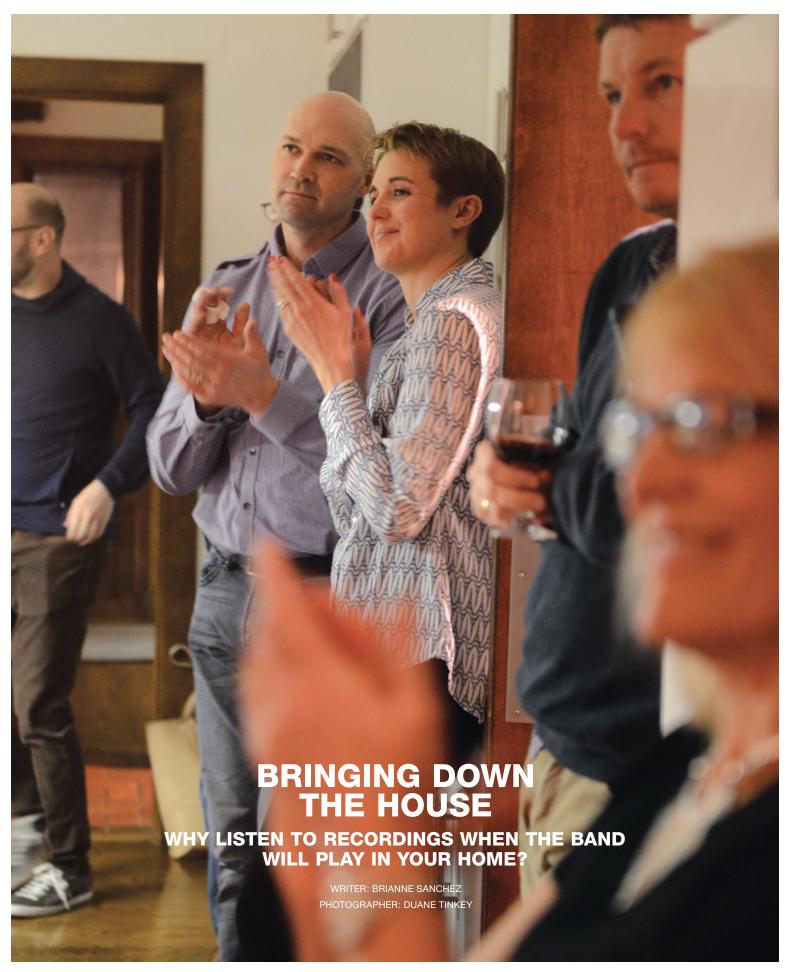
OWNERSHIP: "I like the flexibility," Shon says. "With the food truck, we can pick and choose our hours and locations.

There's also great camaraderie among the food trucks. We gravitate toward each other, because we know more food trucks bring more people. And I like the stress. If you interview people working in a busy restaurant, they like the adrenaline." Adds Julie: "Every day we're out in the truck, we have different scenery and see different people."

Writer Barbara Dietrich Boose is the publications director at Des Moines University. This summer, you'll likely see her blissfully noshing in one of the city's food truck zones.

Photographer **Bob Blanchard** is an urban planner. He moved to Des Moines a year and a half ago to manage the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the City, and photography has provided him with unique insights into the metro area's people and places.





1. Concert hosts Katie and Jay Byers delight in connecting musicians with an audience of friends. 2. Megan Jean Klay pours her vocal energy into a microphone. 3. A collection of recordings for sale is seldom far from the performers at a house concert. 4. Local musician Andy TeBockhorst, who performed at the Byers' wedding, is persuaded to reprise a song from the couple's first dance.

drum set and electrified banjo have temporarily ousted the Byers family's massive midcentury modern table, transforming their Grand Avenue dining room into an intimate music venue. No stage separates the band's amps from the audience. The 52 attendees

appear as varied as the hodgepodge of seating spread within spitting distance of the performers. The atmosphere is anticipatory, with guests filling dessert plates and wine glasses before selecting a seat.

This is the ninth house concert for hosts Katie and Jay Byers. The couple became intrigued by the idea after Katie attended a Folk Alliance International conference. "She wanted to recreate the experience of hearing live, acoustic music in a close and intimate setting like she did in these tiny hotel rooms at the conference," says Jay, CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership. "It was an easy sell to me because I have always loved live music. In fact, music was something that initially brought Katie and me together as a couple. I was playing a solo gig at a bar in lowa City when we were both in law school there, and I dedicated a song to Katie. We have been together ever since. Over the years, we have attended a long list of live music shows. Now we also get to host them in our home."

The Byers' passion for bringing people together and hosting musicians inspires them to book interesting acts that they can share with a growing invitation-only list of friends, family and acquaintances. "There is something truly magical that happens at house concerts," Katie says. "The intimacy of a house concert allows for a connection that occurs between the artist and guests that doesn't happen at larger venues. I find the storytelling aspect of house concerts fascinating, and I love hearing the inspiration for songs."

The Byerses started hosting concerts at their home last year with Aaron Howard, a folk singer and songwriter from Arizona. The Nadas have played in the Byers' dining

room, as have Des Moines folk rock duo the High Crest and local jazz darlings the Max Wellman Trio.

"For our local musicians, it's all about supporting them, exposing them to a broader audience and helping make Greater Des Moines a place that attracts and retains musicians and artists," Katie says. "Every great city needs to have a thriving arts and culture scene."

If Katie and Jay hear music they love at the Gas Lamp or the Temple for Performing Arts, they might reach out to the band through social media and invite them to play at their home the next time they're in town. The hosts often provide meals and a place to crash, along with the proceeds from the show. (In a very Silicon Prairie version of passing the hat, invitees book tickets by contributing a suggested donation through the Des Moines-based online ticketing company Tikly.co, with the option to pay by Dwolla.)

Past performers at the Byers' home also include Ira Wolf and Wes Kirkpatrick from Nashville, international touring band the Hollands, and Miles Nielsen and the Rusted Hearts (Nielsen is the son of Cheap Trick guitarist Rick Nielsen).

This night, the crowd is assembled to hear Megan Jean and the KFB, a husband and wife duo who play a witchy breed of zombie-survivalist Americana. They're influenced by their rambling, nomadic lifestyle as much as by any musical genre. Katie's first encounter with the band was a chance meeting during the Folk Alliance International Music Festival in Kansas City. It's a serendipitous story she shares with the crowd as the concert kicks off.

The two launch into their first set, and haunting, powerful vocals and percussion fill the room.

These bones, these bones so far from home, mister, can you tell me?
The reason why I roam?

The audience is rapt, respectfully toe-tapping but keeping the focus on the performers, who punctuate their songs

Continues on page 118











HOW TO HOST A HOUSE CONCERT

Inspired to host your own house show? Private concert pioneer Bonita Crowe and her husband, Keith, have hosted scores of house concerts since founding The GrapeVine in 2008, an intimate wine-serving music venue in Clive. In 2014, their efforts were recognized with an award from the Greater Des Moines Music Coalition. Based on her experience, Bonita offers these suggestions:

BOOK A BAND YOU CAN TRUST

It's easiest to start local, or with a band you know personally. But there's also a circuit of house-show performers, and once word gets out that you've hosted successful shows, artists might begin reaching out to you. Before you book musicians, be sure to see them live or watch videos from performances in front of an audience so you're confident in the quality of an act. "Be picky and do your research," Crowe says.

KEEP THE SHOW INTIMATE

Although her mailing list includes more than 1,500 contacts, Crowe says her ideal show seats between 20 and 40 people—by design as much as necessity. The GrapeVine is currently hosting shows at Crazyhorse Guitars, 2331 University Ave., which benefits that business and gives guests a unique setting for a quiet, relaxed evening. Requesting RSVPs is a must with such limited space.

EMBRACE THE POTLUCK

Set out glassware and some treats, but asking guests to bring their own drinks and appetizers is an acceptable practice for house concert hosts.

LAY THE GROUND RULES

"It's a listening room environment; for an artist, there's nothing better than having all of the eyes and ears in the room on you," Crowe says. The host should introduce the performers and set a tone for the evening, explaining that there will be a break for socializing.

PASS THE HAT

Proceeds from private shows should go directly to the performers. Suggested donations for concerts hosted by The GrapeVine run from \$15 to \$25, and Crowe says she might encourage tips as part of an encore.

START EARLY

If a house concert kicks off at 7 p.m., there's often plenty of night left after it wraps up for the music lovers to move on to another performance site and continue to support local music. "I do a lot of cross-promotion with bars and live music venues," Crowe says. It's not uncommon for a group to head out to Lefty's after a GrapeVine concert.

Keith and Bonita Crowe are experts in the growing realm of small-scale concerts. They operate The GrapeVine in Clive, an intimate performance venue that serves wine as well as music.



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Continued from page 114

with funny stories from touring life.

During intermission, a surprise: Andy TeBockhorst, a Des Moines marketer and a musician who played at the Byers' wedding, is in attendance. Jay has cajoled him into a singalong rendition of their first dance song, the Beatles' "Let it Be," on the family's piano.

It's a moment that delights the crowd. Among them are the family's pastor, Sarah Trone Garriott; Scott Bush, founder and president of Templeton Rye Spirits; Stephanie Jutila, president and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden; and real estate developer Justin Mandelbaum. Kristi Knous, president of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, snagged a spot on the couch with her husband, Lauren.

Mingling with other guests is part of a house concert's charm, and easy since everyone has a shared interest in the music. The set break also provides a chance for guests to chat with the bands.

"It's fun to learn more about the artists," says Kristi Knous, who has attended several of the Byers' shows and credits Jay and Katie with expanding her family's Pandora playlists. "They tell great stories of their path, the inspiration behind songs, life on the road—and you see such incredible talent and passion. We've even had the chance to tour some of the bands' tour buses."

This night's band seems to revel in the listeningroom vibe, cracking jokes and playing ballads that might not get the best reception in a bar setting.

For Katie Byers, the allure of hosting house concerts is creating an experience that is a soul-stirring break from the routine.

"There is such beauty for me in live, acoustic music in an intimate setting," she says. "I feel most alive when I am experiencing a musical performance. Add in the fact that I get to share this with friends and help out a musician—it doesn't get much more rewarding than that."

Writer Brianne Sanchez is the community relations manager at Des Moines University. She moved to Des Moines in 2007 and likes to call herself an "lowan by Choice." She's raising two lowa natives.



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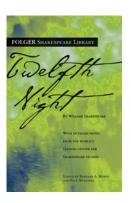
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WONDER OF WORDS







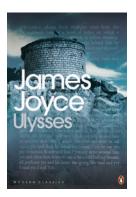
Viola from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" for her resilience, wit and exuberance.

Even though there is nothing more terrible than the grief that comes from the loss of a loved one, you should never stop loving or believing in love. Also, no matter how clever your disguise is, you will always be you.

Jeanette Tran is an assistant professor of English at Drake University, where she teaches classes on Shakespeare and other early modern writers.



JOHN DOMINI Author



I read for a living, sort of, and so I've bumped into all sorts of characters I identify with, heroes and villains, women and men, plus of course Stuart Little. Still, were I forced to pick just one, I guess I'd go with Leopold Bloom, James Joyce's great creation in "Ulysses."

The novel celebrates Dublin, Joyce's hometown, and Bloom

is very much a man of the city, both a hustling freelancer and a heady *flaneur*. He's always out on the streets, always canny about what he finds along the way. "There's a touch of the artist about old Bloom," remarks one passing friend, and the man remains light on his feet even well into the wear and tear of middle age—the tragedies, even. He takes his small pleasures wherever the old Catholic seaport offers them, though he's a born outsider, a Jew.

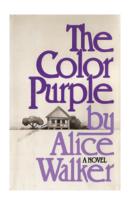
Joyce liked the character so much he made a sketch, and toward the end of the novel, in the wee hours of the night, the author allowed Bloom to bring off one essential act of kindness, saving a life in a way. Such small achievements are all most of us can ask, isn't it?

John Domini has published three novels and two books of stories, and he has one of each coming this year and in 2017 through Dzanc Books. His essays and reviews have appeared in the New York Times and elsewhere.



"OVER THE YEARS,
I HAVE LEARNED
TO CHANNEL MY
INNER SOFIA, TO
UNAPOLOGETICALLY
DECLARE THAT
BEING A BLACK
WOMAN AND BEING
STRONG ARE
NOT MUTUALLY
EXCLUSIVE."
NIKKI HAYTER

NIKKI HAYTER Librarian



Sofia, from Alice Walker's "The Color Purple." This is one of my all-time favorite novels. I have returned to this book several times over the past 25 years, gaining a new appreciation for Walker's brilliant prose with each read. I was about 12 or 13 the first time I read the book and was drawn to Sofia's brazen independence and strength. She reminded me of

my grandmother Bertie. It was not until I read it in my late teens that I could fully grasp the complexity of Sofia as a character. She embodies the strength, vulnerability, tenderness, courage, devotion, resilience and legacy that black women in this country have endured. Sofia had the audacity to fight back, literally and figuratively. She is the sacrificial lamb.

Sofia represents the price that black women paid for demanding to be heard, seen and respected. It is the Sofias who came before me—my grandmothers, my aunties and my mother—who brought about transformative change and have provided the freedoms that I now enjoy. Over the years, I have learned to channel my inner Sofia, to unapologetically declare that being a black woman and being strong are not mutually exclusive. I cannot wait to share "The Color Purple" and Sofia with my three young daughters, who are already channeling their inner Sofias brilliantly.

Nikki Hayter is the supervisor of the Forest Avenue Library.

WONDER OF WORDS





MARY KAY SHANLEY Author



When I turned 7, I was allowed to walk to the library alone. One day, Miss Librarian (I didn't know her name) suggested I check out the first of 10 books about Betsy Ray. She was born in Deep Valley, Minn. (Mankato), about 50 years ahead of me. Created by Maud Hart Lovelace and based on Maud's life, Betsy's growing-up stories carried us from her first-

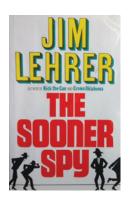
grade days in 1897 through her wedding in 1917, with the world at war.

I loved Betsy. She wrote all the time, and I did too. She played a lot, and I did too. She read vociferously, and I did too. And when she became the bride of Joe Lovelace, she'd clean, cook, sew, read and, finally in the afternoon, write. (We had three babies in four years, so I wrote from 9 p.m. to midnight, drank Pepsi and crawled into bed wide awake.)

I've read a lot of books since then, by authors mighty and authors unknown. I grow with each one, and always, I give a nod to Maud and Betsy, who caused me to realize by my 13th year that I was a writer too.

Mary Kay Shanley is the author of 10 books, including the bestselling "She Taught Me to Eat Artichokes." She also teaches at the University of Iowa Summer Writing Festival and was named the Iowa Author of the Year for 2012-2013.

JEFFREY BRUNER Founder of The Fussy Librarian



I think the character that's stayed with me over the years is the One-Eyed Mack, the fictional lieutenant governor of Oklahoma that Jim Lehrer wrote about from 1988 to 2008. Mack taught me time and again that life is unpredictable and strange—and sometimes random—and that happiness comes from not sweating the small stuff but instead focusing

on what makes you happy.

The Fussy Librarian is a website (thefussylibrarian.com) that matches readers with the genre of ebooks they like and their preferences about content. Prior to founding the website in 2013, Jeffrey Bruner was a journalist for 25 years at The Des Moines Register and The Daily Tribune in Ames.



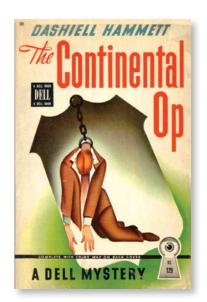
4100 Merle Hay Road | Suite D Des Moines, IA | (515) 331.4209 WHAT CHARACTER HAS INFLUENCED YOU? WE ALSO HEARD FROM OUR READERS ABOUT CHARACTERS THAT HAVE STAYED ALIVE IN THEIR MINDS LONG AFTER THEY FINISHED READING. AMONG THEM:

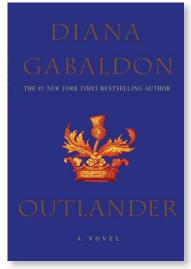
MARK WEINHARDT

Attorney, Weinhardt & Logan P.C.

For many years, I have admired the Dashiell Hammett character the Continental Op, who is arguably the original, and certainly the prototypical, hard-boiled private detective. Never identified by name, he is the first-person main character in two novels and more than two dozen short stories Hammett wrote in the 1920s. His moniker comes from his being a "Continental operative," an agent of the fictional Continental Detective Agency, a national detective agency based upon the Pinkerton agency for which Hammett actually worked before he became a mystery author.

In Hammett's tales, the Continental Op repeatedly navigates a world, usually in San Francisco, pockmarked with treachery and deceit. In every story, the Op is simply a hired man with a job to do, but he is relentless and single-minded about doing that job, notwithstanding the inevitable complications. He is impervious to pain, boredom and discomfort. Skeptical but not cynical, creative but not fanciful, he has an innate sense of justice. He typically achieves that justice along the way, but without being judgmental or a





zealot. Most importantly for me, he appreciates the gray areas in people and in life.

A substantial part of my law practice has been devoted to representing (and formerly prosecuting) people suspected of or accused of crimes. I have thus spent a lot of time thinking about and dealing with human misbehavior and the personal failings that go with it. Although my role in the system has been much different from that of a 1920s private eye, I have always appreciated the ethics and persistence of the Continental Op. And, as in my own practice, I never get tired of the stories.

JANA WARREN

Research Scientist, DuPont Pioneer

I learned about medicinal plants and herbs from Claire Fraser's tutelage (in "Outlander" and other titles in a historical fiction series by author Diana Gabaldon)—how to use my memory and knowledge to be more present in the world, and to take care of self and others in ways that Mother Nature can help. Claire is a prime example of how to be loyal and creative and how to endure—through love of self, love of others and a keen will to survive.



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BRIEFER, BIGGER, BETTER

WRITER: PERRY BEEMAN

he Wonder of Words Festival returns June
18-19 after a one-year hiatus, with a more
compact schedule, a change of season and a
single site—Western Gateway Park.
The Downtown Community Alliance's ode to
all things written has re-emerged after organizers pondered
how to make the free event a more accessible, better and
bigger deal among Des Moines' downtown doings.

The festival has been converted from two weeks of spread-out events in November to a single summer weekend in the city's prime party park.

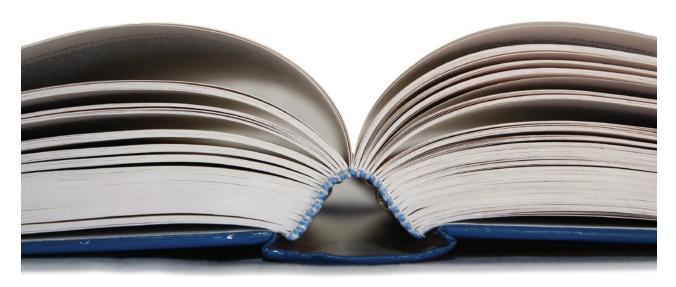
The changes come after the Downtown Events
Group—the part of the Alliance that is in charge here—
suspended the event last year. "They decided to take a year
off and really evaluate what they wanted the event to be in
the future," says Tiffany Tauschek, chief communications
officer for the Alliance's parent organization, the Greater
Des Moines Partnership. "They really wanted to hone in on,
what does this event need to look like? How are we going
to be the most successful in building for the future?"

The reborn festival primarily will be held outdoors, but some events may be in the University of Iowa John and Mary Pappajohn Education Center, says Sophia Ahmad, the Partnership's vice president of public relations. The offerings will remain similar, with appearances by prominent and aspiring local and national authors, book signings, kids' activities and food vendors.

All events will be free—sponsorships and vendor fees help pay the bills—and easily accessible, Ahmad says. And another slate of prominent writers should make the event's focus clear.

Inspired by the two-day Tucson Festival of Books, Wonder of Words started in 2012 and was an annual event until skipping 2015. Now, with the changes, the Alliance is hoping this year's event foreshadows a later chapter in which the festival blooms into a huge gathering. "We would like to have additional marquee events in the city, and we think that this has potential," Tauschek says,

Watch for the lineup of authors and activities: wonderofwordsfest.com. ■



Perry Beeman, a senior staff writer for the Business Record, has worked as a newspaper and magazine writer and editor for 35 years.





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Thursdays: May 5 - September 29

CINCO DE MAYO Saturday, May 7

VALLEY JUNCTION ARTS FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 22

MUSTANG CAR SHOW

Sunday, June 5

SUMMER ANTIQUE JAMBOREE

Sunday, June 12

ALL IOWA BASH!

Sunday, July 3

CHRISTMAS IN JULY SIDEWALK SALE

Friday, July 15

CHRISTMAS IN JULY SIDEWALK SALE

Saturday, July 16

JUNKIN' IN THE JUNCTION

Saturday, July 30

JAZZ IN JULY SEASON FINALE

Saturday, July 30

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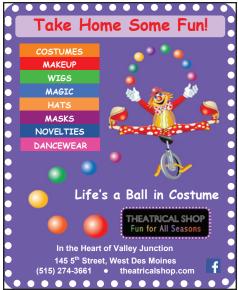


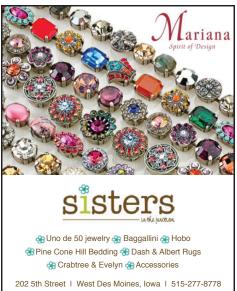


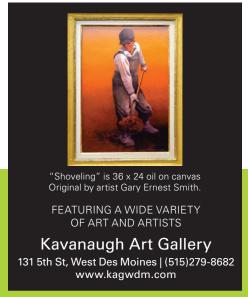


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SHOP. DINE. ENJOY.

THE VERDICT IS IN

A JURY OF FIVE DELIBERATES ON WHICH ARTISTS TO CHOOSE FOR THE DES MOINES ARTS FESTIVAL.

WRITER: CHRISTINE RICCELLI

n January, as presidential hopefuls scoured the state seeking support, candidates of a different kind were vying for my vote. I found myself in a caucus of five, voting on artwork rather than politics. Specifically, we were selecting the artists to be invited to the Des Moines Arts Festival in June.

Unlike the seemingly endless political election cycle, we had to make our decision in a mere 2 1/2 days—narrowing the field from 952 applicants to the 175 who will participate in the festival. Our voting booth was a blacked-out conference room in the new offices of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, where we reviewed nearly 6,000 images, projected on giant screens, of the artists' works. The jury was blind, meaning we were to base our decisions solely on the work; we didn't know the names or backgrounds of the artists.

The first round of voting, during which we used a slick electronic system called ZAPP, was anonymous. Then the collaboration—and the real fun—began. In the second, third and final rounds, we voted by raising our hands and, like Democratic caucusgoers, lobbied for the work each of us wanted—or didn't want—to include in the festival.

Lively and sometimes passionate conversation ensued. This year's group (jury members change every year) also included David Safris, a noted collector of urban street art and the co-founder of Art Week Des Moines (see the stories on pages 136 and 138); well-regarded Ames artist Kathranne Knight; and two artists who won awards at last year's festival: Missouri photographer Matthew Hemminghaus and Colorado ceramicist Lynda Ladwig.

While each juror had individual tastes and preferences, the spirited conversations certainly helped me appreciate aspects of artwork I otherwise would have dismissed. The depth and breadth of the other jurors' knowledge—from the recognition of a Banksy knockoff to an understanding of 19th-century photographic techniques—was impressive.

The result? A strong mix of works—including paintings, prints, photographs, jewelry, sculpture, multimedia, ceramics and fiber—by an extraordinarily talented group of artists. Find out for yourself at the Arts Festival June 24-26 at Western Gateway Park (for a complete list of artists and other details, visit desmoinesartsfestival.org). In the meantime, on this and the following pages, check out a sample of works by a few of the artists you'll meet in June.



In creating his ceramic works, **Randy O'Brien** draws inspiration from lichen, mosses, minerals, mudflats and other formations in the natural world. The Tucson, Ariz., artist uses a three-dimensional glaze surface that's composed primarily of volcanic ash and metallic oxides.



Audrey Heller of Berkeley, Calif., draws from her background as a theater set and lighting designer in creating photographic works. Her mixed-scale scenarios seem to imply a story; she says she uses "the disorientation that results from these surreal scenes to draw attention to the beauty and power of everyday objects and daily interactions."



Chris Dahlquist of Kansas City, Mo., combines historical photo processes with contemporary materials and technology to create mixed media photographic works. In her artist's statement, she says she seeks to create "quiet images of 'in-between' spaces. I photograph islands of solitude, places with more memories and daydreams than fireworks, moments where we must be mindful to appreciate the subtle beauty that resides there."





Above: Inspired by artists as diverse as Grant Wood, Salvador Dali and Edward Hopper, **Jodi Perry** of Osage, Iowa, uses multiple layers of acrylic paint and a minimalist approach to composition in creating her works. Fun fact: Her brother, James Perry of Riverside, Calif., also will exhibit at the Arts Festival.

Left: Motivated to "upcycle" and help conserve natural resources, Eric and Melynda Candee of Salida, Colo., make jewelry from vintage automobile metal, other reclaimed metals and stainless steel. They travel to auto salvage yards around Colorado and "harvest and reclaim metal ourselves," they say on their website. "We are drawn to a palette of colors from vintage automobiles from the 1950s, '60s and '70s and love the patina of old paint on metal." ■

ENCORE!

ART WEEK
RETURNS WITH
A VIBRANT SERIES
OF EVENTS
LEADING UP TO
THE DES MOINES
ARTS FESTIVAL.

WRITER: CHRISTINE RICCELLI
PHOTOGRAPHER: DUANE TINKEY

t was one of those "Why not Des Moines?" moments. A few years ago, David Safris, president of Visionary Services Inc. and an avid collector of urban street art, was attending Art Basel Miami Beach, North America's premier contemporary art fair, which showcases some 250 galleries from more than 30 countries.

"Art Basel was the official show, but there was so much more going on at the same time," Safris says. Each year, the show spawns dozens of satellite art fairs, plus pop-up clubs, public art installations, and numerous events and activities hosted by luxury retailers, museums, restaurants, designers and more.

Inspired by the experience, Safris recalls thinking, "Let's do something like that in Des Moines." He envisioned the community's collective energy being harnessed to engage people in the arts and cultural scene in fresh, inspiring and diverse ways. He started calling people to drum up interest, "and Liz was the only one foolish enough to call me back," he says with a laugh.

Liz Adelman, owner of Adelman Public Relations, shared Safris' vision and enthusiasm. The result? Art Week Des Moines, which launched in 2015 with some 50 events that ranged from an architectural tour to an art exhibit in the lieutenant governor's office to a 15-minute graffiti video on a downtown bridge. Art Week will return this year June 20-26, culminating, like last year, with the Des Moines Arts Festival.

The Arts Festival, in fact, was a catalyst for the development of Art Week, Adelman and Safris say. "The aha moment last year was realizing the Arts Festival could be the anchor, with Art

Week leading up to it," Adelman explains.

Stephen King, executive director of the Arts Festival, enthusiastically supported the idea, as did Des Moines Art Center Director Jeff Fleming, the Des Moines Social Club and other arts and cultural leaders and organizations.

"Our pitch was that each Art Week event would add to the energy of the whole," Safris says.

Adelman and Safris emphasize that Art Week itself is neither an event nor a nonprofit organization. Instead, they describe it as a volunteer-based movement. "The model is that there is no central control," Safris says. "We see ourselves as facilitators, a resource. Art Week doesn't host anything; rather, it's a decentralized community platform where people, organizations and venues can showcase what they have to offer. ... When people come to us with their big ideas and dreams for Art Week, we say, 'You should do it—go for it.' "

Thus, Art Week is intended to be inclusive, interactive and collaborative and can involve nearly any art form, such as theater, music, dance, visual art, film and the culinary arts. Crosspromotion is encouraged. With the exception of a dinner, all events last year were free, and Adelman and Safris are hoping for the same this year.

"Art Week is for everyone,"

Adelman says, "from the art aficionado to someone looking for something social to do on any given night. We want it to appeal to a broad range of people."

"Our goal this year is to get as many people to participate as possible," Safris adds. "We want to challenge people of all ages and backgrounds to get off the couch, get out of their comfort zone and experience something new."



ART WEEK 2016 JUNE 20-26

For more information, or if you're interested in hosting or creating an event for Art Week, go to artweekdesmoines.com or facebook.com/ArtWeekDesMoines.

As of press time, a few of the events planned for the week included:

"Conversations With Creators"
June 20 at the Crane Building
downtown, hosted by Salon 4700,
a Des Moines Art Center
member group.

A tour of artist studios at the Fitch Building downtown June 21.

"Urban Visionaries," an art exhibit at Viaduct Gallery at the Des Moines Social Club, June 22-26. The exhibit, hosted by Visionary Services Inc., will feature works by acclaimed urban street artists Keith Haring, Banksy, Shepard Fairey and others (see story, page 138).

"Art2Art" bike ride June 25 focused on public art around Greater Des Moines, hosted by Art Noir, a Des Moines Art Center member group.

STREET SMART

A LOCAL COLLECTION SHOWCASES THE GRIT, PURPOSE AND POWER OF URBAN STREET ART.

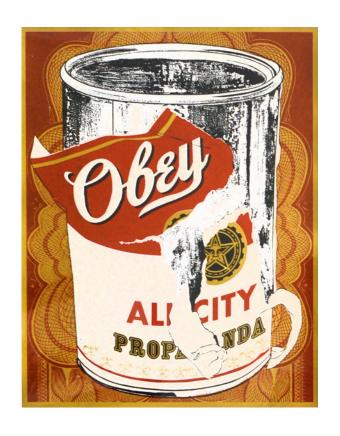
WRITER: CHRISTINE RICCELLI

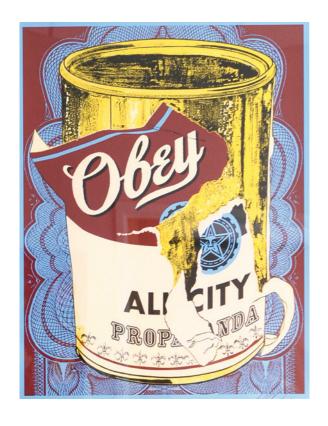
tep into Visionary Services' office in the East Village, and you may think you've wandered into a contemporary art gallery instead of a website development firm. That's because dozens of provocative works by such noted urban street artists as Keith Haring, Banksy, Shepard Fairey, FAILE, Swoon and D*Face line the walls, thanks to Visionary's president, David Safris.

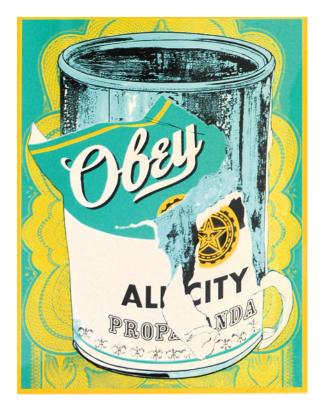
Urban street art emerged during the graffiti boom of the 1980s; today, it can refer to any artwork on buildings, bridges, walls or other public structures. Once a street artist gains a following, the work may find its way into production as a print, collage, sticker, stencil or other art form—and into the hands of collectors like Safris. Many of today's top urban artists "successfully blend working on the street with working on art specifically intended for sale," Safris explains. "It is a bit of a circle in some ways: For instance, Shepard Fairey did successful gallery shows, curated shows, created new works, and was also arrested for illegal graffiti—all in the same year."

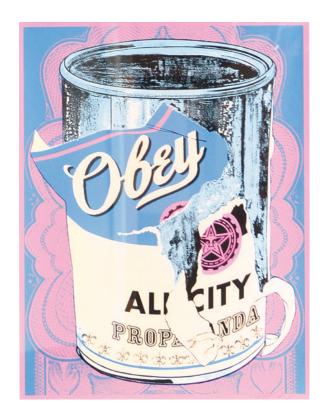
Because urban art is typically done with permission, it differs from graffiti vandalism, Safris notes: "While not all of the art has a social message, the transformative power of

Regarded as one of today's most influential street artists, **Shepard Fairey** expresses strong and often-controversial political, anti-corporate and social messages in his work. In addition to creating art in public spaces, he's worked in a variety of media, including stencils, stickers, collages and screen prints. In the screen print on the facing page, Fairey plays off of Andy Warhol's iconic pop works that depict a Campbell's soup can, replacing the traditional label with "Obey." Fairey gained fame during the 2008 presidential election for his poster depicting Barack Obama and the word "Hope." He has said that the main message he strives to express through his work is to "question everything."









mixing art with an otherwise bland urban setting is very exciting."

Safris started collecting urban art in the early 2000s, intrigued by the artists' disruptive messages—and equally disruptive media. "In the buildings where the artwork is originally created, space and time are important components," he says. "For instance, a dilapidated building itself has a social message. Urban artists make a statement with their work in that space and then move on." For example, a well-known work by British graffiti artist Banksy depicts a stencil of a rat holding a sign that says, "Get Out While You Can."

"A lot of the artwork expresses the frustrations, anger and alienation of those who feel disenfranchised and outside of the system," Safris adds. "The subject matter often deals with social and political issues."

Because of where and how urban street art is created, the artists can get their message to the public directly, instead of going through the gatekeepers at museums or galleries. In turn, the public "can essentially 'vote' on the work with their cameras, blogs and social media, commenting on it immediately," Safris says. What's more, once the artists decide to create or re-create their work

using other media, they can market it directly to consumers, again bypassing traditional art channels.

In building his impressive collection, Safris says he "found what I liked and kept buying it." He showcases the works at his home and in the office, often changing where and how they're hung to keep the display fresh. "Early on, I decided to share the art with Visionary," Safris says. "The company is full of creative people, and the works get seen and appreciated here."

He'll also share some of the art with the public at the "Urban Visionaries" exhibit at the Des Moines Social Club's Viaduct Gallery June 22-26 as part of Art Week Des Moines (see story, page 136).

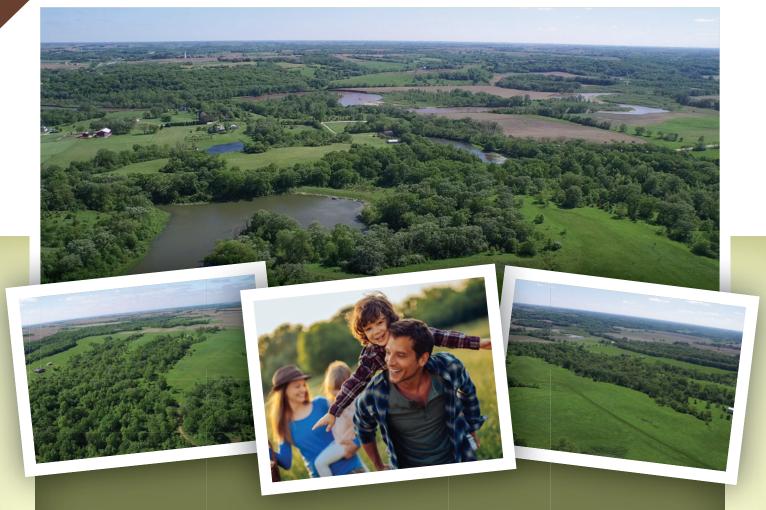
Over the years, many of Safris' urban art purchases have proved to be savvy investments; a print he bought in in the early 2000s for \$30 or \$50 by a then-unknown Banksy or Fairey today can be worth tens of thousands of dollars. Currently, there's a bubble in the urban art market, Safris says. Also, there's no way to know whether urban street art will have staying power or will eventually wither, he adds: "In 10 years, where will the urban art market be? No one knows, but right now, it's art of our day and of our time."

Banksy is a pseudonym for a British graffiti artist whose stencil works often contain satirical epigrams. His artworks expressing political and social commentary, such as the one on the facing page, have appeared on streets, walls, buildings and bridges in cities throughout the world. In a study published in March, a team of four Canadian scientists reported they used a complex geographic tracking technique to identify the elusive artist: Robin Gunningham, a 42-year-old high-school dropout who grew up in a comfortable suburb of Bristol, England.



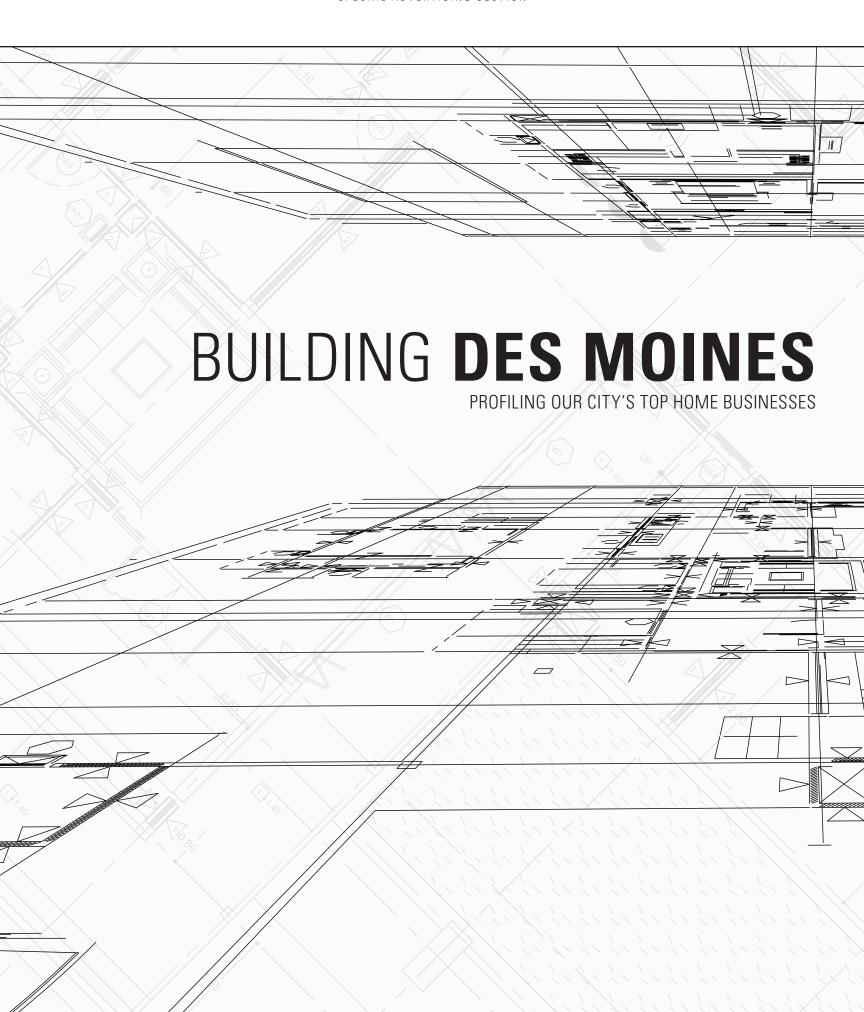
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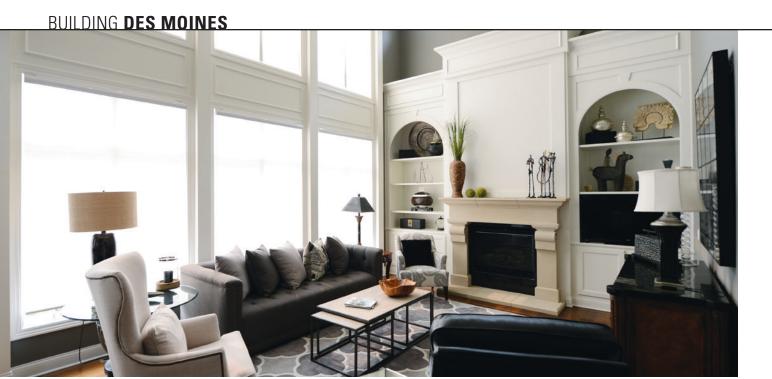
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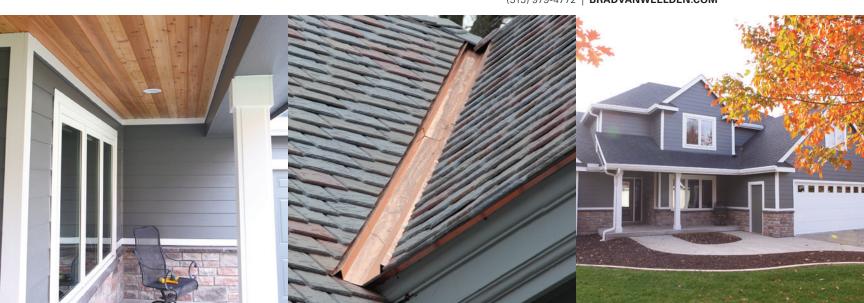
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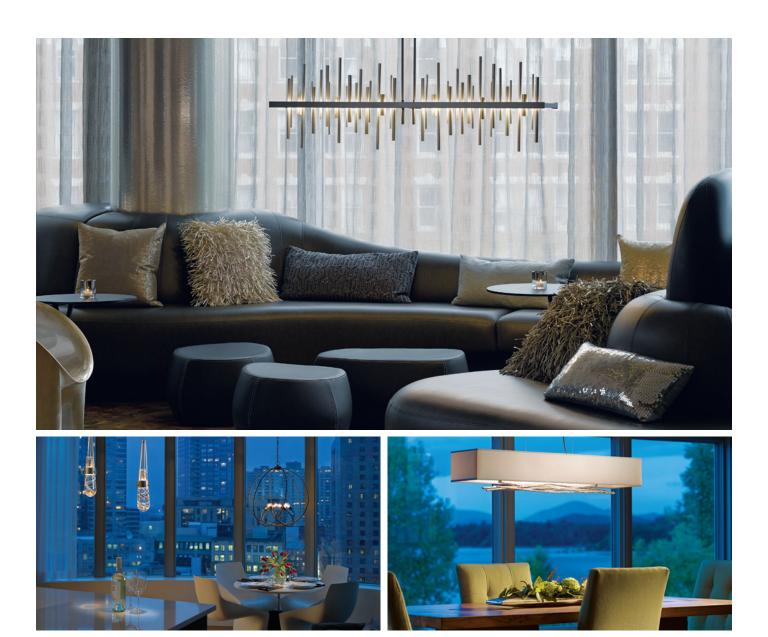
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ike spies or Marvel superheroes, there are people going quietly about Des Moines with more than one identity. They freely admit to two or even three roles, neatly punctuated with a slash. This is no identity crisis, scam or split personality disorder, just an acknowledgment that people are complex, multidimensional and oh so interesting.

Take versatile John Sayles, for instance, who has worked in the design field for more than 30 years as owner of J. Sayles Design Co. He loves his job—yet now, at age 57, he has three: graphic designer, vintage store owner and, most recently, vodka distiller.

Sayles is part of this growing trend of "slashes," people with a double professional identity that extends beyond their typical 9 to 5. Most aren't moonlighting for the money but for a way to explore talents and interests that their first career may not fulfill.

In her book "One Person/Multiple Careers: The Original Guide to the Slash/Career," journalist/author/speaker Marci Alboher interviewed fellow slashes to learn how they turned passions and hobbies into viable second—and third—careers.

She discovered that, while the options are limitless when it comes to slash careers, the most sought-after fields have no connection to the professionals' first line of work. Her research uncovered a longshoreman/documentary filmmaker, a psychoanalyst/violin maker, and a Pilates instructor/author. Examples in Central lowa are no less intriguing.

JASON WALSMITH

MUSICIAN/PHOTOGRAPHER

If you're from lowa, you'd be hard-pressed not to have heard of the Nadas.

Formed in 1995, this folksy-rock band became a fixture in Ames, and their fame grew as they released

albums and toured nationwide playing for throngs of fans.

As a founding member of the Nadas, Jason Walsmith has been writing songs, singing and playing guitar for more than 20 years. Even while making music and touring, Walsmith, 41, says he's always had photography.

"I just always did photography parallel to the music," he says. "At my core, I'm a storyteller and a communicator, so both of these jobs to me are similar."

While the band is still making music (its latest release was on March 4), its members are focusing more on family and other careers these days. No more year-round tours means more time to pursue other interests. The pause allows Walsmith to focus on his photography business and spend more time with his two young children.

His advice for others pursuing a slash career?

"A lot of people overlook that there is reality to every fantasy," he says. "That applies to your dream job. You might think that it's just too far out of reach, when the truth is you may already be there and you're just not able to see it yet."

Walsmith realized he actually had two job fantasies—music and photography—that he already enjoyed. But he says he was slow to recognize the potential viability of a photo career. He was "there," but it took a while to see it.

AMY HEINZ

PARALEGAL/ANIMAL RESCUER

By day, Amy Heinz is a paralegal. By night, she rescues dogs. That's how things have been since 2008 when she started AHeinz57 Pet Rescue & Transport on her acreage in De Soto.

Heinz, 50, had always loved animals, but her love turned to passion after she saw a dog being dumped on the side of busy Interstate Highway 80.

"It happened right in front of me," she recalls. "The dog was right next to the truck, and the driver shooed it away and just took off. Right there, I was on a mission to find her."







A SWELL ADDITION

In August 2015, with the help of the lowa Distilling Co. in Cumming, designer John Sayles launched Swell, a vodka made from Iowa corn.

Swell is filtered six times, giving it a smooth finish, Sayles says, "similar to a fine wine." It's also gluten-free and kosher, he says.

The packaging, from the label to the bottle's collar, was designed by Sayles and proudly declares its lowa roots.

"I needed it to scream from the shelf, 'Made in Iowa,' " he says. "When you're out selling a product like this, you really get a sense of how people embrace lowa products."

In March, Swell earned a Silver Award at the prestigious San Francisco World Spirits Competition. The vodka, which retails for \$11.99 per 750 ml bottle, is already in more than 90 locations around Central Iowa, including Hy-Vee stores, Price Chopper and Ingersoll Wine & Spirits. Among area bars and restaurants that carry Swell are Alba, Centro, Eatery A, GT's and Wellman's.

After nearly two weeks of trying, Heinz managed to catch the dog, gave her the food and care she needed and made her a part of the family. Heinz called her Grace.

The whole ordeal—from seeing an animal being abandoned to recognizing a lack of adequate animal control resources in the area—made Heinz identify the need for a local shelter where animals could get a second chance.

"Months went by after I found Grace, and it just clicked that I could be the change that I wanted to see," Heinz says. "What Grace started was pretty incredible. We've saved thousands of lives ever since."

Today Heinz still runs the show at AHeinz57. The nonprofit shelter has outgrown its facilities in De Soto and, in the next few months, is expected to begin operating out of two new buildings on four acres nearby.

With the help of hundreds of volunteers and donations, AHeinz57 has placed thousands of dogs—and some cats, rabbits, hamsters, cockatiels and ferrets—in good, loving homes over the course of eight years.

Whatever slash career you pursue, "jump in with your whole heart," Heinz says. "That second career is going to consume your life. It really has to be something you're passionate about, especially if it involves animals or kids. If more people followed their hearts, so much good could happen in the world."

JOHN SAYLES

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/VODKA DISTILLER/ STORE OWNER

John Sayles has been advising clients on how to market themselves and their products for decades. Last August, he decided to use those tactics to market a venture all his own—Swell Vodka (see sidebar at left).

"You get to a point in your career where you can only win so many awards, you can only work for so many other

clients, so what's the next move?" Sayles asks. "For me, that was Swell vodka. I figured I needed to be doing everything that I've been telling others to do for the last 30-plus years."

Sayles says he never set out to become a distiller. Initially, he just wanted to design the labels. "I always thought bottle design was such a beautiful thing," he says. "It sits on a shelf and screams, 'Pick me up.' That's how I buy wine. I'm not a wine connoisseur. I always look at the labels. You have to do a label that matches the content."

Developing the Swell label and product was only the beginning. After the workday ends in his design studio, Sayles heads out to knock on doors, looking to expand the distribution of his vodka. Whether grocery or liquor store, bar or restaurant, Sayles is determined to get the vodka in front of consumers.

And, as if one slash weren't enough, Sayles also owns and manages Beaverdale Vintage, a retail store that sells clothing, jewelry, furniture, housewares and accessories from the 1950s to 1970s.

"I love design. It's my first love and passion," he says. "There is design everywhere. That's why I'm a collector. That's why I own Beaverdale Vintage. It turned into a huge collection, and then it turned into a store."

Sayles says his current schedule won't allow for much more than three careers, but he's not ruling anything out: "I will work until the pencil falls from my ear."

VICTORIA HERRING

ATTORNEY/PHOTOGRAPHER/GALLERY OWNER

After a 40-year career as a civil rights attorney, Victoria Herring, 68, has no interest in retirement. She's just adding a slash, taking on second and third careers as a photographer and gallery owner.

"As I've been less busy with lawyering, I wanted to be busier with other things," Herring says. "It's the left brain, right brain balance. The fact of the matter is, if you have hobbies, you should be serious about them."

Specializing in architectural and travel photography, Herring has honed her craft through classes and workshops even while practicing law, taking advantage of vacations to build her portfolio of travel images.

That's why, in 2014, Herring put an ad on Craigslist looking for other photographers and artists interested in opening a gallery where they could market their work.

"I needed somewhere to have things on display and sell them," she says. "I don't know that I was overly realistic about it, but everyone was as serious as I was and we ultimately decided to form Artisan Gallery 218 in Valley Junction."

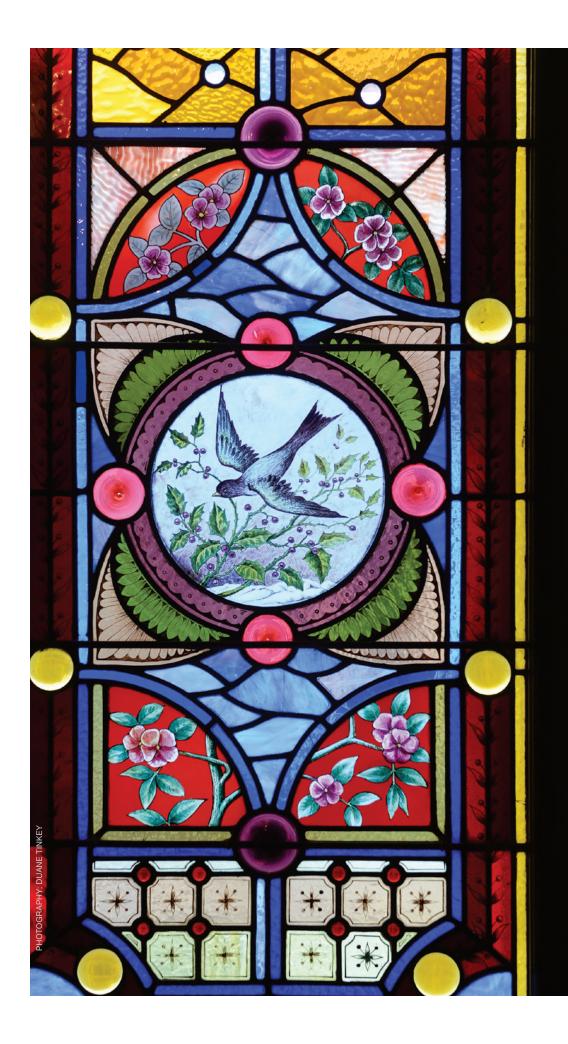
The gallery opened in November 2015, featuring the work of Herring and the other three founding artist-partners, plus a rotating roster of juried consigners. Herring says her slash career as a gallery owner is taking off.

"I think you have to make a decision about what you love to do—do you love it so much that if you weren't paid, you'd be OK?," she asks. "The gallery isn't making me rich. I had a nice basement office full of artwork and I needed to get serious, and that's what I did."

Jody Gifford is a mom/freelance writer/marketing communications writer for The Stelter Company. In the future, she hopes to add novelist to her list of slash careers.







STYLE AND DESIGN

A SPECIAL SECTION

PAGE 164

SUIT YOURSELF

PAGE 172

SHERMAN HILL HERITAGE

PAGE 182

BEST FACE FORWARD

In Sherman Hill's Sheuerman
House, the original stained glass
windows were restored and
eventually reinstalled at the top of
the staircase. Current owner York
Taenzer has done significant
restoration work on the 1884
house. Read more about the home
and Sherman Hill architecture in
the story starting on page 172.





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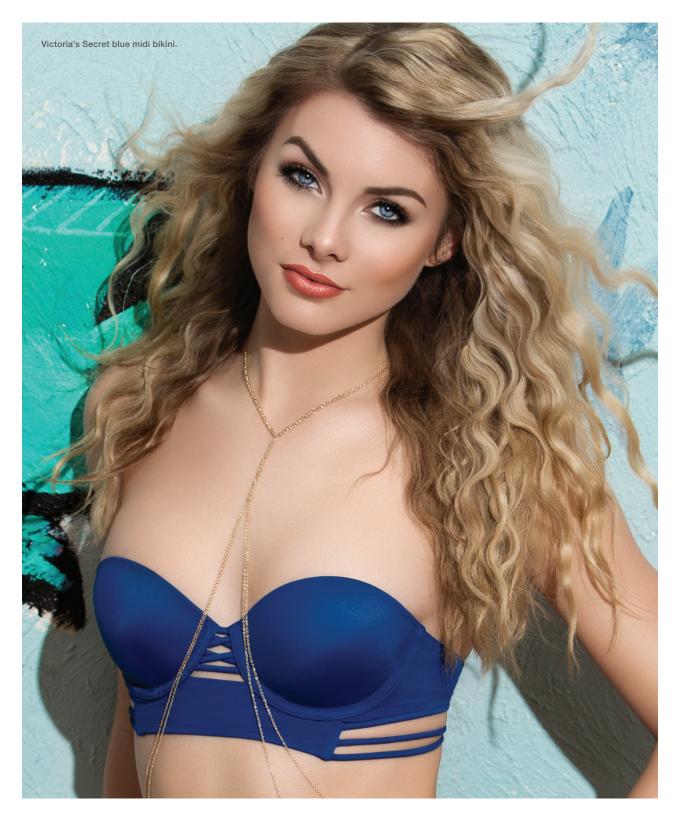












Kari Shannon is the owner of FELS Photo & Retouch (felsphoto.com). In addition to beauty and fashion, she enjoys photographing cats for a local animal shelter.

Jessica Miller is an art director and a wardrobe and prop stylist for local and national media, including Better Homes and Gardens, Kitchen and Bath Ideas, and Do It Yourself magazine. She also owns a home-staging business and is the co-owner of Hill Vintage & Knits in the East Village.



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Through much of the 1900s, the homes of successful families that once sprouted on the slopes of Sherman Hill descended into an abyss of cobbled apartments and sinister streets. The neighborhood's celebrated revival is noted in the book "Des Moines Architecture & Design" by Jay Pridmore (\$24.99. The History Press; ©Jay Pridmore, 2015). In his descriptive analysis, Pridmore covers the range of local architecture, from cottages to commercial towers. Excerpted text from his chapter on Sherman Hill is presented here with permission from the publisher.

n the 1880s, the neighborhood that would be called Sherman Hill was desirable for its position high above downtown Des Moines and upwind of the factories that produced prodigious quantities of smoke. Its prestige was spurred by the first stately building in the neighborhood, Hoyt Sherman's house, which was built in 1877 on what is now Woodland Avenue. But like any neighborhood of its age, it has had its ups and downs.

At the turn of the last century, Sherman Hill remained an enclave for the early business elite, Des Moines' bankers and industrialists. By the Depression, the neighborhood was in decline, and after World War II, it was downright dangerous. Fortuitously, urban renewal left Sherman Hill untouched while leveling so many other historic areas. That enabled the neighborhood to be rediscovered by rehabbers in the 1970s and later made a landmark district. Young professionals found its Victorian architecture an antidote to suburban tract houses. Families moved in and restored unique homes with broad front porches. Those porches, among other elements, engendered a community that made Sherman Hill a model of historic preservation.

"Sherman Hill" is a latter-day name borrowed from Hoyt Sherman, a leading early banker in Iowa and brother of Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman. Sherman's architect is unknown, though architects with an eye for history have speculated that the place might have been the work of William Foster, Des Moines' leading architect at the time and one of its only trained ones. The style was a mix, including a tall central tower with a French Second Empire profile, not unlike the tower over the front door of B.F. Allen's house, Terrace Hill. ...

The Maish House on Center Street

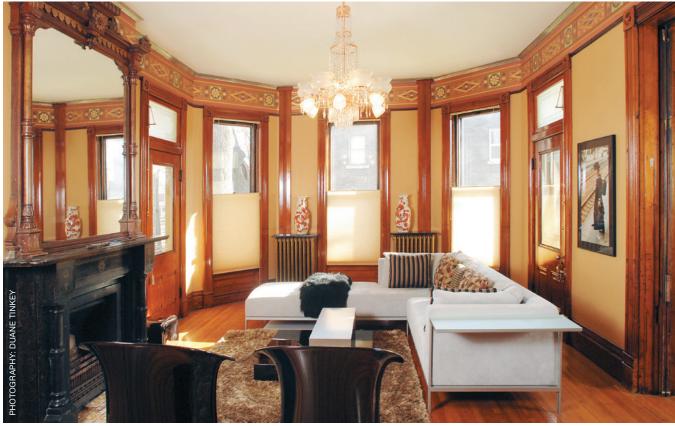
Among the finer houses on Sherman Hill is one of the earlier ones, built by George Maish on Center Street in 1881. Maish may have been more typical of Des Moines entrepreneurs at the time than Sherman and Allen. His idea of a home, hardly modest, was less conspicuous, with a hipped roof, carved brackets under eaves and columns holding up a wraparound porch. Each feature seems uncrowded and with classical touches. It is a house that seems even today to weather the storms of fashion as easily as the owner weathered ups and downs in business. ...

His house was designed toward the beginning of the Gilded Age when the Italianate style represented a conservative approach to the architecture of prosperity. Maish was wealthy but not so much that he would flaunt his success. The most expensive element of the exterior was the fine porch. Then, as now, porches pointed to the importance of neighbors, a quality reflected in another remarkable characteristic of this neighborhood. The Maish House is one of five on Center Street each set progressively deeper on its lot to afford its next-door neighbor to the west a clear view of the distant State Capitol.

More lavish than the exterior, perhaps, was the Maish interior, which still contains fine woodwork: carved balusters and newel posts, doors and door frames and built-in cabinetry, intricately profiled in what is now called the Eastlake style. Eastlake describes an American design movement inspired by English writers like John Ruskin and William Morris, who praised medieval handcrafts for their beauty and moral uplift as an antidote to industry. Eastlake

Inside and out, Center Street's historic Maish House preserves the gingerbread qualities of 1880s architecture, now imbued with the spirit of its more contemporary furnishings.







could be so intricately wrought that it was easily impressive and, ironically, turned out in factories by mass production.

Reign of the Queen Anne

As the neighborhood filled up with houses, large Italianates were overtaken by the Queen Anne style, a general term that points to a more complex overall design. Window treatments, porches, rooflines and other exterior features became increasingly elaborate as the 1880s progressed. As for the name, "Queen Anne" is something of a misnomer. In England it describes a period when the Stuart queen reigned in the 1700s and when Neoclassical architecture became increasingly ornamented, also called "English baroque." In America, later architecture influenced by the Gothic Revival and decorated with ornate flourishes also, somewhat mistakenly, took the name of Queen Anne.

As a practical matter, the dozens of Queen Anne-influenced houses on Sherman Hill have a vertical profile that suited a neighborhood subdivided into small lots. An example would be the Sheuerman House at 16th and Woodland on a raised site and with a tower dominating the facade. Built in 1884 for the family of Leopold Sheuerman, an owner of Capital City Woolen Mills, it was a house suitable for a family of high rank. Its roofline includes intersecting gables and an elaborate dormer, definite Queen Anne traits.

More specifically, the Sheuerman House represents early Queen Anne, also called the "Stick style." The moniker indicates that the designer, who was perhaps a carpenter, amplified the intricacy of his work by highlighting its complex framework with elaborate carpentry and paint. "Carpenter's Gothic" also describes this house and the idea of design that valued originality and not convention.

A cheerful, if not typical, example of Queen Anne on Sherman Hill is found in the four houses on a short lane called Bridal Row on the eastern edge of the neighborhood. In 1885, Hoyt Sherman and his family subdivided this portion of the family's property on 15th Street. The Shermans built these smallish houses, initially rented to newlyweds, stylishly despite their small scale. "Jerkin head" (or clipped front) gables were a new touch for Des Moines Queen Annes at the time, likely drawn from English cottages. "Eyebrow" windows, another subtle touch, are low elliptical dormers that were familiar from thatched roof cottages, also from England.

As with most houses on Sherman Hill, the architect or designer of the Bridal Row cottages is uncertain, but

architect-historian Jack Porter, who lives on Sherman Hill, suggests that they may be the work of Benjamin J. Bartlett, who has at least one very similar house in the neighborhood. Bartlett was an ambitious and skilled designer of Gothic churches and public buildings, as well as homes with Queen Anne-style flourishes.

Like many architects, he traveled to where he found larger and more desirable work. From Des Moines he moved to Little Rock, primarily because he won a commission for the Arkansas School for the Blind. If Bartlett's Queen Anne architecture had a complexity to it, so did his life, which included a jail term for forgery of a signature on a bond.

Return of Simplicity

Like other human endeavors, architecture changes with time, and the freestyle flourishes of Victorian homes reached their limit around 1893. That was when a national economic depression hit and put the brakes on building of all kinds.

When hard times lifted four years later, it was natural that simpler designs should prevail. In some places they were influenced by the Prairie School, though the approach made famous by Frank Lloyd Wright usually required larger lots than are common on Sherman Hill. The neighborhood has a Prairie variant called "Craftsman style," cottages variously marked by straight-sawn woodwork, exposed rafter tails and shingle cladding on walls.

Related and more basic still was the so-called American Foursquare. It sounds simple, and it was: a square footprint, two full stories, with a hipped roof and central dormer facing front. It was so unembellished that the standard plan could be copied from magazines and then easily altered without changing the layout. The American Foursquare was simple but not poor.

An excellent example on Sherman Hill is the house built by downtown merchant Benjamin Strauss on 18th Street. It is tidy and unprepossessing outside, but inside it

Facing page, top: Built by a clothing manufacturer in 1892, this Queen Anne home has been restored with a devotion to historical accuracy. Bottom: In 1905, the Strauss family added to Sherman Hill's style with this American Foursquare home, restored in the 1970s by Jack Porter and Martha Green.







SHERMAN HILL BECAME A MODEL OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION, LESS AS A SOCIAL MOVEMENT IN ITS EARLY STAGES AND MORE THROUGH EXAMPLES OF PIONEERING INDIVIDUALISM.

has marks of true Prairie School houses: fine leaded-glass windows and quarter-sawn cabinetry, mantelpieces and plate rails. A taste for handcrafts is obvious in the Strauss house, built in 1905. But Victorian frippery is over.

Now owned by Jack Porter, the house has an open interior and horizontal decor, not too different from what we associate with Frank Lloyd Wright but here designed, probably without architect supervision, by fashion-conscious carpenters, builders and clients.

Model of Preservation

The diversity of styles on Sherman Hill is not particularly evident today. In its preserved state, it looks like it reaches back to a stable time of tree-lined streets little touched by change. A closer look at the architecture belies this, of course. Also mostly forgotten are the political battles that accompanied Sherman Hill's development. As early as 1878, opposition rose when an investor from Upstate New York, Tallmadge E. Brown, purchased a portion of the area and platted it with small 8,000-square-foot lots. Also unremembered is the anger caused when developers induced the city to close the part of Cottage Grove Avenue that once went through.

Sherman Hill seemed to reflect the laissez faire business climate at the time. In 1912, the city engineer was referring in part to Sherman Hill when he lamented, "The city of Des Moines grew so fast that the various tracts of land were laid out and accepted by the city without much regard to uniformity and as the result the map of Des Moines looks like a crazy quilt patchwork." But what seemed undemocratic then became an asset later. Sherman Hill became a cohesive community because it was tightly woven on smaller lots and also because Cottage Grove did not divide it in half.

Much later, Sherman Hill became a model of historic preservation, less as a social movement in its early stages and more through examples of pioneering individualism. In fact, both impulses would describe Ralph and Marty Gross, who first moved here in 1971 when they rented an

apartment from an elderly spinster who owned several houses in the area. The landlady was no rehabber, but she was fussy about who she rented to, even though the streets were rough and even dangerous. The Grosses qualified.

"At the time, I did not know that prostitutes walked the streets," Marty said. But she learned about the rougher sides of life as a resident of Sherman Hill. She witnessed drug use and random crime, which she never saw growing up in West Des Moines. But the newlywed Grosses had been dispirited by suburban life and began to feel at home especially as they found other pioneers who had moved in too. A couple of years later they bought the Maish House, which was a wreck, but Ralph harbored the dream of occupying the place with an experimental school.

More or less to survive, the Grosses became expert at various aspects of preservation, such as repairing concrete footings beneath the once-fine wraparound porch. They began to learn the niceties of fancy carpentry, such as kerfing, which is the process of bending wood, in this case for fascia that curved around the perimeter of the house. They scraped decades of paint to find original colors and then found two shades of yellow for clapboards and trim after the chips were sent away for analysis. The school they imagined did not come true, but their house became a showplace.

The other part of historic preservation, the Grosses learned, was less architectural and more social. Later in the 1970s, Mayor Richard Olson had noticed the Grosses and other families staking their claim in Sherman Hill and asked Ralph to attend an urban preservation conference in Minneapolis. Gross came back with the message that critical mass in preservation required political will.

That induced neighbors to form what they called the Sherman Hill Association in 1976. City hall, the police and the press took notice. Residents next got recognition by the National Register of Historic Places, and the practical consequence of that was federal tax credits for multiunit restorations. More generally, the neighbors faced the opponents of preservation together.

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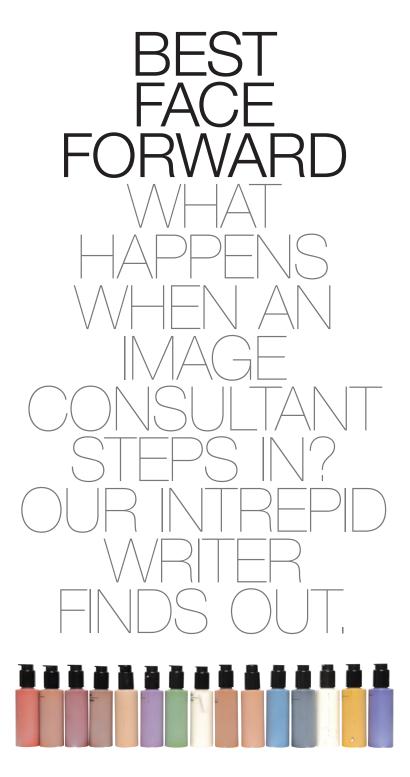


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30 Image consultant Laurel Lund creates custom foundation for her clients, mixing different hues until she finds the perfect formula. "Makeup has one purpose: to enhance your own unique features," she says. **182 DSM** MAY JUNE 2016



WRITER: KELLY ROBERSON
PHOTOGRAPHER: DUANE TINKEY

here are few things more humbling
than inviting a near stranger into your
closet. Suddenly clothes that once
seemed cute and fashionable now
seem worn out and miscalculated.
A closet, after all, is a memory
palace, a repository of multiple
personalities, some of them less
desirable than others. In a closet and clothes, suggests
author and Pulitzer Prize nominee Marya Hornbacher, you'll
find "a different woman for each suit, each dress, each pair
of shoes."

My memory palace? I'm no hoarder and not prone to

My memory palace? I'm no hoarder and not prone to nostalgia, but I am a 40-ish mother of two and freelance writer and editor who has an abundance of black shirts and limited time for sartorial decisions. My hair is low-maintenance, my beauty routine limited—in short, my focus is elsewhere. It's a clash: My time and interest are finite, but I'm not immune to internal musings and external influences when it comes to image.

So when *dsm* pitched me what sounded like a fun, unusual feature—Would I submit to an image refresh, including wardrobe, makeup, hair?—the obvious answer was, "Why not?" And that is how I found myself standing in front of a growing pile of rejected clothes as image consultant Laurel Lund evaluated each shirt, dress and pair of pants.

IS WHAT YOU WEAR WHO YOU ARE?

The closet review is just one element in a package of services Laurel offers. A former magazine editor, Laurel evaluates clients from top to bottom, analyzes self-image and style, and suggests improvements for wardrobe, makeup and hair.

Laurel and I began our sessions with a quick introduction—what I liked, what I didn't. Then I was



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INVEST IN THE CLASSICS

Laurel gives all her clients a list of must-haves, and it turns out I have quite a few items already. That black jacket, the cuffed white shirt that I spent extra for—they go with anything and will last forever.

BASICS MATTER.

For example, a really good collection of T-shirts—black, white—is worth it. Skip the fast fashion and buy shapely pieces that are well-made, Laurel advises.

A TAILOR IS WORTH IT.

There's no reason to trip over too-long pants. A tailor isn't that expensive, and you'll look polished. As Laurel says: "Fit is the No. 1 fashion secret. You can have the most expensive wardrobe in the world, but if it doesn't fit, it doesn't flatter."

WEAR II, DON'T SAVE IT.

That little black dress? Find a way to dust it off more than once a year.

Left: As part of her wardrobe color analysis, Roberson received a personal palette fan to use as a guide when shopping. Lund tests nearly 200 colors to find the best ones that complement the client's eyes, hair and skin tones.

Right: Kelly Roberson found fresh and flattering additions for her wardrobe at K. Renee in West Des Moines: Veronica Beard double-breasted blazer featuring statement buttons and a classic black and blue plaid; Malene Birger ivory and black tank tops with a scoop neck; French Kande 28-inch necklace with an antiqued brass clad; Vince cotton-blend slim-fit trouser; Stuart Weitzman black pumps.



instructed to review a long list of words and select four that aptly described me.

As I skimmed the terms—spontaneous (no), dainty (definitely not), independent (probably)—the question kept simmering: Did these represent how I saw myself, or how I hoped others saw me? It's tricky, of course, but in the end, we landed on confident, energetic, thoughtfully creative and stylishly strong. For Laurel, those words would help determine which clothes and makeup choices would accent those traits.

CHOOSING COLOR

Colors were next up for Laurel's review, and my preferences presented a conundrum. I was drawn to her collection of sunset-focused colors, but I looked better in sunrise or midday colors. We both decided that it probably had more to do with emotion—I like fall as a season best, and that's what sunset colors resemble. She also agreed that my hair—short, easy and current-looking—suits me, so we moved on to makeup.

When it comes to makeup, Laurel's focus is adding to your usual routine in creative ways. She suggested custom-mixed foundation and blush, both of which I've always been unsure of, as well as a more complex palette of neutrals. The before-and-after differences—more consistent skin tone, wide-awake eyes—were notable. The routine and the products make sense for special occasions or when I have extra time.

Laurel's closet inspection yielded two big bags to donate: things that were outdated (a pair of lime green pants I had forgotten about), worn out (a tired black turtleneck) or past their prime wearing years (a dress with a neckline that didn't do anything for me). I resisted some suggestions, though, such as eliminating all patterns.

Once finished, we stepped back for a look at my nowairy closet shelf and hanging space, and what she had done was apparent: There was less to choose from, but that made my choices simpler. Plus, I could count on every item in the closet looking good on me.

TIME TO SHOP

The final step in Laurel's process involved a one-on-one shopping trip; her choice was West Des Moines clothier K. Renee. The store is elegance and investment shopping at its best.

My normal shopping routine—like that of so many other people—is grab-and-go, but K. Renee associate DJ Fees flipped that idea on its head. He asked me about my interests and schedules, fashion that inspired me and what I was looking for in a wardrobe. DJ did the work for me, assembling pieces into five or so ready-made outfits: a silky white button-down, perfectly stitched black pants, a long, dressy tunic-cum-dress that I adored.

I was over the moon about a sleek blue blazer with a zip-in sweatshirt insert as well as a delicately pleated black dress—stylish investment pieces that I'll save for. Plus, let's be honest: To have someone dress you, tell you that you look good, get you to experiment with clothes—it's a kick, and it beats the heck out of my usual shopping routine.

Getting someone to fuss with your makeup or dress you: It's not something that most of us get to experience, and it was fun. Every so often, it's good to shake out the cobwebs from a closet and a self-image, to banish some of those old people lurking in the corners. Who knows who might replace them?

Kelly Roberson is a writer, editor and project manager who has contributed to regional and national publications including Better Homes and Gardens and Country Home.





ABOUT LAUREL LUND

A certified color and image consultant, Laurel Lund is CEO and principal of LL Style Studio; she contends that image can help determine both professional and social success.

If there's one constant in Lund's career, it's her appreciation and love of color: It led her from interior design to public relations to publishing and then to her current role. By 1989, she had served as furnishings editor for Better Homes and Gardens and president of Ballet Des Moines. She then worked in publishing on both coasts and was the founding editor of Natural Home magazine. She's also the author of the children's book "When Glory Got Her Glow Back." Lund returned to Des Moines in 2015.

Find more information about Lund's services, including style and color analysis, makeup and hairstyle makeover, fashion fit formula and personal shopping, at llstylestudio.com.

Left: Lund helped Roberson streamline her closet, yielding two big bags of outdated, worn-out or unflattering pieces.

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Above: Reflected by two mirrors, Audrey Renaud, Emma's 11-year-old sister, practices with judo classmates. A Chinese ceremonial mask and drum are stored in the corner, underscoring the school's mix of cultures.

Facing page: With a determined gaze and studied form, Audrey Renaud practices her judo techniques.





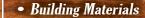




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Eric Quiner's philosophy involves a very hands on approach to real estate. The personal relationships, the technology, and the systems brought to the table are what set Eric above the rest. Eric is currently an Assistant Manager at the lowa Realty Waukee office. When asked why Eric sells residential Real Estate he responded "I love my career and it shows in everything I do. My passion is infectious. So when you decide that you'd like to buy or sell a home in the Des Moines metro area, I would be honored to work with you."

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(515) 240-0422 michelercheek@gmail.com





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The foundation of real estate is building relationships – a skill Marcia Munger has mastered over 15 years of success.

Knowledge and experience in construction product sales mean Marcia is uniquely suited to handle your real estate needs. Her passion for real estate is rivaled only by her commitment to the community. Bras for the Cause, YESS and the Chrysalis Foundation all benefit from her tireless energy.

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(515) 321-6607 marcia@marciamunger.com www.marciamunger.com



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(515) 559-8125 www.audreybeckerteam.com









SUSAN SANDERS KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

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(515) 770-7635 susan@kwdsm.com

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JORGE "JUNIOR" IBARRA IBARRA REALTY GROUP W/KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

I love this city and this enthusiasm shines through in the work that I do and the clients I help through the real estate process. I have lived in Des Moines since the age of 5, and consider it an amazing place to live and raise a family. Following graduation from Iowa State University, I was introduced to the real estate industry and knew it was my passion.

My goal is to differentiate myself from other real estate agents by providing a systematic "1-2-3" method to selling or buying real estate, along with my unique marketing methods and friendly demeanor. My goal when meeting you is to make a difference in your real estate process and experience.

(515) 988-3227 junioribarra@kw.com











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At Home DSM is a progressive real estate team with over a decade of experience consisting of Rachael Harms, Brandon Patterson, and Shannon Coryell. Whether you are a FIRST TIME HOME BUYER, looking to BUILD your custom forever home, or wanting SELL your existing home, we can help. We specialize in creating a streamlined real estate experience for our clients.

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Rachael@RealEstateConcepts.net (515) 729-6108

Shannon@RealEstateConcepts.net (515) 822-8778



"IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO BUY A HOME, I WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND USING AT HOME DSM, WORKING WITH THEM MADE OUR HOME SEARCH EFFICIENT AND PURPOSEFUL. THEY TRULY CARED ABOUT FINDING US A PERFECT HOME. THEY ARE **INCREDIBLY KNOWLEDGEABLE** ABOUT THE MARKET, HOME TRENDS, BUILDERS AND MORE, WHICH STREAMLINED THE PROCESS TO FIND A HOME WE LOVE. DON'T LET BUYING A HOME BE AN INTIMIDATING PROCESS, WORK WITH AT HOME DSM AND GET THE HOUSE YOU'VE DREAMED OF."

- GREG AND BETSY



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experience selling your home. We offer excellent customer service, professional marketing, an incredible network of communication and precision, plus the helping hand and personal touch you need to be completely satisfied when selling your home.

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Colin Panzi Team - Ankeny colin.panzi@realestateconcepts.net (515) 339-0018

Joe Heemstra - Waukee & Urbandale joe.heemstra@realestateconcepts.net (515) 778-8788

John Gentile - Johnston, DSM Southside, and Adel john@johngentilerealtor.com (515) 771-6407

REAL ESTATE VISIONARIES



LIZ WILSON | RICK CHESNEY | JEN SCHULLER DRC REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Boasting a resume full of hard earned experience coupled with a good dash of youthful exuberance DRC Real Estate Services strives to provide seamless transactions for their selling and buying clients. New home construction and residential sales are the focus of this independent real estate brokerage.

From designing a new home to suit clients taste and budget, to finding a building site for the custom home, to managing the building of the home through each step, to finishing the process with the final walk thru and closing, the DRC Real Estate professionals are with you each step of the way.

Our team members have received numerous industry awards and accolades showing recognition from fellow real estate professionals. As a company we have worked the Des Moines area from Altoona to Adel and Ames to Indianola with most points in between.

Experience counts when pricing and selling homes on the pre-owned market. Inspections, abstract issues, showings, sales paperwork are some of the obstacles our real estate



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- BECKY MEYER, VICE PRESIDENT/MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR, FIRST AMERICAN BANK

professionals are trained to work thru to provide you with our goal of a seamless transaction.

Offering a menu of real estate listing commissions makes DRC Real Estate Services an affordable alternative when placing your home for sale on the Des Moines real estate market. As DRC Real Estate Services means full service as well as 'doing the right thing' we up the ante by including great service with every transaction.

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(515) 490-4663 rick@drc.agency

(515) 231-1624 jen@drc.agency

REAL ESTATE VISIONARIES







MEGAN HILL MITCHUM CENTURY 21 SIGNATURE REAL ESTATE

Megan prides herself on providing her clients with the personal attention and level of service they require to make an important decision such as purchasing or selling a home. Rely on a professional partner who listens to your needs, asks the right questions, provides honest answers and looks out for your best interests. Whether buying or selling an investment property, your first home, or your forever home, every element of the process will be looked after with great care and skill!

(515) 290-8269 megan@c21sre.com

GINA SWANSON CENTURY 21 SIGNATURE REAL ESTATE

Gina Swanson knows your home is your most important investment. She understands your needs, and knows the business inside and out. Gina is a partner, not just a Realtor. "When I was selling my home, Gina asked what I loved about my house. She was the only Realtor who asked that. I knew she was there for the right reasons, and I made the right choice," says client, Christina Fernandez-Morrow. When buying or selling a home, count on Gina every step of the way.

(515) 418-3154 ginaswanson@c21sre.com

ABBEY ROBERTSON CENTURY 21 SIGNATURE REAL ESTATE

Being a part of a team that values trust, Abbey has spent the last 5 years building her business by referral. She lives by the golden rule, treating her clients as she would like to be treated; from initial contact to lifelong relationships after the sale. "Purchasing or selling a home is one of the biggest decisions you'll ever make, my job is to layout the process for you, troubleshoot, educate, help you achieve your goals... and maybe even have a little fun along the way!"

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CHRYSALIS
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CONVERSATIONS:
THE DREAM TEAM

Date: Feb. 23, 2016

Venue: Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Main Attraction: Fundraiser to support local women and girls, featuring speakers Rae Fehring from Girls Rock! Des Moines; Marji Guyler-Alaniz from FarmHer; BMX racer Kittie Weston-Knauer;

and moderator Jackie Schmillen.

Photographer: Maharry Photography

Food: Trellis Catering



The Des Moines Art Center presents London-based artist Glenn Brown's first one-person U.S. museum exhibition.

Glenn Brown

May 21 - August 21, 2016 Anna K. Meredith Gallery

Glenn Brown is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. Media support provided by Cityview.



cityview

Glenn Brown (British, born 1966) Shallow Deaths, 2000 Oil on panel 70 x 57.5 cm Collection of the artist, London



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DES MOINES COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE COUNTDOWN TO 100: A MUSICAL REVUE OF THE '60s & '70s Date: March 4-5, 2016

Venue: Des Moines Community Playhouse

Main Attraction: Playhouse actors performed show tunes from the 1960s and 1970s in anticipation of the Playhouse's 100th anniversary just a few years away.

Food: Taste! To Go Catering

Photography: Maharry Photography



















AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION GREATER DES MOINES HEART BALL Date: Feb. 27, 2016

Venue: Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center at Veterans Memorial

Main Attraction: Jan Miller Straub was recognized as volunteer of the year, and Dr. William Wickemeyer was honored as the Heart Award winner.

......

Bottom Line: \$400,000

Entertainment: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels



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Mike Chapman has penned a warm and glowing tribute to the nation's longest serving governor – Iowa's Terry Branstad. Written in a folksy, down-home style, Chapman chronicles Branstad's life from the farm near Leland to the Terrace Hill governor's residence.

An easy read, the book looks at the forces and people who shaped the governor. It's something of a how-he-did-it manual that will interest lowa history buffs and younger readers thinking about a political career for themselves.

Branstad's tenure isn't finished so we'll have to leave it to the historians and experts of tomorrow to dissect the legacy of his policies. For now, this work shows how a small-town boy worked his way to the top.

You can like his politics or not, but you've got to admire Branstad's tenacity, commitment to the state and his ability to win elections: 20 wins and no losses.

 David Yepsen, Director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and former Chief Political Writer for the Des Moines Register



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EASTER SEALS IOWA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Date: Jan. 26, 2016

Venue: Iowa State Capitol

Main Attraction: Discussion of legislative priorities on behalf of people with disabilities and appreciation of support for Camp Sunnyside and the Rural Solutions program, which enables farmers who have acquired a disability to continue farming.

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DES MOINES METRO OPERA WINE & FOOD SHOWCASE 2016 **Date:** Feb. 19, 2016

Venue: Des Moines Marriott Downtown

Main Attraction: Showcase for more than 40 food and beverage vendors, including coffee, wine and beer. Proceeds benefited Des Moines Metro Opera.

Photography: Maharry Photography; Devita

Paschell Photography



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WINEFEST DES MOINES THRIVENT FINANCIAL IRON SOMM FUNDRAISER Date: Feb. 27, 2016

Venue: The Temple for Performing Arts

Main Attraction: A sell-out crowd of 124 diners enjoyed a four-course dinner and helped choose the winner of the second Iron Somm competition. Josh Buchsbaum of Proof and Lurra Cocina narrowly defeated last year's champion, Ben Nelsen of Splash Seafood Bar & Grill.

Food: Dinner was prepared by Derek Eidson of Centro, Mike Holman of Catering DSM, Dominic lannarelli of Splash Seafood Bar & Grill, and Christina Moffatt and Holly Evans of Crème Cupcake + Desserts.

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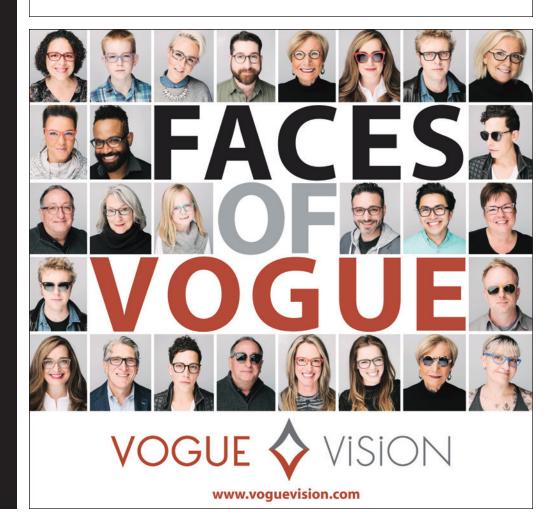
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BRAVO GREATER DES MOINES BRAVO AWARDS GALA

R.W. and Mary Nelson (seated) with family members

Date: Feb. 6, 2016

Venue: Hy-Vee Hall at Iowa Events Center

Main Attraction: R.W. and Mary Nelson, founders of Kemin Industries, received the Bravo Award, and the Des Moines Social Club received the Encore Award. Honorary co-chairs were Jim Brannen of FBL Financial Group, Inc. and Dan Houston of the Principal Financial Group.

Music: Ken Arlen Evolution Orchestra

Food: Spectra Food Services & Hospitality; Creme Cupcake + Dessert; Beaverdale Confections.

Photography: Anne Elizabeth Photography; Maharry Photography; James R. Cobb Photography



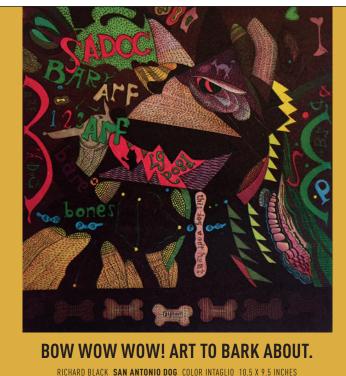
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BALLET DES MOINES BLACK + WHITE BALL Date: March 5, 2016

Venue: HoQ, following a champagne reception at LS2 Group

Main Attraction: Guests were encouraged to wear masks to the fundraiser, which also included an introduction of Ballet Des Moines' professional dancers, presented by the company's artistic director, Serkan Usta.

Photography: Anne Elizabeth Photography





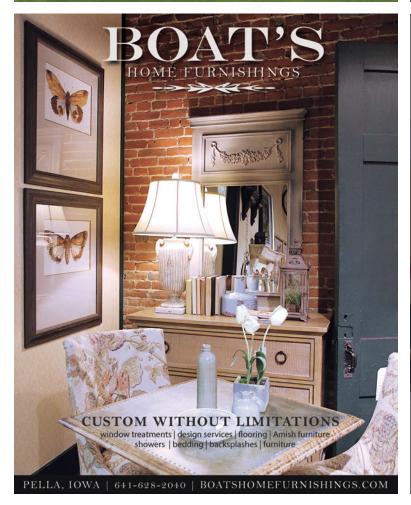
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DSM UNVEILING MARCH/APRIL ISSUE

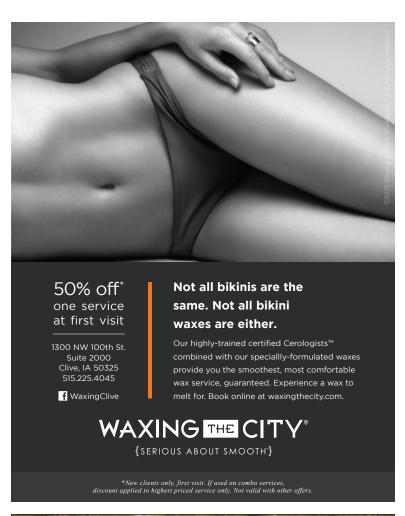
Date: March 1, 2016

Venue: Minnesota Cabinets' showrooms in Clive.

Main Attraction: Unveiling of the issue's striking cover, which featured a painting by Iraqi artist Amer

al-Obaidi, who was present for the event.

Unique Touch: The crowd enjoyed sushi and fajita bars provided by caterer Along Comes Mary.









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Jules Massenet's "Manon" will showcase elaborate stage design and costumes, along with stellar music and an engaging story.

Presented by Des Moines Metro Opera, the show will open June 25 at Blank Performing Arts Center in Indianola (see story, page 28).

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