

The Community Magazine Serving Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville and the Surrounding Area

Southwest

Cedar Hill - DeSoto - Duncanville

M A G A Z I N E

December 2010

NOW

Christmas in the
Key of Song

No Ordinary
Christmas

A Man of
His Words

ALSO INSIDE:

Christmas, Bridges

Safehouse Style

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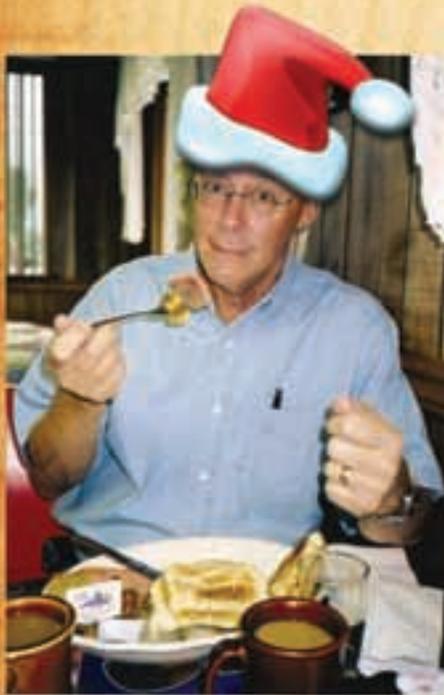


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General Manager, *Rick Hensley*

Editorial

Managing Editor, *Becky Walker*

Editorial Coordinator, *Sandra Strong*

Copy Editor, *Melissa Rawlins*

Southwest Editor, *Beverly Shay*

Contributing Writers,

Katrina D. McNair . Antoinette Nevils

Leah Pittmon . Adam Walker

Contributing Editors/Proofreaders,

Pat Anthony . Teresa Maddison

Advertising Art

Art Director, *Chris McCalla*

Ad Artists, *Julie Carpenter*

Allee Brand . Cherie Chapman

Marshall Hinsley . Arlene Honza

Editorial Art

Creative Director, *Jami Navarro*

Production Artists, *Brande Morgan*

Pamela Parisi

Photography

Photography Director, *Jill Odle*

Photographers, *Opaque Visuals*

Amy Ramirez . Nerissa Strain

Advertising

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Billing

Billing Manager, *Lauren De Los Santos*

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Southwest
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The Community Magazine
Serving Cedar Hill, DeSoto,
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Surrounding Area

NOW
MAGAZINE

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On The Cover

Old World Santa poses for his photo at Garry and Kate Wolford's home.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

Editor's Note



Merry Christmas, my fine Southwest Friends,

This month I will make a trip to Chicago, something I have not done for 30 years. No doubt the city will be decked out in winter finery and festivity. I wonder if I will recognize cousins, once playmates, now fellow grandparents with legions of prodigy I have never before met. My daughter, the adventurous investigator of all things family, wants to join me as we celebrate one of my mother's youngest sisters' 50th anniversary. Scary thing is, I only have 20 years to go!

Christmas will be different this year; my married sons have bought their own homes and will, no doubt, be initiating some of their own family holiday traditions, which we hope will still include us in some manner. I hope as my home becomes quieter and quieter there will be more room for Him in my inn. May your year end in health, joy and the peace that passes all understanding.

Beverly Shay
SouthwestNOW Editor
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Christmas, Bridges Safehouse Style

— By Beverly Shay



From left to right: Trena Mizell, Thrift Shop director and Janet Herbold, executive director.

Christmas includes the story of a woman, great with child, looking for a safe place to stay. Some women today find themselves similarly in need of a safe place during their pregnancies. Bridges Safehouse is committed to providing not only safety, but love, understanding, education and needed services. Many citizens and the city of Cedar Hill aid in this work, as well.



Bridges Safehouse was pioneered in 1998, by Dr. Glenn Clark and his wife, Alicia, when they became aware of women in crisis situations. They chose to open their rent house to such women. Sadly that first home was destroyed in a fire. Facing an even greater need, the board stayed together, and a Methodist church provided temporary housing to the women. Police Chief Rhodes had plans on his desk to rebuild this home, when a Kimball Hill developer in town came by to thank the chief for resolving a theft situation. “What can I do to be of service to you?” the developer asked.

Half-jokingly, Chief Rhodes showed him the plans, saying, “You could build this.” With the aid of Chaparral Steel of Midlothian, Phillips Lumber of Cedar Hill and other donations, the developer

did just that. The community continues to support this ongoing work.

Janet Herbold was working at a Duncanville crisis pregnancy center and on the board for Bridges Safehouse for six years when she was asked to be the director of Bridges three years ago. “I took about 40 calls a month on the pregnancy hotline,” Janet said. “The need for immediate, emergency help is greater than most people realize. If these women are without a safe environment, they need a place to go right away. At Bridges, we can get them in the same day if they can pass a required background check. It’s a lengthier process to get into a home for women in unplanned pregnancies. They need proper ID, something they don’t always have if they needed to leave immediately under threatening

circumstances.”

State ID, proof of Social Security, their birth certificate and proof of pregnancy are all needed to avail themselves of Medicaid and WIC (government aid program for Women, Infants and Children). “We help them get all that, but most importantly, we love on them because they are frightened and on their own. Videos on nutrition, pre-natal care, labor and delivery, parenting and healthy relationships are provided, along with Bible studies and going to church,” Janet explained.

Because Bridges Safehouse networks with other women’s shelters, maternity homes, many crisis pregnancy centers, hospitals and police departments, women are referred to them for temporary emergency care. “We help them find



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Cedar Hill **NOW**

a maternity home or a shepherding home — homes where a couple takes one woman in as a part of their family. Mercy House in Grapevine has a network of shepherding homes for homeless, pregnant women.

“For me, providing this kind of care for women comes from personal experience,” Janet began. “I found myself pregnant and on my own at 16. I did marry one week later. But because of my experience, I want to provide care and unconditional love. I can understand the overwhelming prospect of homelessness or being 18 and faced with the responsibility for two children.” So Janet, the night managers and volunteers, love liberally.

“My sister inspired me to work at the crisis pregnancy center. But here, we are even more hands-on,” Janet remarked. “We’re not like a typical shelter. Each woman, who must be at least 18, is given her own room, unless we really need to provide for another woman. The average stay is about three weeks, unless they go into labor. They can remain with us for six weeks after their child is born. We have five bedrooms with two twin beds in each and a crib or bassinet. The women are responsible for their own laundry here. We have an indoor playroom and an outdoor playground in our private fenced backyard near our amazing raised vegetable garden tended by Alfred Arriaga and Helen Carr. Our goal is to provide a peaceful, homelike environment where the women can feel safe and supported — so they can make good decisions about their future.”

Trena Mizell, one of two live-in night managers, commented, “You see an evident change in the girls in just two or three days. I like working in the evenings, because you really get to know the girls — their walls come down. They go from angry to happy to seeing themselves differently, in part due to devotionals we have together each evening following chores. The children (age 6 or younger), who come in with about one-third of the moms thrive as well, because of the ordered time schedule and lack of chaos many of them were used to.” Each child is given their own bed, something some of them have not experienced before.

“We make their stay here as normal and

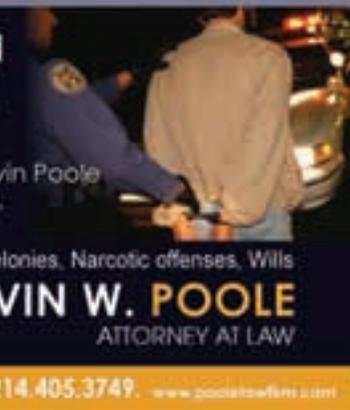
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peaceful as possible. So when it comes to holidays, like Christmas, they are family and we celebrate!" Janet smiled. "The girls can request something; they always ask for a gift for their child, not themselves. Churches, working with the Angel Tree program, provide gifts to put under the tree. They get to open one present on Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning, Mr. and Mrs. Santa come to serve them lunch. They not only serve food, they love on the girls as well. Then on Christmas evening, we get dressed up because a local couple has everyone over for lots of luxury food and presents under their tree for each one. Each girl receives a twenty-dollar bill tied in a ribbon. It's so



Bridges Thrifty Boutique

important for these girls to encounter these couples, as well as my husband and me, so they can see a relationship built on love and respect."

Janet credits her husband, Steve, with being a huge support, especially in person over the weekends. "The girls see him as a grandpa-figure, and they really enjoy his attention."

Trena will also be managing the new thrift store being opened on 220 W. Beltline in Cedar Hill next door to the library entrance. "We will offer quality clothing items for men, women and children; furniture; kitchen goods; and we'd like to feature a men's section with tools, electronics and work clothing. No toys, though," Trena remarked.

"Volunteers are always welcome, once they pass a background check. Basically, volunteers spend time with the girls; some show them how to cook various things, teach sewing, do their hair or nails, play games and watch movies with them after evening chores," Janet said. "And listen — being listened to is a big deal for them, as is having a place to stay and receiving hope in what appeared to be a hopeless situation." **NOW**

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Christmas

IN THE

Key

OF SONG

With the popularity of the hit show Glee, which follows a high school choir filled with amazingly talented singers, the trend to express oneself in song is the new “cool” thing to do. For members of the Southwest Children’s Chorus, this new “trend” has been a steady constant for more than a decade.

Founded by Michael King in 1999, the purpose of the Southwest Children’s Chorus is primarily educational, teaching children to achieve high artistic standards through choral singing and performance. Equal importance is also given to the nurturing and growth of discipline, responsibility, teamwork and self-confidence, critical characteristics for teenagers and younger children. Membership is open to children from any city from second through eighth grade by annual auditions. Funding comes from a small annual tuition from chorus members and also from individual, corporate and foundation funding. Scholarships are available.

An avid musician since the age of 5 when he began piano lessons, Michael, who grew up in Irving, studied at both University of North Texas and Westminster Choir College in Princeton,



— By Katrina D. McNair

New Jersey, and has taught all ages of musicians as a former staff member of St. Mark’s School of Texas. Michael first began to think of organizing a group as a community outreach event, while serving as the director of music for First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster. He had noticed a lack of a youth-oriented choir group in the southwest region of the Metroplex. “We thought it would just be neighborhood kids, that kind of thing,” he said. “Our first year, we thought we would have 20 or 30 kids,” he said laughing. Much to his surprise, over 250 children showed up to the first audition. Auditions, which were supposed to last only one day, ended up lasting four days to accommodate the children who were originally interested. “We weren’t prepared for that many kids,” he admitted.

The initial practices for the chorus were held at First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster. In 2005, the rehearsal

facility was changed to Hampton Road Baptist Church in DeSoto. Though the chorus holds its practices in a house of worship, Michael does not want anyone to think that membership is only available to those of a certain religious background. “A lot of people think we are a church group and we’re not,” he explained. “We’ve got children from all walks of life.” Indeed, one of the written goals of the Southwest Children’s Chorus, which is nonprofit, is to provide chorus membership to children of all racial, cultural, religious and economic backgrounds, regardless of previous musical experience. The group’s repertoire is just as diverse, including contemporary, pop, Broadway selections, secular music and international folk songs, just to name a few. The members of the Chorus are divided into three separate choirs: the Preparatory Choir, the Tour Choir and the Concert Choir.



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finish strong

Team DeSoto: finish strong for final year of TAKS

DeSoto ISD employees embraced a new concept after turning up the heat in 2009-10. For 2010-11, district staff and students are being asked to finish strong!

Based on the motivational book by Dan Green and used by the New Orleans Saints in their victorious run to win the Super Bowl last year, finish strong is a platform for action and a mantra to achieve excellence.

In the application to our professional lives, educators in DeSoto ISD are asked to finish every lesson, each class, every day - strong.

Not to just let the final minutes tick away until the bell rings, but teach up to the end! We also expect the same from our students! Finish your homework and assignments, projects and instructional day - strong!

We are also encouraging our staff, students and parents to consider this commitment for their personal lives. How can 'giving it all' result in more satisfaction in life?

"Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it," George Halas.

DeSoto ISD now applies the finish strong platform, along with last

year's extra degree of effort campaign, to the daily education of students in the district. What one extra degree can I give today and give my best to the end to make a difference in student learning?

DeSoto ISD was an amazing place to be in 2009-10! DeSoto ISD earned RECOGNIZED status based on the hard work done in 2009-10! We are again seeing outstanding staff and student morale, as well as testing gains, as we continue to follow our *Academic Excellence by Design* plan for the district to earn Exemplary ratings for 2010-11.

District earns record number of TEA Acknowledgements!

The Texas Education Agency recently released the latest list of Gold Performance Acknowledgment recipients, and DeSoto ISD earned a record 27 acknowledgements across 10 different campuses – exceeding the previous record of 25 set just last year! Gold Acknowledgements are a special recognition of high performance for campuses rated Academically Acceptable or higher.

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|--------------------|---|
| Amber Terrace ES | Commended in Math, Reading, Science; Improvement in Reading, Math |
| Cockrell Hill ES | Attendance |
| Moates ES | Attendance; Improvement in Math |
| Northside ES | Attendance; Commended in Math, Reading, Science |
| Ruby Young ES | Attendance; Commended in Math, Reading, Science, Writing; Improvement in Math |
| Woodridge ES | Attendance; Commended in Science, Reading |
| East Middle | Improvement in Reading |
| McCowan Middle | Attendance; Improvement in Reading |
| West Middle | Attendance |
| DeSoto High School | RHSP/DAP Graduation Rate |
| DeSoto ISD | RHSP/DAP Graduation Rate |



The 2010 Seniors Prom Queen Carol Moye and King Samuel Perry were both first time attendees for the DeSoto ISD Seniors Prom - the 6th annual event for residents age 55 and over. Over 300 guests attended the community sponsored event this year!

calendar of events

- December 4 - DeSoto Holiday Parade of Lights
- December 7, 7 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Christmas Choir Concert
- December 16, 7 p.m. - DHS Christmas Choir Concert
- December 21-31 - Winter Break
- January 3 - School Resumes
- January 14 - Teacher Preparation Day
- January 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- February 21 - Staff Development; Parent Conferences

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The chorus' wide song selection and its talented members have taken their voices beyond the borders of Texas numerous times. The listing of some of the choir performance locations is a dizzying array of places as close as the American Airlines Center and Bass Performance Hall and international destinations such as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Canada, Switzerland and St. Michael's Church in Germany. Michael estimates the group has visited more than 36 states and seven countries, including a recent tour of Europe. Currently, they are fundraising and preparing for trips to New York City and Washington, D.C. next summer and will embark on another international tour in 2012. "We've really grown, not just in members, but musically," Michael said. "We're now one of the top groups of our kind in the state."

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Though musical growth is an obvious benefit to being part of the chorus, Michael and his staff also look to expose the chorale members to different cultures and beliefs and to foster their social and personal growth. One way they have done this is through an annual Christmas concert. Last year's performance featured selections from around the world. "There's so much Christmas music from all over the world," Michael said, "so we try to portray different international music. We always do songs in all kinds of languages, but this way we could do some different things — some Spanish, some African, French and German." The choir performed songs in different languages, truly embracing the

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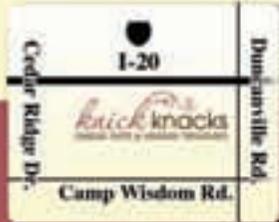
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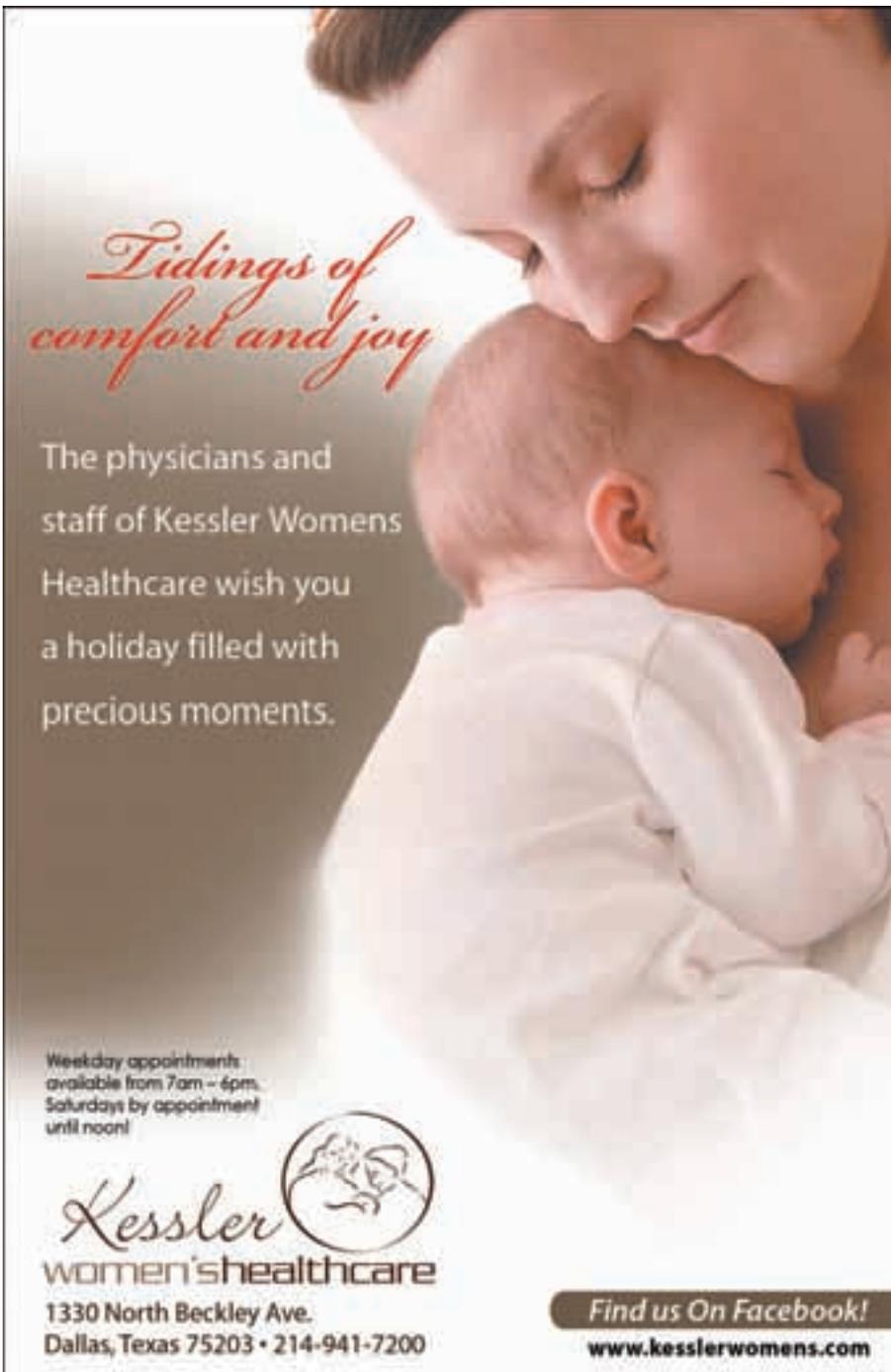
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diversity of Christmas celebrations and promoting their own diverse makeup and acceptance of all. "Perfecting dialects and pronunciations of other languages also is a little easier when we have speakers of that language amongst the chorus ranks," Michael acknowledged.

This year, Michael is preparing a program called "A Festival of Lessons and Carols," based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, the world-famous Christmas Eve service held in the chapel of Kings College in Cambridge, England. The Festival was introduced in 1918, first broadcast in 1928 and is broadcast to millions of people worldwide. "They say a text from the Bible," Michael explained, "and then sing a song based on that text. We've done it before, but not in a really long time, and it was one of everybody's favorites. It is a concert based on religious service, even though we open and close with a more traditional song. We do what we can to make it our own." The concert will be held on Saturday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in DeSoto. Over 60 voices, which comprise the groups' Preparatory and Concert Choirs will perform with musical instrument accompaniments. Admission will be \$5 plus a canned food item that will benefit the DeSoto Food Pantry and other local charities. The performance moves to a different Southwest city each year, to accommodate students who live in various cities in the area, but this will be the second consecutive year it has been held at First United Methodist Church.

Working with children, especially teenagers, is not for the faint of heart. And with such a diverse makeup of children, the challenges can be compounded. But keeping an eye on the benefits the children will have outside the practice halls is one of the things which has kept Michael and his staff so dedicated to the chorus. "Working with them and working in music with them — it's going to last their whole life," he said. "They can always sing; they can always play an instrument, up until their last days. They have done so many studies on how music goes into other fields. It makes students better at math and science. Just being able to make a positive influence on their lives is a rewarding feeling." **NOW**

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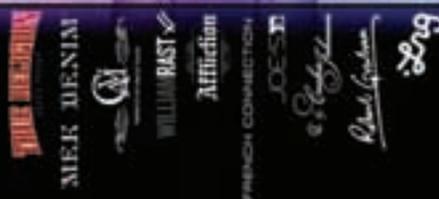
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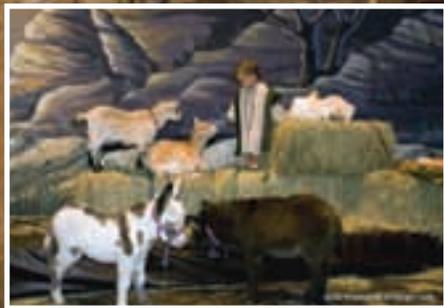
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Left to right: Jonathan Aragon, Kathryn Aragon and Amber



NO ORDINARY CHRISTMAS

— By Antoinette Nevils



“THE FOCUS OF THE PLAY HAS BEEN TO POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS IN A TANGIBLE WAY.”

An expression of love, commitment and sacrifice is what audiences will experience from this year's Christmas production at the Duncanville First Baptist Church. Let There Be Light is a Christmas musical, which not only shares the birth of Jesus Christ, but reveals the loving and unique relationship between Joseph and Mary. This Christmas musical is not your typical live nativity scene and show. With talented vocal solos, ballerina angels and live animals, this play is filled with talent, entertainment and more than one heavenly message. “More than it being a play or a form of entertainment, people feel they have been drawn closer to Jesus,” said Jonathan Aragon, the church's minister of music and producer of the holiday drama. “The focus of the play has been to point people to Jesus in a tangible way.”

The Duncanville First Baptist Church Christmas production is a love story about how Joseph and Mary chose each other, but also how God chose them to bring His Son to earth. Jonathan began working on this unique story 11 years ago with just ideas of scenes and costumes. He chose to do a Christmas musical because the holiday season is the “most open to the Gospel” and believes it is the most accepted story by many during this time of year. After eight years of historical and traditional research, he was able to produce this play. His research resurrected Jewish betrothal practices and ancient rabbinical blessings used in Jewish weddings, which he introduces to audiences. “I interpreted a typical couple's relationship [back then], and what they went through,” he shared.

His wife, Kathryn, who is a professional writer, wrote the 70-page script based off his vision and scene ideas, as well as her research and observation of other biblical plays. Once she sat down, the words and lines came to her in just one weekend. She turned the well-known Christmas story into a Broadway-type musical production with a strong message. “God offered himself to us. We have the right to choose God, like Mary chose Joseph,” Jonathan explained.

Kathryn felt it was important to show God chose to love us, and we, too, have the choice to love Him. She wrote the story so it could be understood and relevant to



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Red and Blue - Is It In You?

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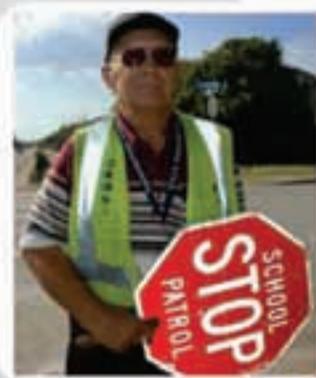
He's the familiar face seen every morning and evening by Smith Elementary and Daniel Intermediate students and parents. "After I retired, I wanted to do something," said the 76-year-old Fielder. "I thought it would be fun to be a crossing guard and help out the kids of Duncanville." Fourteen years later, he continues to lend a helping hand.

Harry says the most important aspect of his job is also what gives him the most satisfaction. "Keeping the kids safe - I enjoy knowing that I'm making a difference in their lives." And he is. "I remember the reaction of one little girl after I complimented her," he said. "She started crying and when I asked her what was wrong, she said that no one had ever given her that compliment before."

For Harry, the compliments are numerous. "Mr. Fielder is always on time," said Duncanville Police Department Community Relations Officer Doug Sisk. "He provides excellent service to the children crossing at his location and truly loves his job. We are happy to have him as a crossing guard." This is a sentiment echoed by many parents.

Harry hopes to continue doing what he loves for several years to come. He's been a resident of Duncanville for the past 35 years. His daughter attended Duncanville ISD schools, and now his granddaughter is doing the same.

Because of his dedication to our students and their safety, we honor Harry Fielder as the October "Red and Blue - Is It In You?" recipient.



DHS Finishes Strong at State Band Contest

Just as moving as watching the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," the Duncanville High School Marching Band and High Hats captivated the audience with their show, "Every time a bell rings...an angel gets its wings" at the 2010 State Marching Contest in November.

The three-time Texas State 5A Marching Champion Duncanville High School Band and High Hats finished with a Third Place ranking, earning the Bronze Medal. The DHS Band continues to be the only 5A Band in Texas to win State Championships in three different decades (1986, 1990, 2002). They are also the only 5A Band in Texas to earn a coveted spot in the State Marching Finals every year since 1988, always finishing in the top six.



AP Scholar Awards for 2010

Thirty-five Duncanville HS juniors, seniors, and recent graduates have been named AP Scholars by the College Board, in recognition of their exceptional achievement on college-level Advanced Placement examinations. One Scholar stands out among her peers - 2010 graduate Michelle Hanggi earned the distinction of National AP Scholar for earning an average grade of four or higher on a five-point scale on all AP exams taken, and grades of four or higher on eight or more tests.



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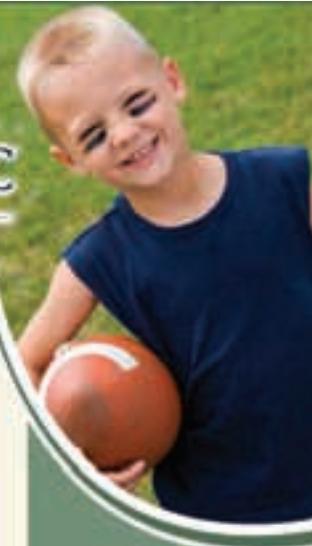


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all backgrounds and ages. She also strengthened the climax by including other biblical characters within the story, such as the wise men, angels and Simeon at the temple. "It relates to how we are all searching for God," Jonathan added.

Jonathan believes drama and theater in church communicates the reality of biblical stories. "It can be effective in experiencing the emotion and thought process, while also relating to humanity. When people leave, they have a deeper understanding of what it took to step into God's will, which can help them do that in their own lives. If these real people stepped out on faith, so can we," Jonathan explained.

The sets in the play are authentic and originals, made by the Aragons and church members. They use their natural gifts yearly to produce and create the extravagant artwork, scenery, craftsmanship, costumes and musical talent. From the stage background designed by Broadway designer, Peter Wolf, to the kings' robes, sets and props — all were thoroughly researched by Jonathan, Kathryn and their drama director, Carolyn Tipton. The stage even includes a three-dimensional manger and a replica of an ancient sexton, which was used to view astronomy in biblical times; all were crafted by fellow church members.

The Aragons wanted to take this popular story to another level by catching people's attention, drawing them in and letting them feel the emotions Mary, Joseph and the others were experiencing. "It's a moving story," Kathryn added. "People walk out with tears in their eyes."

Jonathan and Kathryn also began visiting a messianic-Jewish congregation in Duncanville, Bat Zion, where they learned about Jewish worship practices. The Bat Zion dance ministry choreographed the Jewish dances, and they participate in the musical, portraying true, authentic Jewish customs and dances. Jonathan also consulted with the late Dr. Zola Levitt, founder of Zola Levitt Ministries, on an original song that was custom arranged for the play.

The musical is funded by the church along with love donations; however, coming into its third year, it becomes more difficult to support all of their desired works, animals and costuming on a budget. All



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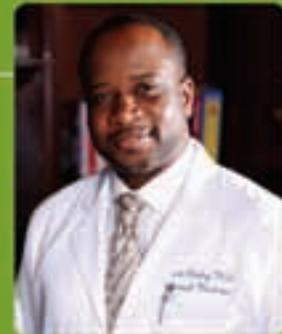
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of the actors, directors, seamstresses and carpenters are volunteers. Rehearsals are grueling work as they meet twice a week starting in mid-October and every night two weeks before opening night. "Everyone is doing it as a commitment to the Lord," Jonathan said.

One of the actors and dancers in the musical, Amber Otey, shared how rewarding the experience has been. "It's a blessing to work with such great people and have the opportunity to use talents God has given you," she explained. Doing what she loves, using her gifts for God and sharing them with others are blessings to Amber.

Amber loves musical theater and has been performing since she was 15 years old. She plays a dancing angel and sings in the chorus in the musical. She was excited to learn to perform ballet and Jewish dance, and feels that is one of the best parts of the show. "[Jonathan is] giving us an opportunity for artistic expression," she stated. She believes adding dance and music to a play is more effective not only for the audience, but also for the actors and dancers.

Amber's involvement with the musical came after chatting with Jonathan over the phone at her job; she volunteered to be an additional angel if needed. "What makes this play different from others is that it is told in a different light, has modern music, such as contemporary hymns, and it has over 150 cast members and live animals," Amber explained. "We use a real baby [as Jesus]!" She added that there are many touching moments throughout the play. "It reaches into your heart because it's real."

Another fun aspect of the musical is allowing families and children to take photos with the live animals after the show. Jonathan is excited about this year's production, as he has already had other churches calling him wanting to bring their congregations.

Kathryn happily revealed that everyone loves how the banners she has created add to the worship atmosphere. "The play shows the great lengths God went to in order to make salvation available to us," Kathryn said. "John 3:16 is the greatest love story ever told, not referring to Mary and Joseph, but to God's love for us." **NOW**

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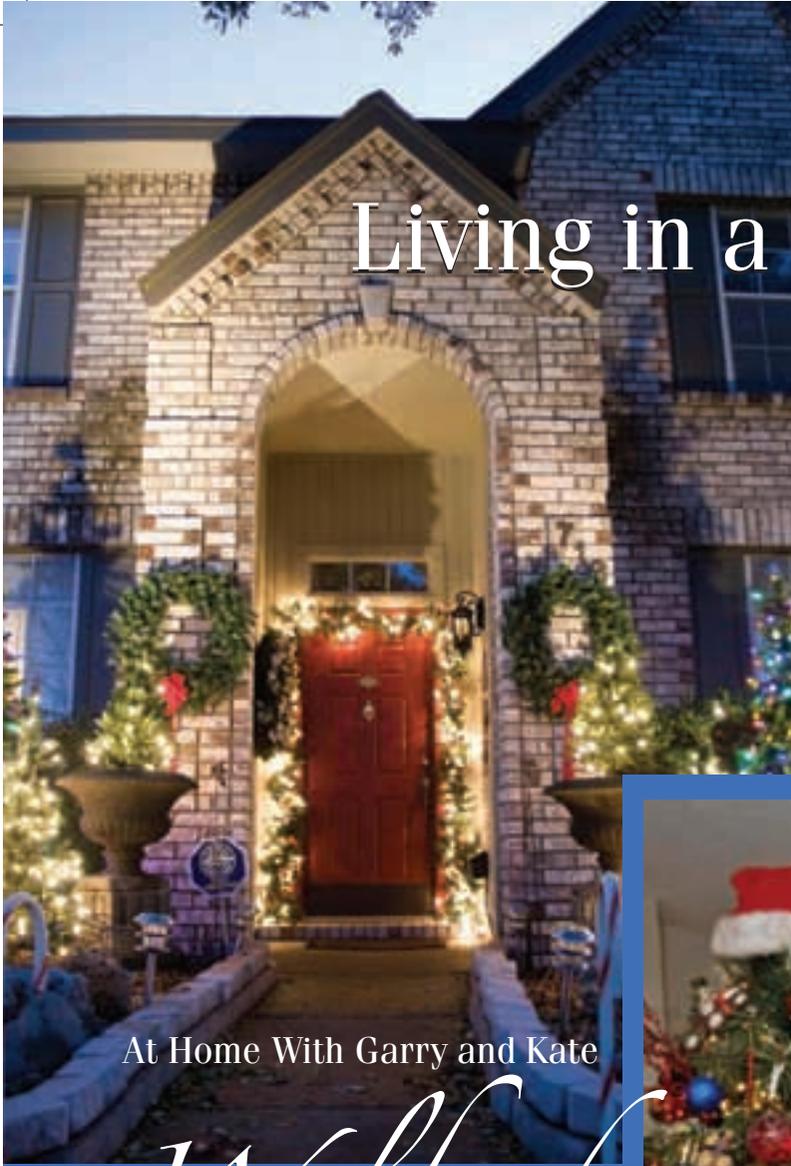
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Living in a

Winter Wonderland

— By Beverly Shay

different themes. Garry's eye for color comes into play each Christmas as some themes are built around a single color: blue, white, red, silver or gold. This year, their newest theme is Swarovski crystals. "We will decorate the tree with white lights only," Garry said, as he opened the box of crystal pendants, garlands and fat, faceted, double-sided octagons.

Clearly, a lot of thought and effort goes into their Christmas extravaganza.

At Home With Garry and Kate

Wolford



"Most of our decorating takes place inside. We rearrange all the furniture and transform every nook and cranny. But we never decorate the same way we did the year before," Kate explained, stating that while each room gets a tree, they are in different parts of each room from year to year. "But we can't have any live evergreens because I am allergic!"

"Our focal point is always the trees, although we do have swags, wreaths, Santas, angels and nativities," Garry remarked. "We host an open house for people from our church; up to 100 have come. Our kitchen is great for entertaining. We have only ever taken one year

off," Garry paused, "this must be our 13th year."

Besides tubs full of lights, floral materials for tying bows and greenery, they have ornaments collected during their travels abroad. "I learned long ago that you can wire anything to a tree," informed Kate, who works in leasing at Market Center. "We can so easily transform our entire house because of my job at Market Center; I am literally surrounded by the freshest decorating ideas and endless

If there is anything Garry and Kate Wolford enjoy, it is Christmas. Beginning in October, the Wolfords pull some 90 plastic tubs from the attic in what they term "the grand unloading" and decide what themes their eight or so trees will have this year. Every year they choose

things I can purchase.”

“In fact,” Kate began their saga, “Garry and I met at Market Center, and many couples we know did the same. We say the market made a lot of couples!” Kate was



born in Austin and moved to Oak Cliff in 1962, where she has been a member of Tyler Street Methodist Church for over 40 years. Garry hails from Tacoma, Washington, where he

worked for American Smelting and Refining Company until they closed the plant, at which time he decided to head for warmer climes. He had been to Ft. Hood while in the military, so he decided on Dallas.

“After a year in Plano, I moved to Oak Cliff and began what has now been 25 years with the Market Center as chief engineer of electrical distribution and the heating and cooling for the 5-million-square-foot building. And that’s where I met Kate. We



dated almost two years following our first date on New Year’s Eve in 1991, and then married in October ’92,” Garry recalled.

“Initially we lived in an apartment in Duncanville for about one-and-a-half years before moving to this house in 1994,” stated Kate. At one time, she was a reporter for the *Oak Cliff Tribune*, and was therefore familiar with the outlying areas of Dallas. We chose this area because you could get more house for your money at that time. It’s a Gemcraft home and was about seven years old when we purchased it.”

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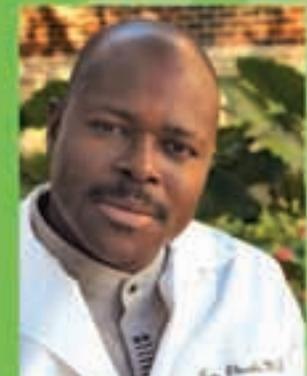


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The Wolfords not only like decorating for Christmas, they like decorating period! They changed the paint — “Everything was white, except the kitchen, which was only half wallpapered!” said Kate, clearly aghast. “Because it was originally the show home office; there were a lot of upgrades, like moldings around the doorways. We mudded over the half wallpaper and painted the kitchen, first blue and now red — for a country English feel.”

Garry, it turns out, is quite the handy man, doing most of the remodeling himself or with his son. Garry put in the beautiful granite countertop tiles — “Much easier than working with a granite slab,” he

said with feeling. He and his son laid the porcelain tiled floor in the hall and kitchen, liking the travertine-marble look at the porcelain price. “And it’s much stronger than ceramic!”

“Garry also built numerous shelves and cabinets found throughout the home,” Kate complimented. “We really make a good team; I design and Garry builds. Because we are so opposite each other, me with my right, visionary brain to design and plan, and Garry with his left, executioner brain very coolly carrying it all out, we totally complement each other,” she said with satisfaction. Garry not only works around their house, he also helps out people from



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their church and works with remodeling projects. Both of them are “dozers!”

“I think the longer we are married, our color palette has become more warm and neutral. It used to be more gray and white — colder, sharper colors; then, we changed to reds and blues, but now we are into a more muted, less saturated, warm look.”



In the living room, a nook formed a nearly unusable space; so Kate designed the built-in display case, which now holds photos, ceramic pieces and glassware. The fireplace, made of the same brick as the outside of their home, seemed to dominate the room. Garry diminished its influence by painting it and the crown molding throughout the downstairs a cream



color. He then added a truly beautiful hand-crafted mantel.

For 15 years now, Garry has assisted Kate in her wedding and event business called A Flair for Elegance. No surprise: Kate designs and Garry executes what she cannot. She uses floral arrangements, table decorations and candles to create a scene design in the sanctuaries, reception halls and/or rehearsals using the same flair with which she has decorated their home.

Because Garry had bought and sold several homes; he knew he wanted theirs to be comforting, warm and welcoming to everyone who comes in. “We wanted a livable home with no restrictions; a place for more than just family,” Kate explained.



“We open our home to missionaries on furlough and other guests, so we designed what we call the mother-in-law room — big and comfortable enough for a visit, but not a permanent place.” Kate’s family all live in the Dallas area. “Easy to visit, yet our home here in Cedar Hill gives us just enough sense of a space of our own,” Kate remarked.

“We have a few other collectibles — some crystal rose bowls, ducks and, lately, old and antique Bibles. We are also most proud of our backyard,” Kate remarked. Garry built a roof with two ceiling fans over the patio he extended to 14 feet by 30 feet; they plan to put in an outdoor kitchen for summer entertaining. “We really enjoy having people over.” **NOW**

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Mayor Rob Franke proclaims Saturday, October 9, 2010, as "Miss Jimmie" Ruth White Day at Country Day on the Hill.



First-grader, Karly Serafin of Cedar Hill, takes her dog to "The Blessing of the Animals," a special chapel service at The Canterbury Episcopal School.



Cristian Mattoon and Nick King of the Eagle Scouts skillfully enhance the Food Pantry landscaping.



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month at Zula B. Wylie Public Library.



Cedar Hill Swim Team members huddle around Coach Amy Lamar at the Hebron Swim Meet.

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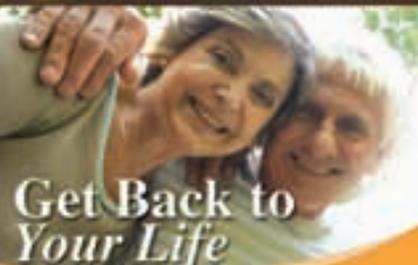
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Markyah Harris, Cole Williams, Zollie Taylor, Aaron Moseley, Surree Davis, Jasbae Rivers and Byron Hanspard are just some of the Woodridge Elementary students who have taken a stand against bullying.



WINGS advance recognition ceremony honored D'Leisha Lawrence (center), who advanced from high school to college. Also Kristian Love (left) and Rika Ward (right), both advanced a grade level in high school.



Canterbury 4th-Grader and Cub Scout, Logan Sills of Ovilla, played a special role in a citizenship ceremony.

Carolyn Campbell & Ellie Jeanotte at the Annual City Employee Chili Cook-off.

DeSoto High School Lady Eagles volleyball players block a spike by Mesquite.



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Ms. Frizzle (Anne Perry of Duncanville) of Magic School Bus fame visits Duncanville Public Library. Duncanville's book mobile doubles as the Magic School Bus.



Happy Duncanville Chamber members host a ribbon cutting at Lacy's Assisted Living.



Stacy Copeland, Bill Ingle and Allen Conley are among those enjoying the pleasant evening on Patrizio's patio during Fun After Five.



Duncanville librarian, Urla Morgan, and Ms. Frizzle exchange ideas on adventures for children.



David Tighe and Jena DeLuca search for books at the Duncanville Public Library.

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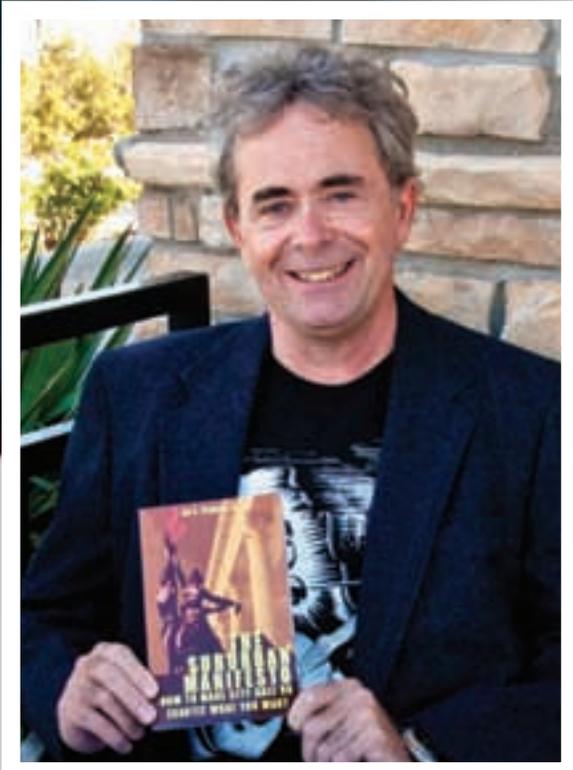


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A Man of His Words

— By Beverly Shay

Writers can be a strange breed. Among them are all types who write in various genres. Joe B. Vaughn Jr. is a seasoned writer, who began his writing career as a journalist. More recently, he has penned novels and is working on a screenplay for TV. “I knew I would be a writer by my sophomore year in high school,” Joe related. “I wrote a story for a contest in my typing class and ended up being asked to write and take photos for the school newspaper sports features. By my senior year, I was also a review critic and columns editor.”

Born in Austin, Joe is Texas-bred, with the exception of a one-year stint in Tucson, Arizona. He spent his childhood in Arlington and Grand Prairie. Planning to studying journalism, he graduated from The University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Arts in English literature. Joe grew up in a thought-provoking, intellectual environment. “My dad is a rocket scientist — for real! He’s an engineer, who was ‘corrupted’ into majoring in philosophy by my mom whom he met in college,” Joe remarked. “She is a world-class technical writer and my inspiration as a writer.”

One of his more recent works is entitled *The Suburban Manifesto*. Gleaned from his experience as city hall reporter for five years, the *Manifesto* is a how-to study of local government. But it is more. In the words of a reader’s response quoted on the Amazon.com site:

“... it is also a garrulous, entertaining narrative, full of Joe’s voice and personality, and you will find yourself referring to him as “Joe” because the book is so personable. Joe, and what he calls his “co-conspirators,” decided to challenge enormously powerful development-forces in the already over-developed city of Irving, Texas. They prevailed — by electing a majority of city council members, among other things. In telling the story, Joe tells you, tells us, how to assert our own democratic power in local communities. He provides strategies and tactics, as well as mistakes to avoid and counter-tactics to expect. The book is not anti-development; rather, it is pro-common-sense.”

Another reader wrote that his neck ached from bobbing his head up and down in agreement throughout the entire book. Joe believes books and commentary should promote a solution, not mere disgruntlement, adding, “We (citizens) are the ones who give government power; the press should hold them accountable to the people’s trust in electing them.”

Joe has also done technical writing about systems documents and networks, as well as user manuals for telemarketers. He wrote monthly newsletters, which were distributed worldwide for Mobil Oil. His various fields of exposure have given him a wealth of writing material.

“The transition from journalism to fiction wasn’t really all that difficult,” Joe remarked. “I am an outliner. I like to know where my story is going, and I always know how it will end from the beginning. I start with the concept of what my book will be about then I develop the resolution. Once you have the beginning, then you know that for *this* to happen, this *must* happen. I call the initial concept writing the big bones; outlining contributes the little bones.”

A main difference in writing fiction is “some characters just show up, begging to be let into the story,” Joe explained. “So I give myself permission to change the outline.” He grinned and then added, “I also give myself permission to write a really bad first draft.” In newspaper

writing, you simply do not have time for that. Joe has found his newspaper experience actually serves him well. "I already know how to write succinctly. So I still write concise, short sentences, finding the most direct way to say something. In fiction, I can add descriptions to create impact and have the freedom to use more adjectives. I have a well-developed grasp of language, and I can write sharper because I will edit it like a journalist."

Writing is a craft which must be worked at. "I am fond of thinking great writers are those who capture the energy and record it. I draw on tactile vision. I am the one who is in control of how many words it will take to draw the reader into the story." Joe also admitted he is a rhythm writer, even when working from an outline. Writing to rhythm is what fleshes out the story.



Of course, there's no story like a ghost story, and Joe has written one based on "the lady of the lake" — White Rock Lake, that is. Legend has it, several couples over a period of time were approached by a woman dressed in white asking to be taken to her father's home in Oak Cliff; she always disappeared mid-transit, leaving a wet puddle behind. When asked, her father said his daughter had drowned in the lake a few weeks earlier. "I include that theme in my story, *Eidolon* — it is important to tell the people in your life how you feel ... while you are alive to do so.

"My books contain experiences from my life, whether I am writing fiction or non-fiction. It's what I have to write about," Joe shrugged. **NOW**

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— *By Beverly Shay*

Snap Fitness, the neighborhood gym, opened its doors on November 24, 2008, and they have not shut yet, at least not for members. “That’s one of the selling features of a Snap Fitness membership,” explained Judy Hill, owner. “Our clients have 24-hour access with their electronic key card, so they can come whenever and as often as they like. Membership is not contract-based. People pay month-to-month, and we have a variety of plans listed on our Web site, which include insurance plans; special rates for local teachers, police and firefighters; plus various corporate discounts. On top of that, members have access to any of the over 1,000 Snap Fitness centers, so if they travel, they can still work out like they do locally.

“My husband and I were looking for a long-term business plan, after I was down-sized out of corporate America,” Judy

remarked. “After looking at several options, we chose Snap Fitness for a number of reasons: We were interested in fitness, the business model is proven and affordable with corporate headquarters handling many of the details, plus we were intrigued with opening a Duncanville location. Demographics showed this area had a definite interest in fitness with not many options nearby. We found this space while shopping; at 3,300 square feet, it is a bit larger than most Snap Fitness centers, which gives our customers more room to work out. The shopping center is well-lit, patrolled, has a neighborhood feel, as well as not being far from Cedar Hill or DeSoto,” Judy stated.

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selectorized weight-training equipment; in fact, all of our machines are high-end, state-of-the-art Cybex machines,” Judy said. “We have a certified personal trainer, Sonia Ibanez, available for one-on-one adult training at additional cost. We also offer a fitness consult to determine your starting point for strength, cardio and fitness level, as well as orientation on each machine and a basic-eight fitness training as part of the initial membership fee. A customized, four-week introduction to fitness program is available. We also offer boot camps —



group personal training — each month for one to three weeks.”

Members must be at least 18 years of age for individual memberships with the minimum family membership age being 13. Eighteen Snap Fitness centers are located in the Metroplex; Duncanville has about 300 members, typical of the local demographics. Many fall in the 19-23 year range, most are between 30-45 years. “We have one couple who come in every day to work out and the husband is 82,” Judy remarked with a smile.

“The nice thing about a neighborhood gym is a location close to home. That eliminates difficulty in setting a manageable routine. Some of our clients have been fitness seekers their whole life; others come in with a set goal to lose weight or regain strength following an accident or injury, which is great as long as their doctor has released them to do so. Others want to improve their consistency and persistence. I always tell people it takes two weeks to build a habit, and this is a great way to relieve stress,” Judy confided. “An average workout time is about 40 minutes, but some people prefer a 40-minute cardio workout and a 40-minute strength workout.”

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In The Kitchen With Paulette Jones

— By Adam Walker

Paulette Jones, a science teacher and caterer whose friends call her Ms. Diva Chef, grew up in Pickens, Mississippi, where she learned to cook for her family at age 9. She learned from her mother and grandmother by helping in the kitchen during summer and holiday visits. “I have inherited many recipes from my grandmother,” Paulette said, “such as her dinner rolls that are absolutely mouthwatering!”

Her African-American heritage influences her cooking, but after traveling for years with her husband in the military, Paulette has added to her range. “I can cook 11 different cuisines authentically due to the many friends I have made over the past 20 years.” She has produced a DVD on cooking and chemistry and is writing a cookbook for would-be divas. **NOW**



BREAD PUDDING WITH PECAN PRALINE SAUCE

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 5 large eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 3 cups cubed Italian bread, allow to stale overnight in a bowl
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup Dark Jamaican Rum
- 2 Tbsp. toasted pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a 13 x 9 x 2-inch pan.
2. Mix together 2 cups granulated sugar, eggs and milk in a bowl; add 2 tsp. of vanilla. Pour over cubed bread and let sit for 10 minutes.
3. In another bowl, mix and crumble together light brown sugar, 1/4 cup of butter and 1 cup of pecans.
4. Pour bread mixture into prepared pan. Sprinkle brown sugar mixture over the top and bake for 35 to 45 minutes or until set. Remove from oven.
5. Mix together the dark brown sugar, remaining granulated sugar, butter, egg and remaining vanilla in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir together until the sugar is melted. Add the rum, stirring well. Pour over bread pudding. Serve warm or cold.

SPICEY HERBED BAKED HAM

- 1 6- to 7-lb. cooked, bone-in, butt portion ham, rinsed and patted dry
- 1 cup dark brown sugar (loose, not packed), plus 2 tsp.
- 3/4 cup fresh orange juice
- 3/4 cup Creole mustard or other spicy, whole-grained mustard
- 1/2 cup dark molasses
- 3 Tbsp. prepared horseradish, drained
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne
- 3/4 tsp. allspice
- 3 lbs. small sweet potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1. With a sharp knife, score the skin side of ham with parallel lines in a grid pattern, with cuts 1-inch apart and 1/4-inch deep.
2. In a large bowl, whisk 1 cup of sugar, orange juice, mustard, molasses, horseradish, cayenne and 1/2 tsp. of allspice. Place ham in a 2-gallon, plastic bag and pour marinade into bag. Gently squeeze bag to evenly distribute marinade around ham. Place in a large bowl or baking dish and refrigerate for 24 hours.
3. Preheat oven to 350 F.
4. In a large mixing bowl, toss potatoes with vegetable oil, salt, cinnamon, remaining 1/4 tsp. allspice and remaining 2 tsp. dark brown sugar. Layer the potatoes on the bottom of a Dutch oven or large, heavy roasting pan. Remove ham from marinade and place, scored-side up, on potatoes. Bake for 45 minutes.
5. Pour ham marinade into a 2-quart saucepan and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to a bare simmer and cook uncovered until thick enough to coat the back of a spoon, about 20 minutes. Remove from heat.
6. Remove ham from oven and evenly baste on all sides with reduced marinade. Bake for 15 minutes. Remove ham from oven, baste again, and turn sweet potatoes that can be reached. Return ham to oven and continue baking for an additional 1 1/2 hours, basting every 15 minutes, for a total cooking time of 2 1/2 hours.
7. Remove from oven and let rest for 15 minutes before carving. Serve hot with sweet potatoes.

RICE PILAF WITH PEAS AND CRANBERRIES

- 1 Tbsp. unsalted butter
 - 1/2 medium onion, finely chopped
 - 1/2 medium red bell pepper, finely chopped
 - 1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt plus 2 pinches
 - 2 cups long-grain white rice
 - 1 pinch saffron, steeped in 1/4 cup hot, but not boiling, water
 - 2 1/2 cups chicken broth
 - 1 1 x 2-inch strip orange zest
 - 2 bay leaves
 - 1/2 cup peas, fresh or frozen
 - 1/4 cup dried cranberries
 - 1/4 cup pistachios, chopped
1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
 2. Melt butter in a 3-quart saucier over medium

- heat. Stir in the onion, bell pepper and 2 pinches of salt. Decrease heat to low and sweat until onion is translucent and aromatic but not browned, 3-4 minutes.
3. Increase heat to medium and add rice. Cook, stirring frequently, until you smell nuts, another 3-4 minutes. Add the saffron and its water, the broth, orange zest, bay leaves and the remaining 1 1/2 teaspoons salt. Increase the heat and bring to a boil.
4. Thoroughly wet a clean towel; kill the heat; scatter the peas on top of the rice; then place the towel across the top of the saucier. Top with the lid, then fold the towel corners up over the lid. Transfer the saucier (towel and all) to the oven and bake 15 minutes.
5. Remove and let rest at room temperature for 15 more minutes without opening the lid. Fish out the orange zest and bay leaves. Turn the pilaf out onto a platter, fluff with a large fork and garnish with the cranberries and pistachios. Serve family-style, right in the middle of the table.

ROASTED WINTER VEGETABLES

- 1 lb. carrots, peeled
 - 1 lb. parsnips, peeled
 - 1 large sweet potato, peeled
 - 1 small butternut squash, peeled and seeded (about 2 lbs.)
 - 3 Tbsp. good olive oil
 - 1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
 - 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
 - 2 Tbsp. chopped flat leaf parsley
1. Preheat the oven to 425 F.
 2. Cut the carrots, parsnips, sweet potato and butternut squash in 1 to 1 1/4-inch cubes. (All the vegetables will shrink while baking, so do not cut them too small.)
 3. Place all the cut vegetables in a single layer on 2 baking sheets. Drizzle them with olive oil, salt and pepper. Toss well. Bake for 25 to 35 minutes, until all the vegetables are tender, turning once with a metal spatula.
 4. Sprinkle with parsley, season to taste and serve hot.

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Still Time for Year-end Financial Moves

The holiday season is always a busy time of year, so you're probably pretty busy. But it is important to take some time now to evaluate year-end financial moves that may be beneficial in preparing for your financial future.

Which year-end moves should you consider? You will want to talk to your financial advisor and tax and legal professionals first, but here are a few ideas to get you started:

- **Boost your IRA contributions.** You have until April 15, 2011, to fully fund your IRA for the 2010 tax year, but the sooner you finish with your 2010 contribution, the quicker you can get started on your 2011 contribution — and the earlier in the year you fund your IRA, the more time you give your account the opportunity to grow.
- **Put more money into college savings plans.** If you have a 529 college savings plan for yourself or someone else, consider putting more money in before year-end. You can gift up to \$13,000 (\$26,000 per married couple) per person per year without gift

tax consequences. However, this must be accomplished by year-end.

- **Be generous.** If you've been thinking of making charitable gifts, don't put them off any longer. As long as you make a donation to a qualified charity before the year ends, you can claim a deduction on your 2010 tax return. For example, if you donate \$100 to a charitable group (either a religious organization or one that has received 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service), and you're in the 25-percent tax bracket, you can deduct \$100 (with a tax benefit of \$25) when you file your taxes for 2010, providing, of course, that you itemize. If you donate stocks or other types of assets, you may also be able to save on capital gains taxes, because it will be the charity, not you, that eventually sells those assets.

- **Sell your "losers."** If you own investments that have lost value since you purchased them, you can sell them before 2010 ends and then use the tax loss to offset capital gains you may have earned in other investments. If you don't have any capital gains, you can use up to \$3,000 of your tax losses to offset other ordinary income. If your loss is greater than \$3,000, you can

"carry over" the excess and deduct it from your taxes in future years. However, if you then want to repurchase the investment you sold, you'll need to wait at least 31 days to avoid violating the IRS' "wash sale" rules.

- **Take capital gains.** In 2011, the tax rate on long-term capital gains is scheduled to increase to 20 percent for most investors, up from the 15 percent rate it's been the last several years. If you have stocks or other appreciated assets that you were thinking of selling in the near future, you might want to do so before the year comes to a close. However, it's generally not a good idea to make investment decisions strictly because of tax consequences. If your appreciated assets are still a part of your overall financial strategy, you may be better off holding them for the long term, even with a higher capital gains rate.

Considering these moves before the year ends may help you better prepare to address your financial picture in 2011. **NOW**

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not tax advisors and cannot give tax advice. Please consult your qualified tax professional regarding your situation.

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KELLER WILLIAMS

High Blood Pressure

— By *Leah Pittmon, B.S., D.C.*

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, affects nearly a third of American adults. Many are unaware they have a potentially serious health problem. Most of those who are aware take prescription medications, with numerous side effects. While it is never recommended that a patient stop taking blood pressure medications without consulting their doctor, there are many healthy steps you can take to lower your blood pressure naturally.

Hypertension is defined as continued blood pressure of greater than 140/90. One reading alone should not determine hypertension, as blood pressure can vary resulting from exercise, nervousness, dehydration or a number of other factors.

Antihypertensive medications include: diuretics to decrease retained water, beta-blockers to lower pressure and pulse by reducing nerve signal to the heart, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors to relax blood vessels, angiotensin II receptor blockers, also to relax blood

vessels, and calcium channel blockers, which relax blood vessels and the heart by preventing calcium to these cells. Side effects of these medications can include constipation, dehydration, dizziness, drowsiness, dry mouth, frequent urination, headaches, increased sensitivity to cold, increased sensitivity to sunlight, bleeding gums, upset stomach, mineral loss such as potassium (and muscle pain), worsening heart failure, erectile dysfunction and depression.

The first step to lowering blood pressure is to get 30 minutes of aerobic exercise daily. This is the kind of exercise that increases heart rate. Ten minutes, three times a day can work as well as a single 30-minute session. Vacuum, take the stairs, walk around the block. This can reduce the systolic (top number) by 5-10 mm Hg. It will also decrease stress, which can be helpful.

Lowering your body weight by 5 percent (10 pounds, if you weigh 200 now) has been shown to reduce stage I hypertension down to normal levels. Combining healthy eating habits with a little aerobic exercise can make this step easily accomplished.

You are what you eat. A diet high in fruits and vegetables provides essential minerals such as calcium, magnesium and potassium. Diets low in these nutrients are associated

with high blood pressure. Healthy choices include: broccoli, spinach, turnip greens, beets, whole grains, nuts and seeds, beans, bananas, avocados, apricots, garlic, celery, cucumbers and many more. On the other hand, fructose (used to sweeten sodas and other junk foods) has been shown to increase risk of high blood pressure. Those who consumed the equivalent of 2.5 sodas per day had a 77-percent greater risk of having severe hypertension!

Common supplements for hypertension include hawthorn berry, hibiscus tea, CoQ10 and omega-3 fats such as fish oil. It is always advisable to check with your doctor before incorporating supplements, especially if you are already on medication for hypertension. Some supplements can interact with prescriptions.

Chiropractic and osteopathic manipulation have been shown to reduce high blood pressure. One study in 2007 showed a decrease similar to two-drug treatment of hypertension, with no adverse effects.

Your health is your responsibility. A good diet, exercise and regular chiropractic care can help you achieve your health goals. **NOW**

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Through December 14

DeSoto Firefighters Association Annual Toy Drive is targeting 48 specific children this year. See Terri Kordsmeier at the Firefighters Admin. office in City Hall for a specific wish/need list and details on dropping off items or call her at (972) 230-9680. Checks and cash can be mailed to DeSoto Firefighters Assoc., PO Box 1467, DeSoto, TX 75123.

Through December 15

Drop off letters to Santa Claus in Santa's mailbox at Duncanville City Hall.

December 1 - January 3

Cedar Hill Recreation Center is offering their holiday special of 20 percent off annual memberships and \$10 off a three-month membership. (Corporate memberships excluded.)

December 2

Citywide annual tree-lighting and holiday celebration in historic downtown Cedar Hill: 6:30-8:00 p.m., 600 Cedar St. (Pioneer Park). (972) 291-5100, ext. 1084.

December 3

Duncanville's Merry Grinchmas Christmas Parade: 7:00 p.m. and Tree Lighting: 7:40 p.m. followed by pictures with Santa in City Hall.

December 4

DeSoto's 38th Annual Christmas Parade entitled "Holly Jolly Christmas": 6:00 p.m.

December 4 and 11

Pet pix with Santa: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at PetSmart, 2964 W. Wheatland. Cost: \$9.99, half of which will benefit Tri-City Animal Shelter. (972) 291-5335.

December 4, 11 and 18

Duncanville Public Library is hosting STORYTIME Theater: 1:30-2:00 p.m. for those 3-73, where school-age children can act out stories with puppets. No registration required for this free, public event. For more information, visit www.youseemore.com/ Duncanville or call (972) 780-5044.

December 6

Methodist Mobile Mammography unit will be at Ben Franklin Apothecary, 302 N. Main St., Duncanville: 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Appointment required: (972) 947-0026. Medicare and most insurance accepted; must pay at time.

December 7

DeSoto Christmas Tree Lighting: 7:00 p.m. at Town Center. McGowan Middle School band and choir and Northside Elementary second

grade choir will perform. DeSoto Chamber will announce winners from the Christmas parade; cookies and punch will be served in the City Hall Atrium immediately following.

December 10-13

Duncanville First Baptist Christmas production: *Let There Be Light*: 7:00 p.m. at 323 W. Wheatland Rd. Open to the public at no cost. See our "DuncanvilleNOW" feature for the background about this production! (972) 298-1435.

December 11

Southwest Children's Chorus presents "Holiday Favorites": 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 310 Roaring Springs Drive, DeSoto. (972) 223-6118. See our "DeSotoNOW" feature for the story of this amazing choral group.

December 12

Cedar Hill High School library is having a book fair: noon-9:00 p.m. at Barnes & Noble in Uptown Village, 305 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill. Tell them you are supporting the Cedar Hill High School library and use this code at checkout: #10348506 (this code can be used at any Barnes & Noble, including online).

December 13

Methodist Health System's mobile mammography van will be at Methodist Charlton Midlothian Imaging Center, 2210 Bryan Place. Payment is due at time; payable by cash, check, Visa or MasterCard. Appointment required: (972) 775-7410.

January 27

The Canterbury Episcopal School (K-12) Winter Open House: 6:00-8:00 p.m. Refreshments, tours, early enrollment and special discounts are offered to those who attend. Call Libby Tadlock (972) 572-7200, ext. 106 or www.TheCanterburySchool.org.

Ongoing Events:

DS library is offering free adult literacy classes in partnership with Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship (OCBF). One-on-one classes taught by trained volunteers at the library. Stop in or call (972) 230-9661. More volunteer instructors needed; call OCBF (972) 228-0872, ext.1600.

DeSoto ISD ACE After-school Program is now offering adult Spanish classes at Moates Elementary School, 1500 Heritage Blvd., Glenn Heights: Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-noon. Contact Wanda Gardener to register: (972) 230-2881 or (214) 537-8415 or e-mail

wanda.gardner@desotoisd.org.

Mondays

Rhyme Time: 10:15 a.m. at Duncanville Library.

Parkinson's Group: exercise class: 6:30-7:30 p.m. first three Mondays; last Monday: support group: 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Trinity UMC, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 298-4556.

Second Mondays

Diabetes Support Group: 6:00 p.m. at Methodist Charlton. (214) 947-7262.

Tuesdays

Senior Access Tai Chi classes: 8:00-8:45 a.m. at Methodist Charlton. Cost: \$6. (214) 947-4628.

Homeschool Videos: 2:00 p.m. at Duncanville Public Library.

Second Tuesdays

The Dallas Area Writers Group: 7:00 p.m. at CH Library. Visit dallaswriters.org.

Wednesdays

Preschool stories: 10:30 a.m. at Cedar Hill Public Library.

Thursdays

Parkinson's Group: exercise class: 1:00-2:00 p.m. at Trinity UMC, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 298-4556.

Spanish story time: 5:30 p.m. at Duncanville Public Library.

Visual Artist of Cedar Hill (VACH): 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Creative Arts School for ages 18-plus, 1435 N. US-67 S. (at The Ranch).

Fridays

Walking program: 9:00-10:00 a.m. at Methodist Charlton, in conference room 6. (214) 947-4628.

Toddler stories: 10:30 a.m. at Cedar Hill Public Library.

First and Second Fridays

Line dancing in the Methodist Charlton auditorium: 11:00 a.m. - noon. Reservation required: (214) 947-4628.

Third Saturdays

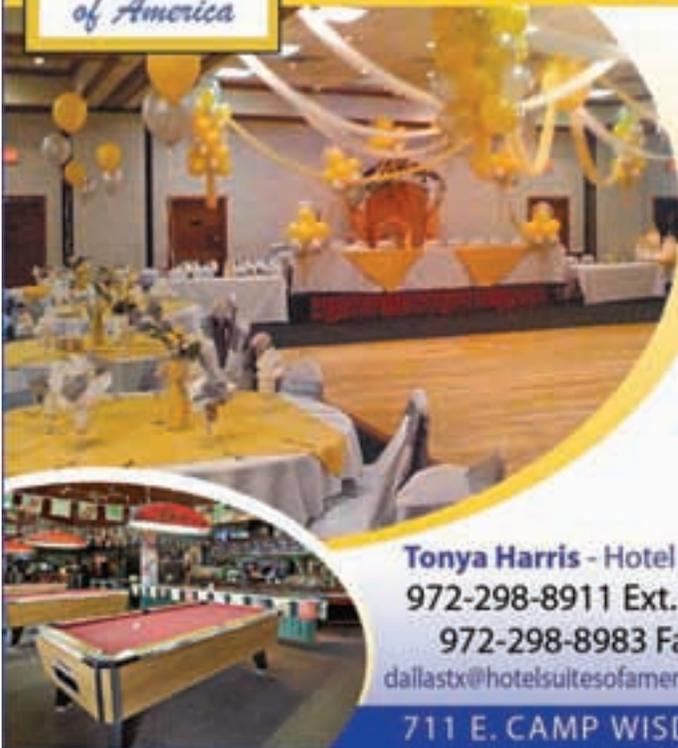
Cedar Hill Star Party: sunset-11:00 p.m. at J. W. Williams Park, 1605 High Pointe Ln. (972) 291-1505.

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