

# INSIDE *Singletree*

DECEMBER 2016

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE



*The Sassi Family*

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The Residents  
of Singletree

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publisher's note

# HELLO

## SINGLETREE RESIDENTS!

The holiday season is upon us! What a wonderful time of year to celebrate our friends and family, to offer thanks and to give back to those in need. Whether you enjoy the holidays right here in the Vail Valley or travel to visit family and friends elsewhere, I wish you a fun-filled, safe and enriching season of celebration!

This December issue is filled with amazing stories about our very special Singletree residents. Mark and Jenn Sassi met here in the Valley and together with their family, love everything the Singletree life has to offer! Meet Will Thompson, an extraordinarily talented young artist, Greg Decent, a committed endurance runner adjusting to parenthood, and Lai White, a serial entrepreneur who has thrived in the U.S. after escaping North Vietnam as a child.

Learn how a family disaster set Kat Haber on a path to found TEDxVail - and plan to enjoy some of the world's most fascinating leaders at TEDxVail: <R>evolution at the Vilar Performing Arts Center in January. Share an over-the-top dining experience at *Ticino* with a lucky group of residents who recently enjoyed an outstanding evening of Italian cuisine at this hidden gem of a restaurant. And speaking of events, be sure to check out our holiday schedule as well, including a sewing event for kids, whiskey tasting for adults, and a Neighborhood Cookie Exchange for all!

Please join me in welcoming our newest sponsors to our neighborhood publication. **Nichols Interactive** specializes in creating affordable, easy to navigate and well designed professional websites to enhance your overall business marketing plan. **Rouge Boutique** offers a wonderfully extensive array of both consignment and retail clothing - a must stop on your shopping list!

If you feel the need for rejuvenation during this holiday season, you owe yourself a visit with Brian Malloy at **Radiant Health Resources** for a stress relieving massage. And if you have been contemplating that remodel project for 2017, let Ryan Dunn with **Trinity Builders** transform your home into how you have always wanted it to look.

As always, I encourage you to thank our sponsors by frequenting their business and letting them know how much you appreciate their support of your neighborhood newsletter.

Wishing you the happiest of holiday seasons to you and yours...



*Holly Proctor*  
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**Ron Hiner**  
*Photographer*



**Mark and Jennifer Sassi**  
*Meet Your Neighbors*



**Will Thompson**  
*Celebrating the Arts in Singletree*



**Lai White**  
*Stories Inside Singletree*



**Jeanne and Iniki Harris**  
*Precious Pets*



**Greg and Allie Decent**  
*Athlete Spotlight*



**Alida Zwaan**  
*Home of the Month*



**Kat Haber**  
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*Real Estate Update*



Your participation in your neighborhood newsletter will make a difference! Please email [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) with your pictures, stories, ideas and suggestions.

### PUBLISHER'S APOLOGY:

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Olga Barron Photography Inc. to the November issue. Not only did Olga expertly capture the community spirit of the Singletree Summer Celebration 2016, but she boldly tromped through fields to portray the "NOW" of the Singletree History feature bringing the past in Singletree

to life. I inadvertently overlooked photo credit for both of these features and offer not only my apologies for my oversight, but my deep gratitude to Olga for her tireless efforts in making this publication what it is for Singletree residents. Thank you Olga!

YOU ARE

# Invited

## KIDS' HOLIDAY SEWING EVENT

Harvest by Kelly Liken at the Sonnenalp Club in Singletree Saturday, December 3, 2016 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Patterns of Joy Sewing Outreach** - Kids Serving Kids, a non-profit organization, will guide kids in sewing the gift of a holiday stocking to be filled with goodies to encourage joy and compassion for a group of children in need. Kids will also be welcome to sew an ornament as a gift or for their tree.

Bring a sewing machine and join the fun; volunteers are greatly appreciated! Activity cost is \$10.00 per participant. Contact Jennifer Sassi at [jennifersassi@gmail.com](mailto:jennifersassi@gmail.com) or Marie Torry at [patternsofjoysewing@gmail.com](mailto:patternsofjoysewing@gmail.com) for details.

## 'Tis the season! And that means holiday cookies...

### Join your friends and neighbors for the FIRST ANNUAL SINGLETREE HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE AND COMMUNITY COOKIE COMPETITION

Singletree Community Center  
December 11, 2016  
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Never participated in a Cookie Exchange? It's fun and easy! This is all you need to know to join the festivities:



- Please bring a minimum of 4 dozen homemade cookies to swap for your neighbors' cookies; they do NOT need to be the same variety
- Arrange your cookies in batches of 12 (on disposable plates) to exchange for another batch of 12; festive presentation encouraged!
- Bring 1 copy of your recipe for each plate of 12 cookies
- Please RSVP to [insidesingletreersvp@gmail.com](mailto:insidesingletreersvp@gmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, December 7**
- Please deliver your cookies to the Singletree Community Center by 4:00 p.m.

The Community Cookie Competition will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be MC'd by Mark Sassi. Cookies will be judged by a panel of celebrity judges on taste and decoration.

Anyone is eligible to enter the competition, regardless of experience. This is a friendly neighborhood competition, not Iron Chef!

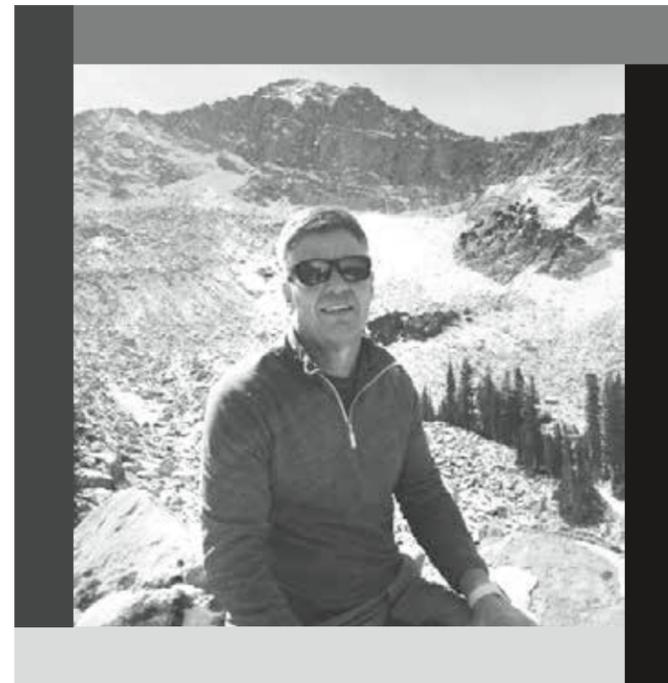
Prizes will be awarded! Time to fire up your ovens ... let the baking begin! Happy Holidays!

## 10TH MOUNTAIN WHISKEY & SPIRIT COMPANY TASTING

Graciously hosted at the Beaver Creek home of Sally Austen  
15 Bachelor Gulch Drive, Beaver Creek  
Wednesday, December 7, 2016  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

**EXCLUSIVELY OFFERED FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE.** Join your friends and neighbors for a tasting experience presented by the 10th Mountain Whiskey & Spirit Company, Vail's premier distillery, crafting spirits from locally sourced ingredients in the name of the mountain lifestyle that was influenced by the original 10th Mountain soldiers. \$20.00 per person for a selection of tastings and cocktails.

Please RSVP via email no later than Monday, December 5 to [insidesingletreersvp@gmail.com](mailto:insidesingletreersvp@gmail.com). Space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. Come share some holiday cheer with your Singletree friends and neighbors!



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meet your neighbors

Photography by Olga Barron Photography Inc.

# Sasssi



We moved to Edwards to be closer to our friends and closer to the outdoors and we can do both from our home in Singletree. We love sledding on the first fairway and ice skating on Charolais Pond in the winter and in the summer, we cherish our time hiking June Creek Trail and watching fireworks on Charolais Circle in July. We visit the part with friends and family regularly and we love how wildlife finds ways to co-exist here with us. We are the Sassis and this is our story.

I am originally from a tiny outdoor community in Maine called Grand Lake Stream. My family owned a sporting lodge for 35 years. I grew up deep in the woods where things always moved a bit slower. I attended college at the University of Maine and focused on business with a ski indus-

try concentration. I spent my winters in western Maine at Sugarloaf where I opened the first snowboard shop in the state and also was the first certified snowboard instructor. In 1996, I packed up my VW, said farewell to my home state and rallied to Vail in search of bigger mountains, deeper snow and bigger trout. I immersed myself in the ski industry, the fly fishing community and the lifestyle that so many people are drawn to here. To this day, it's that lifestyle and the tight-knit communities that make up Eagle County that keep us all here.

Jennifer was born in Cincinnati with her three sisters and grew up surrounded by a large extended family. At the age of 8, they began spending a lot of their time in Harbor Springs, Michigan. Much of her youth was spent between the scenic tranquility of northern Michigan during the summer

and the urban energy of Cincinnati during the winters. She attended Miami of Ohio where she studied communications with a focus on marketing and PR. She moved to Vail with five friends "for one season" in the fall of 1993. Jenn ended up sticking around the valley longer than intended and was a supervisor for the three-to-six programs at Gold Peak with Vail Ski School. Although she is very part time now, this year marks her 24th year with Vail Resorts. Fortunately for both of us, she decided to stick around or we never would have crossed paths.

In the early years, I lived in East Vail living with a few of my college friends and that was how I met and became friends with the love of my life, Jennifer. She was dating a roommate of mine and when she would come by to see him, we would end up chatting and hanging out. We both worked at the



Vail Golf course for many years and that was where I got to know so many of our locals and also where I courted Jennifer for which seemed like forever and a day. After many requests, she finally agreed to a date with me.

From that point, it was undeniable, we were not only great close friends, we also had a love connection. A few years later, we were married in Ocean Reef, Key Largo Florida in November of 2003. Jenn says she would relive that experience every year. At the time, she was planning weddings for Vail Resorts and celebrating and planning our nuptials in tropical Ocean Reef was a dream

come true. Soon after our marriage, we made the wonderful move to Singletree in the late fall of 2004 while Jenn was very pregnant with our first child Fischer (11) who was born in Vail in January of 2005.

While Jenn was pregnant with Fischer she was exploring Singletree in hopes to find a home with a garage and a yard, fortunately, we came across our home. The original owners had a "FOR SALE BY OWNER" sign out front and that was all it took. Our home has a look that is very atypical for Singletree. It is a New England Cape traditional single family home that one would find on the coast of Maine

or on the shores of Lake Michigan and we were both drawn to it right away because of that appeal.

To this day, in our yard, you will find yard games and activities that welcome kids and enlightens the kid in all of us. We have a zip line that has become the center of fun for our kids and all of their friends along with horseshoes, volleyball and croquet. We designed a playhouse that resembles a pint-size version of our home and has become the hangout for our kids for sleepovers, homework sessions and also the staging place for summer lemonade stands.

In April of 2006 our daughter, Piper (10) was born. She completed the last piece of our family unit and really made our already awesome house in Singletree a home. In a nutshell, everyone feels like your neighbor no matter where you live in Singletree. not just the ones who live next door to you. I should add though that our next door neighbors, the Harlands, are simply the best neighbors you could ever ask for.

I work as a television host for our local tv station, TV8, and my commute to Avon is less than 10 minutes. I also have very strong ties to the fly fishing community and work with most of the outfitters around the valley on a consulting basis regularly and with the central location of our home, all of the fishing businesses are equidistant of about 10 minutes also.

In a former life, I may have been a brook trout and I spend my free time in eternal pursuit of that next fish. I fuel my addiction through the constant education and instruction of fly fishing to those like-minded individuals. I am a nationally certified fly casting instructor and outdoor steward and one of my goals is to leave our natural world better than I found it for future generations.

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...

Fly fishing is the confluence of your mind, body and soul and an annual rite of passage into the spring for me is the GoPro Mountain Games and I have stood on the podium twice so far with gold and silver medals, both in the 2 Fly Xtreme. My family also enjoy fishing but playing tennis and swimming along with lots of cookouts and garage sales during the warmer months take up most of their free time. Alpine and cross country skiing and sledding dominate our activities in the winter. We love to travel and find ourselves in Florida in April of each year visiting Jenn's mother and playing in the ocean and sand, hoping to give our bodies some of that much needed mid-winter exposure to the warmth and sunshine. We also make sure to get to northern Michigan during the summer. The lake is the place to be that time of year and with family around it's the best way to spend a few weeks.



We are hoping to travel to the coast of Maine this summer to visit my parents and show our kids what it's like there. All of our destinations are truly special and we look forward to getting away each time but get even more excited to get back to Edwards.



Fischer wants to be an astronaut and loves to listen to Pitbull (just a tad too loudly), he enjoys playing basketball, soccer, skiing, rock climbing and he is especially proud of his new company "Solutions of Singletree" (SOS). They offer assistance to homeowners by helping them with light yard work, pet walking and feeding, trash removal, Vail Daily deliveries along with everything in between.

Piper is our little "tiger lily", as she was born a preemie weighing only 2 pounds and 11 ounces; she is mad crazy about Taylor Swift, she loves tennis, getting dressed up, playing volleyball, sewing, singing, playing school and hanging out with friends and family. She too has the entrepreneurial spirit and looks forward to starting her business this summer which is adorably called "Lots of Laugh Sitters" (LOL), where she and her friend Berkeley offer childcare services to help mom's and dad's get work done while they are at their house.

Jennifer took Piper for a special helicopter ride while she was still in her tummy, flight for life-style, she can't get enough chocolate, has been watching *Days of Our Lives* for 37 years (shhh, that's a secret) and while working with Coca-Cola in college, she came up with the name of one of the original fruit juices, Fruitopia.

About me, well I love being a dad, being on tv, being one with the river and if I could, I would eat nothing but Lobster and drink Moxie for the rest of my life.

Family means everything to us, we are so fortunate to have Jenn's sister, Stephanie living with us and just down the road in Golden, Alecia, another one of Jenn's sisters resides with her adorable family. Having cousins nearby means so much to our family. Jenn has one more sister, Camie, we hope soon we will get her to move back to sunny Colorado, but for the time being, Chicago gets her. Mark's sister Jessica is currently

teaching in Kiev but plans to move to China for a few more years and then when our nieces all graduate, they will return to the state as well.

There is no "trout" about it, we truly love Colorado and the Vail Valley, but the best part of it all is at the end of each day, returning to our favorite place, the one we all call home, 130 Stetson Drive in Singletree.

 Get to know your neighbors better by having your family featured in the next available issue! Email me at [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) if you are interested in joining the fun!

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# Moms' night out

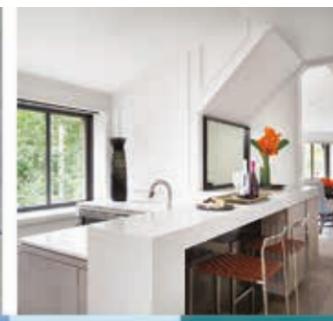
## what's happening inside singletree

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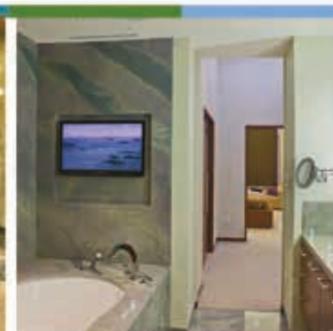
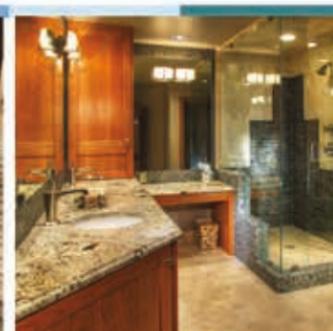
Moms from the neighborhood gathered at the home of Happy Power on a balmy October evening to enjoy seeing friends, old and new, and enjoying tasty treats and cocktails served by **Second Nature Gourmet**. Refreshments included a Roasted Pear Haymaker and a Pomegranate Ginger Fizz; and hors d'oeuvres were indeed dazzling as the ladies of Singletree enjoyed Mediterranean Lamb Meatballs with Curried Yogurt Sauce and Grilled Shrimp with a Horseradish Avocado Emulsion. **Riverwalk Wine & Spirits** provided a delicious sampling of wines from around the world to complete the evening.

Thank you, Happy, for graciously welcoming us into your warm home for a lively evening ... we had a wonderful time! And for those who couldn't make it, please join us next time for a fun ladies' soiree in the neighborhood!



# STONE CONCEPTS

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celebrating the arts in singletree  
Contributed by Will Thompson, Singletree Resident



Will Thompson creating "Flavors of Colorado - Live Painting" at an art festival in Spraypaint on Canvas

# WILL THOMPSON

CREATES ART WITH IMAGINATION, BLANK PAPER ... AND A BALLPOINT PEN

**You grew up in Vail? Went to high school where? And now, you are working at State Farm Insurance?** Born and raised in the Vail Valley, attended high school at Battle Mountain, and studied marketing at CU Boulder. Insurance salesman by day, artist by night.

**When did you first become interested in art?** My Aunt Mary introduced me to drawing and painting at an early age. She is an amazing landscape artist, and I always wanted to be able to draw as well as her. Through her drawing sessions, I picked up many tips and tricks and watched as my skill began to transform.

**Where did you get your education in art?** I took art class all throughout high school and learned most of the principles. I failed the only art class I tried to take in

college, mostly due to the nature of the assignments. I was far beyond creating color wheels and magazine collages; there were other projects to use my talent on.

**What drew you to it? What were your early influences?** It's difficult to put a finger on exactly what drew me to art, I just thought it was cool and fun to do. I thought street art was clever, surrealism was awesome, and I hated western art.

**How would you describe your work? Why did you select this "style"?** My work ranges in style, I've explored everything from mosaic-pop art with sea glass, to graphic design and photorealism with ballpoint pen. Recently, my style has shifted more towards illustrative surrealism. I like this style because it allows me to explore the full potential

of my imagination, and puts my art skills to the test at the same time.

**What medium do you use for your surrealistic work?**

I mostly use ballpoint pen on paper for my surrealism pieces. I love the look of the blue ink (vs a pencil sketch), and not many artists use it because it is challenging. Ballpoint pen really teaches you to work with and accept your mistakes.

**Tell us about your dollar bill art. What medium do you use? What is the inspiration behind it and what message are you delivering?**

This idea started in college when I gave my friend a \$5 bill that I had drawn on. The bill changed hands a few times, and eventually found its way into the display case at a local art gallery. It was cool to see my art travel around from person to person



"At Peace With the Beast" in Acrylic & Spraypaint on Canvas

until it wound up in the hands of someone who saw true value in the bill. Money art is a very unique and unexplored medium, and it shares a lot of the same principles as street art. I continued to explore this medium, and eventually had created a market for money art in the Boulder area. My medium of choice is acrylic paint.

**What makes your art unique or noteworthy?**

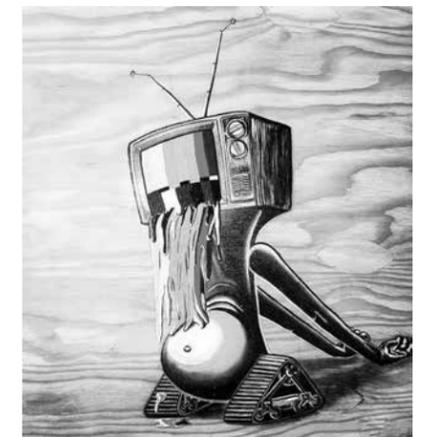
I try to put a story behind each piece of art, something that sparks a sense of curiosity and wonder upon the viewer. I like to differentiate myself from other artists too, by exploring new mediums and pioneering new art styles.

**What inspires you?** Blank pieces of paper and empty canvases.

**What is it that most drives you or what is it that makes art your passion?** I'm driven by the freedom that comes along with painting. Art gives me the freedom to express myself and show the world what can be created with a little imagination and persistence.

**Where do you see yourself going with your art career?** My goal is to be able to support myself entirely on art someday. I see myself sippin' coffee in the morning in my own studio, somewhere in the mountains, with paint and art projects galore. Hosting art shows, live painting, selling in art galleries; it's what I love to do, and I wouldn't be happier doing anything else.

**What are the opportunities for someone with your talent in Vail?** The Vail Valley has a pretty large art scene, especially in the summer with the art festivals. It's not a bad place to create and sell work, but if I want to get my name out there I'll have to look at getting my art in other venues. Most of the galleries up here sell contemporary and western art, which isn't necessarily my style.



"Tooned Out" in Acrylic Paint on Plywood



"Furiously Curious" in Ballpoint Pen on Notepaper



"Jorge DiMariachi" in Acrylic Paint on Dollar Bill



"George Sendington" (Skier Bill) in Acrylic Paint on Dollar Bill

**Do you think you will need to move somewhere else to reach your goals?** Eventually, yes. As for now, I am working on building up my portfolio by creating as many pieces as humanly possible. I think there are better opportunities out there for emerging artists, I just need to find them.

**What other activities or interests to you have?** In the winter, you can find me flipping down the jump line in Beaver Creek. I used to compete in freestyle skiing and try to keep my skills up-to-date, as I get older. In the summer, I love getting out to fly fish, hike, and mountain bike; basically whatever the mountains have to offer.

**What advice would you give to other young artists today?** Create art for yourself. Do it because you like to challenge yourself and explore your creative capacity, and let reactions be a byproduct of your good work. Be weird, be original, and differentiate yourself.



Will at work on another original creation



**Do you know a Singletree resident who expresses themselves artistically?** Painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers... please share your creative side and your craft (or your neighbors') by sending an email to [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com).

Contributed by **Lai White**, Singletree Resident

# From Lai *with love*

## A REMARKABLE JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

In 1954, I was 5 years old when the French were defeated by the Communist Viet Minh forces at Dien Bien Phu. After the French defeat, Vietnam was divided into North Vietnam and South Vietnam. In 1955, after only one year under Communist rule, my parents made the dangerous life-changing decision that we should attempt an escape from Communist North Vietnam to South Vietnam. There were six of us that started out on that perilous journey. During our escape, my 2-week-old baby sister dies in the bitterly cold mountains. My mother and father buried her under a large tree and marked her tiny grave with a small stone. I often think about finding her grave, but know that would be impossible. If alive today, she would be 60 years old.

We were successful in escaping from the North and the five of us settled in Saigon. My mother found work as a janitor in a prestigious private school. My two brothers and I received an excellent education as my mother's job allowed us to attend the school with no tuition costs. My father managed to teach himself English and secured a position as an Administrative Assistant at the American Embassy.

In 1966, I was one of 4,000 Vietnamese students selected to take a series of tests offered by The American Field Service Student Exchange Program. When all the testing was completed, I was one of only four students chosen to attend my senior year of high school in the United States. This fantastic opportunity would be provided at no cost to my family.

I traveled to the United States and settled in with the Russell family in Fort Worth, Texas. During my year at Arlington Heights High School, I toured throughout the United States with the International Student Exchange Group. The high point of this tour was a luncheon at the White House with Lady Bird Johnson. In 1967, I graduated with Honors from Arlington Heights High School and returned to live with my family in Saigon.

Soon after I returned home, in January of 1968, the Viet Cong Tet Offensive left my family homeless. A mortar shell completely destroyed our home and badly burned my brother. We were forced to live in a tent city in the church parking lot. After almost four months, a kind American soldier took all eight of us into his very small house.

In the United States, a Texas Senator and 300 students at Arlington Heights High School produced a talent show "TO LAI WITH LOVE". They raised money to help us and many other families in



Mother and daughter in traditional Vietnamese dress: Lai and Yvonne



Lai with the loves of her life, grandchildren Colin and Julia



Lai takes her passion for golf to Las Vegas



Family Portrait when Lai (on the right) was 14. Says Lai: "Happy childhood memory. Bittersweet. Miss my family."



Photo fun at the ruined Greek great theater on the island of Kusadasi

Viet Nam. This group also arranged for me to return to the Dallas area and attend college – tuition free. I returned to Dallas to attend the University of Dallas. The administration granted me a special permission to live in the Convent with the Nuns. Attending college "non-stop", I graduated with a BA Degree in Economics from the University of Dallas in 1971. In 1973, I received my MBA Degree in International Studies from SMU.

My father passed away in 1974. My baby daughter and I traveled to Vietnam to attend his funeral. The chaos and the danger from the war in my country was ever present. We even had a lot of trouble getting out of the country in order to return to



Lai with her family, Julia, daughter Yvonne, son-in-law Eric, and Colin on Vail Mountain



Lai at Angkor Wat in Cambodia

the United States. In April of 1975, my country fell to the North Vietnamese Army. Fortunately, with only hours to spare before the North Vietnamese reached Saigon, my mother and two younger sisters escaped by helicopter from the American Embassy. My mother had to leave my three brothers behind. My oldest brother, a South Vietnamese Ranger Officer, was captured soon after the fall of Saigon.

I have worked for several large international corporations, but am really an entrepreneur at heart and have helped create several small companies. I have lived in Dallas, Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, Oak Island (North Carolina), Delaware, Maryland and Palm Beach. I have been retired for a decade, traveling the world. Now I am back and living in Singletree; my time is filled with snow skiing, golf, travel, friends and my two grandchildren – Colin (12) and Julia (10).



Lai with her 90-year-old aunt, her mother's youngest sister; her mother would be 105 if she were alive today.

I had not been back to Vietnam since 1993 until recently in February of this year. That was a very emotional trip for me. Coming home after a 50-year absence, I had the opportunity to see the "new" Vietnam and to visit with many of my surviving family members and friends. There was a river of tears.

Looking back on my life, sure, there were some challenges, but I realize I have been blessed with much happiness and much success. I never could have planned this journey. There were many, many people who have not received the grace that God has granted me. I am very, very grateful. There were so many wonderful people that held my hands along the way; for this, I am forever in debt.

## precious pets

Contributed by **Jeanne Harris** and **Iniki**,  
Singletree Resident and Pet

Jeanne Harris riding Iniki at Regional Dressage  
Championships, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO, 2006



# Dances with Hooves

Jeanne Harris riding Iniki at Regional Dressage Championships, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO, 2006

When people watch "Dancing Horses", they don't know the training and work that have gone into enabling the horse and rider to perform. This month's Precious Pet is a dancing horse with years of training under his belt. Iniki makes it look easy. This 16.2 hand chestnut gelding is a powerhouse in the show ring and a puppy dog at home.

Singletree resident Jeanne Harris has been Iniki's partner for 16 years. They have competed successfully at dressage shows up and down the front range of Colorado. (Dressage is an Olympic sport that originated as cavalry training for horse and rider; it tests their precision, partnership, and training). Jeanne bought Iniki when he was a green 8-year-old and worked with coaches to train him to one of the highest levels in dressage, Prix St. George, FEI level (the horse version of FIS).

Iniki is a Trakehner, a German breed that was originally used as Prussian cavalry horses. Iniki was born in Parker, Colorado, the offspring of imported German parents. This breed has been carefully managed for over 300 years to produce only the most capable and kind animals. The Trakehner registry requires that a horse's official name begin with the same first letter as their mother. The little foal that grew up to be Iniki needed an "I" name, so he was named after a hurricane that struck Kauai in 1992, the year he was born. Iniki is Hawaiian for "strong breeze".

Raised on a small farm, he was strongly socialized with humans. As a result, he is very cuddly and would crawl in your lap if he would fit. Iniki is also a very resourceful horse. He's been known to open stall doors to let himself in or out of a barn, turn on his water when he

wants to refresh his bucket with cool water, and jump a four-foot fence to graze on inviting green grass.

Jeanne and Iniki moved to Eagle County four years ago. Since then, he has been in semi-retirement, still working out three days a week with Jeanne. At age 24, he has now taken on the role of schoolmaster. Another Singletree resident, Diane Levin, has a partial lease on Iniki and is learning to ride on him another two days a week. Since Iniki is trained to such a high level, he knows what cues he should be receiving. He won't respond to the rider's request unless asked with the appropriate touch of the leg or shift of the rider's weight. Diane has to ask Iniki for an action with the accurate command or he won't react.



Mr. Personality gets ready to throw his lawn chair

In his off hours, Iniki enjoys rolling in the dirt, playing with other horses, and snacking on carrots, horse cookies, and best of all, Peeps, when in season. He also loves throwing his stall ball, his orange traffic cone, and any lawn chair within reach. Also known as Mr. Personality, he brings humor and entertainment to all who know him!



Do you have a pet and would like to share his/her story? Please email [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) to feature your precious pet in the next available issue! Dogs, cats, horses, fish and any other type of animals are welcome!

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Lai White with Walt Bujaryn, relaxed and happy after an amazing meal



Antipasto Misto



Capre e Pera



Penne Aglio Picante with Shrimp



Costello di Vitello



Tira Misu and Canolli

# Ticino

## A HIDDEN GEM AND FOOD LOVER'S DELIGHT

Oh la la! On a recent October evening, fourteen of us Singletree residents, along with *Inside Singletree* Sponsor, John Martin and his wife, Linda, had the honor and fortune to dine at the cute, warm and friendly Ticino Italian restaurant located in the heart of Avon, deeply hidden inside the Lodge of Avon Center where you can also find China Garden and Bob's Place.

I had never been to Ticino, nor did I (of little night life) even know of its existence. But the discovery of this little jewel has changed my thinking about dining out in Avon. Ticino was a serious treat, and I absolutely will be bringing my family here this March when they come out from Atlanta to ski.

The feast started with three types of appetizers (also known as antipasti): beginning with an **Anti-pasti Misto** – an assortment of Italian munchies – Prosciutto di Parma, sopressata, coppa, felino salami, bresaola, gorgonzola dolce, parmesan, asiago, tomato, cornichon, Kalamata olive, pearl-onion and fig. Steven May commented that the presentation of figs, salty meats and red tomatoes on an exquisite serving platter lent grace and color to the table.

The second antipasti was **Pane al Aglio**, a wonderful cheese bread served with a delicious marinara sauce; I liked this one and fellow diner Valerie Harris also gave it high marks. Additionally, the appetizer course included a selection of pizzas: the classic tomato and fresh basil, **Margherita**, as well as the **Carne**, deliciously topped with just the right amount of pepperoni, prosciutto de Parma and Italian sausage, and **Fungi**, a favorite for many featuring mozzarella, balsamic marinated Portobello, button mushrooms and a drizzle of truffle oil. The thin and airy crust on all three

### restaurant review

Contributed by **Lai White**, Singletree Resident  
Photography by **Olga Barron Photography Inc.**



received rave reviews, with the Fungi receiving a resounding “absolutely amazing” endorsement.

Then came the salads: a traditional and delicious **Caesare**, with the just the right flavor on the dressing, the **Mista** (mixed greens, artichoke, caper berry, candied walnut, fresh mozzarella, grape tomato and balsamic vinaigrette), and **Capre e Pera** (mixed greens, dried cranberry, spiced pecan, fresh pear, goat cheese and pear vinaigrette). All three were excellent. The candied walnut and the mozzarella ball in the Mista made the dish and was the favorite of the group. The salads alone for dinner would leave me happy and content, but as with any good Italian restaurant ... there was more.

The pasta arrived next and they did not disappoint. Ticino brought back memories of my six weeks in Italy some time ago when I was able to sample a variety of exquisite pasta virtually every night. I confess that I love pasta and will never tire of it, but then I love all Italian food. Four pasta dishes were served: **Aglio Picante** with shrimp on penne pasta, **Creamy Pesto** atop linguine served with Italian sausage, **La Rosa** and chicken over fettuccine and spaghetti tossed in Ticino's highly flavorful and popular **Bolognese** sauce. Jennie Longville compared them favorably with what she had personally encountered in her Italian travels. My favorite was Aglio Picante – spicy but oh so good (I love everything spicy being Vietnamese).

The Italian eating experience must be enjoyed with time and patience because traditionally meals will include antipasti (appetizer), salad, pasta, and a main course, each of which merits attention and serious discourse. I

can understand why Italian people sometimes take two to three hours for lunch. Add a little red wine into the feast and you have the elements of an incredibly healthy lifestyle, one that I suspect keeps Italians so beautiful.

And then the entrees were served: **Pollo Cacciatore** (slow cooked chicken legs and thighs in a mushroom, pearl onion, with a white wine sauce), **Costelette de Vitello** (slow braised veal short ribs in a white wine, citrus glaze with creamy polenta and sautéed veggies) and **Salmon ai Ferri** (grilled salmon filet with lemon pesto butter). Nancy Berg was overwhelmed and swore she would order the Costelette every day; Chuck Power favored the salmon not only for the delicate flavor but the important place it needs to be given in our diets. Walt Bujaryn liked the whole table, especially the tasty and succulent Pollo Cacciatore. The meal finished out with a very nice tiramisu, a fitting finale to a wonderful feast.

...

Owner Charles Frey and Chef Abel Moran went out of their way to treat us with all of the best their beloved restaurant has to offer. In the end, we were all satiated, happy and above all, impressed with Ticino.

There are many reasons to love Italy but its food is simply a gift to this world. Noel Harris agreed that Ticino is a hidden gem in Avon, one with excellent food and hospitality that richly deserves to be discovered by locals and visitors alike.

You can find more about Ticino, including their menu, at [ticinorestaurantavon.com](http://ticinorestaurantavon.com); or give them a call at 970-748-6792.

*Il cibo era delizioso, Il servizio era eccezionale e la societa era perfetto. Addio per ora, torneremo ancora e ancora. Grazie Charles per la vostra ospitalita e ottimo cibo.*

**DISCLAIMER:** The business reviewed in this section provided products and/or services free of charge in exchange for this review.



The Ticino team: Bernardo, Charles, and Oana, with John Martin (left) and Walter Carey (right)



Owner Charles serves the final course



Walter Carey serves Connie Powers a taste of Antipasti Misto



Jennie and Steven May enjoying an evening of Italian fare

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## athlete spotlight

Contributed by Allie and Greg Decent, Singletree Residents

# Changing Pace as life's trails merge:

## one man's reflections on finding balance as a father and an athlete

You just know who he is: the thin blonde man running all over Eagle County. Greg Decent is a marathon runner who lives in Singletree with his wife Allie and their 2-year-old daughter, Willow. He has been training and running in marathons for the last 15 years, with six Boston Marathons under his belt. His most recent accomplishment was winning his age group for the 2016 La Sportiva Trail Running Series with Vail Recreation District. But as he says, "You all already know the details, let's focus on the change that parenthood brings to my running."

Accolades aside, Greg finds that the new focus of his life is maintaining balance between the demanding hours of training and family. "You don't realize how much parenting will impact your training schedule," says Greg. "Gone are the days of waiting for the perfect temperature or weather to go for that long run." He used to spend his weekends thinking, eating, and preparing for his long runs (some up to two and a half hours long), with little mental or physical energy left for anything else. He laughs as he thinks back to those days when life was so simple.

Greg grew up in upstate New York as the only family member who skied the little local hill, known as "Dry Hill." It's still in operation, with a massive 300 vertical feet or skiable terrain. "It's a little different out here," quips Greg. He first moved to Colorado to attend Colorado Mountain College in Leadville in 1998. He worked part-time for Golden Peak Ski School in Vail during those winters, but just like it happened for most of us, it was the summers that made him fall in love with our state. "I was bored one day and was tired of hiking 14'ers, so I put on some old sneakers and decided to try my first trail run and almost collapsed due



Greg Decent at 2016 La Sportiva Trail Running Series with VRD

to the thin air." He had never been a runner, per se, rather a team sport athlete. "I did the usual sports as a kid, like soccer and tee-ball. But going away to college made teams sports difficult to continue, so I found trail running as an alternative. Plus, the views were nice."

Greg quickly fell in love with the challenge of building endurance. "Endurance training was a new concept to me," says Greg, "and I just couldn't get enough. I wanted to get to the peak of a mountain in half the time I could hike it. I wanted to run effort-

lessly through pine forests and crest mountains as the sun rose."

The rest, they say, is history. Totally enamored with pushing his body to its limits, Greg became an endurance runner. But trail wasn't his goal in those early years. "I realized that road running was a more predictable way to measure my progress. For instance, I knew that I could do seven-minute miles for eight miles on a road, but on the trails some miles would be six-minute miles and some would be 12-minute miles, which drove me crazy." He stuck to



Father - daughter time for Greg and Willow



Greg, Allie and Willow Decent on Vail Mountain

road running and decided to build up towards running the New York Marathon in 2003. He ran a 3:34 marathon, with each mile progressively longer and more tortuous. "My training schedule at that point was just a mess; I didn't know what I was doing, I was only running 50 miles a week, and my only goal was to finish the marathon." Greg says he doesn't remember much of that first marathon, but he knew that he wanted to do more. "My first marathon destroyed me, and I just couldn't get enough. I had to try again," recalls Greg.

As the years progressed and his training schedule lengthened and strengthened with the help of local coaches and famous athletes in their own right, Ellen Miller and Rob Parrish, Greg's marathon times decreased to where he considered qualifying for the coveted Boston Marathon. "Reaching that goal was the pinnacle for an amateur athlete," says Greg, "and I didn't want to just reach the qualification time -- I wanted to smash it." His first Boston Marathon in 2009 was a 3:09, and he re-qualified for the marathon by less than a minute. Greg re-qualified for and ran the Boston Marathon every year between 2009 and 2013. Yes, he was there for the bombing of 2013, and he will never forget it. "It was my best marathon time. I called my wife Allie to celebrate my time of 2:49 and we were so excited. Then disaster struck." Greg had friends running that year as well, but luckily they all escaped harm. "It was just ridiculous. I had remarked to Allie the night before running that a marathon was the most peaceful gathering of that many people in one place for one sporting cause across any city, and how amazing that fact was."

Determined to return for the triumphant 2014 Boston Marathon, Greg trained his hardest that winter. Simultaneously, Allie was training for the birth of their daughter, Willow. "I didn't think that Allie's pregnancy would affect my training schedule because there was no baby in the picture. She wasn't born until August of that year, and the Boston Marathon is always in April. But I guess my time reflected that my heart just wasn't in it anymore." His marathon time was just under three hours, which was disappointing for Greg after all those hours of dedication. In each of the 18 marathons he'd run in between 2003- 2013 Greg had only gotten faster. "It was the first time I realized that maybe running and training was taking too much out of me," recalled Greg, "I had no energy or time to spend with my wife before Willow was born, and it wasn't worth the sacrifice."

Finding a balance was difficult at first. "Running had consumed me, completely and totally," says Greg. "I

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think that having Willow in my life made me realize that there's more to it than training schedules and diet regimens." Between the demands of work, family, and free time, Greg learned that in order to be good at everything he had to quit being great at one thing. "Pushing a baby in a stroller while trying to maintain that six-minute mile pace for five miles is much harder than running a marathon," says Greg. "I wanted to run with her without giving up my training schedule, two birds with one stone and such. But it wasn't quality time with her. Suddenly I had a new challenge: accepting my life as a family man who wants my daughter to love the sport as much as I do. It was ridiculous to think I could train at the same level with my infant daughter in tow. She would grow to hate running."

Greg reevaluated his love of the sport, and it's made all the difference in his happiness. "I still get to run five-to-six days a week, but now if I miss a day or

two because it's snowing and Willow wants to build a snowman, or we have really fun weekend plans, I don't feel angry about missing a training day. **I just roll with it, knowing that I'll run tomorrow,**" says Greg. "Spending quality time with Willow and Allie fills my soul in a way that running never can. My life finally feels complete."

Not that changing his training has been detrimental. Though Greg knows that he doesn't have time to dedicate to serious marathon training, he still takes on smaller challenges that allow him to set goals and set aside time for family. "I wanted to run the La Sportiva Trail Series, and I wanted to win my age group. The series is very challenging, but the distances are manageable with just a light training schedule. Plus, it helps that I live in Singletree only 1/16 of a mile from the entrance to the Singletree-Avon connector and that awesome trail system here." He is really grateful for the trail system, and it provides

a convenient, varied, and interesting training area. Even his daughter has started using the trails because she "wants to run like Daddy." "It's pretty cute," says Greg, "I knew that I was doing this balance right when Willow started asking to put on her running shoes to trail run with me."

Feel free to give Greg a friendly wave when you see him training this winter!



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home of the month  
Contributed by Alida Zwaan, Singletree Resident



# 423 June Creek



## Mark and Rebecca Lando's Fabulous Retreat

Mark and Rebecca Lando are from Pittsburg, PA. They have been married for 21 years, and between the two of them, have four boys, Jason, Brad, Andrew and Alex. Mark always wanted to move to Colorado, and fell in love with the Vail Valley after first visiting in 1978. He met his wife Rebecca in 1993, and in 1995 they got married (both second marriages). After their first visit to the Valley together, Rebecca also decided she loved the area and wanted to spend more time here. However, existing jobs – Rebecca as a real estate, banking and finance attorney and Mark as the founder of two international franchise companies -- didn't allow for them to become full-time residents.

Since relocating was simply not an option, they decided to do the next best thing... In 2002, they purchased a second home in Singletree with the hope of eventually retiring here as full-time residents. Mark and Rebecca's first home in Singletree was a small townhome only about 1000 yards from the house they have now at 423 June Creek.

They adored Singletree, and after seeing how much all their children and friends also loved visiting them in Colorado (who wouldn't?!), they decided it was time to move to a larger residence where their guests could spread out and be more comfortable when vacationing with them.

While taking a walk around the neighborhood one afternoon, they came across an open house sign and walked in. They instantly fell in love, and by the weeks' end, they put in an offer for their current home. It was perfect for them. Among the many different features of the home they adored, high on their list of favorites was the fact that this home had not one, but two master suites.

After purchasing the house, they got to work updating, remodeling, painting, and decorating so they and their guests could enjoy the house even more. They have had many wonderful vacations with family and friends and could not imagine their lives without such a fabulous retreat.

 **Would you like to have your home featured in an upcoming issue or would you like to nominate a neighbor's home?** Please send an email to [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) and let me know about it!

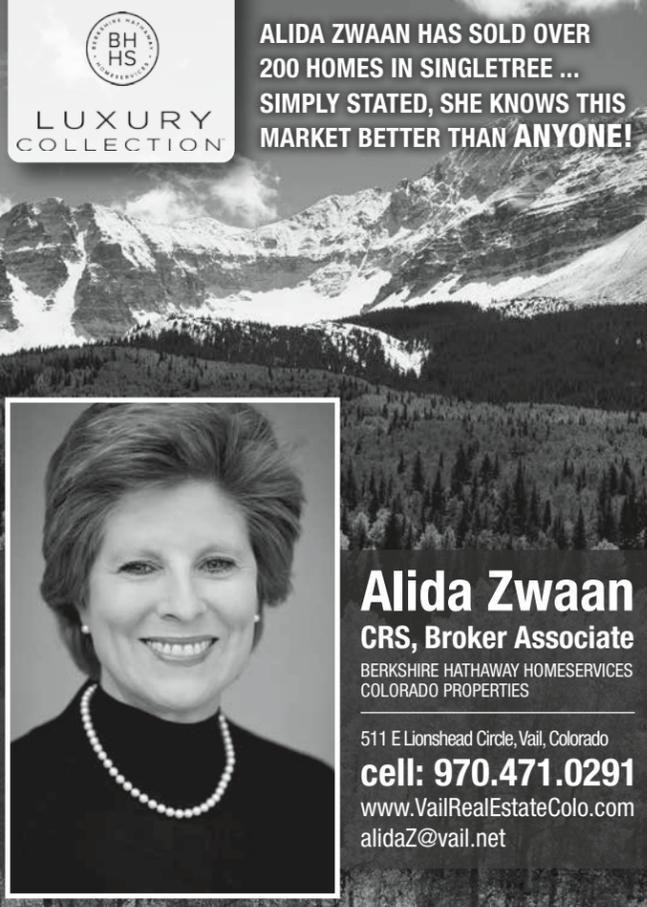


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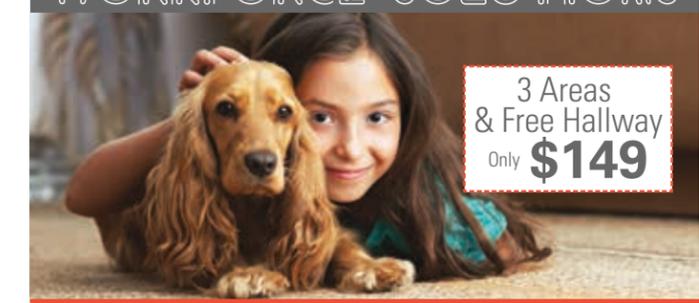
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who's making  
a difference

Contributed by **Kat Haber**, Singletree Resident

# KAT HABER

## IDEATOR AND FOUNDER OF TEDxVail



She was 2 when she woke her mom and dad from bed with this plea, "Moke! Moke!" They jumped up, grabbed her and her 1-year-old baby brother, fled down the smoke-filled, blackened stairs. The year was 1960. The historic Lake Geneva Hotel was a total loss to an electrical fire. The only thing she clearly remembers to this day about that: the acrid smell of smoke. She did not realize until her mid-30s the massive financial pressure that one event put on her family growing up.

The serial social entrepreneur, Kat Haber, would come to be involved in business since she was 12 starting and managing her parent's small businesses and ultimately floating guests over Boulder open spaces in her own champagne hot air balloon flight service called Air Castles in the '80s. She brought that balloon to her wedding to Steve Haber, Founder and CEO of Bolle America, at Arrowhead Country Club in 1989. Throughout the '90s she and Steve made Vail their main focus for community contribution: he served on the Vail Valley Foundation Board and she on the Vail Alpine Garden Foundation, creating the film "Vail Valley of Flowers."

She wore a red dress to the interview with five generals for the nomination, which came in a letter from then Congressman and later Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin. Pioneer, rule-Xpander, idea-generator, and community-connector, female empowerer, then Kathy Sharkus, from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, bussed to Colorado to be one of the first female cadets at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1977. She looked up at the sun-setting sky with flaming purples and oranges and knew some part of this beauty would be in her future forever. Still, she skis daily when she's in Vail, making the back bowls her happy place. A former freestyle skier, she was up for the one female spot on the 1988 Calgary Olympics Aerialist Freestyle Ski Team, where her teammate won the gold.

The Habers love their neighborhood in Singletree. When they first moved to Haber House at 31 Appaloosa, March '89, no houses were built below and only green and open space surrounded them and indeed there was only a single tree, with restrictions on planting more. Homestead was a gorgeous meadow on the other side of I-70. Her

garden in Singletree won the first Vail Valley Garden best residential garden. "It was my baby for years before my baby was born." she often says.

In conjunction with the Ford Golf Tournaments and World Forum, they hosted global change makers in the 90's, giving her a unique insight into how the world was being woven by the connected, the powerful, the compassionate. In the 2000s, she homeschooled their son, McKenzy. He who won a Jefferson Award at 14 for organizing TEDxHomer: SustainUS in Alaska. He delivered a keynote for WILD Foundation at the 9th World



Kat Haber with enthusiastic TEDxVail attendees



Kat Haber and TEDxVail Nabeel Meghji, TEDxVail Tech Guru give the 2015 event a thumbs up

Wilderness Congress, which set the foundation for Coalition WILD. Happily, Steve's daughter, Anneliese, and grandsons Will and Jay live in Eagle.

In 2014, she walked across the country in the Great March for Climate Action. The eight-month journey from LA to DC deepened her listening with those who did not yet understand the climate disruption already happening in Alaska: millions of acres of spruce bark beetle kill, glaciers receding, ocean acidification, native villages eroding into the Arctic Ocean, forest fires ... She fervently serves on the Board of WILD Foundation, advocating for global wilderness.

Kat curates ideas from and for Vail Valley that link thinkers and doers to Technology, Entertainment, Design innovations with more than 100 TEDxVail Talks. 70,000 TEDx Talks

globally have one billion views. TED now boasts TED Fellows, a million dollar TED Prize, TED Translators, TED Global Conferences, TEDx Organizers, TED Books, and TED Institute. Kat, an early adopter for TEDx in 2009 in Homer, Alaska, having one of the first licenses, is respected as an elder now in the global community of thousands of TEDx Organizers. During the TEDSummit in Banff in June, she was mentioned several times on stage at the TEDx Organizers Global Forum.

In 2017, her volunteer team at TEDx-Vail will organize four Xperiences for our community including: TEDx-Vail: <R>Evolution on January 6 and TEDxVailYouth on April 19. Kat looks forward to seeing you at future TEDx-Vail events and wishes you "Happy ideating!"



Kathy Sharkus at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1977



Are you passionate about a cause or purpose? Do you know someone in your community who is deeply involved in a particular organization? Please email [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) to recognize the people who are making a difference.

# Real Estate UPDATE

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## RECENT SINGLETREE SOLDS

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date	Selling \$/sq.ft.	Beds	Baths	sq.ft.	Furnished	DOM
401 Winslow Rd (SF)	\$2,495,000	\$2,400,000	8/22/16	\$380.95	6	7 (4 1 2)	6300	No	66
1160 Winslow Rd (SF)	\$1,550,000	\$1,445,000	9/8/16	\$329.23	4	5 (4 0 1)	4389	No	214
*1121 Singletree Rd (SF)	\$1,545,000	\$1,400,000	9/1/16	\$333.33	5	5 (4 0 1)	4200	No	469
47 Howard Dr (SF)	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	9/12/16	\$378.33	3	3 (0 3 0)	3304	No	33
160 Charolais Cir (DU)	\$1,095,000	\$1,050,000	8/18/16	\$296.69	4	5 (4 0 1)	3539	No	18
120 Charolais Cir #S 1/2 (DU)	\$749,000	\$749,000	8/18/16	\$285.55	3	4 (3 0 1)	2623	No	2

\* Listings Sold by Happy Power



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