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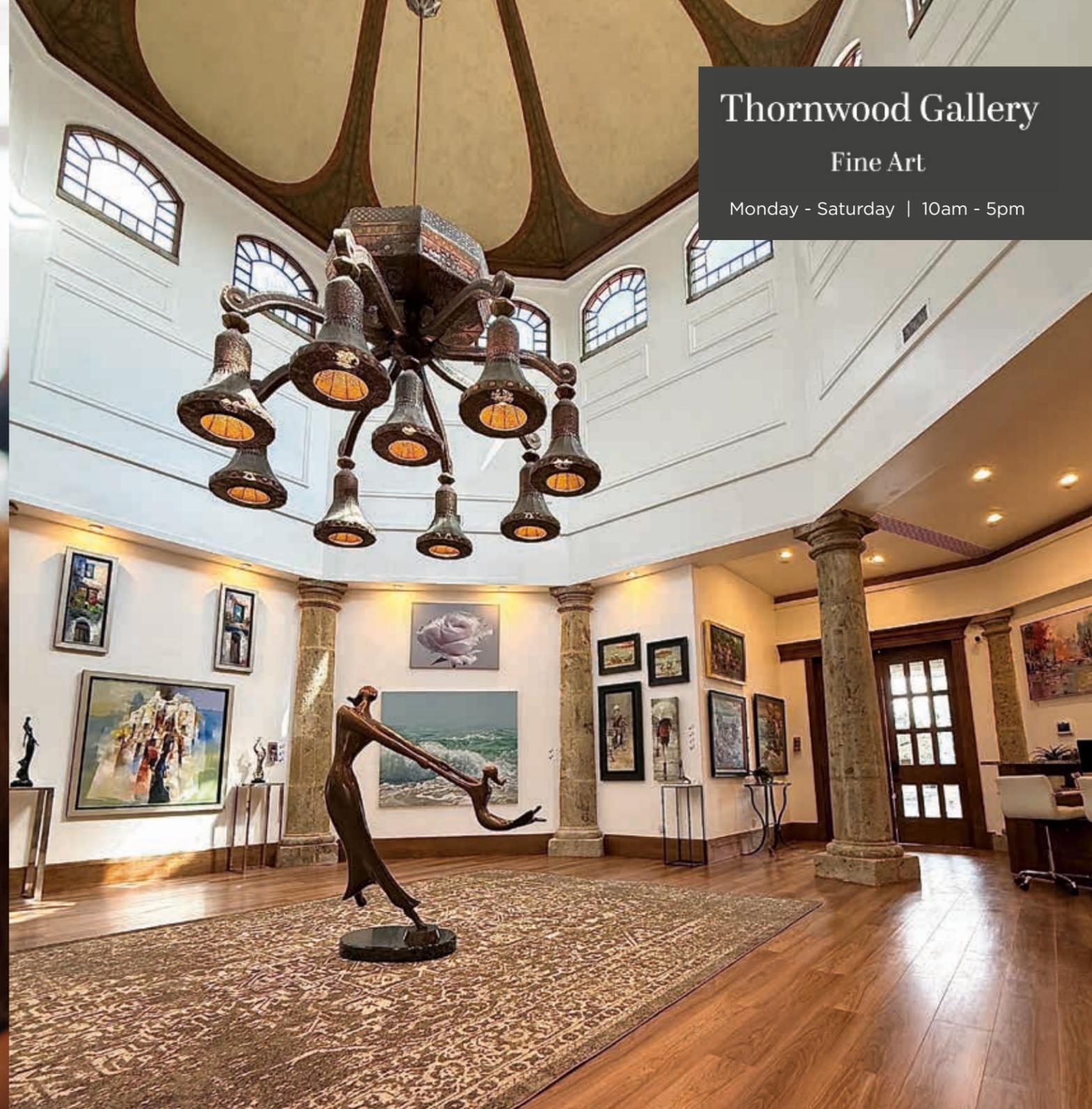


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PUBLISHER & ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Jason Smith
210.501.3161
jason.smith@n2co.com



PUBLICATION ASSISTANT & CONTENT COORDINATOR

Stephanie Voorkamp
210.426.0125
pubassistant@n2co.com



PHOTOGRAPHER

Lindsey Murphy
lindseymurphyphoto@gmail.com

AD MANAGER

Mission City Ads
missioncity.ads@n2co.com



CONTRIBUTORS AT LARGE

COVER WRITER

Dylan Koller



CONTRIBUTOR

Chef Elaine Perusquia

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We are always looking for residents to feature in the magazine, find great stories and send us ideas. Let's celebrate the great things happening in our community! No contribution is too small. Please email jason.smith@n2pub.com with your pictures, suggestions, or requests.

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Christmas in Four Words: God. Is. With. Us.

Every year as Christmas approaches, I find myself slowing down, if only for a moment, to reflect on what this season really means. The lights, the gifts, the gatherings, the music, starbucks cups - I love Christmas. But if we boil it all down to its essence, Christmas can be summed up in four simple, powerful words: **God. Is. With. Us.**

Those four words changed everything.

They tell us that we are not alone. We never have been, and we never will be. They remind us that the God who created the heavens and the earth didn't stay distant or detached. He came close. He entered our story, wrapped not in royal robes but in swaddling cloth. He didn't come riding on clouds of glory, but in the stillness of a Bethlehem night, as a baby whose very presence whispered hope into a weary world.

That's what Christmas is all about: the reminder that no matter what season of life we're in, God is near. Whether we're celebrating victories or walking through valleys, He is with us. Whether life feels

full or fragile, He is with us. In our homes, in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our quiet prayers and in our unanswered questions; He is there.

It's easy in a busy world to forget that. To rush through December trying to find the "perfect" gift, plan the "perfect" holiday, or capture the "perfect" photo. But the real perfection of Christmas has nothing to do with any of that. It's found in the miracle that **God came for us.** He came to show us love, to bring us peace, and to offer us life that never ends.

So this Christmas, my hope is that you'll take a few quiet moments to simply breathe it in. Look around your home, your table, your community, and remember - you are seen, you are known, and you are loved. The same God who spoke galaxies into existence also chose to step into your world to remind you that you matter deeply to Him.

For me, one of the greatest joys of this season is watching our Dominion community come alive with warmth, generosity, and connection. Seeing neighbors share meals, families open

their homes, and residents reflect on what truly matters. It's a beautiful reminder that light still breaks through the darkness, and love still wins.

As you're reading this issue, I hope you'll also notice the local businesses who make this publication possible - those who believe in this community and choose to support it. This holiday season, give them a chance to earn your business and show them the same support they've shown you all year long.

From our *Stroll Dominion* family to yours, may this Christmas fill your heart with peace, your home with laughter, and your life with the unshakable truth that no matter where you are or what you're walking through, **God is with you.**

Merry Christmas,

Jason Smith

Publisher,
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It was 2015, Jessie and Spencer had been together for 4-years and were living in a small house in Comfort, a little town just northwest of San Antonio. Though Jessie loved their quaint home, her one complaint was the lack of a garbage disposal. Like a true gentleman, Spencer sought to remedy the situation, and one afternoon surprised Jessie by handing her a box containing a brand new disposal. As Jessie opened it, she unveiled a much bigger surprise within; a shiny engagement ring. She looked up, her eyes filled with shock and delight, as Spencer took a knee to ask for her hand in marriage.

Jessie was born and raised in the small town of

Odessa where core values revolved around faith and family. Her mother did everything in her power to create a beautiful life for Jessie and her sister, taking every opportunity to build memories together. Holidays were an especially joyous time around their household, her mother always going above and beyond. After graduating high school, Jessie set her sights on San Antonio and enrolled at UTSA.

Spencer was born in Mississippi, but moved with his family to San Antonio when he was 9. Like Jessie, his core values also centered around faith and family. Spencer spent his youth outdoors whether that was hunting, fishing, or riding dirtbikes.



A natural athlete, he played all the sports growing up and rarely had a season off.

Upon graduating from Ole Miss as a political science major in 2010, Spencer returned to San Antonio to start the next chapter of his life. One evening, not long after his return, he attended a Wednesday summer concert series with friends; mutual friends of Jessie's. After introductions and formalities, Spencer took his shot, asking Jessie to dance. As country music filled the air, their chemistry couldn't be ignored. The following week they went on their first date and they've

been together ever since. After the incredibly cute 2015 proposal, they were married the following year and began their journey as husband and wife. Though he'd always been interested

in politics, Spencer's entrepreneurial spirit took over and he began founding a series of companies in commercial construction, commercial real estate, and HOA management. Jessie began dabbling in commercial insurance, which she still does, but her full-time job came with the arrival of their daughter, Quinn, in 2017. In 2018,

with their beautiful baby girl in tow, the family of three moved to the Dominion.

Since their arrival, they've lived in three different Dominion homes and couldn't be fonder of the community. "We have so many friends in the neighborhood," says Jessie, "We love the sense of safety and community here, as well as the wonderful events put on by the HOA- whether it's the Halloween bash or Fiesta. There's also a lot of mom groups and opportunities to get the kids together to play." Having made the decision to homeschool Quinn, Jessie is grateful to live in a community where there's ample opportunity to congregate and, like her mother before her, seizes every opportunity to build memories with her daughter.

Together, the Powell family enjoy taking afternoon strolls with their three pups; Hando, Rebel, and Winnie, as well as weekend getaways to their lake house on Lake LBJ where they boat and swim. "And I know how to surf!" Quinn shares proudly.

Their favorite time to build memories, however, is the holiday season. Known for hosting several Christmas parties throughout December, the Powells revel in the opportunity to celebrate Jesus's birth with family and friends. On Christmas Eve they play The Present Game- a game of chance that could result in a stack of presents or none at all. Many a game has ended in tears, and not just children's. On Christmas morning they enjoy a massive



breakfast, a tradition stemming from both sides of their families, and the rest of the day is spent enjoying one another's company. Like all of us, at some point throughout the day they end up cuddled on the couch, pups included, to indulge in their favorite Christmas movies. For Quinn it's Jim Carrey's The Grinch, for Jessie it's the delightfully romantic The Holiday, and for Spencer it's National Lampoon's hilarious classic Christmas Vacation.

This year, as twinkling lights from the Christmas tree illuminate the room and the smell of baked goodies wafts through their hallways, the Powell's are filled with a deep sense of gratitude. Gratitude for the light in the world that still shines through trying times, gratitude for the fellowship they've found in the Dominion, but most importantly, gratitude for every moment they share together and the memories they'll hold onto forever.

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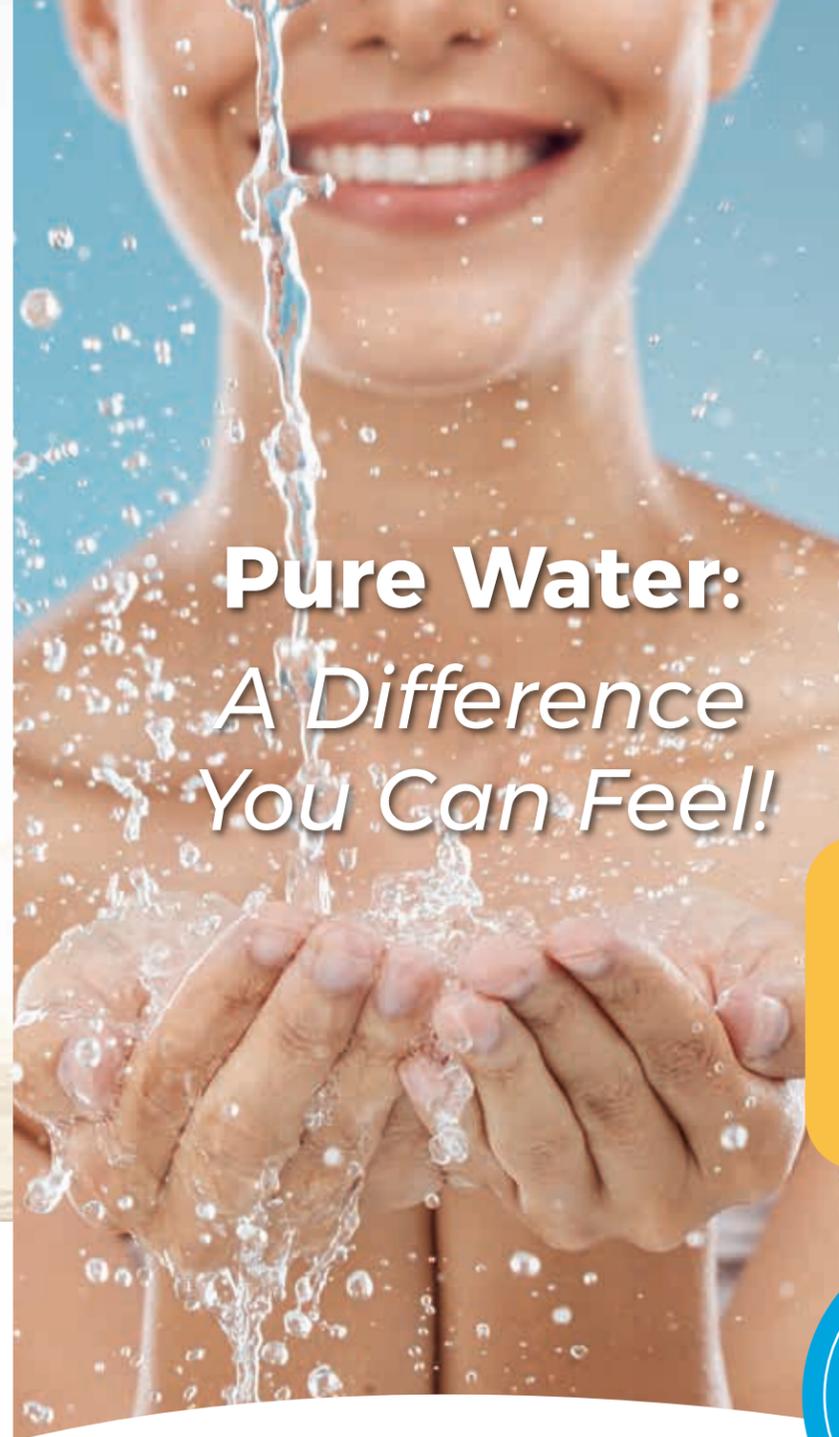
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1. See the complete picture. A home purchase should fit seamlessly into your broader wealth plan. Beyond being a residence, it's a real estate investment that should align



with the rest of your portfolio's growth projections, risk tolerance, liquidity and estate plans. At the same time, it carries significant long-term costs including property taxes, insurance, maintenance, and even staffing that should be factored into your cash flow. An experienced wealth advisor or private banker can help you adjust and optimize your financial plan with your new home as an integral component.

2. Optimize your financing strategy. For many high-net-worth buyers, the decision isn't whether they can buy in cash, but whether they should, since strategic financing can help preserve capital for other opportunities. The real focus should be on structuring a mortgage to maximize flexibility, minimize opportunity cost and align with your wealth goals. While the conversation goes well beyond monthly payments, don't underestimate the power of even a slightly lower interest rate. When it comes to large-scale financing, a modest adjustment can translate into meaningful long-term savings that could be reinvested to further grow your portfolio.

3. Leverage private banking advantages. For luxury homebuyers, a private banking relationship offers flexibility and personalization that standard retail channels can't match. Working alongside your wealth advisor, CPA and real estate/mortgage team, a private banker can help you evaluate whether financing is the right move, maintain liquidity and optimize tax efficiency. They can also help you navigate the often-complex qualifying process for a jumbo or super-jumbo mortgage with more flexible underwriting, tailored terms and alternate qualification approaches that reflect the full strength of your portfolio. When approached strategically, home financing decisions can become a powerful lever in long-term wealth planning. For a well-rounded, personalized approach to the homebuying experience, reach out to Cindy Snyder at 210.220.6845 or Cindy.Snyder@frostbank.com.

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BEN REED



Name:

Ben Reed "Bogey" to my family.

Why do you love golf? When did you first learn to play? Who taught you?

Golf was a 'wedge' sport for me growing up. Between Baseball, Football and Basketball, golf was just a good excuse to get outside in the off-season and play a sport. Over time I began to appreciate the personal attributes that golf provided. Every shot is your shot. Every swing is your swing, and the results are uniquely yours. In that same vein, golf seemed to mirror my career, and as time moved along, my love for the game grew.

My grandmother bought me a starter set when I was 8. I probably used them until I was in college. In 1987 I bought a new set and played once a month in business related scrambles. In 2014 we moved to Dominion, and I began to focus on golf.

I'm self-taught.

What are your most treasured memories of playing golf?

Hands down, it's playing with my 2 sons when they are available. Next, it would be the time I spend with our GBU (Good/Bad/Ugly) Group. I love each of our GBU boys, and we always manage to have a great time.

What golfers do you most admire and why?

Scottie Scheffler is the guy I most admire. He's obviously a great golfer, but I love his devotion to his faith and family. Scottie knows what is important in life. He uses golf to create a wonderful life for his family...he doesn't let golf use him.

What course is your favorite to play? Why?

Eastlake in Atlanta. My company had a membership, and I was quite active using it before I retired.

Eastlake is a historic course...home to the Tour Championship. What made it special for me was the story of how Coca Cola rejuvenated the troubled neighborhood surrounding the course, and transformed it into a wonderful neighborhood for hundreds of families.

What is your handicap or what do you normally shoot?

My index is 2.8. Average score generally runs around 76.

Ever get a hole-in-one? Tell us about the course, the hole, and your strategy.

Nope, never had one. I always say that my first will occur when I am playing alone.

Any other thoughts about your love of the game?

Golf can be social or solitary...you're choice. It can be intensely competitive or totally peaceful...you're choice. Golf is a lifetime sport that can contribute to keeping you younger longer.

What have you learned from the game of golf?

This game, and all that it represents to those who play, is meant to be passed on to others.

If you could change one thing to make golf more fun, what would it be?

24 hour sunlight.

What advice would you give someone that wants to get started playing golf?

Seek the very best instruction before you develop bad habits. I hear Pat McMahan is available for lessons in 2029!

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DOMINION WOMEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The Dominion Country Club wrapped up another fantastic Women's Club Championship with great participation, friendly competition, and plenty of laughs along the way! The weekend was a perfect blend of sunshine, sportsmanship, and strong play from all divisions. Thank you to all who played the Women's Club Championship!



PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING OUR WINNERS:

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- 1st Jennifer Walker
- 2nd Hayley Schwartz
- 3rd Loy Thompson

NET

- 1st Loy Thompson
- 2nd Jennifer Walker
- 3rd Hayley Schwartz

SENIOR WOMEN

GROSS

- 1st Karen Steingart
- 2nd Kelley Buchanan
- 3rd Barbie Perkins

NET

- 1st Diane Fitzgerald
- 2nd Kelley Buchanan
- 3rd Barbie Perkins





DOMINION WOMEN'S INTERCLUB TEAM

The Dominion Women's InterClub Team wrapped up an exciting nine-month season of competition this October, facing off against top clubs from across the San Antonio area. Led by captains Carla Walgenbach, Kelley Buchanan, and Karen Steingart, the team represented Dominion with skill, camaraderie, and sportsmanship throughout the year.

Each match featured a six-woman roster competing in A, B, and C team divisions in a match play format.

This season marked Dominion's first year back in InterClub competition since 2011, a proud milestone as Dominion women's golf continues to grow!

A big congratulations to all the winners and participants who made this year's event such a success. The DWGA continues to grow and thrive thanks to the energy, camaraderie, and love of the game shared by all its members. Here's to another great season of women's golf at The Dominion!



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The Dominion Social Group for Singles

Our next gathering is December 11th

The Dominion Social Group for Singles will be having our monthly gathering on December 11th.

We meet every second Thursday of the month at 5:30pm.

For more information on the times and locations, please contact Pravi at 832-933-2582 or Janet at 210-240-2346



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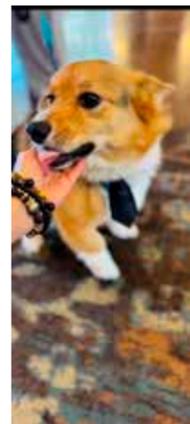


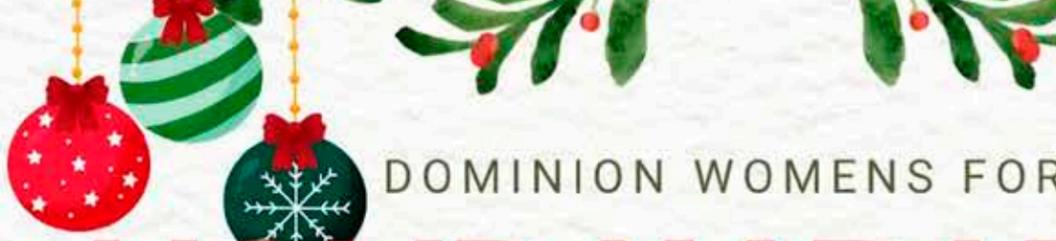
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The Furry Fashion Show Was Pawsitively Adorable!

Thank you to everyone who participated and came out to support us in the cutest and most furry fashion show DWF has ever had. Thank you to Maggy Jones for organizing this pawsitively adorable event!





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Alamo Outdoor Solutions

Where did you grow up? How long have you lived in the area? Tell us about your family:

Evan began his career as a Doctor of Physical Therapy, developing a deep understanding of people's needs and wellness. Over time, he expanded into leadership roles in healthcare, serving as Division Director of Operations and Vice President of Operations. Bernice, with her experience teaching and inspiring young minds, has always been committed to serving her community. Combining Evan's operational expertise and



Bernice's desire to make a positive impact, they founded Alamo Outdoor Solutions, a company dedicated to transforming outdoor spaces into functional, beautiful areas that families can enjoy together.

Tell us about your role in your business either as the owner or position within your organization:

As owners of Alamo Outdoor Solutions, we wear many hats—from meeting with clients to ensuring every project is executed with care and precision. What we enjoy most is collaborating with families to design and build outdoor spaces that perfectly fit their lifestyle. Whether installing artificial turf, adding landscaping, or creating

a fully customized backyard, our greatest satisfaction comes from seeing the excitement when a client's vision becomes reality.

Describe a business highlight such as why you started the business and/or what you enjoy most about your role:

One of the biggest highlights of starting Alamo Outdoor Solutions has been the opportunity to help families turn their outdoor spaces into areas they truly love. We founded the company to meet a growing need for high-quality, reliable outdoor solutions—ranging from artificial turf to fully customized backyard designs—that combine beauty and functionality.

What drives us every day is seeing the tangible impact of our work. From children playing safely on a maintenance-free lawn to families gathering in a custom-designed backyard, it's incredibly rewarding to know we've created spaces where memories are made for years to come.

Where do you see the future of your business 3, 5 or 10 years?

At Alamo Outdoor Solutions, we envision becoming the region's leading name in custom outdoor living. Over the next decade, we aim to expand our services, grow our team, and continue delivering innovative landscaping, artificial turf, and backyard designs. Our goal is to transform outdoor spaces into

lasting areas of beauty, functionality, and enjoyment, enriching the lives of families across San Antonio and beyond.

What is unique about your business (what sets you apart from the rest)?

Alamo Outdoor Solutions is San Antonio's premier installer of artificial grass for residential and commercial applications. We offer natural-looking, durable solutions for lawns, landscaping, putting greens, sports fields, playgrounds, and more—all crafted in-house and proudly made in the USA.

Beyond turf, we provide comprehensive landscaping and custom outdoor design, creating elegant, functional spaces that reflect each client's style. Our team combines design expertise, precision installation, and personalized service to ensure every project enhances beauty, usability, and property value.

Describe your business culture as it relates to how you service your customers:

Culture is the backbone of Alamo Outdoor Solutions. It shapes how we collaborate internally, deliver projects, and build lasting relationships with clients. Our culture prioritizes professionalism, clear communication, and exceeding expectations. It also fosters creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving—essential qualities for



bringing unique outdoor visions to life. Clients trust us not only for the quality of our work but for the integrity and reliability that our culture reinforces every day.

Take us through a customer experience that had a positive impact on your business:

“Alamo Outdoor Solutions completely transformed our backyard! The team installed artificial grass that looks incredibly natural—our neighbors can’t believe it’s not real. The crew was professional, punctual, and made the entire process stress-free. Now our kids and pets can play outside year-round

without the mess of mud or constant maintenance. We couldn’t be happier with the results and highly recommend Alamo Outdoor Solutions to anyone looking to upgrade their outdoor space.”
– Letty, Boerne, TX

This project exemplifies our commitment to quality, attention to detail, and making a real difference in the lives of our clients.

Given your business expertise and the nature of what you do, what advice can you offer residents seeking your business services?

For anyone considering a custom backyard, artificial turf, or landscaping

project, start with a clear vision for how you want to use your outdoor space. Whether it’s a low-maintenance lawn for kids and pets, a functional entertainment area, or a serene garden retreat, it’s important to partner with a company that combines design insight with practical expertise.

At Alamo Outdoor Solutions, we encourage clients to ask about materials, warranties, and maintenance options so they can make informed decisions. Investing in high-quality turf, professional installation, and thoughtful landscaping design ensures your backyard remains beautiful, functional, and enjoyable for years to come.

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Ephesians 2:10

Just Lunch!

Please Join Us December 9th

"Just Lunch!" is a ladies luncheon for Dominion Country Club members AND Dominion residents (who are not club members), and would enjoy the opportunity to meet and mingle with friends and neighbors while enjoying a light lunch at Albi's Vite.

SPECIFICS

- Luncheons will be held once a month, on the second Tuesday, October through May. At this time, we are scheduled to meet at Albi's Vite on December 9th from 11:30-1:30 pm.

- Club members and Dominion residents may invite guests. There are no meetings, programs, or dues. JUST LUNCH!
- Promotion is mostly by word of mouth, so tell your friends and neighbors! Notices and announcements will appear on ForeTees and Stroll magazine.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT

Lyn Hicks
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Decorating with Intention: Creating Traditions that Last

BY TANIA VASQUEZ, STH INTERIORS



This time of year, our homes become the stage for the moments we cherish most — the laughter, the conversations, the gatherings that turn into memories. And while the holidays often begin with color palettes and new décor ideas, what truly makes a space special isn't *what we place in it*, but *what we experience inside it*.

Holiday decorating — whether new, inherited, or handmade — carries emotional weight when it's done with intention. A simple ornament can be beautiful, but it becomes unforgettable when it reminds us of someone, of a place, or of a story we want to keep alive. Likewise, something new can hold meaning too — because today's choices are tomorrow's traditions. What we bring into our homes this season might be the very things our children or loved ones remember years from now.

Creating a home that feels warm and personal isn't about decorating less or more— it's about **decorating with purpose**. Some people love refreshing their décor every year because it fills them with excitement; others find joy in

bringing out the same cherished pieces each season. Both are meaningful, because both create experiences: one through renewal, the other through continuity. What truly matters is that the elements you choose have *soul* — that they hold stories, emotions, or intention.

Natural materials help anchor this feeling. The softness of linen, the warmth of wood, the scent of fresh greenery, the gentle glow of candles — these elements invite calm and connection. They don't compete with the home; they complete it. When paired with meaningful objects — a vintage bowl, a handmade ornament, a candleholder passed down through family — your home becomes more than a setting. It becomes a keeper of memory.

There's also a quiet, spiritual gesture that enriches this season: creating a small corner for reflection. It doesn't have to be elaborate — just a space with a candle, a photograph, a phrase, or something symbolic that invites gratitude and new intentions. Amid all the movement and celebration, this little pause helps us reconnect with what truly matters and open our hearts to what's coming next.



WAYS TO BRING THIS FEELING HOME

- Add **one meaningful piece** to your décor each year — something that tells a story or starts a new one.
- Choose **natural textures** that invite touch and comfort: wood, linen, clay, or woven fibers.
- Create a **corner of reflection** — a place to pause, give thanks, and welcome the year ahead.
- When you buy something new, ask yourself: Could this become part of our family's story?

Because in the end, decorating isn't about filling a house — it's about filling it with memories that last.

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Every home has a story — let's make yours unforgettable.

At STH Interiors, we believe great design goes beyond beautiful spaces; it's about creating moments, memories, and a true sense of belonging. From custom furniture to personalized interiors, we bring your vision to life with care, creativity, and timeless style.

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Kevin Browning
General Manager
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Cleopatra

Mess with her and mess with death

BY DAN JOHNSTON, DOMINION RESIDENT

History is replete with stories that would rival the plot of any modern soap opera, and one of the most fascinating of these stories involves the intrigue surrounding the Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra VII. In the December meeting of the Dominion History Club we will continue a discussion in three parts of the Roman Empire, including in this second segment the story of Cleopatra, her family, and her romances with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony.

Cleopatra VII was Greek and spoke Greek on the Egyptian throne. Her name was Greek, meaning “she who came from a glorious father”. She was the last active ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, descended from a family of Macedonian heritage that had gained control of Egypt upon the death of Alexander the Great. Alexander conquered Egypt in 331 B.C. and decreed on his deathbed that his empire be divided among a small group of his generals. The general who received Egypt was Ptolemy (he became Ptolemy I), and his dynasty would exist for almost 300 years.

Cleopatra’s father, Ptolemy XII, married his

niece, so Cleopatra’s mother was also her cousin. Cleopatra was named co-ruler with her father when she was 14. She would also co-rule at various times with her brothers, Ptolemy XIII and Ptolemy XIV, and her son, Caesarion. Cleopatra’s life span was 69-30 B.C., and she would rule Egypt for most of the last 21 years of her life.

The death of her father in 51 B.C. had two effects, Cleopatra’s ascension to the throne and her marriage to her 10-year-old brother, a tradition that involved maintenance of royal bloodlines. She had no intention of sharing power with Ptolemy XIII, so factions vying for power evolved that caused Cleopatra to temporarily abandon the throne in favor of Ptolemy XIII in 48 B.C.

These events coincided with the Roman civil war that brought Julius Caesar to the throne in Rome. Pompey, one of the two leaders defeated by Julius Caesar in the war in Italy, fled to Egypt. Ptolemy XIII tried to ingratiate himself to Julius Caesar and made a huge miscalculation. Thinking that it would please Julius Caesar, Ptolemy XIII had Pompey



captured and executed. And when presented the head of Pompey as a gift, Julius Caesar (who actually respected Pompey both as a rival and as the husband of his daughter) was enraged. Julius Caesar inserted himself into the conflict in Egypt, defeated Ptolemy XIII (who drowned in the Nile River during the conflict), and returned Cleopatra to the throne with her younger brother, Ptolemy XIV.

Cleopatra, seeking an alliance with Julius Caesar, had herself smuggled into Caesar’s palace (a delicious legend is that she was rolled up in a carpet that was presented to Caesar as a gift) and became his mistress. Their son, Caesarion (Ptolemy XV), was born nine months later.

Cleopatra visited Rome in regal splendor in 46 B.C. with her son, Caesarion (“Little Caesar”), and brother, Ptolemy XIV (a scene captured with incredible pageantry in the 1963 movie with Elizabeth Taylor), causing a great scandal there,

especially since Julius Caesar was married. She was still present when Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C., but she returned home in fear for her life shortly thereafter, ordering the death of her brother, Ptolemy XIV, to secure her place on the throne.

Desperate for support in Rome, Cleopatra in 41 B.C. at the age of 28 next seduced Mark Antony, one of the triumvirate that ruled Rome after Julius Caesar’s death. She became Antony’s fifth wife and produced three children. Unfortunately for both of them, Octavian (who would become Caesar Augustus) defeated Antony in still another Roman civil war in 30 B.C. In shame and discouragement, Antony committed suicide in the classic warrior method of “falling on his sword”.

Cleopatra, in grief after learning of Antony’s fate, also committed suicide (by snake bite in the most appealing legend, but more probably by ingesting poison) and ended the Ptolemaic dynasty.

Caesar Augustus ordered the execution of Caesarion, Cleopatra’s son by Caesar, and allowed that her two sons by Antony be raised safely in Italy so long as they did not threaten his throne.

Join us for the 11 December session of History Club and enjoy the second of the three meetings that will cover the Roman empire. History is fun!



Colonel Dan Johnston was a career Army officer of 25 years service and a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. Following retirement from the service, he taught World History to high school sophomores for 15 years. He and his wife of over 50 years, Pam, are blessed with four children and ten grandchildren.



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FROM VINE TO WINE

Meierstone Vineyards

A sense of story and place rooted in five generations of Texas heritage

BY RICHARD & LORENE BOTHE, DOMINION RESIDENTS

Nestled in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, Meierstone Vineyards offers a distinctive experience for both wine-lovers and casual visitors. Situated on a 555 acre working farm and ranch in Stonewall, Texas and operated by a fifth-generation Texas family, it is truly a hidden gem. Meierstone derives its name from the blend of two family surnames, Meier and Stone. Fifth generation, Krystal Stone Patel, owns and operates Meierstone Vineyards on the family property.

The ranch itself tells the story of Texas agriculture, evolving from

a working farm and ranch into a respected Hill Country boutique winery. The weight of history is evident throughout with various memorabilia on display and serves as a tribute to the original settler, Jacob Brodbeck and subsequent generations.

In our ventures to the Texas Hill Country region, we have been primarily focused on the wineries that produce wines made exclusively with Texas-grown grapes. That criteria exists at Meierstone, and they are also a small-batch, premium production winery. The wines are 100% Texas and 100% authentic. Their emphasis is on sustainable practices in both their farming and winemaking activities.

If you are looking for a winery visit that is more authentic Texas countryside and not the glitter of a high end tasting room, Meierstone will fill your quest. It is a relaxed rural setting where the staff is well versed and eager to serve and please. The owner, Krystal Stone Patel is usually on site and working in the tasting room. She is welcoming,

charming and delighted to answer questions and tell their story.

Recently Meierstone released their current flagship Sangiovese blend, the Airship, so labeled as a tribute to the original settler, Joseph Brodbeck. As an inventor, among his creations was a grape destemmer for which he was widely recognized. Having a dream to fly like a bird, he worked for years trying to build something that would permit man to use the atmosphere for his travels. In 1865, he posted a notice in the San Antonio Express soliciting funds from investors to build his "airship". He was 30 years ahead of the Wright Brothers. Unfortunately, his airship was short-lived, having crashed on its inaugural flight.

Other red wine varietals available include Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese, Tempranillo, and a delightful Non-Vintage Malbec. For the white wine lovers there is Roussanne and Trebbiano. The Rose of Mourvèdre is not to be missed and among the current releases is the iconic "Wrecking Ball".



Over the past several years, Meierstone has garnered numerous awards and recognition in various wine competitions. Included are the nationally recognized critic James Suckling and the San Francisco International Wine Competition. On a regional basis they are consistent winners in both the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Wine Competition and the Houston Rodeo Uncorked International Competition.

The tasting room is open from Thursday through Sunday and offers casual seated, curated tasting flights that explore their portfolio of Texas wines. You may also choose to enjoy a bottle or glass for those that wish to relax and sip at their own pace.

Tasting flights include 5 wines and are \$25 per person. Guests have the option between a mixed flight (white, rosé and red wine) or an all-reds flight. For an elevated experience, gather up your friends and book a private tasting called the "Blacksmith Shop".

Keeping in mind these small production wineries do not have access to the mainstream wine distribution system, we encourage you to consider their various wine club options. One unique feature we appreciate is the ability to craft your own selections

regardless of what level membership you maintain.

On your next wine adventure, head up IH 10 towards Fredericksburg then on to Stonewall for a visit to Meierstone - it is worth the drive. You will experience a blend of incredible history, a genuine farm/winery operation and thoughtful, meticulously crafted wines. Whether you are a serious wine enthusiast, novice or simply looking for a scenic spot to relax, this is a strong choice. It is family oriented, pet friendly and a must stop for us each time we visit our beautiful Texas Hill Country Wine area.

From Vine to Wine Always Remember to Drink Responsibly!
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HOLIDAY PAIRINGS

Since we are in the holiday season you might be looking for a wine pairing to complement your favorite main course. For turkey or ham, consider Meierstone 2021 Sangiovese or their 2021 Tempranillo. For a standing rib roast the Malbec would be a great choice. Going all out for a rack of lamb - the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon is the way to go



Richard & Lorene are residents of The Dominion and enjoy volunteering their time to Stroll The Dominion Magazine and sharing their knowledge of the history of Texas hill country wineries with their neighbors.





TOP 5 REALTOR OF ALL TIME IN THE DOMINION

A SAMPLE OF JASON GLAST'S PAST DOMINION SALES



4 EDEN PARK



14 DUXBURY PARK



6 COTSWOLD LANE



11 DAVENPORT LANE



29 GRANTHAM GLEN



6 HAZELWOOD COURT



21 DEVON WOOD



15 MONTIVILLERS



7 ESQUIRE

"The Dominion market often moves quietly, and the best outcomes often happen when the right buyers are reached through private channels before the market sees a listing. Whether you're planning a sale or just exploring options, I'm always available to talk through the market and what it means for you."

JASON GLAST

SALES IN THE DOMINION: 45

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These sweet 6-week-old kittens — three girls and one boy — were rescued with their mom from under a house. Thanks to lots of care and love, they're now thriving: playful, cuddly, and full of personality!

Before adoption, each kitten will be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, tested, and microchipped, ensuring they're ready to start their new lives healthy and happy.

We'd love to see these kittens adopted in pairs or into homes with another furry friend (or a person who's home often). They're social little ones who love company — perfect for bringing extra warmth and joy to the holiday season.

If you'd like to make this Christmas truly special — for you and for them — please contact daagadoptions@gmail.com for adoption information.

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BLISS: A RISING STAR IN ART, ANIMATION, AND JAPANESE CULTURE

In the vibrant halls of Northeast School of the Arts, there's one student whose name perfectly reflects her passion and spirit: Bliss. A talented young artist with a heart full of wonder and imagination, Bliss has found her creative voice through her love of both art, animation, and Japanese culture.

From a young age, Bliss was drawn to visual storytelling and the magic of animated worlds. Her biggest inspiration? Studio Ghibli—the legendary Japanese animation studio behind films like *Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, and *Howl's Moving Castle*. The whimsical worlds, heartfelt characters, and breathtaking artistry of Ghibli sparked something deep within her. It wasn't just admiration—it was a calling.

Bliss channeled this inspiration into everything she did. At Northeast School of the Arts, she's become known for her creativity, discipline, and deep appreciation of Japanese aesthetics. Her sketchbooks are filled with dreamy characters, cherry blossom landscapes, and intricate designs that blend



“ If you love art, don't be afraid to follow where it leads you. Whether it's a style, a culture, or a story—let it inspire you. Reach for the stars, because the world needs your vision.”

—BLISS



traditional Japanese motifs with her own unique style.

But Bliss's passion didn't stop at the canvas—she dove headfirst into the language and culture of Japan. Now excelling in her Japanese studies, she can speak, read, and write the language with impressive fluency. In fact, she even wrote the full itinerary for her upcoming school trip to Japan *entirely in Japanese*. It's her way of showing respect to the culture she loves and immersing herself even more fully in the experience.

And there's more excitement ahead—Bliss will be visiting Japan *twice* this coming year. For her, it's not just about sightseeing; it's about stepping into the world that has long fueled her imagination. From Tokyo's neon-lit art museums to Kyoto's serene temples, Bliss is eager to absorb every detail and let it further shape her creative journey.

What's most inspiring about Bliss is her message to others: “If you love art, don't be afraid to follow where it leads you. Whether it's a style, a culture, or a story—let it inspire you. Reach for the stars, because the world needs your vision.”

Bliss reminds us all that when passion meets dedication, beautiful things happen. Her story is just beginning, but it already lights the way for other young artists and dreamers ready to create, explore, and believe in their own path.

—
Keep your eyes on Bliss—she's painting a future filled with possibility, one brushstroke (and kanji) at a time.



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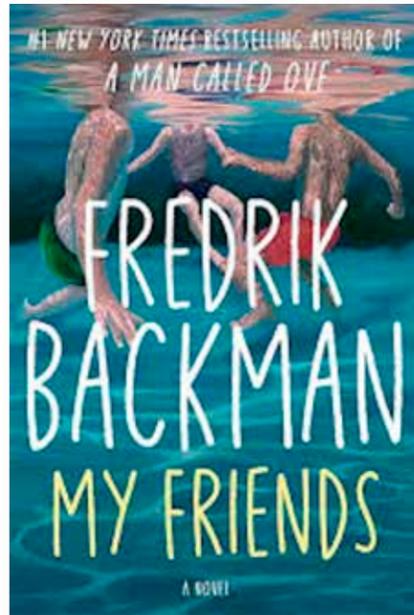


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My Friends

BY FREDRIK BACKMAN, REVIEWED BY MARLENE NESLUND

A woman at the art auction looked unhappy. “It’s probably the only way she can look because she has had so much surgery, she looks like a sneaker that’s been tied too tightly.”

The gallery guard is, “As angry as a wild boar that’s been given a habanero suppository.” Louisa is thrown out, “With such force that she actually flies out across the sidewalk like a building is spitting out a watermelon seed.” And just before Easter, “The weather is like winter and spring are fighting over the temperature-like two annoying siblings.”

All these similes are found in the first thirty pages of Fredrik Backman’s fascinating novel, MY FRIENDS. His poetic prose is also enriched by the distinctive way he puts words together. “His grin is so wide that his ears should watch out.” And, “He couldn’t have looked more disappointed if Santa had turned out to be a dentist.”

Naturally MY FRIENDS is a book about friendship. It tells the story, in flashback, of four young, damaged teenagers from broken and/or violent homes. They heal one another by farts and laughter. They support and



encourage one another, especially the gifted one, the artist. The present day friendship is developed between Louisa, a talented runaway foster child, and Ted, an adult who is, “So timid and fragile that he thought even the wind had sharp edges.” One of their bonds is each one is grieving over the loss of a loved one.

The story begins in an art auction; then it moves to an alley where a successful but dying artist, C. Jat, meets Louisa. Most of the tale is spun on a train ride where the story of the four teenagers is recounted to Louisa by Ted. Each character is beautifully drawn. The town by the sea, where they lived, brings the novel full circle.

Many themes are given voice through these vivid characters. Some suffer from domestic violence and absent or alcoholic parents. Backman tells his readers, “Nature gains nothing from unhappy children, yet they are still walking around everywhere.” Later he states, “Children aren’t responsible for their parents’ happiness, but they still try.”

The exaltation of art is sprinkled throughout the novel. “Art doesn’t need critics; art needs friends.” And, “Art is completed by the viewer.” Again, “Great art is a small break from human despair.”

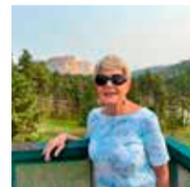
Backman ends his novel as he began it-filled with remarkable visions. “The night comes padding in from all directions; dusk stuffs the town is a sack; lights go on in the houses down the hill like bullet holes in the darkness.”

In his acknowledgment’s, Fredrik Backman writes: To my wife Neda.

“Eighteen years together and you can still knock me over with a simple look from across a crowded room. I know I’m an annoying idiot, but if I can be any man, I want to be yours. I promise you half of the french fries forever.”

To my children. “I’m sorry I’m so weird. I’m sorry I forgot where I parked the car so often. I’m sorry I ate all your candy last night. I hope you know I’m doing my very best being your dad. It’s my greatest adventure.”

And finally, “But most of all; to anyone who has read this or any other of the stupid little detours the voices in my head have taken me on in the last ten years or so. Telling stories is the only time I really feel like myself. Thanks for following along.” I, for one, hope Fredrik Backman keeps listening to those voices in his head and continues to give us all more enjoyable reads.



Born in a northern suburb of Chicago, Marlene obtained her BA from Lewis University and did graduate work

at Northwestern University and the University of Illinois. Married for 60 years to Robert, she was a “trailing spouse” for fifteen times (non-military). During those moves, she taught high school Honors English, operated and taught a Montessori school, became certified and taught yoga, and recently taught mahjong to some lovely Dominion ladies.

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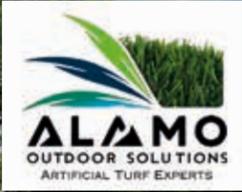
The poster features a whimsical Alice in Wonderland theme with a white rabbit holding a blue cupcake, a pocket watch with a red heart, a key, a teacup, a top hat, and playing cards. The background is decorated with various flowers and a banner that says "Eat me".

SUCKS. TO BE IGNORED



A large orange graphic with the text "SUCKS. TO BE IGNORED" in white. The letter 'K' in "SUCKS." is highlighted in a green box. A QR code with a red 'K' in the center is located to the right of the text.

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The advertisement shows a backyard with a swimming pool and a large area of artificial green turf. The Alamo Outdoor Solutions logo is prominently displayed in the upper right of the image.



Instantly Elevated

BY CHEF ELAINE PERUSQUIA

Tried and true techniques make cooking a joy and bring a dish together with the perfect combination of flavor, texture, and visual appeal. Whether I'm cooking for clients, teaching a class, or making dinner for family, one of my all-time favorites in my culinary bag of tricks is a good pan sauce. It sounds simple, right? That's because it is! There are but a few components to a well-executed pan sauce, each one likely already in your pantry or fridge. If you have a protein, a liquid, any fresh herb, and a chunk of butter, you have the makings of a great sauce.

Let's assume we're starting with some manner of protein. Seasoning your protein well and searing it in a wide, shallow skillet creates the first and most important layer of flavor for your finished sauce: the fond. Fond is the browned goo and bits that collect in your pan after searing protein or vegetables. This stuff is gold and is the reason we sear or sauté. Fond is pure flavor and is the base of any great pan sauce.

When I'm searing a protein, I like to season liberally with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper. If the meat is thin and will cook quickly (think chicken breast, fish, or shrimp), I might add a pinch of garlic powder or other dried spice. If I am searing a thicker piece of meat, however (think steak or pork chops) I stick to just salt and pepper, as any other dried spices tend to burn in the pan and will make the fond bitter. Make sure to not crowd your skillet and to dry any proteins thoroughly with paper towels before searing. This will encourage browning instead of steaming and will help create the tasty fond necessary for a great sauce.

Once your protein is nicely browned and cooked to your liking, remove it to rest. Liquid is now required to deglaze, which aids in scraping up all the browned bits left in the pan. Any liquid can be used here. I like to use stock or broth, citrus juice, a wine appropriate for the finished dish, or a combination. Even plain water can be used in a pinch. Add your liquid to the pan while it's still hot and stir, scraping up any browned bits. Increase the heat and reduce until about half of the liquid is evaporated, stirring occasionally. Once the bubbles in your pan begin to increase in size, you're almost there. The liquid needs to be somewhat reduced in order for the next step to be a success.

Aaaahhh...butter. Some sauces, like a beurre blanc, require obscene amounts of butter. Obscene amounts of butter have a time and place, but a quick pan sauce can get by with a tablespoon or two. The key here is to stir in cold butter off the heat, which creates a beautiful, velvety sauce. Taste, adjust salt and pepper, and then add chopped fresh herbs or a dash of your favorite dried spice. Butter not only adds flavor and texture, but it slightly thickens the sauce. Spoon your pan sauce over the seared protein, and your dish is instantly elevated.

This month's recipe is a great example of a perfect winter pan sauce. Warm chicken breasts with artichokes, lemon, and thyme. Bonus points for serving atop mashed potatoes for the ultimate cozy dinner. The acid in the lemon plus the butter and fresh thyme come together in mere minutes and make ordinary chicken into something special. Easy, creative, and versatile, pan sauces are my go-to for quick, elevated cuisine. Happy cooking, everyone!

Chicken with Lemon, Thyme & Artichokes

- 2-3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Kosher salt and black pepper
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- ½ cup chicken stock
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 2-3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 5-6 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves removed
- 1 15 oz can artichoke hearts, rinsed and drained
- Lemon wedges for garnish

If the chicken breasts are large, slice them and pound to about ½ inch thickness. Season liberally with kosher salt and black pepper and dredge lightly in flour. Heat the olive oil in a large nonreactive skillet over medium heat. Once the oil is shimmering, sauté the chicken until cooked through and well browned on both sides, turning once.

Remove browned chicken to a plate to rest. Add the chicken stock, lemon juice, and zest to the skillet, scraping up any browned bits. Bring to a boil and reduce liquid by about half. Remove from heat and stir in the butter, one tablespoon at a time. Stir in the thyme leaves and quartered artichoke hearts and heat through. Spoon sauce and artichokes over chicken and serve with mashed potatoes and lemon wedges. Serves 4



Chef Elaine Perusquia is the mother of two and a graduate of The Culinary Institute of America. A long-time food enthusiast, she is a private chef, food

writer, and culinary expert for the Skillr app for iPhone. Follow her on Instagram at [chefelaine.culinarycrossroads](#) to see what's cooking between issues.

TETELESTAI

[tee-teh-leh-stah-ee]

“IT IS FINISHED,”

John 19:30

Upon the hill where shadows fall,
Beneath the weight of mankind's call,
The triumph word, Jesus did die:
Tetelestai, Tetelestai.

No cloak of death, not bitter cry,
The word affirmed, then kissed the sky.
The veil was torn, the chasm closed,
A promise kept, a love exposed.

The debt once scrawled in crimson ink,
Each chain of shame, each heavy link,
Was shattered there, beneath that tree,
Where grace proclaimed: “You are set free.”

No more attempt, no need to plead,
The cross fulfilled, the law's deep creed.
With blood-soaked lips, the Victor sighed,
Tetelestai, our hope complied.

So now we stand, redeemed, made whole,
A finished work within the soul.
The price was paid; the Lamb did die,
And death conquered: Tetelestai.



By Jacks Blue, a well-known, well-liked, and talented Dominion Resident who writes under this pseudonym



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BY CAROLINE PERROTT

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Evergreen	A	P	E	Q	C	V	R	O	W	X	G	Z	F	T	B
Snowflake	N	P	M	X	A	B	E	E	W	O	I	J	T	I	H
Gift	G	V	I	K	N	W	O	R	I	F	Q	Z	J	V	I
Christmas	E	M	S	K	D	R	U	N	G	D	L	L	X	I	N
Mistletoe	L	H	T	K	L	E	C	A	F	R	E	A	B	T	S
Nativity	R	O	L	W	E	A	H	T	M	I	E	L	K	Y	W
Ornament	I	R	E	A	L	T	R	I	E	E	R	E	E	E	I
Hanukkah	B	N	T	N	I	H	I	N	P	S	N	E	N	H	N
Menorah	B	A	O	Z	G	K	S	S	X	N	L	O	J	T	T
Bonfire	O	M	E	A	H	E	T	E	U	O	L	S	R	B	E
Winter	N	E	I	A	T	W	M	L	F	W	B	R	S	A	R
Dreidel	J	N	L	V	M	E	A	H	A	N	U	K	K	A	H
Kwanzaa	T	T	L	G	P	Y	S	C	F	Z	S	A	N	T	A
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