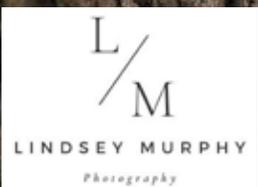
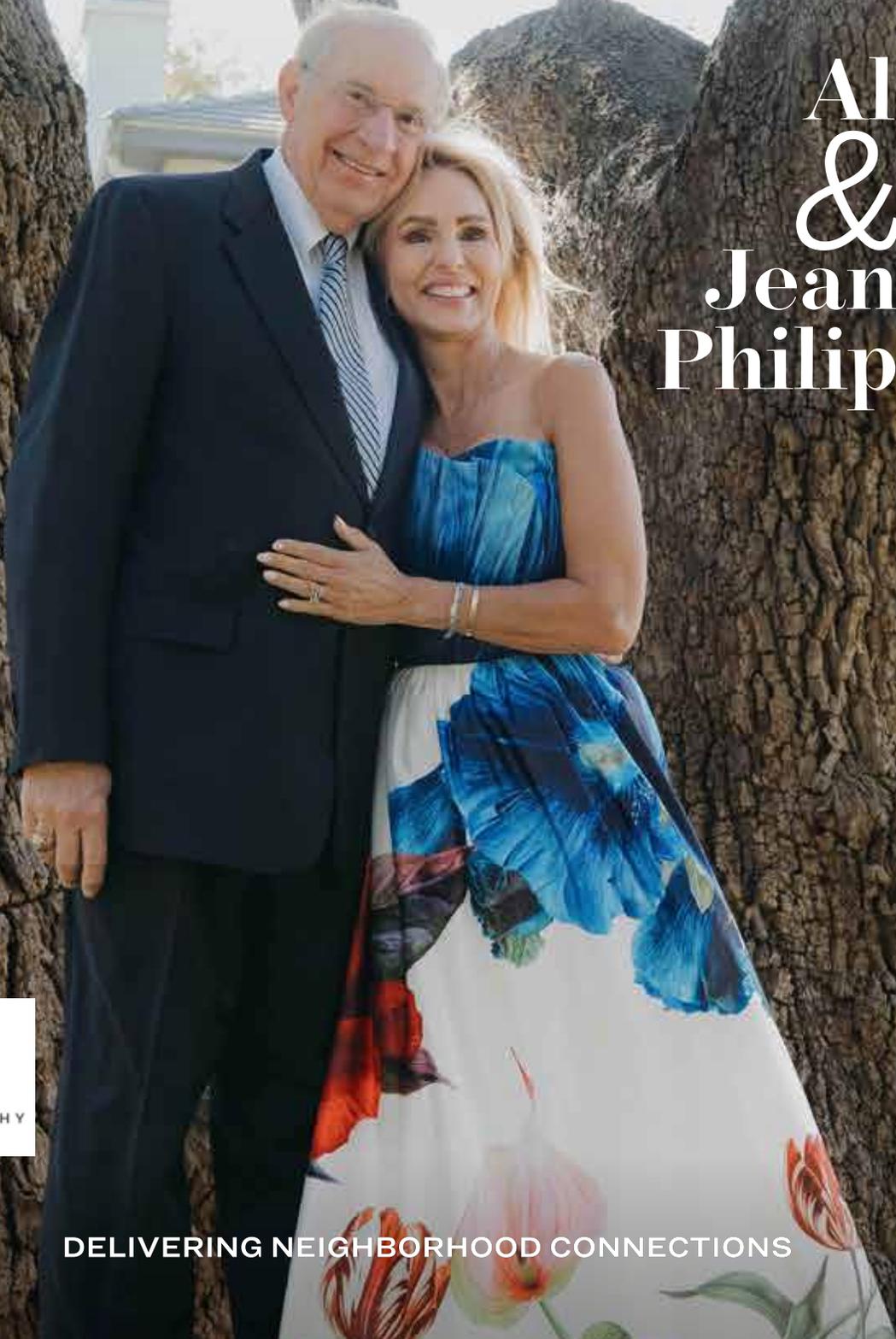


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Welcome to this edition of *Stroll Dominion*, your exclusive publication for all things Dominion. As we continue to bring you the latest stories, events, and highlights from our vibrant neighborhood, I wanted to take a moment to share a perspective on what this magazine truly represents.

In many ways, *Stroll Dominion* is like Facebook on paper. It's a place where neighbors connect, stories are shared, and the pulse of the community comes to life in a tangible, timeless way. While social media gives us instant updates, our magazine captures the heart of The Dominion—celebrating its residents, showcasing stunning homes, and capturing the moments that matter most in a way that you can hold in your hands.

Think of it as a social feed, but better. Instead of scrolling through fleeting posts, you get a thoughtfully crafted collection of stories that highlight the extraordinary people and places that make The Dominion special. Each issue is designed to inform, inspire, and connect our residents.

But unlike a digital newsfeed that disappears with the next update, our magazine is a keepsake—something you can flip through, revisit, and share with friends and neighbors. It's a testament to the people, properties, and stories that make The Dominion San Antonio's Premier Community.

So, whether you're a longtime resident or new to the neighborhood, *Stroll Dominion* is here to bring the community together—just like social media, but with more depth, more beauty, and a lasting impression. Enjoy this edition, and as always, we welcome your stories, ideas, and contributions. After all, this magazine is about

you, your neighbors, and the remarkable community we call home.



All the best,

Jason Smith

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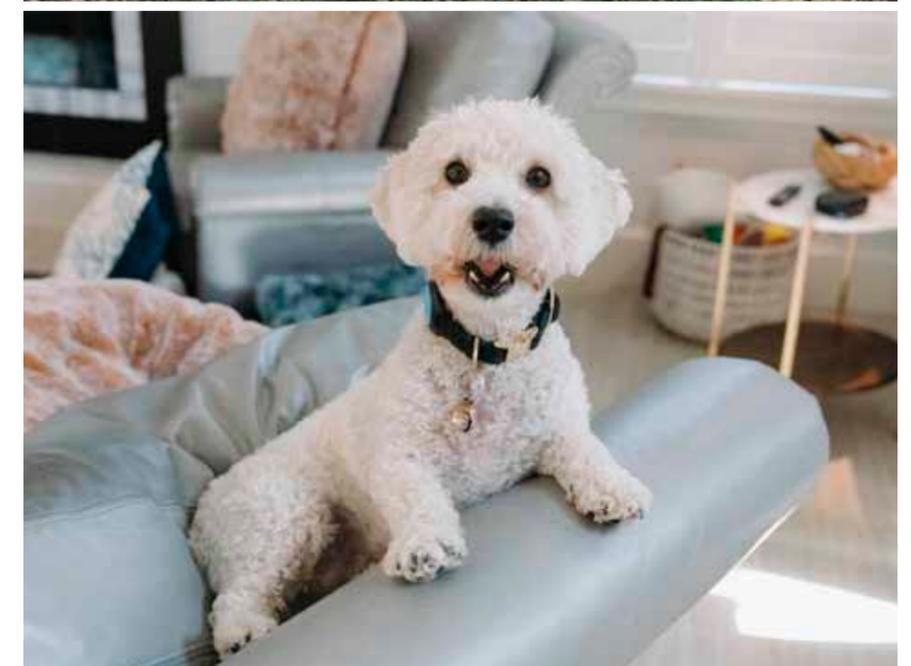
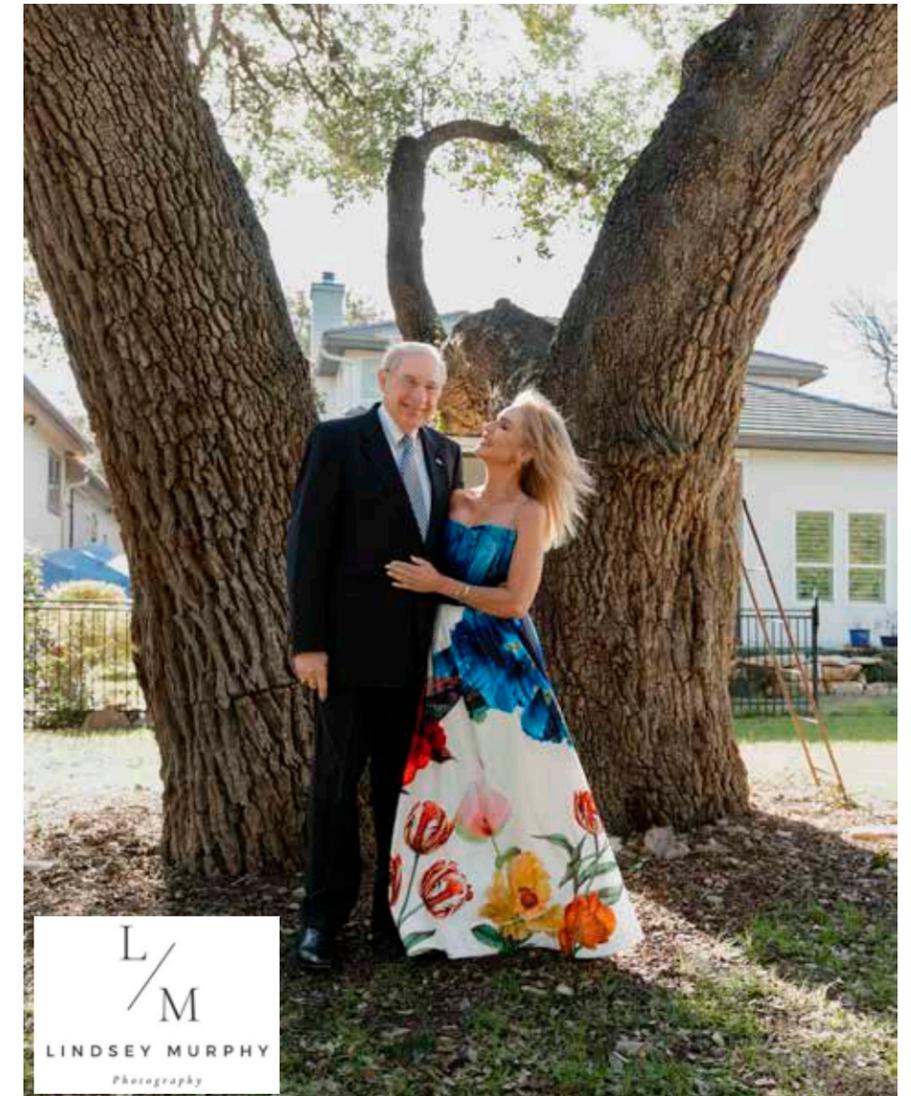


FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Jeanne was interning at San Antonio's City Hall when she first met Al Philippus, the Chief of Police. From their initial introduction, Al was enamored and impressed by Jeanne and the work she'd been doing for youth initiatives, so he started a conversation, searching for a shared connection on which to expand. Though their initial encounter was brief, it left an impression and, months later, after Jeanne had graduated, Al made sure she received an invitation to a dinner event congratulating the new police department promotions. Now, whether that event was legitimate or was designed as a ruse to get Jeanne in the same room is still up for debate.

Jeanne grew up on her grandparents' farm in the small town of Shiner, Texas, where, in reflection, she recognizes the wonders of her upbringing. Her days started early with responsibilities, whether it was feeding the animals, driving grain trucks, or helping her grandmother prepare the large daily meals for the farm hands. Her father was an enigma, an artist and an engineer, who simultaneously designed oil rigs while owning one of the few art galleries in Houston at the time. His artistic influence would affect Jeanne to a great degree later in life. Though she took art classes in college "to get through", her focus was in political science. She married young, but tragically her 1st husband passed from Metastasized Melanoma just two months after diagnosis. At the time, Jeanne was 6 months pregnant with her daughter, Mary. With a young daughter and life's responsibilities squarely on her shoulders, she took a position with a tremendous amount of upside that landed her in City Hall.

Al was born and raised in San Antonio and describes his upbringing as a Norman Rockwell painting. His days were spent playing baseball while his nights were spent catching fireflies and gazing at the stars. Sundays were spent at church and with family. Al's father was a Master Mechanic and the very first Chief Mechanic for Red McCombs' growing automotive presence. His father would work full days and often take calls after dinner, leaving Al and his older brother with much of the household responsibilities. After graduating high school, he enrolled in the military and





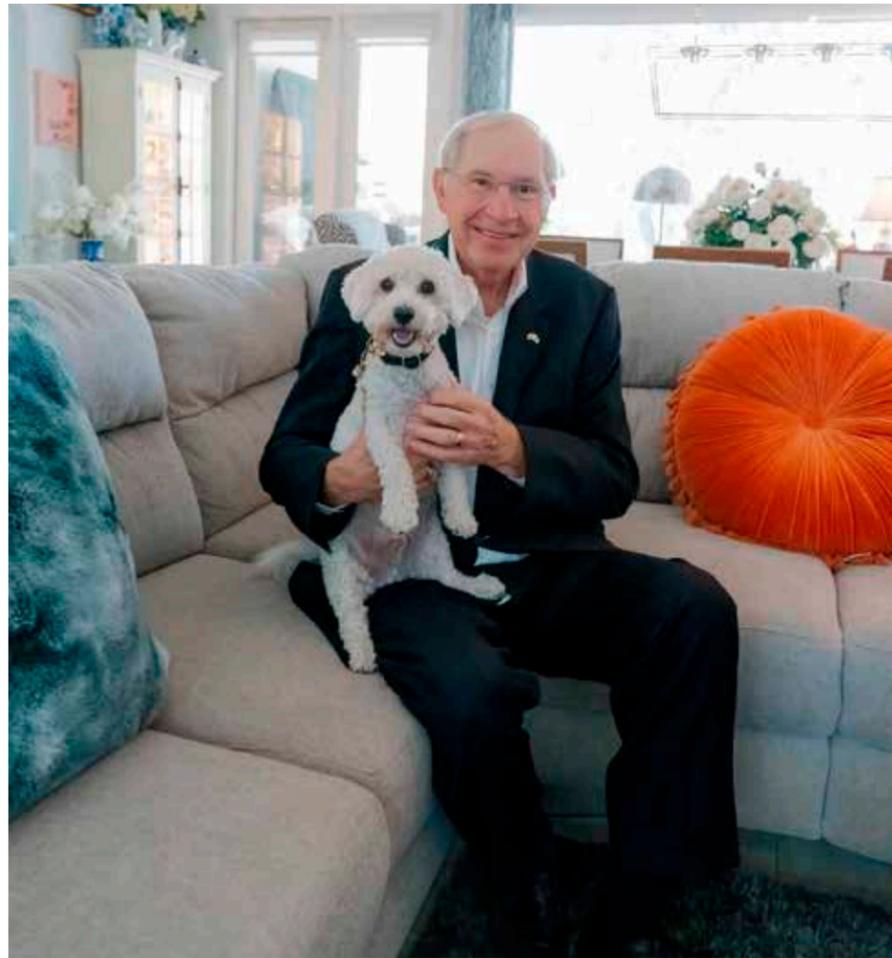
served in Vietnam. Inspired by his military experience, Al sought a career in public service and joined the police department. While working as an officer, he returned to school through the GI Bill and earned his bachelors from Texas State before continuing on to get his masters from Sam Houston. In 1995, a seminal year for Al, he became the Chief of Police, but perhaps more importantly, he met Jeanne.

In June of '95, Jeanne and Al were married on the side of a mountain in Monterey, California, that overlooked the ocean. This summer, they'll be celebrating their 30th anniversary.

As their life together took off, their careers continued to do so as well. Al's first order of business was to adopt Mary as his daughter, his second order was to clean up the streets of San Antonio. In '94, San Antonio experienced its highest homicide rate and was considered the drive-by capital of the United States. Al worked relentlessly to crack down on the violence, creating task forces while doing his best to keep the city's spirits high. By the end of his first year as Chief, crime had been cut in half. "Al was brilliant," Jeanne says, her admiration palpable, "Morale was up and change happened. I remember speaking to a doctor who worked in the ER during that time who said he knew when Al was in charge because of the major reduction in patients who were victims of violent crime."

Being married to Al, Jeanne found herself suddenly in the spotlight which afforded great opportunities for community initiatives. She partnered with a woman on the east side in support of SA Fighting Back and worked with Arnold Schwarzenegger to start Inner City Games. Jeanne played an integral role in fundraising for the city at a time when San Antonio truly needed the support. Trying to save on all expenses, Jeanne also found herself as the decorator for numerous galas, which is how she rediscovered her inner artist. Though it was undoubtedly a busy time, things got even busier when Jeanne and Al welcomed twins, Hallee and Holden, in '99.

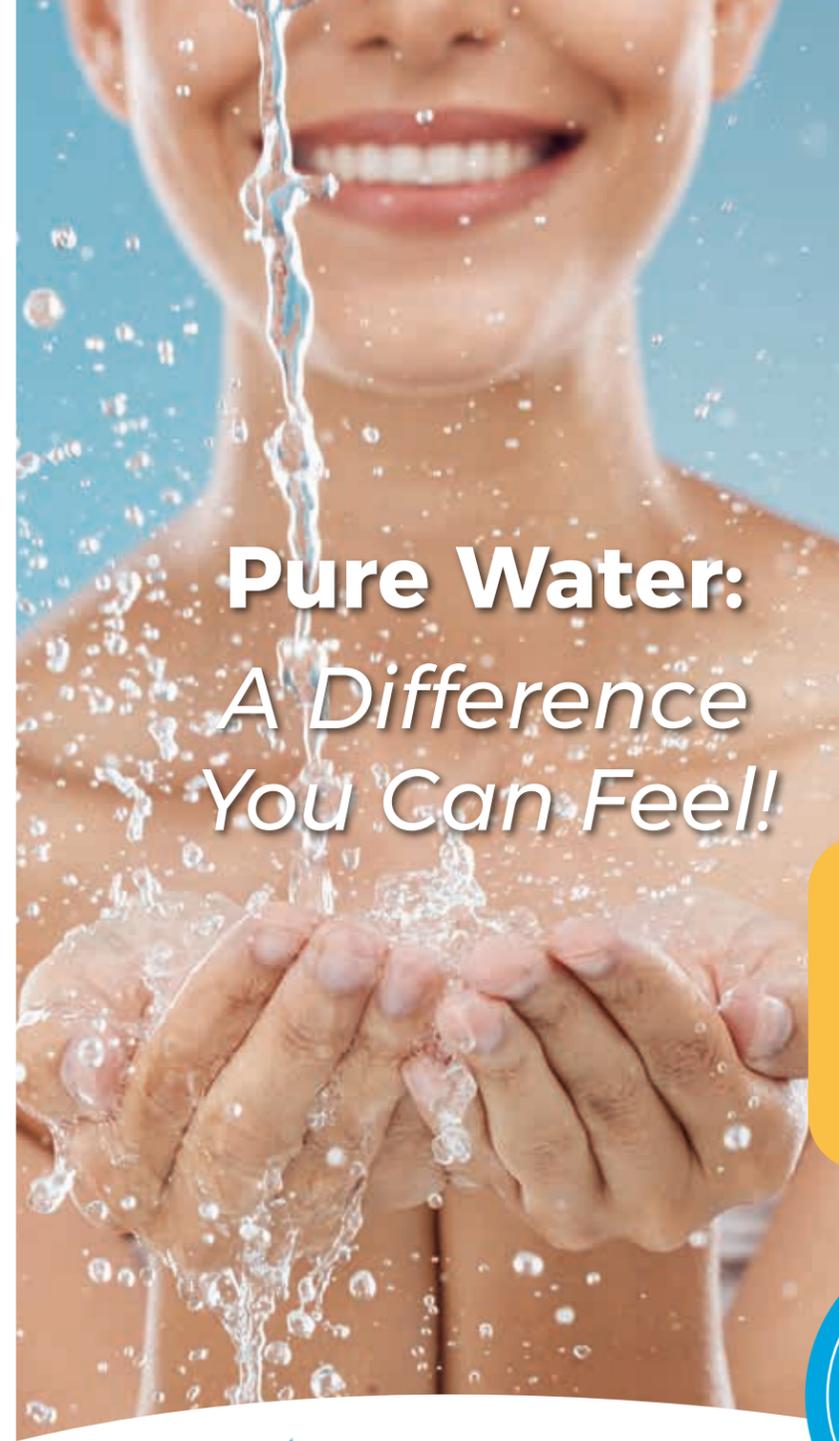
In 2002, Al retired as Chief of Police and took a great opportunity through Valero to work as the company's Director of Corporate Security before taking on



the role as their Vice President of Global Securities, a position he would helm for the next 22 years. While holding down the fort at home, Jeanne continued to find ways to support the community while simultaneously fostering her reinvigorated love of art. In 2017, she opened an art studio, where she enjoyed working with a wide variety of mixed mediums, particularly upcycling broken glass. Though it wasn't planned, art had always been cathartic for Jeanne, and her studio became a place of healing. Those who were diagnosed as terminally ill would often come in to paint and smash colorful glass, which Jeanne would then use to create the most intricate and vibrant mosaics. She began to teach classes which quickly took off, consuming most of her time. By 2024, when Al retired from Valero and was ready to relax and travel the world, Jeanne was at her busiest. To end the year, she made the decision to hold one final event where she brought out all her work and sold it.

In 2023, as empty-nesters, Jeanne and Al moved to the Dominion and settled into the most beautiful garden home where a magnificent, centuries old oak tree can be admired through their back windows. This year, as they've settled into retirement, they've found the simplicity of life to be most satisfying. Whether it's relaxing at home with their Doxiepoo, Toby, or spending time at the country club where Jeanne plays on several tennis teams, they've been enjoying their newfound pace. They've also been infected by the travel bug, navigating the streets of Rome and exploring Central America. Jeanne talks to the kids daily, and though they live throughout the country, they all see one another as often as possible. Annually, the entire family gathers in Seaside to spend time and create new memories together.

From their first encounter at city hall to traveling the world hand in hand, Al and Jeanne's love and respect for one another is magnetic, drawing in all who cross their path. Their impact is evident, from cleaning up the San Antonio streets to sparking joy within those who need it most, their journey has been one to aspire to. It's a journey of inspiration, filled with climbed mountains and lived dreams. Dreams they're grateful to have lived together.



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Lee Michaels

Crystal clear cases illuminate the brilliant pieces gleaming within. The vibrancy spills from the entrance, giving the store a sense of magnetism. The timeless collection of jewelry glistens, awaiting their opportunity to commemorate a moment or an eternal love. For all of recorded history, jewelry has been symbolic of momentous occasions, worn as a sign of honor, power, or romance. While every life is filled with moments and people worth remembering, during this particular season, we reflect on the accomplishments of two very important groups; our soon to be graduates, and the extraordinary women we're fortunate to call mom.

Family owned and operated, Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry has established itself as a standard of excellence for nearly five decades. In

1978, after quitting his job as the Senior President of Merchandise for Zales, Lee Michael Berg and his wife, Brenda, opened their first store in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Since then, the company has expanded into four states and, now in the hands of their sons, the family's impeccable reputation and exquisite collection carries on.

"We travel the globe for value," Ryan, the eldest Berg, shared in an interview with the magazine. As pioneers of going directly to the source, one can rest assured that Lee Michaels goes above and beyond to keep every piece of jewelry in its collection at its highest value. They accept items from only the world's most distinguished designers and craftspeople, and their client advisors consist of highly educated individuals who hold titles as Registered



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At their La Cantera location, prolific designer Charles Krypell will be making a personal appearance on May 2nd and 3rd. Based in Manhattan, Krypell began his career as a sculptor before finding his way into the world of fine jewelry. He will be discussing and highlighting some of his work, and this event is a great opportunity to learn firsthand what it takes to be a renowned designer.

Besides events like these, Lee Michaels is committed to enhancing the experience of every customer who walks through their doors. It begins

with being greeted by a client advisor who offers water, wine, coffee, and chocolate delicacies. This advisor helps one navigate the store while listening closely to needs and desires, offering suggestions and truly customizing the experience. They want to know their customers in order to find that perfect piece, and they don't just want you in and out of the store, they aim to be your go-to jeweler for life. With a broad range of available price points, they make it so every customer can enjoy the experience and leave with one of their signature red boxes, because as they say "every box has a story", and they'd love nothing more than to help you tell yours.

Beyond their commitment to the customer, another cornerstone of the company is their commitment to community. Lee Michaels supports a large number of nonprofits nationally, but

they're just as dedicated to making a difference on the local level as well. Locally, top charities include the Witte Museum Board of Trustees and the American Cancer Society of South Texas, both boards of which Ryan has recently chaired, as well as Texas Bio-Med, The San Antonio Zoo, and many others.

Like a mother's love, jewelry is a gift that lasts forever. Similar to the stories

of our lives, jewelry can be passed down for generations, reminding us of our roots and the people we come from. It's symbolic of a time and place that truly meant something and was meant to be remembered. Whether it's to commemorate a graduation or to honor the unshakeable love of a mother, make Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry part of your memories, your story, and your legacy this season.



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DIANE FITZGERALD



Why do I love golf?

It is like a 4-5 hour vacation away from everything! For the most part, no phones or distractions. You are with your friends on a trip around the course. It is the best time ever.

When did I learn to play?

I had friends at Ole Miss who played a lot. So, I bought my first set of clubs and joined in. I had no idea what a difficult game. Serious golfers make it look so easy. They taught me how to play as far as rules etc. The rest was me slowly learning how to play. Once I began playing at Dominion, I had a great mentor in Cookie Bolinski. She was a many time Women's Dominion champion and she was tough on teaching you the rules! I was scared of her at first but got to know her well and her passion for the game. I still remember her telling me to stop trying to make miracle shots and just get it back in the fairway. She was right.

My best treasured memories?

I have too many. So many courses and such stories to tell. There is nothing better than the fun and friendships that come with playing. I am so fortunate to be

able to play here at Dominion. A great group of people!

What golfers do you admire?

Last summer my golf group went to watch the LPGA Chevron Open. It was great to watch Nelly Korda win the tournament.

Hole in one?

Yes, I had a hole in one at Dominion during the Women's Championship in 2019. It was on #8 and I used a 5 hybrid. Best day ever!

What have I learned?

I am very competitive and it is the most humbling game ever. I hope I still have many years to get better. It never stops with you trying to figure it out. And when you think you have it figured out..... You don't!

What advice would you give?

If you have the opportunity to play..., please give it a try. I always tell my golf girlfriends and people that are thinking about playing is that it is the hardest game ever. What is wrong with not being the best at the hardest game ever? Everyone is a winner.



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Fish Tacos

BY CHEF ELAINE PERUSQUIA



WHEN THE WEATHER WARMS UP, culinary pursuits turn to lighter, fresher fare. Any dish that showcases fresh produce and seafood is perfect for spring and summer. Fish tacos are a favorite of mine, as they offer endless opportunities for creativity, are light yet substantial, and are, most importantly, dee-licious. Let's break down what makes a great fish taco.

First things first. The fish. Since great food showcases varied textures, I prefer crispy, fried fish in my tacos. Grilled or pan sautéed fish is perfectly fine though, so if you want to skip the fish fry, no problem. Fried fish works great with any firm, white fish (think red snapper, mahi-mahi or redfish). If you prefer grilled or sautéed fish, opt for a heartier-fleshed fish such as salmon, halibut, or swordfish. Not a fish fan? Shrimp tacos are just as light and tasty. Whichever seafood you prefer, freshness is always the number one priority. Whether you're at the grocery

store fish counter or the fish market, always ask to smell before you buy. Fresh fish should smell like the salty sea with no detectable fishy odor. If the fish isn't fresh, leave it in the store.

Most traditional Baja-style fish tacos are topped with some manner of cabbage or slaw. This is a great opportunity to add color, crunch, and fresh flavor. It's true that we eat with our eyes first, so this is the place to show off all that fresh spring and summer produce. Different cabbages, shredded carrot, sliced avocado, sweet bell peppers, you name it. For a real flavor bomb and an intense pop of color, I love to add pickled red onions. Simply combine thinly sliced red onion with a few tablespoons of white vinegar and pinch of salt and sugar. Cover and refrigerate for at least four hours or overnight (tossing occasionally) until they are bright pink. Colorful produce adds so much, so don't skip it.

Tortillas are a matter of choice, like anything else. When I'm making fish tacos though, I prefer corn tortillas. They are authentic to the Baja style, and they are the perfect size for picking up and eating with one's hands. If you aren't a corn tortilla fan, most grocery stores carry uncooked flour tortillas these days, which are, in my humble opinion, superior to the doughy, pre-made varieties. They are much thinner, and when cooked fresh on a griddle or in a cast iron skillet, are definitely an upgrade.

A great fish taco is always crowned with a flavorful sauce, mayo, or crema. Think spicy mayo made with sriracha or chipotles and plenty of fresh lime juice. An avocado salsa would also be delicious. Cilantro crema anyone? Sauces are a great place to showcase creativity, and any taco benefits from the flavor, acidity, spice, and moisture that a good sauce brings to the party. Additional garnishes which are great on fish tacos are fresh cilantro sprigs, a little queso fresco, or even toasted pumpkin seeds.

Beverages to serve with fish tacos can be as varied as the tacos themselves. I love a good sparkling rosé or sauvignon blanc. Bubbles are great with fried foods, and the citrus notes of a light sauv blanc pair well with sauces containing lime juice. Additionally, you can't go wrong with a cold Mexican beer or a margarita. Casual, fresh, and colorful, the fish taco gets my vote for tastiest warm weather cuisine, so give them a go. Happy cooking, everyone!

FISH TACOS WITH CHIPOTLE CREMA

- 1 ½ pounds firm, white fish (such as red snapper, mahi-mahi, redfish)
- 1 ½ cups red cabbage, finely shredded
- 1 ½ cups Napa cabbage, finely shredded
- 1 small red bell pepper, julienned (about ½ cup)
- 1 medium carrot, shredded
- 2 cups flour, divided
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup plain breadcrumbs
- ½ cup white cornmeal
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons each, onion powder, garlic powder, paprika
- 1 ½ cups buttermilk
- Salt/pepper
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce (such as tabasco)
- Oil for frying (such as peanut oil)
- Corn tortillas

For the chipotle crema:

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon chipotle purée (see directions)
- Juice of 1 lime
- Dash each onion powder and garlic powder
- Pinch Kosher salt and black pepper

1. To make the chipotle purée, place a 7 oz. can of chipotles in adobo sauce into a container (a measuring cup works well). You



just want the chiles with whatever sauce is clinging to them. Discard any extra adobo sauce. Purée the chipotles using a hand blender until very smooth. Store in the fridge in an airtight container. The purée will keep for several months.

2. To make the chipotle crema, combine all ingredients in a small bowl and whisk well. Store in a squeeze bottle and refrigerate until ready to use. To make the slaw, combine both cabbages, red bell pepper, and carrot in a medium bowl, cover, and refrigerate until ready to use.

3. To make the dredge for the fish, in a medium bowl, whisk to combine 1½ cups of the flour, cornstarch, breadcrumbs, cornmeal, salt, white pepper, black pepper, onion powder, garlic powder, and paprika. In a small bowl, combine the buttermilk and hot sauce, and season with salt and pepper. Place the remaining ½ cup of flour into a separate small bowl.

4. Heat the oil to 375 degrees. You can deep fry or pan fry, just make sure the oil comes at least halfway up the sides of the fish pieces. Lightly dust each piece of fish with the plain flour, dip into the buttermilk mixture, and then into the dredge mixture, coating each piece of fish well. Fry in batches until the fish is golden brown and cooked through, about 2 minutes per side. Fish cooks quickly! Drain on paper towels and immediately season with extra kosher salt.

5. Once all the fish is cooked, assemble onto warm corn tortillas and top with the slaw. Use a squeeze bottle to drizzle each taco with the chipotle crema. Serve immediately with lime 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.



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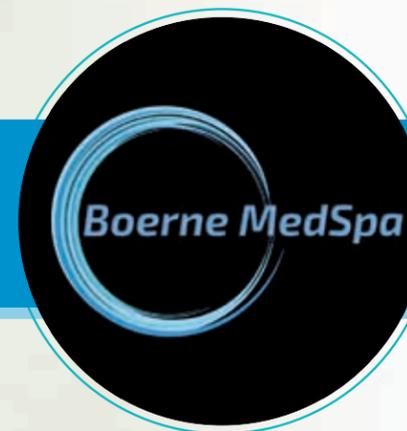
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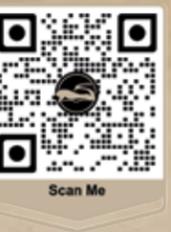


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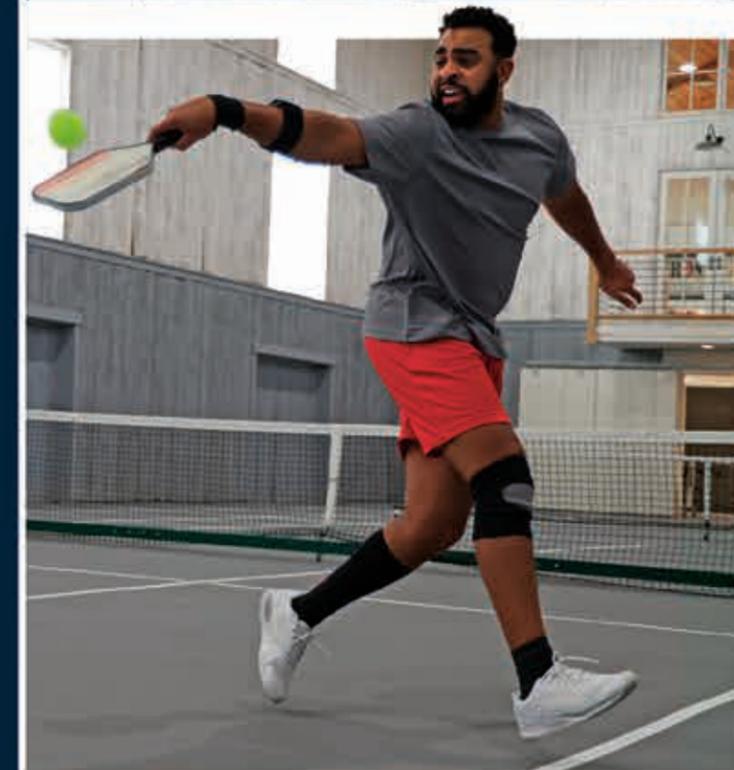
Luncheons will be held once a month, on the second Tuesday, October through May. At this time, we are scheduled to meet at Albi's Vite, 11:30-1:30 pm in May. There are no meetings, programs, or dues. JUST LUNCH! Stayed for further information regarding next year.

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STRANDS THAT SHINE, INSIDE & OUT

The secret to gorgeous hair? Understanding its unique needs and fueling it with the right nutrients.

BY SHAUNA OSBORNE, NATIONAL EDITOR

Our hair is more than just a reflection of style — it mirrors our overall wellness. Every strand, from silky-straight to coily and voluminous, carries a story of hydration, nourishment and balance. Understanding the biology behind hair health can help you nourish your scalp, strengthen strands and achieve balance from the inside out: healthy, thriving hair starts from within.

Your hair's blueprint

Your hair's natural texture is determined by genetics, specifically the shape of its follicles. The more oval or asymmetrical they are, the curlier your strands will be. While heat or chemical treatments can temporarily alter texture, your curl pattern is encoded in your DNA and resets with every growth cycle. Many people even have a mix of textures, like tighter coils at the crown and looser waves at the temples.

Hair types range from straight (1) to coily (4), with subcategories based on texture and curl pattern. Fine, straight hair benefits from lightweight hydration, while waves and curls thrive on richer moisture. Coils require deep nourishment to maintain elasticity and prevent breakage. By working with — not against — your natural hair pattern, you can better support its long-term health.

By working with — not against — your natural hair pattern, you can better support its long-term health.

The right formula

The right products make all the difference. Lightweight proteins like silk or rice strengthen fine hair without weighing it down. Wavy and curly hair benefit from rich butters and oils like shea or argan to lock in moisture. Deep-conditioning masks with avocado or aloe help restore hydration and enhance definition for coily textures.

Beauty from within

What you eat and how you manage stress directly affect hair health. Protein-rich foods like salmon, eggs and nuts support keratin production for stronger strands, while leafy greens provide essential vitamins for shine and growth. Hydration is key — dehydration can leave hair brittle and dry. Stress also plays a role, as cortisol spikes can lead to shedding and slowed growth. Prioritizing rest, fluid balance and nutrient-dense meals can create the internal harmony needed for hair to thrive.



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Memorial Day

The final inspection

BY DAN JOHNSTON, DOMINION RESIDENT



It is with Memorial Day at the end of this month that we offer heartfelt and sincere tribute and appreciation to those in the military who gave their life on a battlefield for their country, for their military unit, for their buddies, for their family, and for us. As an inscription at

Arlington National Cemetery reads, they did so “not for fame or reward, not for place or rank, and not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity.” The poem printed here, whose authorship is unknown, accounts for what we hope is their final reward.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The soldier stood and faced God, which must always come to pass. He hoped his shoes were shining just as brightly as his brass.

“Step forward now, soldier, how should I deal with you? Have you always turned the other cheek? To My church have you been true?”

The soldier squared his shoulders and said, “No, Lord, I guess I ain’t, Because those of us who carry guns can’t always be a saint.”

“I’ve had to work most Sundays, and at times my talk was tough. And some times I’ve been violent, because the world is awfully rough.”

“But I never took a penny that wasn’t mine to keep. Though I worked a lot of overtime, when the bills just got too steep.”

“And I never passed a cry for help, though at times I shook with fears, And some times, God, forgive me, I’ve wept unmanly tears.”

“I know I don’t deserve a place among the people here. They never wanted me around, except to calm their fear.”

“If You’ve a place for me here, Lord, it needn’t be so grand. I never expected or had too much, but if You don’t, I’ll understand.”

There was a silence around the throne where saints had often trod, As the soldier waited quietly for the judgement of his God.

“Step forward now, you soldier, you’ve borne your burdens well.

Walk peacefully on heaven’s streets, you’ve done your time in hell!”



Our duty is quite simple: recognize the deaths of servicemembers in combat as the ultimate sacrifice they were. Rudyard Kipling famously stated, “In times of war and not before, God and the soldier we adore. But in times of peace and all things righted, God is forgotten and the soldier slighted.” Never should we slight what servicemembers do and have done for us and always should we give thanks for their service. Celebrate Memorial Day and offer proper respect where it is due.

Look forward to seeing you at a future meeting of History Club, where 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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KEY PERSON LIFE INSURANCE: YOUR COMPANY'S SHIELD AGAINST TRAGEDY

BY TOM MARCONI, FIA SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FROST

What would happen to your business if you or one of your most valuable employees suddenly passed away or became incapacitated? Would the business continue to thrive, or would it face revenue loss or a costly leadership transition? This thought process leads many business owners to consider key person life insurance – a financial safety net designed to protect business continuity in the event of losing an essential figure like a founder, top executive or high-performing salesperson.

Unlike a personal life insurance policy, key person insurance is purchased and owned by the business, with the company receiving the death benefits if the designated individual passes away. In the face of an unexpected loss, these funds can help prevent the need to liquidate assets to make ends meet, giving the company time to regroup and move forward with next steps.

If key person insurance sounds like the right fit for your company, here are five important tips to consider:

1. INSURE THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

Is your company's reputation and financial stability closely tied to a particular person's skills or relationships? If the business would suffer a severe setback without them, it's worth insuring them as a key person.

2. BUY ENOUGH COVERAGE.

Carefully assess the potential financial impact of losing a key person. Whether through lost sales, decreased productivity or costs to hire and train a replacement, an insurance specialist can help you determine the right coverage amount to mitigate these risks.

3. DON'T OVERLOOK DISABILITY.

Statistically, people under 60 are more likely to become disabled than pass away. To ensure protection in both scenarios, the insurance policy you purchase should include an additional disability rider.

4. FACILITATE AN OWNERSHIP CHANGE.

If your company is a partnership, you may consider using key person insurance to fund a buy/sell agreement. In the event of a partner's death, the insurance benefits can be designated to buy out the deceased partner's ownership stake, passing the funds to his or her personal estate.

5. REVISIT YOUR PLAN.

As your business evolves over time, so too will the roles of different individuals. To maintain adequate protection, it's wise to reassess your needs periodically, adjusting the amount of coverage or insuring new employees as needed.

Whether you plan to insure yourself or another vital contributor, you'll be protecting the longevity of the business and the livelihoods of everyone who depends on it.



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Ephesians 2:10



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Meet Jettie!

BY DAAG

This sweet two-year-old Shar Pei girl is looking for her forever home! Shar Peis are known for being intelligent, calm, clean, and dignified dogs with low grooming needs. While they are devoted to their families, they're not overly affectionate. Jettie, however, is very affectionate and also friendly with new people. According to her foster mom, she's incredibly sweet and the perfect companion.

Jettie was sadly abandoned, possibly due to needing surgery for a condition called cherry eyes. She has since had successful surgery and is thriving. She loves playing with the resident dog in her foster home and is a great addition to any household.

Jettie is house and crate trained, walks well on a leash, and is a healthy 37-pound, two-year-old girl. She's spayed, fully vetted, and heartworm negative, with regular prevention.

If you're interested in giving this lovable girl a forever home, please contact daagadoptions@gmail.com



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Trust!

BY STEPHANIE MCFARLIN, STROLL THE DOMINION CONTRIBUTOR

Little head on mother's chest,
Zero cares disturb her rest.
Held close and warm, she sleeps secure
In mother's arms of love so pure.

Does this little one understand
The one who holds her tiny hand?
She cannot poss'bly comprehend
The mom who down will always bend
For every care and skin-ned knee;
She loves so deep and completely.

This precious babe in blissful rest
Needs not to understand to trust
That mother's care will never end
No matter what comes round the bend.

Her love does not depend upon
Her little one's comprehension.
Love and trust is all mom seeks
As she kisses rosy cheeks.

God's Word says He's that way to us,
Seeking just our loving trust.
We do not need to understand
The complexity of His great hand.
For we could not possibly anyway,
No more than babe who on mom's breast lay.

Maybe that's what Jesus meant:
Faith like a child...Faith like infant.

Writing this Mother's Day piece has been particularly poignant for me, as this May I will welcome our third child into the world. It's for that wonderful reason that I must say goodbye to this column for now. I want to thank you all for reading my (often too many) words with such grace.

I pray for you each, dear readers. Though I don't know you, God does. May He bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you!

Sincerely,
Stephanie

Stephanie is mama of two and a fervent follower of Jesus, Who has taken her emptiness and given her life to the full! She is always amazed that God wants to be near her, and is constantly re-learning that His grace covers everything, even the dog hair on her clothes and the dishes in her sink.



We want to extend a special Mother's Day tribute to Stephanie McFarland for her contribution and dedication to the You Gotta Have Faith article over the years. We thank you and wish you many blessings with your family and new precious little one.



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Cindy Mulligan

How long have you been playing tennis?

I didn't grow up playing tennis so it's something I discovered later in life at The Dominion Country Club when I first moved to San Antonio. A good friend of mine once said, "Wouldn't it be fun to play tennis? We can wear cute outfits and sip mimosas!" I was all in! That's how the Dominion Darlings were born. That first season was such a fun experience! We were all new to league play, learning the game together and laughing every step of the way. We added many players and, over time, passed the torch to new captains once we hit our goals. I'm proud to say many of the women from that first team have become phenomenal players—and lifelong friends. Winning is great, but for me, it's always been about the fun, the friends, and yes, the outfits!



Why do you love tennis?

Tennis is a great way to meet wonderful people and stay active. I've built lasting friendships and many of the women I met feel like family. My current team, The Dominion Dolls, is a perfect example. We started as a 2.5 team and have since grown into 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5 levels, with 4.0 on the horizon.

We spend time together on and off the courts... rosé by the club, cheering for each other, and supporting each other at a personal level. Even our husbands got in on the fun! Several of them started The Dominion Diablos men's team and the 3.0 team went to Nationals in 2024! What started casually has become a force!

When did you first learn to play?

I started playing in my late 30s. I wish I had started playing earlier!

Who taught you?

Coach Dan taught me the basics such as how to keep score, where to stand, etc. But my husband, Dave, is the voice in my head during matches. He's always coaching me (whether I ask for it or not!), reminding me to move my feet, stay focused, and play with confidence. He's definitely my biggest fan.

What are your most treasured tennis memories?

There are so many great memories to choose from! My first team, the Dominion Darlings, is at the top of the list. Organizing and playing in the Wimbledon White Tournament was another favorite—especially now that we've included the men, doubling the fun!

Most recently, my husband's team, The Diablos, won sectionals and went to Nationals. We traveled together to Dallas and San Diego, and it was such an unforgettable adventure with our tennis family. We made incredible memories and new friendships along the way.

Which tennis players do you admire most—and why?

I don't follow pro tennis closely but I really admire the "newbies" that don't know how to hold a racquet and launching balls all over the court but then put in the work to improve. I've seen players like that first hand that quickly move up the ratings and it's incredibly inspiring!



Do you prefer doubles or singles—and why?

I prefer doubles because it's more strategic and social. Learning how to mesh with different playing styles is part of the fun, though I play singles too! Playing singles lines requires good cardio and you have full control of the match. There is no letting down your partner. No need to say "sorry" to a partner if things don't go your way!

What has tennis taught you?

Tennis is such a mental game. Early on, I learned never to underestimate an opponent—especially after getting beat by someone I assumed would be an easy win. Lesson learned: age, looks, or experience don't define your game. Strategy, patience, and mindset do.

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

Tennis is already a blast and like many activities, it's what you make of it. If I had to change something, it would be nice to see less of the occasional drama.

Different personalities can sometimes clash, but we should all support each other.

A good friend once told me, "If someone is really that good at tennis, it shouldn't matter who they're paired with—they should be able to carry the team and still win." That stuck with me. Everyone starts somewhere, and nobody should feel bad about not being the best. Just getting out there and being active is a win in my book.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to start playing tennis?

Don't be intimidated! Everyone was a beginner at some point! It's even more fun if you bring a friend along. Join a weekend clinic, they're energetic and the coaches are welcoming. If you want to start with the basics, take a private lesson with one of our amazing pros.

I'm the captain of our 2.5 team, and we're always looking for fun new members. If you're interested, come see us at the Tennis Shop and ask for Coach Dan. I'd love to meet you!

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