

INSIDE *Singletree*

DECEMBER 2019

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE

The KISKER FAMILY



Photography by
Olga Barron Photography Inc.

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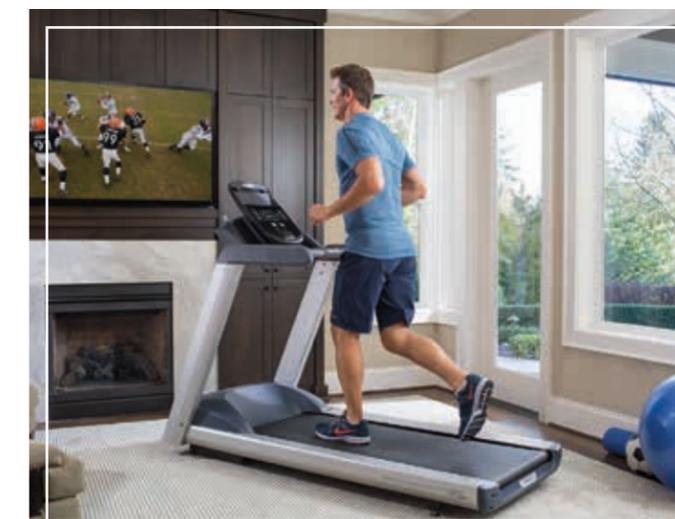
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publisher's note

HELLO

Singletree residents!

Season's Greetings! The holidays are here and I hope you are able to take a moment to reflect on the wonder this time of year brings as you celebrate with family and friends.

This holiday season, there is much to share in our community. Meet the Kiskers: Craig, Jessica, Cole, Jenna, and Addison! With a history dating back to a chance meeting at "The Club," the Kiskers are "here to stay" in Singletree.

We are very fortunate to have many talented artists in our community to showcase this month. Lisa Siegert-Free fulfills her passion for playing the French horn with the Alpine Brass Group at Christmas and throughout the year, while Jami Rahn is inspired by the scenery out her front window and across the valley throughout the seasons as she captures the colors and moods in her abstract art.

Charlie Meynier steps out of his comfort zone to dance in the 2019 Star Dancing Gala to benefit YouthPower365 and

Raymond Blesz, a seasoned and highly-awarded photographer is recognized as Juror's Choice for his image, "Working Hard to Bring You the Best."

What in the world is the Kungleden? Find out as John and Diane Milligan share their spontaneous adventure to the Arctic Circle. Lai White shares the tale of rescuing her love, a Maine Coon cat named Leo (fka Lilac) following the Harvey Flood in Texas and Kade and Kash Young round out the family of brothers in Kids' Corner. All this and more in this issue of *INSIDE Singletree!*

Wishing you and your loved ones peace, love, and joy this holiday season and in the coming New Year!



Holly Proctor
Area Director
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holly.proctor@n2pub.com

you are invited

Singletree Community Holiday Party For All

Sunday, December 8, 2019
Singletree Community Center
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season with Santa and Ralph, the World's Tallest Elf! Join a sing-a-long featuring holiday classics and decorate the Community Center tree with ornaments you and your family craft at Santa's Workshop.

While the kids are talking to Santa about their wish list, enjoy the opportunity to share a bit of holiday cheer with your friends and neighbors.

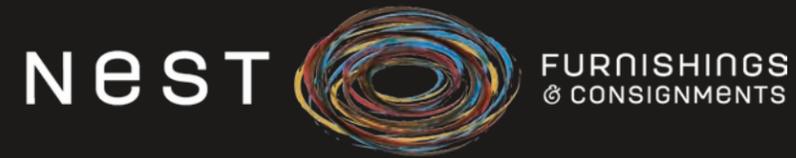
All ages are welcome to take part in our Singletree Holiday Celebration! Light appetizers and beverages will be served. Hosted by *INSIDE Singletree* and the Singletree Property Owners' Association.

RSVP by Thursday, December 5, to **insidesingltreersvp@gmail.com** or **manager@singletreecommunity.com**.



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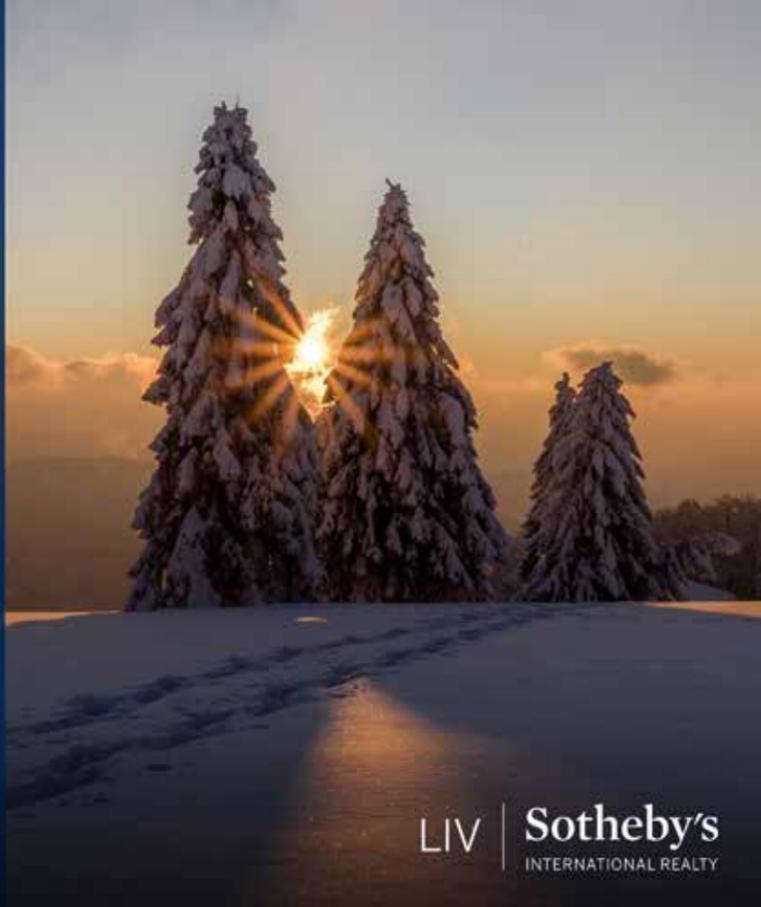
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happenings, please email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to contribute to an upcoming issue of the magazine.

Don't forget to like and follow both our **INSIDE Singletree** Facebook and Instagram pages! Tag @insidesingletree to be featured on our page!

Stay connected! You're invited to become a member of Inside Singletree Community, our **private** Facebook group! This group is exclusively for Singletree residents and our business partners. Feel free to use this as an online resident resource to post questions, seek referrals and recommendations, announce events, provide updates, and build a connection with your neighbors.

Your neighborhood publication is not possible without your active and enthusiastic participation – we welcome and appreciate your involvement in **INSIDE Singletree!** To feature your family, kids, pets, athletic endeavors, volunteer activities, travel adventures or social



Olga Barron
Photographer



Debbie Robbins
Content Advisor



Belle Ebner
Resident Writer



Craig and Jessica Kisker
Meet Your Neighbors



Jami Nix Rahn
Artful Living



Jarrett Osborn
Sponsor Spotlight



Charlie Meynier
Singletree Stars



Raymond Bleez
Celebrating the Arts



Kash Young
Kids Corner



Kade Young
Kids' Corner



Lisa Siegert-Free
Musical Notes



Lorry Prentiss
Home of the Month



John and Diane Milligan
Travel Tales



Lai and Leo White
Precious Pets



James Knez
Singletree Trails

meet your neighbors



Photography by Olga Barron Photography Inc.



Craig, Jessica, Cole, Jenna and Addison

KISKERS



We are the Kiskers - Craig, Jessica, Cole, Jenna, and Addison!

Craig came to Vail in 1992. He grew up in Culver City, CA, and he owns his own business, Wilder Builders LLC. Jessica came out from Concord, MA, 22 years ago for one season and never left. She works in the winter for Vail Resorts as a ski school manager/supervisor.

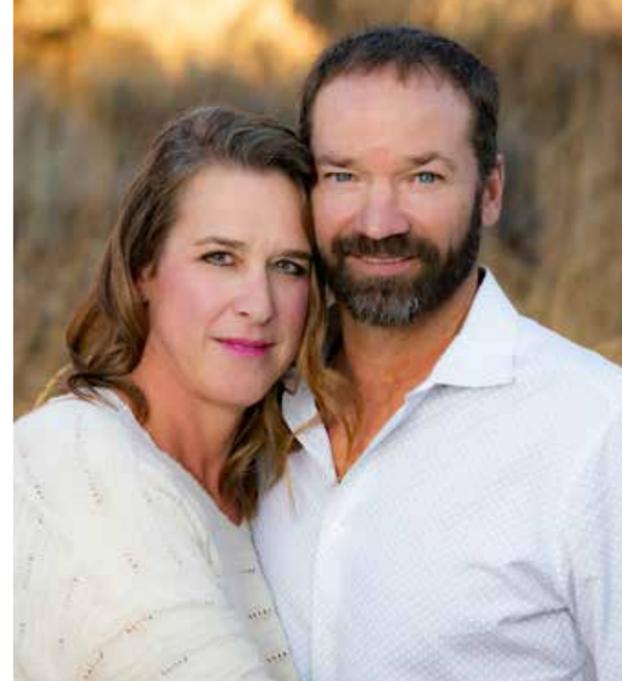
Craig met Jessica at the basement bar known as "The Club" and the rest is history! They married on top of Vail Mountain 16 years ago on September 14, 2003. It was a gorgeous, sunny afternoon. Cole is 15 and attends Battle Mountain High School as a freshman. Jenna is 12 and attends Berry Creek Middle School as a seventh-grader and Addie is in fifth at

Edwards Elementary School. Our family has a dog named Coda, a cat named Maddie and a guinea pig whose name changes depending on our moods.

About nine years ago, I got my parents to move from Massachusetts to Eby Creek. With my brother, his wife, and their son, Nathan, now living in Eagle Ranch, too, we are not going anywhere. The valley is stuck with us! We have met some really great neighbors over the years, which makes living in Singletree especially special!

...





The kids all participate in different activities throughout the valley. The girls both dance with Vail Valley Academy of Dance and Addie is also quite the gymnast at Mountain Recreation. Jenna is working towards her black belt in taekwondo and Cole loves to ski. He will be on the race team this winter. At work, Craig does mostly remodels but he can build almost anything! He has been extremely busy lately working in Beaver Creek and Arrowhead.

We are all skiers and Craig also has a timber sled, which is basically a dirt bike with a snowmobile track on it. We love traveling and camping. One might see the RV in our driveway from time to time over the warmer months. Craig is an avid dirt bike rider and has purchased a dirt bike for each of the children. However, Cole and Craig are the ones who usually hit the track.

We love living here and can't think of anywhere else we'd want to hang our hats! We are blessed to live in such a diverse area with so much to do at all times of the year!

Get to know your neighbors by featuring your family in the next available issue! Email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to share your family story with your community.



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Real Estate

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UC	448 Charolais Circle	Single Family	\$949,000	--	\$366	--	3	3 (3 0 0)	2,595	Unfurnished	--
UC	45 Rawhide Road	Single Family	\$1,185,000	--	\$420	--	4	4 (3 0 1)	2,821	Unfurnished	--
UC	10 Saddle Drive	Single Family	\$1,895,000	--	\$473	--	4	4 (3 0 1)	4,006	Partial	--
Sold	190 Foal Circle	Single Family	\$1,298,000	\$1,125,000	\$414	\$358	4	4 (2 1 1)	3,139	Unfurnished	9/27/2019
Sold	190 Mesquite Drive	Single Family	\$2,150,000	\$2,050,000	\$461	\$439	5	6 (4 1 1)	4,668	Partial	9/25/2019

Thinking about selling your home in 2020?

Get ahead of the curve and call me to discuss the 2019 market and what may be ahead for next year.

*Data 9.16.19 - 10.14.19

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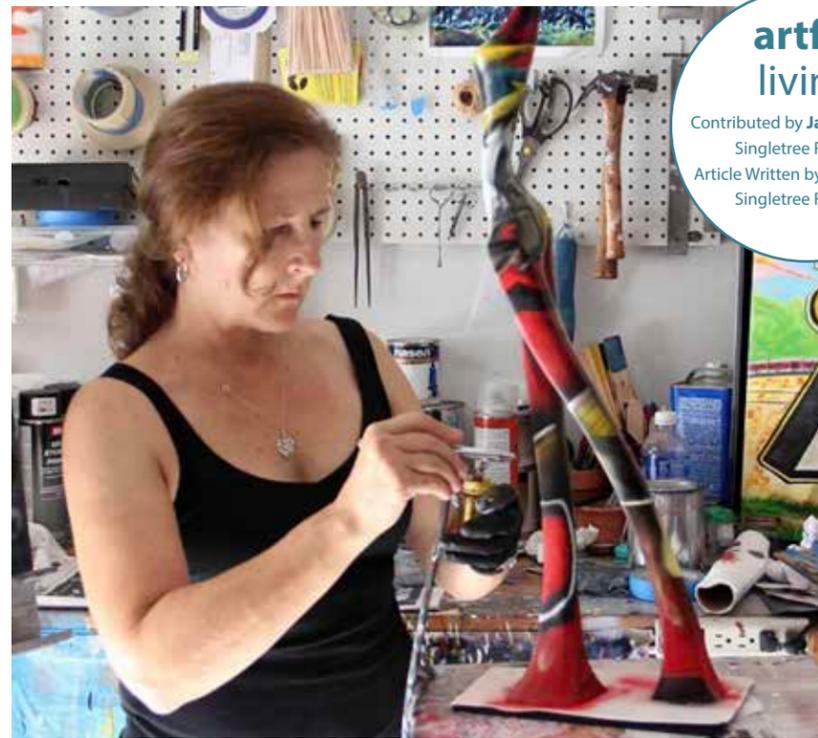
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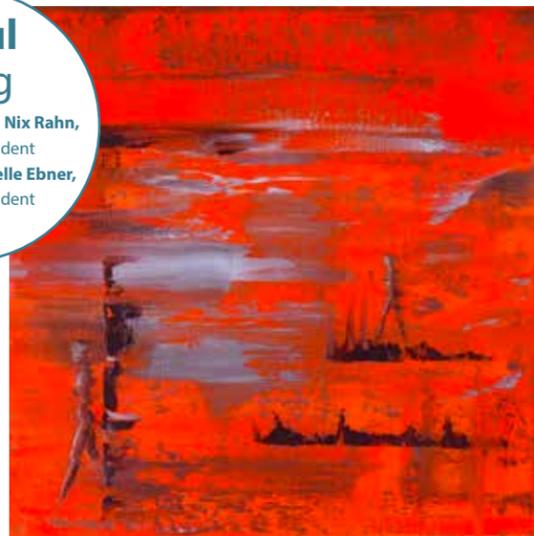
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Jami at work

artful living

Contributed by **Jami Nix Rahn**,
Singletree Resident
Article Written by **Belle Ebner**,
Singletree Resident



Abstract 1 2019, 16"x16" oil and alkyd resin on canvas



Jami demonstrates her technique with oil and alkyd resin on canvas



Abstract 24 2019, 40"x 36" oil and alkyd resin on canvas

Jami Nix Rahn: THE VAGABOND ARTIST

Jami Nix Rahn was the epitome of a '70s brat, thriving in a nomadic and creatively accelerated environment. She was always on the move, a vagabond with no settled home. Growing up, her father was a jet pilot in Vietnam and moved the family from airbase to airbase throughout his career. This ambulant lifestyle became the source of her ingenuity, supplying her with ever-changing surroundings, people, and cultures.

By wandering around the world, she never became stuck in a rut. There was a creative inspiration in every pocket of the world, and her curiosity grew ever still. Jami's practice includes sculpture, painting, and mixed media that seek to satisfy this inextinguishable passion for art, drawing together her proclivity of human nature and the environment into one.

Jami majored in graphic design at the University of Northern Florida while also engaging in painting classes. Afterward, she went to visit her parents in Portugal and began to work with marble and bronze for the first time. She was exposed to master artisans in the countryside of Portugal, prospering in such a unique and creatively affluent environment.

Jami moved to Portugal directly after the country's Carnation Revolution, famously known for toppling an authoritarian government and ending fascism in Portugal. This political unrest also brought on an era of entrepreneurial creativity and a welcoming community of artists and intellectuals. Jami set up her studio in Monte Estoril, where she concentrated on making art – it was there that she also met her husband, Thomas.

After marrying, the couple moved to the nearby mountain town of Sintra, where she set up her studio in the eclectic Casa do Cipreste built by renowned Portuguese architect Raoul Lino. The couple later moved to Geneva, Switzerland, São Paulo, Brazil, and then back to the U.S. Jami stumbled upon divergent thinking and inspiration in every place she traveled.

While in Amsterdam, Jami observed that the history and genre paintings of the old masters captured the attention of the viewer for long periods. In contrast, modern and contemporary works of art were not able to hold the viewers' gaze for more than a few minutes. In New York, Jami was engrossed by the modern art to which she was exposed – she studied painting at the Arts Students League and the National Academy. In Florida, the street art and graffiti walls of Wynwood caught her attention. She began a series of Urban-Suburban paintings drawing from the history and genre paintings of the old

masters fused with contemporary Miami grit.

In Jami's Photo-Real Painting series, she blurred the line between photography and painting by actually inserting a small photograph into the picture, which gives the art an astonishingly life-like feel. The places she had been, the faces she had seen, the masters of art with whom she had studied, together sculpted her approach to creation.

Over the course of her travels, Jami loosened her approach to art, becoming open to each



Walking Woman 1976 Bronze



Sunset Singletree 2017, 46"x42" oil and alkyd resin on canvas



Sofa Wynwood, Miami, 2014, 48"x60" oil and alkyd resin on canvas

distinct technique and style, showing this through her wide range of works. She works on a body of work "through discovery to mastery and when boredom sets in, [she] moves on."

She is deeply inspired by the Colorado landscape and is lucky to overlook the Sawatch Range from her balcony window. Living in Singletree, Jami has been inspired to create more abstract paintings. She seeks to capture the "ephemeral sensation" of light and form through the spectacular colors molded in the sunsets, clouds, and wind just outside of her window.

Her sculptures have usually relied on abstract principles, whereas her painting has relied on a more realistic feel. She has previously been inspired by the styles of the old masters of portrait and history painting, which demands technical skill and strict observations of reality. Jami has found a particular difficulty in the creation of abstract pieces that differ from the technical struggles of realism. The brain is wired to discern patterns to formulate opinions in order to learn. Abstraction pushes the mind to think further. She is seeking to deliver a "delay in cognizance" as the viewer dissects the painting, struggling to make sense on another level that is unique to each person.

Jami's art has been exhibited on an international scale and has been showcased in public and private collections worldwide. She is the recipient of the David and Alfred Meyerson Achievement Award in Fine Art 2006, as well as the Arts and Letters Scholarship from Florida Atlantic University. Jami currently works from studios in the high Rocky Mountains of Singletree as well as at the edge of the Everglades in Weston, FL. She donates her time serving as President of the Arts Council of Greater Weston.

Please visit www.jaminix.com to see Jami's work and be sure to follow her on Instagram @jaminixrahn.



Do you love to express your creativity in the visual arts? Email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to share your talent with your neighbors!

My Closet is Your Closet!



Stacy Knox, Joanie Schoening and Jan John enjoy socializing

The Ladies of Singletree welcomed October and the change of season with a Clothing Swap at the home of Dana Walker. Socializing and shopping made for a fun afternoon with many taking home great new additions to their wardrobes. Many thanks to Dana for organizing and hosting!



Hostess Dana Walker (right) with Singletree shoppers Emily Thompson and Sarah Siegel



Elizabeth Dekanich and Dana Addis check out the closets!

Message from Leslie "Wishing you the **HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS!**"



It's been a wonderful year, thanks to you my dear clients and friends. Be sure to take time out to relax and enjoy the beauty that this special season has to offer.

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Owner Jarrett Osborn recommends a selection of his favorite bourbons

About 2 years ago, Riverwalk Wine & Spirits expanded for the first time since its founding in 1996. Just before Christmas 2017, the brand new eight-door Craft Beer Cooler was full and humming, as Riverwalk Wine & Spirits opened into the old Olde Forge Pizza/French Press space, nearly doubling the size of the store. Yes, the shiny cooler is the focus, allowing Beer Manager Sean Elverum to go crazy with new beers. The rotating stock of seasonal and allocated beers (it has come to that: some beers are now allocated!) means the over 100 members of the Friday Hops Club can get a different beer every visit. Of course, the staples remain, from the high-end Dogfish Head 90 Minute IPA to the ice-cold, Champagne of Beers (it says this on the label, so it must be true), Miller High Life.

With the extra space, Jarrett and his team moved some shelves and shifted some products to expand almost every section of the store. Liquor Manager Jason Cohen took advantage of this to dedicate a whole shelf to bourbon and American whiskey. Usually, at least 1 of the 145-plus selections are Single Barrels that Jason, Jarrett, and the rest of the staff chose themselves. The distillery bottles these specifically for the store, even sending the barrel itself!

Currently, the 1792 Single Barrel Bourbon is available, but that barrel is not done yet. Riverwalk recently gave their last Single Barrel, from Buffalo Trace Distillery, to Bonfire Brewery down in Eagle, who promptly placed their Belgian Quadrupel in it for aging. This eagerly anticipated beer will be bottled soon and available exclusively at Riverwalk Wine & Spirits.

Wine Manager Patrick Linn had the toughest task: which wine category to expand? The answer: all of them! In particular, Patrick capitalized on the magnificent 2015 and 2016 vintages in the Rhone region, more than doubling the selection of Cotes du Rhones, Gigondas, Vacqueyras, and Chateauneuf-du-Papes. "The 2015s are to drink now, or in the near future," says Patrick. "The 2016s, especially the Chateauneufs, are a more classical style. Put those in your cellar."



The Riverwalk Wine & Spirits Team (L to R): Patrick Linn, Sean Elverum, and Jason Cohen

Barbarescos and Super Tuscans also saw a big bump in space with, of course, California Chardonnays, Pinot Noirs, and Cabernets getting a boost. And for those really special occasions, the high-end wine cabinet was moved to the back of the store, to make room for a second high-end wine cabinet, more than doubling the \$100-plus wines available.

With some of the new space, Riverwalk Wine & Spirits installed three more stand-alone coolers dedicated to wine. Patrick added many more international selections, with a focus on white wines off the beaten path. Riverwalk now keeps at least six dry rosé wines in the cooler all year long, with one or two of those spots rotating, so you can always try something new.

The largest edition to Riverwalk Wine & Spirits this past year was neither to the staff nor to the shelves. It was to the garage, in the form of a copper-colored 1972 Jeep Commando – the new delivery vehicle! You may see Jenny, named by a truck driver in Denver as she gassed up for the first time after purchase, around Singletree and Riverwalk this winter.

We are open every day of the year, except Christmas Day, so stop by to see the Riverwalk Wine & Spirits team for all your wine, beer, and liquor needs.



Keep your eye out for Jenny around Singletree and Riverwalk!

singletree stars

Contributed by **Charlie Meynier**,
Singletree Resident

Charlie Meynier Takes The Stage

*For A Good Cause,
Great People,
And A Gratifying
Experience*



The Star Dancing Gala is a community-wide event, drawing over 700 attendees each year, benefiting the Vail Valley Foundation's education nonprofit, YouthPower365. The annual fundraiser, now headed into its 12th year, features a five-star dinner, live auction and an evening of popular entertainment provided by local celebrities partnered with professional dancers, all focused on the same goal of raising funds to support every child, every day in our community.

Here, Charlie Meynier shares with us what participating in the 2019 Star Dancing Gala meant to him.

What inspired you to dance in the Star Dancing Gala? To begin, it had to be a **big** inspiration because it was **way** out of my comfort zone. At every level in every way. But it was probably a couple of things. First, I thought it was an honor that some-

one even thought about me. I have been to a few of those events and I had always thought that they usually gather people who have been here a long time and have made a big impact in the community. I was really awestruck that they would even think about me on that level.

Second, when I watched the video about the kids involved in YouthPower365, I just thought that what the organization is doing is an amazing thing for the community and for these kids. A lot of them don't have the resources, the parents are working really hard and YouthPower365 is providing different types of schooling, extracurricular activities, learning events and inspiration for a lot of these kids who ordinarily wouldn't receive that. There are so many people in the community who dedicate their time and resources to this program for these kids – I just thought to be part of it in some way would really be an honor, too. That was probably the biggest thing.

And then there's the piece that you hear in life that you should do something that kind of frightens you sometimes, and that definitely did because it's not my thing. Those are probably the big three factors

that inspired me to do it: the organization in its own right is amazing, the honor of being thought about and the opportunity to contribute and then, doing something that was outside my normal boundaries.

What stands out as one of the highlights of the experience for you? One of the best parts was meeting the dancers and the people participating in the event. It was just such a neat group of people. You are all coming together for this common goal, and it's a great common goal to help these kids. But you are also coming together and doing something that is not terribly comfortable so you get bonded pretty quickly. That was neat.

Did you choose your partner and your music? They paired each dancer with a partner but they let you choose your music. My song was kind of a bluesy song which, for me,

is reminiscent of where I am from in New Orleans. Then we switched gears and the next one was more of a jazzy, show tune song built around *Cats*. I think that was kind of the theme, with me being a veterinarian. I didn't want anything that would be too serious. I wanted something that would be just kind of fun, carefree, and a little bit ridiculous so people would laugh and smile rather than think "Oh! He's a good dancer," because I'm not.

How much practice time was involved? You are committed to at least 10 practices. Each one is one to two hours. I have to tell you, it's amazing. I have never had so much respect for people who dance. I take my girls to dance every week, four to six days per week. What it takes, talent-wise, to choreograph these performances ... it's really hard. My partner, Amy, was fantastic and Colin Mering, the choreographer was really great – they do a phenomenal job and are tremendously patient. If they can get me up there dancing and not make me look like a total fool, they're pretty darn good at their job.

So how did it feel going out there in front of more than 800 people? That wasn't as hard as I thought it was going to be. You're nervous and you're sitting there waiting and waiting and waiting. But the day before the show, you come in and do your dance in front of everybody, including all of the other contestants, and that was the most nervous time for me. Maybe it's because it's the first time you're really doing something in front of people, but that was the hardest. And then the next day is the real deal. Once you're off stage, you feel like "Okay, we made it happen. I'm done and now I can just relax." It's a well-oiled machine. These guys have it nailed down so you have some confidence knowing that.

What would you say is the most memorable or gratifying part

of your experience? Beyond the organization being really great and the honor of being part of it, for me, probably the most gratifying thing was having that experience with people I didn't even know and becoming quite bonded with them. You really feel part of the community in a different way than you ever have before, even though you have been here so long. That was a really neat feeling. And again, someone thinking about me, little old me, I thought was kind of cool.

If someone came to you and said, I have just been approached to do this, what would you say to them? That just happened yesterday! After I tell them not to do it, [he says with a grin], I would say ... "No really. It's great. It's a great experience. It's a great cause." It's one of those things that's a once in a lifetime chance to do something outside of your element for a wonderful cause and to enjoy a great experience for yourself. I think if you get asked to do something like that and you're scared, that's the proper feeling. I think it's a great thing to do – I would tell them to do it.

More about YouthPower365: YouthPower365 is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with an extraordinary history of serving children and families throughout Eagle County and a mission to provide extended learning year-round that inspires, educates, and empowers the youth and families of Eagle County from cradle to career-readiness. YouthPower365 serves over 3,000 youth with early-childhood initiatives (PwrUP); afterschool and summer programs for K-8 (PwrHrs); and college and career readiness for high school students (PwrOn). The extensive reach of our programs impacts schools, youth, families, and communities throughout Eagle County, from Minturn to Dotsero, CO.

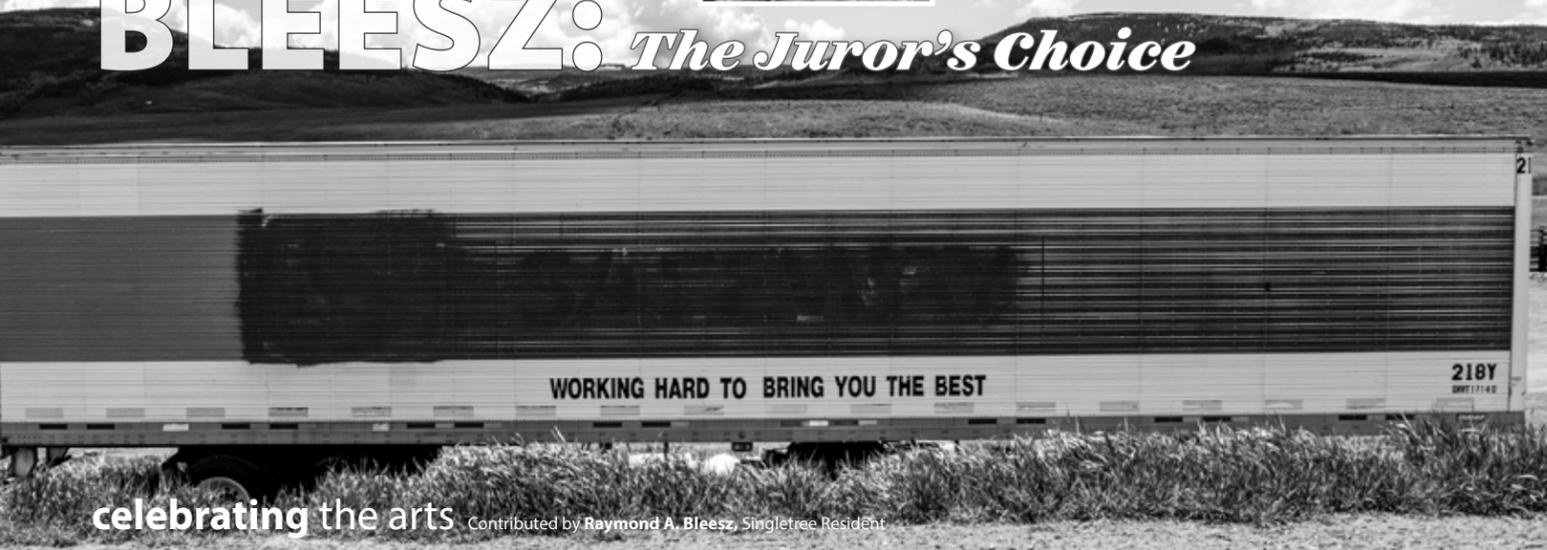
Thank you from YouthPower365: Participating as a local celebrity



dancer is a significant time commitment. YouthPower365 is grateful for Charlie's dedication, especially recognizing his intense schedule with his thriving veterinary practice and family commitments. Charlie's participation in the Star Dancing Gala is just another example of how he goes above and beyond to support this community.



RECOGNIZING RAYMOND BLEESZ: *The Juror's Choice*



celebrating the arts Contributed by Raymond A. Bleesz, Singletree Resident

Working Hard To Bring You The Best, an image created by Fine Art Photographer and Histogrammer, Raymond A. Bleesz, was selected as Juror's Choice at the fall exhibition at Colorado Mountain College in Edwards. The juror, David Cassidy of the Vail International Gallery of Vail, selected the image, one of five black and white images Raymond submitted to the show, thereby exhibiting his preferred medium.

There were approximately 220 fine art pieces in the exhibition, including photographs, paintings, ceramics, metals, and other medium. The CMC show is the premiere show for the Vail Valley Art Guild (VVAG), consisting of Guild members, the VVAG artists and the Vail Valley Art Guild Photographers (VVAGP), as well as CMC faculty and students. Raymond is the co-founder of the VVAGP. He and Rick Spitzer, the other co-founder, were asked approximately four years ago to organize the group of local Vail Valley photographers under the VVAG umbrella. The VVAGP has grown to approximately 60 members under the VVAG banner and has become "**Strong**," which was highly evident at this show.

The image, **Working Hard To Bring You The Best**, was a major piece of work by the photographer as it required extensive work to get this image due to several factors. Ironically, the graphics fit Raymond's personality well. The weather was inclement over several days, hence numerous trips to the site outside of Toponas, CO. There was wind and sleet as well as gusts of rain and slush on the dirt ranching road. The semi-trailer was located adjacent to the dirt road requiring added elevation to capture the photograph. Raymond had to stand in the bed of his pickup to gain elevation, accomplish tripod and camera set up and then compose and shoot between weather patterns.

Ultimately, four trips were required in order to achieve this photograph, the last trip being successful, however, he became stuck in the mud on the side of the road which required some deft 4x4 driving to get out of the muddy ditch. The semi-trailer had been utilized by another entity, and some creatives,

perhaps the ranch owners, came up with the lettering which struck the photographer as being creative and unusual, which represents subject matter the photographer typically seeks out in his photographic work.

Late this fall, Raymond attended the photographic Center Review/Workshop in Santa Fe. Reviewers selected this work, in part, for its depiction of Raymond's hidden dry humor within the image. This is a Bleesz trait in many pieces of his photographic work. After reading a photographic book by Vicki Goldberg, *The Power of Photography: How Photographs Changed Our Lives*, Raymond created a portfolio based on images showing "captions, signage, and the written word in the images." Goldberg's thesis is that photographs essentially become the signs and signposts of modern society. For a photograph to be successful with verbiage, script, captions, and wording, it must have "layers" within the image, meaning there is more to the image than what is initially seen by the viewer. **Working Hard to Bring You The Best** is such an image.

The photograph itself is printed on Hahnemuhle Photo Rag Metallic paper, a very unusual paper recently introduced to the mass market by the company Hahnemuhle, one of Europe's oldest printing paper companies based in Germany. The print is also matted archival with a 4 ply mat. The image, as well as the other works by Raymond, are available for purchase.

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kids' corner

Contributed by **Kade Young and Kash Young**, Singletree Residents
Photography Courtesy of **Steve Chinn**

Meet KADE and KASH

... THE YOUNG BROTHER BOOKENDS

Kash, Kai,
and Kade
Young

This August, we met Kai Young, a 7-year-old at June Creek Elementary with an imagination extraordinaire. Now we are thrilled to get to know Big Brother, Kade, and Little Brother, Kash – it appears imagination is a family trait!

Let's start with you telling me your name and hold old you are. My name is Kade and I am 10 years old. I go to June Creek Elementary.

What are your favorite subjects in school? PE.

What is your favorite part of PE? The tag games. The popcorn game. When you tag a person, they have to sit down and when you get tagged, they get to stand back up. And Good Morning Good Night Tag. Several people have yellow balls and several others have dark blue. If you get tagged by dark blue, you have to lay down and go to sleep, and the people with the yellow balls, they come and tag you, then you have to say Good Morning!

What is your favorite thing to do outside of school? I like to play outside. Ride my bike and play with my brothers. And my electric scooter. We ride on our street and the street right next to us. We ride on

Hackamore and around Charolais. We go on our electric scooters because we don't want to pedal up that big hill.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A zookeeper so I get to see all the animals and interact with them. My favorite animals are monkeys, jaguars, cheetahs, and lions.

Have you been to a zoo? I have been to the Denver Zoo, and, I think, the California one. Our grandpa died. We got to see his grave. That was cool though. We stayed at our grandma's.

When did you start liking animals? I started liking animals when I was born. I was 1 and I had a cat then.

If a genie came along and gave you a wish, what would that be? I would like the people who work at the zoo [to] let me work there when I am younger so I can have a good experience ... so,

when I am older, I can apply for it. I will be good and experienced and trained [on] how to deal with the animals, and feed them and make them play and make them go to sleep.

If you could be an animal, what would it be? I would be probably ... there are so many animals to choose! What did Kai say? I would be like a tiger. Probably an anaconda snake because then I can eat big prey. And I want to be the shark. Fourth animal? Godzilla.

Tell me about Boys on the Run. Oh, that. First, we go out and run a mile around our field. We do that every day now. Not always a mile because I have gone 2 miles. That's 8 laps around our field.

Do you like running? Mmhmm and I like football.

Who are your favorite teams? I have two. The Broncos and Seattle. I think they are cool.

What do you think about the new quarterback for the Broncos? I don't like him. I like Peyton Manning. He got a bunch of injuries but he threw it down the field a lot. We lost because that other quarterback got sacked so many times.

Kade finishes his interview and turns it over to his younger brother, Kash, occasionally chiming in with helpful interpretations.

Can you tell me your name and hold old you are? Um. 3.

And do you go to school? Yea. June Creek.

And what did you do today? Just played Marble set. You put your marble in the circle and it goes this way and it goes that way.

What did you have for lunch today? A lunchbox. **What was it in it?** Lunch.

What is your favorite food? Macaroni and cheese.

What is your favorite color? Green. **Why?** Green.

What is your favorite animal? A lion. A lion eats the snake.

Do you like to watch movies? here's *Coco*. It's like with skeletons and bones.

Who's Coco? He lives on the sidewalk. He's not on this earth. He's on the other earth. I just drink water and eat popcorn.

If you could make a wish, what would you wish for? A toy airplane. It would fly in the sky and then crash.



What do you like to play with your brothers? Build a sandcastle and then we go in it.

Where did you build the sandcastle? In the backpack. We just went into the little sandcastle.

What is your favorite candy? Bubble gum.

Do you have a favorite dessert? Watermelon.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? In the light.

And what would you do in the light? Fix the lightbulb. When I was a spider, I was climbing in the light bulb. I see a lot of my family. My family are spiders. I am a spider.

What's your name? Um. Sinka. I was always a spider.



Kids say the most amazing things! And Singletree wants to hear what your kids have to say. Email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to feature your kid in your neighborhood magazine.



musical notes

Contributed by **Lisa Siegert-Free**, Singletree Resident
 Article Written by **Belle Ebner**, Singletree Resident

Lisa Siegert-Free

Finds Passion and Peace with the French Horn

The sound reverberated throughout the room, her right hand in the bell to control tone, the left hand on three valves to help hit the proper note and her thumb on a trigger to go from F horn to a B flat horn, to procure the best unique and soothing sound possible. It was her way of relaxing, to escape the constant humdrum of the outside world.

Lisa Siegert-Free began playing the French horn in grade school and moved on to briefly studying as a music major at Murray State University in Murray, KY. She became swept up in school and switched to a business major. Yet her passion for music remained, and she began to earnestly miss her talent in the 1990s. Troubled by this longing, she resumed playing the French horn shortly after she moved to the mountains and was quick to realize just how dearly she missed it.

Lisa started getting back into music in 1990 as a member of the Symphony in the Valley in Glenwood Springs. After being with that group for a number of years, she moved on to the Alpine Wind Ensemble located in Edwards, CO. Once that group ceased to exist, the Alpine Brass Quintet was quickly formed out of some of the members, headed up by Dr. Steve Yarberry. The Alpine Brass Quintet currently meets once per week and has played at many locations including 4 Eagle Ranch, Colorado Mountain College, Singletree, Christie Lodge, Beaver Creek, Vail Village, Castle Peak Senior Care in Eagle, and a few weddings.

The group is well versed in a multitude of audiences, yet it is not Lisa's only mode of expressing her musical passion. She is also a member of the Summit Community Orchestra (SCO), with which she practices every Tuesday night in Frisco, CO. The group is comprised of a handful of cellos, violins, violas, bass, wind instruments, percussion, trumpets, and trombone experts. SCO has about 40 talented members, who perform each Christmas in Breckenridge and partake in sporadic concerts throughout the year.

Lisa grew up playing the piano, organ, and a little bit of trumpet. She was first taught to play the French horn by her band director in Southern Illinois, transitioning with ease because of her past experience reading music. The French horn was a spontaneous decision and is rather unique in the way that its range can go to at least three octaves. It was originally used as a hunting call in



Europe and evolved into a beautiful and distinctive instrument. A beautiful mishap, and all the more reason to incite in one an intense passion.

The waves of sound drift to the player's ear, allowing for them to calculate which exact and purposeful motion they will enact next in order to procure a melodious string of syllables, slowly weaving each note into a beautiful song. It is not traditional, in that you must hear the notes in your head before you play them, for it is one of the most complicated of the brass instruments. Lisa was intrigued by the difficulty associated with playing the French horn, and it soon became her favorite instrument. Through playing the French horn and being a part of different groups, she became exposed to meeting other players and delved deeper into the musical world.

The shatter of applause broke a smile onto Lisa's face as she radiated with pride. A large Douglas fir towered over an audience of 500, and just



beyond, the cold whipped flakes of snow into an excited frenzy. Her most memorable performance yet – a Christmas concert in Breckenridge. Her memory flickers forward, episodically blinking through each moment in her life. A wrinkled smile peered at her through her large brass instrument. Her mom was just turning 93, and the sound reverberated with pleasure through the room: *the Sound of Music* and *West Side Story*.

Lisa's love of the French horn is not simply a hobby, but a way of releasing the stress of everyday and sharing her love for others. Her favorite songs include *Elephant Walk*, *Pink Panther*, and she loves music by artists like Henry Mancini and Duke Ellington. Lisa has grown up in the musical world and looks forward to continuing with this instrument for as long as possible.

This coming year, Alpine Brass will be playing at the Christie Lodge during Christmas Holiday, and Jack's Place. The group is available for weddings, graduation music, and private events.

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home of the month

Contributed by **Lorry Prentiss**, Singletree Resident
Article Written by **Allie Decent**, Singletree Resident



ceiling to one with curved beams,” recalls Lorry. Hans and his colleague, Stephanie Laura Jones, were very involved in the process of perfecting those beams: it took 23 tries to get the color just right.

In sharing his thoughts on the project, Hans reiterated the importance of making sure that they took advantage of the sun and the amazing views, all the while focused on creating spectacular space. The “jewel of the house”, as Hans describes it, is the great room. Featuring floor to ceiling windows and a black metal fireplace surrounded by indigenous stone, the room offers the illusion of being able to touch nature from anywhere inside the home.

Lorry shares that she stepped out of her comfort zone when it came to a few specific architectural features, such as installing similar floor to ceiling window walls in the bedrooms on the second floor. “I initially thought that it would be strange to have windows to the floor up so high, but then I saw what happened to the rooms as a result, and I couldn’t be more pleased.”

The deceptively simple design choices throughout the home are what provide a feeling of calm and relaxation for Lorry as well as her visitors. “It’s nice to put everything away in places where they belong,” she sighs contentedly. The alder cabinetry, provided by Genesis Cabinet Company Inc., was chosen for its color and storage style. “I kept the same cabinets, trim and stain uniform throughout the house, so it’s calming throughout and you don’t really know why,” smiles Lorry. Even the three warm gray tones of paint throughout the home were carefully cultured colors from The Paint Bucket at the request of Lorry and Alex, such that it is nearly impossible to distinguish the change in color from wall to wall or room to room.

When asked about her favorite part of the house, Lorry pauses to contemplate. “That’s a hard question. There is a lot to love.

Mostly the light that I get here; I am lucky to be so high up here in Singletree. It’s very quiet and peaceful. I feel really safe here, I am happy here. I am calmer living here.”

“It took us 9 months to design and about a year to build,” she finishes proudly. Throughout the process, Lorry worked very closely with both Hans and Stephanie. According to Lorry, “they reviewed everything right down to the knobs I chose for the cabinets”. She spoke to Alex every day even if she was out of town. Hans remarked that the project represented a highly successful team-oriented collaboration between the owner, the architectural team and the builder, with each participant doing what they do best while at the same time, being allowed to freely express themselves. In her words, Lorry recognizes and appreciates that “this house was built with tons of love and interest”.

As we wrapped up our interview, I asked her how closely she kept to the budget. “Well,” she says, leaning forward in her chair, “we ended up at about 3% of our original budget!” My jaw dropped to the floor. Never before have I interviewed an owner who has built a house from the ground up and stayed that close to budget!

That, my readers, is how you build a beautiful house, for a beautiful life.



So many wonderful homes in Singletree! Let us know about a fabulous house to feature in your neighborhood magazine. Email holly.proctor@n2pub.com with an address and we will take it from there!

21 Corral

CAPTURING THE ART OF TRANSFORMATIVE ARCHITECTURE

Refuge. That’s the best single word to describe this home built at the corner of Corral Road and Saddle Drive. The owner of this haven of light and simplicity, Lorry Prentiss, has spent her professional career working in finance. While speaking of her career world, she lights up with excitement. This is a woman who brings her passion to all that she tackles, and it’s evident in this home. Well-chosen material, an open entertainment layout that also manages to feel cozy, focused design by Hans Berglund with Berglund Architects LLC, and solid construction at the hand of Alex Dammeyer with Meadow Mountain Homes, are all part of what is so simplistic and yet so intricate about this symphony of architecture.

“My home is meant to be comfortable, and everyone who comes along is meant to feel happy,” she gestures towards the floor to ceiling windows. “I wanted to have the outside come inside, with lots of windows and natural light.” When Lorry approached Berglund Architects LLC, she was adamant that she didn’t want a large house; she wanted a home with clean lines, an open floorplan



with limited interior distractions, and maximized storage and balance. Lorry chose the architect and builder by researching who could match her intentions in a living space.

The philosophy of Hans Berglund’s company is to “create architecture that has the power to positively affect life experiences, bring people together and make them more in touch with their surroundings.” Lorry looked at his portfolio and took the plunge.

The signature style of Hans is evident throughout the home, from the zero-profile windows to the curved beams that yawn towards the south. “He was just thrilled when I told him that we could switch the design from the original straight angled

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travel tales

Contributed by **John and Diane Milligan**,
Singletree Residents

Land Of The Midnight Sun

AKA WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE KUNGSLEDEN?

The trail ahead

It all started with an après ski drink at Sarah's Lounge in Vail. We were having a good time with two friends, ski instructors from Sweden. Knowing we like unusual trips, they said, "You need to go above the Arctic Circle in Sweden and do the Kungsleden." What in the world is the Kungsleden? In English, it means the King's Trail. It is a hut system trail, commonly hiked in the summer but can be cross-country skied in the winter. It sounded interesting and unusual but also remote and had the potential of getting yourself lost in snow country. "No worries," the instructors said, "it is well marked, and you will be fine without a guide."

Two weeks later in mid-April, we were at the airport with one duffel bag each and a book with Swedish phrases. Fortunately, we built an extra travel day into our plans. Our flight out of Denver was canceled, meaning we missed our connection to Sweden. Eight hours later we were on our way to Frankfurt, caught a flight from there and arrived in Kiruna, Sweden at 11:30 pm the next night (40 hours later) rolling our duffel bags to the hotel we booked en route. The next morning, we headed for the bus station which consisted of a small shelter with a bench. We boarded the bus for our final destination of Abisko, Sweden, and the jumping-off point for the Kungsleden.

There is a great tourist station in Abisko, which has lodging, a restaurant, and a place to do laundry. The laundry was a welcome addition given the time we had spent in our travel clothes. When we say

laundry, we mean an unusual washing machine and a drying room that contains hanging socks, underwear, and a variety of apparel and interesting smells. In any case, it did allow us to start clean again. We spent the day renting skis, boots, and filling our backpacks with the essentials we needed for a week of traveling hut to hut. The Swedes have this well-organized such that we could send our duffel bags with our city clothes and non-essentials to the last hut for pick-up when we finished the trail.

Off we started the next day in light-weight cross country gear. A typical day is 8-9 miles and the longer days are 12 miles. It was a long first day as we made our way over melting snow and frozen lakes with a couple of inches of water on top of them. Given the location of the trail, there was some vegetation the first day with birch trees about six feet tall, but not what we would refer to as a forest since tree line is approximately 2,100 feet.

We finally reached our first hut and joined about 10 other people staying the night. You pick out your bunk in the communal room, get your boots off, hang up your socks in the drying



Arrive at a clean hut, leave it a clean hut



The day is not over until the chores are done



Lacing and packing up for another day on the trail



Meeting Ove, our new friend and reindeer herder

room and set out to make your dinner. Most nights consisted of pasta and some small snack. Anyone staying in the hut chips in to sweep the floor, go to the lake for fresh water, empty the dirty water, and chop firewood. The Swedes take pride in the fact that their lakes are clean enough to drink from without treating the water. We were skeptical, having battled problems from drinking untreated water on other adventures. They were right, however, and we never got sick.

Up the next morning with oatmeal and coffee, collect your socks from the drying room, pack up your sleeping bags, lace up your boots, put on your pack and hit the trail. That day was a 12-mile day and the weather turned nasty including sleet, snow and strong winds. The trail is extremely well marked with tall poles and red crosses which, given the weather conditions, were a blessing. The birch trees were long gone so you are in a valley filled with snow and lakes and the occasional glimpse of the red cross on the pole kept you going. We were wet and cold but happy to reach the next hut. The other positive is that it never really gets dark there in the spring and summer, so no matter how long it takes to get to the next hut ... there will still be light.



Ran out of snow ... six-mile tundra walk to the helicopter

Interestingly enough, the two hut hosts had been bouncers at Garton's Saloon in Vail back in the day!

Each day is similar in that your goal is to make the next hut, rest your feet, dry your socks and underwear, and replenish your stomach with some food. A couple of the huts had a few shelves of food and emergency supplies, so you never had to carry more than two days of food, although we carried a weeks' worth of coffee and trail snacks. There are no showers, only outhouses and one hut with a sauna. You take one bowl of hot water and one bowl of cold water. You come out of the sauna and pour the water over you and voila - a shower! You can also roll in the snow as John chose to do. The further we went on the trail, the less people were at the huts and we finally got down to six of us traveling in the same direction but at different speeds. You get into a wonderful rhythm and it is peaceful and sort of spiritual to be on your own in a place void of vegetation and only snow and a valley between mountains.

There were many incredible moments on this trip, but one special one was meeting a reindeer herder named Ove. Spring is the time the reindeer are gathered and when reindeer are born. The herders are the original settlers and their ethnicity is Sami. They may speak some Swedish, but they have their own language. Through a hut host (there are usually two people who stay near the huts to check you in, take care of emergencies, and keep a hole in the lake ice open for water), we were introduced to Ove. He knew a couple of ski instructors in Vail and wondered if we knew them. Yes, of course, they are the two who talked us into this trip - small world.

The next thing we learned was that he thought Lindsay Vonn was the greatest skier. Yes, we

agreed, she is strong and fearless. We exchanged addresses and he told us he had met someone from California, and they sent him a Christmas card. We took this as a hint that we had made a new friend. He told us to meet him at the lake down the trail a couple of miles and he would herd some reindeer over for us to see. We met up and John gave him a Colorado Bike Classic Vail baseball cap as a "thank you." We ran into some other hut people the next day and they said he was still wearing the cap.

We met some truly wonderful people on the trip, mostly Swedes wondering what in the world made us come to this remote region above the arctic circle in the winter? We also met a couple of Norwegians who shared some cured moose with John. The trip was beyond our expectations and of all the things we have done, it will remain a very special time in our lives. The only disappointment was that the spring thaw came hard and early and we could not ski to the last hut and had to helicopter out the last 12 miles.

We remained in Sweden for a couple of more weeks, including a night stay at the Ice Hotel. This is a must-do at least once in a lifetime. Each room in the hotel is different and sculpted from ice blocks. Artists from all over the world compete to do a room. The hallways of the hotel are snow, and everything is ice including the glasses you drink from at the ice bar - no need for ice cubes. The hotel is a constant 23 degrees Fahrenheit. The ice bed has a foam pad on it and reindeer skins, and you snuggle into a big sleeping bag with your socks, long underwear, and a wool hat. At 7 am, they knock on the door and bring you hot lingonberry tea. If you don't want to stay through the night, you also have the option of retreating to a regular hotel room. Surprisingly, we were warm and comfortable for the duration of our night on and in the ice.

...



Beautiful hotel lobby all made of ice



Ice Bar - Ice Glasses - No ice cubes required



Ice hotel bedroom with constant temperature of 23-degrees Fahrenheit



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...

We finished the trip in Stockholm, taking ferries to some of the city islands, visiting the national museum, and visiting the Abba Museum. We thought this last one might not be worthwhile, but it turned out to be a must-see. You can go into a recording studio and sing with the piped-in Abba and see if you could make it with the group. That would be a “no” in our case. Diane got on stage with the holograms of the band and danced and sang along. She did this under pressure from John but admits she doesn’t regret the experience.

So, if you find yourselves in Sarah’s Lounge having drinks with a couple of Swedes someday, and they talk you into the Kungsleden, buy them another drink and begin to plan your adventure. We have heard that the tundra may be mosquito prone in the summer so consider a winter trip.

John, a former metallurgical engineer, and Diane, a former university administrator, moved from Kalamazoo, MI, to Vail in 1983. John is a partner in Access Properties of Vail Real Estate and Diane is retired from Milligan Property Management that included managing private residences in Vail as well as the Rams-Horn Lodge Condominiums. The Milligans moved from Vail to a Las Vistas town-home in 2013 and thoroughly enjoy the openness of Singletree. They are always on the alert for new and unusual adventures. Hejda!



Happy Holidays!

We hope to see you at the Community Center



Mark your calendar
Annual Singletree HOLIDAY PARTY
Sunday, December 8
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Rent the Community Center for your board meeting or special event. Information about renting the Community Center is online at www.singletreetoday.com/amenities/community-center.



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Fitness Classes – Keep yourself fit this holiday season and join your neighbors for an active stretching class or Pilates class at the Singletree Community Center. Classes are \$8 apiece and you can just drop in. Schedule is online at www.singletreetoday.com/events.

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precious pets

Contributed by **Leo and Lai White**,
Singletree Pet and Resident

is that *Lilac or Leo?*



Once upon a time, there was this little woman who wanted to adopt a dog but she knew nothing about how to raise a dog. The fact that her job took her around the world, and she traveled too much, led the most wonderful woman in the Valley – Janet Boeser – to say “no.”

At any given time, Janet would have ten to twenty animals fostered in her house, preparing them to be adopted. And she refused to give me a dog. She said a dog was not an option because he or she would need a lot of attention and lots of work and I didn't have enough time. I was sad but I understood that Janet knew what was best for her fur “children.” I then promised myself to have another chat with Janet when I truly retired, and I longed for that day.

Near the end of 2017, I got a call from Janet and I thought, “Oh my gosh, she is going to let me have a dog.” Well, that was not the reason she called. It turned out she wanted me to adopt an adorable 3-year-old Maine Coon cat. Janet sent me a photo and I was already in love. I said, “Yes, yes, a hundred times.” Janet said, “You have to wait until we take care of her shots and paperwork – I will let you know when you can pick her up.” I was beside myself – I was so excited and started shopping.

I also learned it would be very difficult for Janet to get her in the carriage because she was very afraid. She was rescued from the Harvey Flood in Houston. She hid in the dark all the time at Janet's sanctuary and it often took quite a bit of time to find her. I agreed that she should stay with Janet until she was ready to go to her Forever Home.

One night, Janet called me again and said: “She needs a name! We can start calling her and get her used to a name, so what would you like to name her?” I thought for a while and embraced the name



Lilac because that is my favorite flower and scent. Janet said: “Lilac it is.” From then on, we talked frequently, always using the name Lilac, my future fur baby.

Janet took her to the vet for the last vaccine shot and called me from the vet's office, laughing hysterically. I was bewildered wondering what was going on. At long last, Janet informed me that my Lilac was a boy so the vet recommended we change the name to Leo. I said: “Leo, it is,” and quietly laughed my head off.

It took a whole day for Janet to get Leo into the carriage and I took him home with anticipation and joy. When he came home, I learned to be patient and not to be upset when Leo ran away from me. He is still very afraid of every little noise or running water.

It's very funny that I bought him a lot of toys (after googling what toys cats like) and the softest bed and I researched what food is good for kittens. Well, Leo is special and very different, or at least that's what I thought, but it turned out that he is typical for cats. Leo does not like to sleep in his nice, comfortable bed, he would rather sleep under a chair – for security, I guess. He does not play with any of the toys I bought, but he goes crazy with the Q-tips I throw in the trash after each morning. He turns the trash can upside down and picks out the Q-tips and plays with them for hours.

I love my Leo. He is not affectionate with me, which I was hoping for, but that's okay because I know he loves me. Leo sometimes waits for me at the window-sill, looking out at the driveway. He waits for me at the door when I get home from work and then jumps on my bed when he hears the alarm for me to get up and to feed him. He is quite smart.

He loves to lie down in front of the fireplace and listen to me playing the piano. I wonder at times what he endured during the Harvey Flood. I hope he does not remember the awful past. He is safe and he is loved now.

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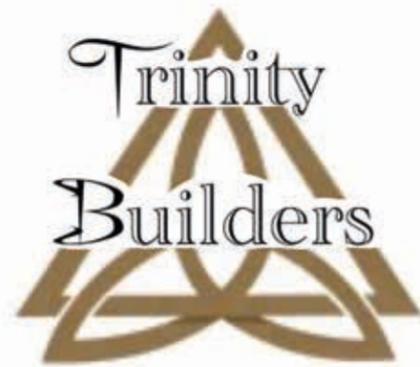
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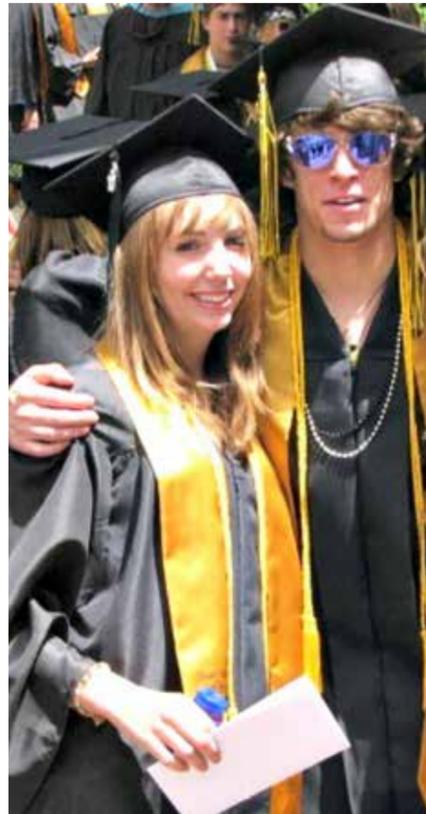
HUGE THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS!



Thanks to 30 volunteers who removed a half-mile of barbed wire fence in Singletree – wildlife can now travel safely through the Community. While the clean up was completed back in September, the impact of this effort will be realized for years to come. The fence remained from the time when the area was a cattle ranch – it has been a multi-year effort to remove it as elk, deer, birds, and other animals have in the past often been tangled and injured. After removing a total of 1,700 pounds of wire and fence posts, the fence is finally – and completely – gone!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers including photographer Julie Majors, the U.S. Forest Service Eagle Holy Cross Ranger District, the Singletree Property Owners Association, and our product sponsors Outland Living, Elevation Outdoors Magazine, Patagonia, Starbucks, and community member and project partner James Knez.

then and now



PARKE AND GABBY...

Lifelong Singletree Friends

Contributed by Debbie Robbins, Singletree Resident

Singletree neighbors Parke Robbins and Gabby Thomason have been best buds since before kindergarten. They attended Discovery School Pre-K, Avon Elementary, Berry Creek Middle, and Battle Mountain High School together. Here they are at graduation in 2010 and then again almost 10 years later. Here's to celebrating lasting friendships!



Bring your memories to life! E-mail holly.proctor@n2pub.com to share your best moments "then and now" with the neighborhood!

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