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# HELLO SINGLETREE RESIDENTS!

**WELCOME TO THE JULY ISSUE** of *Stroll Singletree!* Say hello to Julia and Matt O’Hearn, self-professed “boomerang Coloradans”. Having met here during the ski season 13 years ago, they followed different paths until a chance encounter in New York City in 2016. Together they ultimately decided Colorado was the place to be and they moved to Winslow Road in 2021 with their cattle dog, Ramona, and welcomed their daughter, Una, last October. Today, they are happy to be Singletree residents loving everything Colorado has to offer.

Brad Korell leads us on an adventure to the Last Natural Frontier: Antarctica. From the moment of their arrival at the Antarctic Peninsula, he and his husband, Justin McNulty, experienced the amazing grandeur of mountains and ocean nature largely untouched by human activity. Highlights included humpback whales, penguins, icebergs, sightseeing excursions, a submarine expedition... and the Polar Plunge.

While many know Jarrett Osborn as the owner of Riverwalk Wine & Spirits, a perhaps lesser-known fact about him is his passion for dinosaurs! Jarrett’s lifelong friend, Billy Duran, founded Fossil Posse, a summer day camp for kids in Wolcott, ten years ago. In 2022, Jarrett and Billy opened the Dinosaur Junction Museum as a

permanent, year-round exhibit to tell the story of dinosaurs in Eagle County. It is a must-see experience for locals and visitors alike!

This month, we kick off our mini-series of stories showcasing Colorado Mountain College and its life changing impact on Singletree residents. Karen Kern was among the first class of graduates when she received her diploma in 1988 at the age of 50 – a milestone achievement accomplished while concurrently running her husband Bob’s stucco and plaster business.

Having grown up in a paper mill town in Maine, Susan Mackin Dolan was keenly aware of the constant production of paper and its impact on the surrounding forests and waters. Her observations as a child, as well as her travel in Europe after high school, ultimately inspired her to pursue the art of papermaking. Her work embodies the notion that art is more than just a means of expression and involves constant exploration and discovery.

Don’t miss the Vail Valley Theatre Company production of *Cabaret* playing July 16 – 21 at Chasing Rabbits in Vail. John Tedstrom offers a sneak preview of what to expect from this production of one of the most successful musicals of all time – and promises this “ain’t your Mama’s cabaret”! Buy your tickets today!

Wishing you and your family a fun and festive Independence Day!

Warm regards,

*Holly Proctor*

Holly Proctor  
 Publisher and Area Director  
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# JULY CONTRIBUTORS

## YOUR STORIES. OUR PAGES.

Without your support, this publication simply wouldn’t exist; the continued growth and success of *Stroll Singletree* relies on ongoing contributions from people like you. So please accept this invitation to all of you – from junior writers to retirees and everyone in between – to contribute to and shape the future of *your* neighborhood magazine. Please email your ideas, stories and photos to [holly.proctor@n2co.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2co.com). We look forward to hearing from you!



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751 Singletree Road 1 | Townhome  
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Source: VMLS 4.15.24 – 5.15.24



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Meet the O'Hearns:

*Matt, Julia, Ana,  
and Ramona*



We are what you might consider “boomerang” Coloradans. We originally met in Vail during the 2010/11 ski season, just after Julia graduated from Colorado College and Matt had moved out to Denver with his University of Vermont friends. Julia was working as a dogsled tour guide near Camp Hale and living with her cattle dog Ramona (aka Mo) at her parent’s house in Vail. Matt was living in Denver, working for OpenTable, and often made the weekend trek to the mountains. We met skiing via a college friend of Julia’s and became fast friends. Both originally from the East Coast (Julia grew up in Connecticut and Matt in Maine), we immediately had a lot in common. We both loved to ski and discovered we had multiple mutual friends.

Shortly after ski season, Julia and Mo moved to Aspen, and then to New York in the summer of 2012, so we lost touch for a number of years. But in 2016, we bumped into each other in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and discovered that we were both living in the same neighborhood only a few blocks away from one another. Fast forward almost 8 years, we’re married, have a baby, and are happy Singletree residents.

When we re-connected in New York, it was as though no time had passed. We seamlessly folded into one another’s lives and friend groups. We spent the spring and summer of 2016 as friends, exploring all that New York had to offer, seeing concerts, dining out, surfing in the Rockaways, and loving where

we lived. We officially started dating in October of 2017. We’ll spare you the details of the on-off-on again start to our romance, but ultimately couldn’t deny that we enjoyed one another’s company and that we made a great team.

In the early days of our relationship, we’d muse on the future and agreed that our dreams included a summer home in Maine, a ski house in Colorado, and an apartment in the City.

By the start of 2020, we’d been living together for a while and were happily playing house when the world turned upside down. The electric and vibrant city we loved so dearly grinded to a halt. Our loud and non-stop lives were now quiet, slow, and full of uncertainty. As we adjusted to the new normal of masks, social distancing, and working from the same kitchen table, we had a lot of long and circular discussions about what to do and where to go. Should we stay, should we go? Could we, should we, expedite our plan and take a chance on our dream of living where we vacation?

Surprising to no-one who’s read this far, we took a chance on remote work and Ramona’s never been happier. In May of 2021,





we purchased a home on Winslow, packed up, and moved West. Later that summer, we got married in a small ceremony at Julia's parent's home in Vail and were fortunate to have been joined by a few friends who were willing to make the trip.

Since officially taking residence in Colorado, we've enjoyed everything the state has to offer. Like many of our neighbors, we love to ski, hike, bike, golf, play pickleball, fish - you name it, we're game. The hardest thing about living and working in Colorado is that we have to choose an activity (or two) a day, and we also have to keep our jobs! Mo is back where she belongs, never particularly partial to the hustle and bustle, she's acclimated the quickest to our new life, right at home trotting along the trails in Singletree.

Ski bums at heart, corporate jockeys by necessity, Matt is a Sr. Manager at Uber, leading retail partnerships for Uber Eats and Julia is the Director of Institutional



months old, chews on everything, and doesn't yet know how lucky she is to have been born in Vail. If she's anything like her parents, she'll have a hard time sitting still when it's nice out.

While we'd hoped Una and Mo would be best friends, at this point they amicably co-exist. Mo had 14 great years of being an adored only child and she's putting up with the change reasonably well but is having a hard time deciphering between dog's toys and baby's, understandably. In a stroke of pure luck, Mo lost her hearing the year before Una arrived. And now that Una's has started eating solids (sharing them with Mo), their relationship seems to have a spark.

When we're not in Colorado or traveling for work, we spend at least a week at the beach in Maine with Matt's family and try to take one international trip a year. Our first cross border trip as a family of three will be in October, for Una's 1st birthday. If anyone has tips for traveling with an infant/toddler, we're all ears.

As we enter year four of our Colorado residency, we plan to soak up the sunshine and enjoy the boundless opportunities at our doorstep. We love good food, live music, and any excuse to get outside. We've made some wonderful friends in the past three years and look forward to making many more. One day we'll invite them to our beach house in Maine.

Client Relations at Sprott Asset Management, a specialty asset manager focused on precious metals and critical materials. On weekdays you can find one of us at our shared office space above Loaded Joe's in Avon and the other working from home on Winslow and taking breaks walking Mo around the neighborhood.

We welcomed our first child, Una, in October of 2023, just after midnight the morning after the solar eclipse. She arrived with bright eyes and a full head of blonde hair that stood straight up, so we affectionately call her our puppy, "Spike". As of this writing, she's 8



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## SUSAN STYLE CONNECTION

Hi! I'm Susan Lidback, Louisiana native, new full-time resident of Singletree, mother of two, wife of 30 years, cancer survivor, dreamer and traveler. I'm also on a mission to inspire busy women to be the best versions of themselves so they can look good, feel good and DO good! As an independent Cabi Clothing Stylist, I have worked with wome in London and throughout the USA.

Through Susan Style Connection and Cabi Clothing, I help women identify their personal style or accentuate the one they already embrace. I show women how to elevate their everyday looks while boosting their confidence and nurturing their self-love. I help women master the art of getting dressed each day and avoid the silent sabotages that kill confident

dressng. Replacing those negative vibes and unorganized closets with healthier habits and smart selections leads to results of effortless and stylish daily dressing.

The simple acronym SLATE is a formula I use to advise my clients on:

- **Self - Talk** – replacing criticism with confidence to make smart style choices
- **Labels** – identifying with numbers in a healthy way to reflect your true style and beauty
- **Audit** – organizing your closet to make it work for you
- **Trends** – learning how to make style equate with trend at every age
- **Enhance** – exploring all they ways you can help yourself look and feel amazing

I'll be advertising my services, clothing and sales here in *Stroll Singletree* each month and I look forward to meeting you, if we haven't already. Call me at 281-757-3683 to book my services for personal shopping, closet audits and style sessions. Shop the Cabi Clothing Collection on my website [www.susanlidback.cabionline.com](http://www.susanlidback.cabionline.com) and follow me at **Susan Style Connection** on IG for style tips.

What reliable and professional business do you know that would benefit from reaching their ideal clients in Singletree? Please email your referrals to [holly.proctor@n2co.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2co.com). We would love to introduce your favorite businesses to other residents in the neighborhood!



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# Introducing Chef Lauren at Lauren's Kitchen: Making Gourmet Convenient for Any Occasion

**MEET LAUREN MCELROY**, die-hard foodie and owner of Lauren's Kitchen. Located in Riverwalk in Edwards, Chef Lauren offers full-service catering options for your every need: personal chef services for 6 to 250 servings! Here she shares her background, experiences, and the inspiration behind her true passion.

**When did you discover your passion for food?**

I grew up experimenting with both of my Texan grandmothers - English and Italian. They both helped me to explore cooking by making different concoctions, and when they weren't around, I'd experiment on my younger brother. It was these early

experiences that ignited my admiration and appreciation for creating unique dishes.

**How did you land in the Vail Valley?**

We were lucky enough to vacation in Vail as kids over Thanksgiving breaks growing up - my aunt and uncle always had a condo in East Vail. When I graduated from CSU in Fort Collins, I knew I wanted to return to live in my happy place and moved to Vail full time on my own in 2007.

**What experiences inspired you to open Lauren's Kitchen?**

I was fortunate to go to college in Colorado; at the suggestion of my mother, I studied Business and got my Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing in 2006. From there, I worked all sorts of sales and marketing jobs for big companies but never had a real passion for it like I always had for cooking. After wearing all the corporate business hats, I decided it was time to go back to school for something I really enjoyed. Upon graduating from culinary school, I worked for several smaller catering companies that taught me the ropes. With all my newly gained culinary knowledge and confidence from those who believed in me, I set out to start my own business.

**What led you to make the decision to transition to full time catering (instead of Grab 'n Go)?**

After 6.5 years of a very successful catering and grab n' go storefront in Riverwalk in Edwards, I made the decision to transition to focus on only catering due to lack of staffing

and the inevitable "unknown" of running a storefront. Catering was always more successful, and I found myself having to sacrifice my storefront a lot in order to do it all! So one had to go. Rest assured, I personally found another business to lease out my storefront - Sweet Mustache - which is also a small, local business owned by two ladies who make my favorite sweet treats: chocolate chip cookies, cupcakes, slices of cake, and the best short bread and Linzer cookies I've ever tried.

**What types of occasions or events do you cater for?**

Anything you can think of! Weddings, family reunions, golf parties, ski parties, birthdays, celebrations of life, graduations, bachelor/ette parties, camping/outdoor trips, corporate events, holidays, open houses, family gatherings, and more.

**What are your most popular menu items?**

Everything is made from scratch - adopting my grandmothers' passed down recipes, but reimagined to cater to the modern client in a "healthier" version. My best sellers include Lasagna Bolognese, Chicken Marsala, Pecan Crusted Chicken, Maple Dijon Salmon, Chicken Parmesan, Chicken Tetrazzini, TX Style Chili, Mac 'n' Cheese, and Chicken Salad, just to name a few.

**What do you find the most challenging aspect of operating a small business in the valley?**

STAFFING! It has been a constant battle, and while I did manage to find a few awesome gals to help me out these last few years, when they are out sick, you are in the same boat again.

**What are your favorite interests and activities when you are not cooking?**

I am an avid snowboarder in the winter and love getting out on the rivers on my ducky in the summer. I'm also into live music especially hard rock concerts down in Denver and beyond!

**Is there anything else you would like to share with the residents of Singletree?**

We are here for you! If you have unexpected guests or are throwing a party, we can help - it's as simple as sending me an email and telling me the date, time, and location, your food preferences, and if you want staff on-site or your order to be delivered.

You can also go online to **LaurensKitchenEdwards.com**, select your specific dishes, and send me an email with your order. We are no longer in the storefront daily, so email is the BEST way to reach me!

To contact Chef Lauren, please visit **www.LaurensKitchenEdwards.com** or email orders to **LaurenMc123@gmail.com**.





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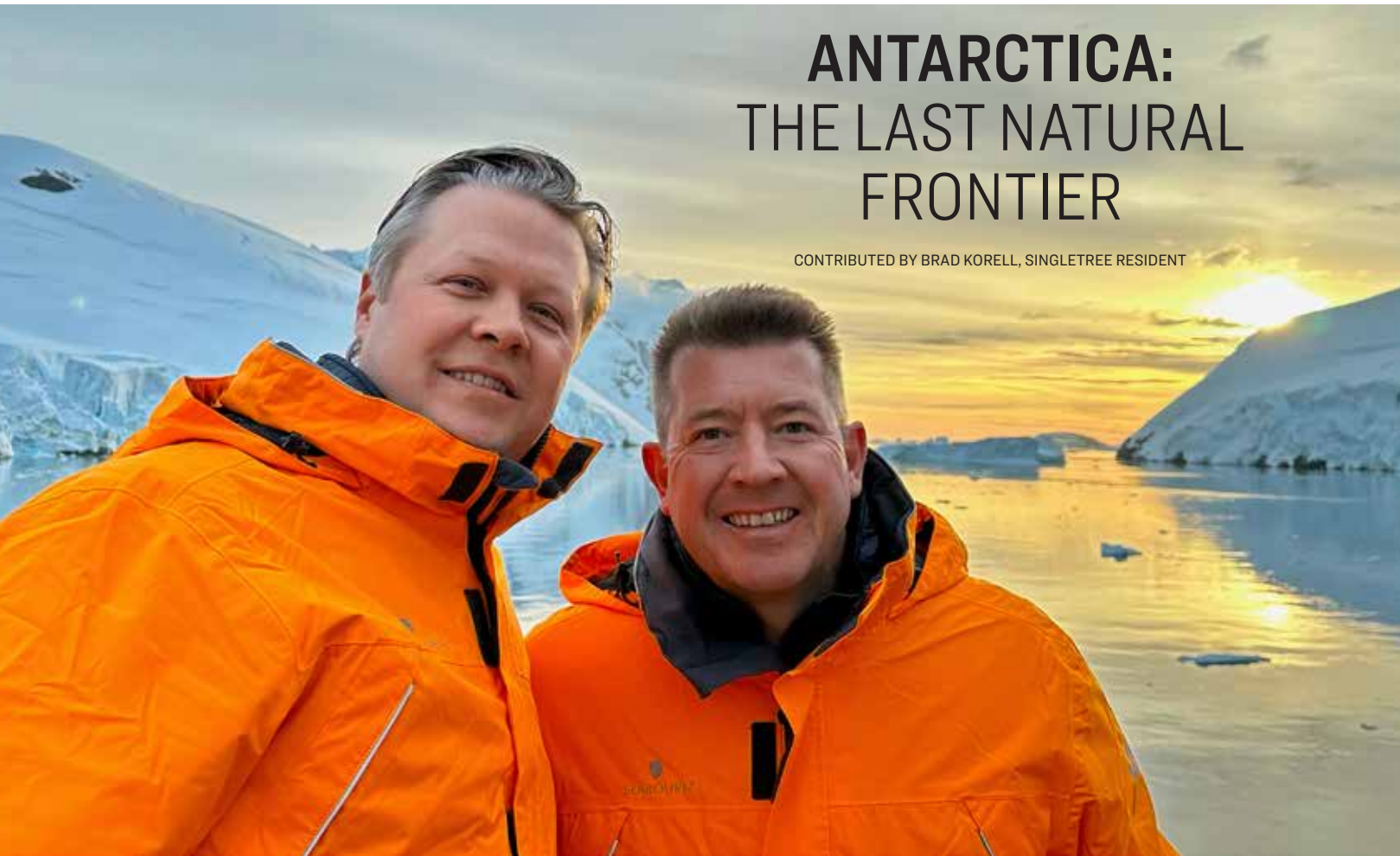
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# ANTARCTICA: THE LAST NATURAL FRONTIER

CONTRIBUTED BY BRAD KORELL, SINGLETREE RESIDENT



When trying to describe Antarctica in a few words or a short phrase, there are many visuals that flash into my conscience. The phrase that resonates most is, “Antarctica is the Last Natural Frontier”.

At the end of January, my husband Justin and I made the journey to the southern end of the Earth (well, almost, since we never actually reached the South Pole). We traveled with our longtime friends Jason and Erin Jones, who recently became permanent residents of Singletree.

While we have traveled extensively across the globe for many years, Antarctica was one place where neither of us had any prior experience. For once, I decided to do very little research and relied solely on the information provided by our cruise line, Seabourn, solely for packing purposes. I left the rest to be surprised as it came.

And surprised I was. While there were many highlights of the trip, my favorite experience was our initial arrival at the Antarctic Peninsula as the sun was beginning to set. Being at the bottom of the planet in late January, there was not a significant amount of darkness each day. The cruise staff could not have choreographed our arrival more perfectly. The ship entered the Lemaire Channel with majestic mountains surrounding us on both sides. While I never anticipated Antarctica to be a flat sheet of ice, I had no expectations of large mountains

comparable to the Colorado Rockies rising dramatically out of the ocean. The setting sunlight illuminating both the mountains and the water provided an ideal introduction to our “home” for the next five days.

Our ship, the Seabourn Venture, was built specifically for Antarctic expeditions (although it is used in many other areas across the world at other times of the year). It is just over two years old with a maximum capacity of only about 250 guests. While we love the Seabourn guest experience across its fleet, the Venture has the most contemporary décor of any ships we had sailed previously. Despite the ship’s smaller size, the food, beverage, spa, and cabin accommodations on the Venture maintained the luxury standards that keep us consistently returning to the Seabourn brand.

While making a comparison of the Antarctic expedition to another travel experience is challenging, the best I can muster is an African safari. Each of our five days in Antarctica had both a morning and an afternoon “excursion” with lunch onboard in between. On some occasions, we went onto the land itself while others were sightseeing expeditions on small Zodiac boats. The variety was mixed well by the ship’s highly knowledgeable expedition team. We chose two special outings that were optional additions to the cruise. The first was a submarine expedition to the bottom of the

ocean in a specialized submersible vehicle built specifically for Seabourn. The second was a kayaking adventure with a small group of guests. Neither disappointed.

Wildlife is abundant in Antarctica, especially with penguins. While there are many species of penguins, we were introduced to three: the Adélie, the Chinstrap, and most predominantly, the Gentoo. Penguins leave their mark in many ways. Their walk is quite entertaining (and at times, awkward). They are particularly vocal with one another - and anyone else who is present to listen. They travel consistent paths turning the ice and snow into very noticeable “penguin highways”. Most surprising to me was the grace of their swimming, which is truly an art form. Of course, the other abundant “marks” left by thousands of penguins can probably be easily guessed, although the smell was not as pungent as many had warned.

We were treated to multiple humpback whale sightings throughout the voyage, including one full breach on our final day. Whale watching is something that never seems to lose its magic since no display is ever the same. Multiple species of seals are also highly prevalent in Antarctica along with a variety of

birds. I am admittedly not much of a bird person, so I have no idea what kind of birds we saw (besides the penguins, of course). For those who enjoy deep sea marine life, our submarine expedition included multiple starfish and sponges, some of which we were told were hundreds of years old.

We have often been asked about icebergs on our voyage. They definitely exist in Antarctica in great frequency and in some cases, immense size. Because of their presence, all movement of the ship while in Antarctica occurs during the daylight hours.

Speaking of surprises, another was the weather. The temperature while in Antarctica only varied by about 5 degrees and was quite comparable to an average February day in the Vail Valley. We quickly learned that we both overpacked with winter clothes that we mostly never used since almost all the expedition gear was provided for us. Otherwise, the summer clothes we brought for our pre-cruise days in Buenos Aires and post-cruise days in

Santiago would have been mostly sufficient for the cruise itself since almost everything the ship had to offer could be easily accessed without ever going outside.

One moment that did not feel like summer was the “polar plunge” into the 33-degree ocean water. Yes, it’s a thing, and yes, we voluntarily did it (and Justin was brilliant enough to do it twice). I learned much in those 10 seconds of grandeur, the most important of which being that I will never be jumping into the Eagle River in January. My





neighborhood friends can also cross that gift certificate for a cold-water plunge off my Christmas list.

Of course, no story of Antarctica can be told without the experience of traversing the Drake Passage. This is the vast stretch of water between the southern tip of South America and the Antarctica Peninsula where the Pacific, Atlantic, and Southern Oceans all converge. Some have a very turbulent experience of the Drake Passage, often called the “Drake Shake”. Others have a calm and peaceful sail through the open ocean waters, often referred to as the “Drake Lake”.

We had both. We were welcomed into the Drake Passage with massive

waves that frequently reached the balcony of our cabin on the fifth deck. The handrails in the hallways and stairwells of the ship quickly became our best friends (along with the prescription patch behind my right ear). Fortunately, our group avoided any seasickness. The return back to Argentina was quite the opposite with a calm sail that was generally unnoticeable other than a few rogue waves. In hindsight, we appreciated having the full Drake Passage experience.

Antarctica is a destination that we highly

recommend and will likely visit again. It was nothing short of amazing to be in an immense area of mountains and ocean so largely untouched from human activity. The beauty of nature is hard to accurately describe without seeing it personally. It truly is “The Last Natural Frontier”.



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# Sipping & Shopping at LA Studio & Co.

Addie Pecord, the owner of LA Studio & Co., hosted a wonderful soiree to introduce the residents of Singletree to her stunning store featuring furniture and home accessories in Edwards. Sips and nibbles were enjoyed by all!







WHY I WALK



## Why I Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease

Pam Beaudin joins the Walk to End Alzheimer's so that others will not have to endure the pain, stress, and helplessness she and her brother experienced while losing their father to the disease

CONTRIBUTED BY PAM BEAUDIN, SINGLETREE RESIDENT

I lost my father last year to this horrible disease.

For a few years prior, my stepmother would tell my brother and me how he had sundowners. I didn't know what that was. She said she needed help.

They lived in California with visits from us kids a few times per year. When she asked for help, we immediately set up a family meeting. He wasn't to the point where he needed outside care yet, although he was getting lost driving and there had been other incidents which caused concern.

My stepmother passed a few months after our family meeting. I stayed with my father for as long as I could be away. We needed help and had to find him help. He couldn't afford in home care and we needed to sell the house for professional care. We found independent living which had progressive care if needed. If he continued to decline, he would transfer to the lower level for memory care.

It was so difficult for him as it would be for anyone. Lose your spouse, lose your home, move someplace you don't want to go and not understanding why. "Why can't I stay here at home?" he would ask. "I'll be good. I'm fine. I don't do anything or go anywhere." Living with him for the weeks it took to get situated brings tears as I type.

Then the move and leaving him there gave me that sickness we get in the pit of our stomachs. He was so lost. It wasn't long after he went into the memory care part of the facility. Then there was COVID when, like others, we couldn't visit. He didn't understand why no one was coming.

Dad was such a happy jokester by nature. I always said he had a rolodex of jokes in his head. If you gave him a topic, he had a dumb dad joke (before they were labeled as such). He had other jokes not suitable for his daughter, and that was fine with me. Oh, and he was such a flirt!

He was getting meaner by the day. One minute he was flirting with the staff and the next he was trying to punch them. That wasn't my dad. I didn't know this person. Inevitably, he stopped knowing us. As I look back, it was a blessing of sorts. He didn't know what was going on with him or anyone else.

So why do I walk and support this association? I would like to do what I can so others will hopefully not have to go through what we went through. The pain, stress, and not knowing what to do is undaunting. My brother and I felt so alone and helpless.

I doubt it will be in my lifetime when a cure is available. Of course, I am also scared for my family. I don't want them to have to go through what I did. There are support groups and people that can help families through the process. We can thank the Alzheimer's Association by donating or walking to support others.

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## A Dynamic Dinosaur Duo Unites to Bring the Museum at Dinosaur Junction to Life in Edwards

Childhood friends Jarrett Osborn and Billy Duran join forces to re-introduce an Allosaurus and a Camarasaurus to Eagle County after 150,000,000 years

CONTRIBUTED BY JARRETT OSBORN, SINGLETREE RESIDENT  
ARTICLE WRITTEN BY TIM SWIFT, SINGLETREE RESIDENT

For my money, there is precious little that is more fascinating than learning something about where you have lived for over 35 years that you never knew before. I had that very experience not long ago when I sat down with Billy Duran, the director of the Museum at Dinosaur Junction located at the Edwards Early Learning Center just outside Singletree. My intention was to interview Billy about the museum, but I came away with so much more than just an interview. If you know Billy, even in passing, you know that his passion for all things fossilized as well as his enthusiasm for passing this knowledge along is truly infectious.

You will also learn, as did I, that we are living right in the center of one of the most prolific areas of the fossilized remains of extinct creatures dating from the Triassic period over

200,000,000 years ago, and into the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods when Eagle County was part of the Western Interior Seaway. Yes, you read that right, Western Interior Seaway. What is now The Gashouse was under about 2,000 feet of water teaming with a plethora of creatures from the fearsome to the fearful. The water eventually receded and was replaced by the mountains we know a mere 66,000,000 years ago, and the remains of literally thousands of species were preserved in the layers of lava, silt, mud, and rotted vegetation just waiting to be dug up by paleontologists from around the world including our own Billy Duran.

Billy began his journey through the past in Fairfax, VA, where he prowled the woods in his backyard until he became familiar with every furry, feathered, or scaled creature that scurried, flew, or slithered through the countryside that surrounded his home. He has always been interested in the origins of our planet and the creatures that populated it, but it wasn't until he moved to The Valley in 1989 that he was able to pursue it. Part of his experience in The Valley was conducting interviews with local notables and visitors for TV8. One of the interviewees that he pursued was Kirk Johnson, at the time the head curator at the Denver Museum of Natural History; at the time they were never able to connect for an actual interview. Kirk is currently the Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC.

That didn't stop them from becoming friends, however. In 2010, Kirk invited Billy to join him on a local fossil hunt. The spark that was always in Billy finally burst into flame and his future was sealed. He went on more and more fossil hunting adventures eventually joining hunts sponsored by National Geographic as well as the Denver Museum.



Along with the growth of Billy's knowledge and experience came a drive to share all this with the kids of Eagle County because, well, who hasn't known a youngster fascinated with dinosaurs? This bit of enlightenment led Billy to found Fossil Posse, a summer day camp in Wolcott, 10 years ago. Fossil Posse is dedicated to teaching interested kids about all they can find in their own back yards. The camp was, and still is, a great success and eventually led to a major spin off, the Museum at Dinosaur Junction that we have just outside our Singletree boundaries today.

It is now that we must add another important figure in this bit of local evolution, Jarrett Osborn, a Singletree resident, and the owner of Riverwalk Wine & Spirits in Edwards. Jarrett and Billy actually grew up together in Fairfax and attended the same schools up to and including Virginia Tech. They are so close that Billy served as best man for Jarrett and his wife Diane's wedding. Jarrett arrived in The Valley in 1990, the year after Billy started calling Eagle County home, and they soon started hiking our many local hills and dales seeking out the many fossil troves scattered about the neighborhood.

We need to pause here for just a bit to explain what fossil hunting means in Eagle County. Because most of our vacant land is government land, finding a fossil means that's really all you can do with it: find it. Unless you have a specific license issued by the Department of the Interior of the U.S., you can't unearth it and simply put it on your mantle at home. You must leave it "in situ" or where it lies. No digging whatsoever is permitted. All you can do once you find it is hope there is enough of the fossil exposed so you can properly identify it. In other words, you can look, but don't touch!

OK, back to the story of the Museum.

About 2 years ago, Billy and Jarrett realized that they needed another vehicle for telling the story of dinosaurs in Eagle County to a wider audience than Fossil Posse afforded, and the idea of a permanent, year around exhibition space began to take shape. In what must be some sort of record for the time





between idea and fact, the museum opened behind the Edwards Early Learning Center and was an instant hit with locals.

The room is dominated by the skeletons of two immense dinosaurs, an Allosaurus and a Camarasaurus that both roamed Eagle County 150,000,000 years ago. These two life-sized specimens offer a true picture of the impact of these prehistoric giants. Complete fossilized skeletons of T-Rexes, for example, are extremely rare. In fact, out of the estimated 1,500,000,000 of the species that lived and died, only 37 complete skeletons have been found!

The rest of the Museum's collection is made up of objects and stories that really bring our significant local contributions to the body paleontological knowledge come to life. From plaster casts of actual dinosaur footprints to a woolly mammoth tusk and an amazing collection of fossilized dinosaur bones, the story of our importance to science and history is brilliantly and professionally told.

The next step for this dynamic dino-duo is growth. When you visit the museum (and you simply must), it's clear that they are pressed for space. Billy and Jarrett live with this every day, and are actively looking to grow the museum and identifying funding sources to make that growth a reality. If recent history is any indication, don't get in their way!

Want to know more about Fossil Posse and Dinosaur Junction? Just visit their websites [www.fossilposse.com](http://www.fossilposse.com) and [www.dinosaurjunction.org](http://www.dinosaurjunction.org).



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## A Remarkable Success Story: Alida Zwaan Comes Full Circle Back to Vail

As a child, Alida Zwaan fell in love with Vail, Colorado. Her journey from Oklahoma to Vail to Texas to Germany ultimately brought her back to the mountains she loves to call home.

**MEET ALIDA ZWAAN** – longtime Vail and Singletree resident. Alida’s father had grown up in Holland and skied in Europe as a youth. He and Alida’s mother wanted their children to have a similar experience, so they visited numerous ski areas including Taos, Sun Valley, Breckenridge, and Vail. Alida’s younger sister said “Daddy, I like Vail the best!”. Thus began a generational family commitment to Vail commencing with her parents and three of her siblings.

### THE EARLY DAYS IN VAIL

Alida’s father acquired a townhome in West Vail in 1969 where the family and their friends enjoyed Vail during Christmas, other longer holiday periods, and of course, during the summer months when work permitted. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma, Alida returned to Vail in 1973 where she rented a townhome and began her time here as many do - working in a restaurant, cleaning condos at night, and skiing during the day.

Alida was very fortunate to have been introduced to Mrs. Marge Burdick who owned the Red Lion in Vail Village. Mrs. Burdick hired her subject to the prerequisite that before becoming a server/waitress, you had to bus tables for three months. Alida put in her time and was then ‘promoted’ to the position of waitress. During this period she met many famous people, but more importantly she developed life-long friendships with some of Vail’s original and early members. Those friendships and their work ethic, commitment to community, and desire to enjoy the mountains shaped her values and work habits.



### AN ADVENTURE ABROAD

After that first season in Vail, Alida followed a friend to Austin, Texas where she completed the courses to obtain her Real Estate Sales license and worked with one of the larger firms in Austin. However, Austin didn’t exert the pull of the Mountains or Vail and Alida returned here in 1975. While working with Helmut Fricker’s wife, Ursula, in Vail, Alida was offered a chance to teach in Germany. Helmut and his wife encouraged Alida to take advantage of the opportunity. Two months later, Alida moved to Heddeshheim, Germany where she worked for the American School in Mannheim for her first year abroad.

Alida’s love of travel led her to look for additional employment opportunities that would allow her to visit other German and European sites when she met the lady that headed up the United Service Organization (“USO”). The USO Executive was impressed with Alida’s initiative and offered her a job predicated on her speaking German. She spoke only English and French at the time but rapidly learned German by taking classes in Heidelberg, studying her German dictionary, and speaking to everyone she met, especially the bus drivers because her job would entail traveling details. While working with the USO, Alida became the travel guide and assistant who took members all over Europe, especially Austria, France, Switzerland, and of course, Germany.

### THE CALL OF THE MOUNTAINS

After working two years abroad, Alida missed her family and especially Vail. She decided to return to Colorado, purchased a condo in East Vail (property was far more affordable in those years), and wanted to devote her efforts to real estate, continuing her early work in Austin. This was in 1980 when there were very few women in real estate. She was acquainted with Elaine Holland, who owned Holland and Associates Real Estate. Elaine hired Alida and taught her the basics but more importantly, the absolute necessity of keeping your client’s interests at heart, more so than getting listings and closing transactions.

During workdays, Alida was diligent and put her time in learning about all the minutiae involved in successfully closing a transaction while working at night as a hostess at the Red Lion. Elaine decided to move to Florida and about the same time, Alida met John Slevin, the owner of Gore Range Properties, one of the few real estate companies that had female Realtors. Slevin offered Alida a position with his firm. Those early years were difficult as sales were intermittent due to a soft real estate market, but Alida persisted and her decision to join John Slevin’s group was fortuitous as things began to take off here in Vail.

Alida’s association with John Slevin was a perfect fit. John trusted his agents knowing they would be honest and telling them to maintain their client’s interests as their guiding light. He mentored his team teaching them if they did that, the money would take care of itself. John’s respect within the real estate community and Vail at large helped create an atmosphere that was a recipe for “success”, not only for Alida but the other “Gore Rangers”, a name used for Slevin’s early agents.







In addition to skiing, hiking, rafting, windsurfing, and enjoying all the wonderful amenities that the Vail Valley has to offer, Alida devotes considerable time and energy to numerous charities and community organizations



**AN OUTSTANDING REAL ESTATE CAREER**

Alida has been a top producer in real estate for years with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, a successor entity to Slevin's Gore Range Properties. She was recently in the Top 25 nationally in Gross Commissions Income ("GCI") for individual sales, and also named the Top Producer in real estate for unit sales and number 1 in Colorado for GCI. She has been consistently recognized as a top Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices agent receiving the Chairman's Circle - Diamond Level which is awarded to the top one half of one percent of the network's sales professionals based on GCI or closed units. Additionally, Alida earned top national rankings for her performance among more than 51,000 Berkshire Hathaway Home Service Brokers nationwide, as well as the Legend Awards Circle which is given to those that have been Top Producers for 25 consecutive years.

In addition to skiing, hiking, rafting, windsurfing, and enjoying all the wonderful amenities that the Vail Valley has to offer, Alida devotes considerable time and energy to numerous charities and community organizations. Her primary interest continues to be assisting her clients in finding the right property for each of them and their families while assuring their home ownership in the Vail Valley is just as rewarding as Alida's time here has been.

To contact Alida, please call 970-471-0291 or email [alidaz@bhhsvail.net](mailto:alidaz@bhhsvail.net).



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# Breaking Barriers at Colorado Mountain College: Pioneer Karen Kern Graduates with the Inaugural Class of 1988

CONTRIBUTED BY KAREN KERN, SINGLETREE RESIDENT  
ARTICLE COMPILED BY LISA ISOM,  
CMC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



Home for CMC at the Vail Cascade Resort Building in 1997

Under state law, CMC is officially Colorado's only dual mission college or university and one of an estimated 400 nationwide. Dual mission institutions most often serve rural communities and are the only physical postsecondary option where they are located. They intentionally offer both technical training and liberal arts programs and a mix of degree offerings aligned with local and regional workforce needs. They are neither a so-called "2-year" nor "4-year" college - they are both.

The first CMC classes took place in 1967 in Glenwood Springs and then quickly moved into rural areas across western Colorado, including Eagle County. Although local CMC classes originally took place in the Cascade Village Theater building in West Vail, as well as a small office building on Broadway in Eagle, the college eventually settled in Edwards, thanks to a shared land use agreement with Eagle County and the Eagle County School District. The CMC Vail Valley at Edwards campus was completed in 2004, with a 32,000 square foot addition added in 2011, and a new oral health clinic and teaching facility slated to open in the fall.

Colorado Mountain College Vail Valley at Edwards, located just a short walk from Singletree, is considered by many residents to be their neighborhood college. The campus is home to community art courses, dance and yoga classes, author visits, and the annual Art & Jazz Reception. But for other Singletree residents, Colorado Mountain College ("CMC") has been a conduit to professional certificates, bachelor's and associate degrees, and college-level concurrent enrollment courses offered to local high school students.

CMC was founded nearly 60 years ago specifically to serve remote mountain towns that didn't have a college or university nearby. At its founding, long before the internet and internationally accessible airports, this meant building campuses from the ground up and training students to be typesetters and ranchers. Today, CMC specializes in the needs of the modern tourism and outdoor-industry-based economies, educating students to become first responders and nurses, experts in sustainability and digital media, ski area operators, avalanche scientists, teachers, and business owners. CMC also serves over 700 local high school students through its concurrent enrollment programs and hundreds of community members through non-credit "community education" courses.

## BACK IN THE DAY

Singletree residents Karen and Bob Kern moved to Colorado from Minnesota in 1983, near the end of a recession that would turn out to be considered one of the worst economic downturns since World War II. Bob was a stucco and plaster contractor and had come out to Colorado with his brother and son in 1981 at the behest of a friend who had several projects in the works, one of which turned out to be the Beaver Creek home of former president Gerald R. Ford. "There were three houses being built at one time. Each contractor would move from house to house to house and back again in order to move as quickly as possible to finish the work," said Karen in a recent interview. Bob realized that even in the midst of a national recession, there was a lot of construction work in the mountains.

"Bob came home from those huge jobs in Colorado and basically said, 'Pack your bags,'" said Karen, who was not happy about the move initially. "I had just gone back to work; my kids were grown and had moved out of the house. I was really happy in Minnesota."

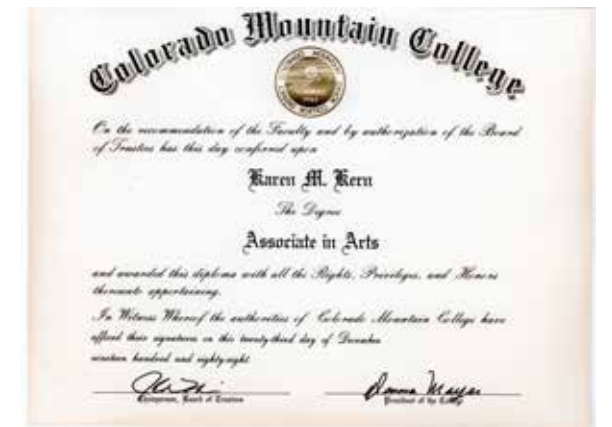
Regardless, in mid-July of 1983, they packed all their valuables into three personal vehicles and one large moving truck and headed for a rental duplex in the bedroom



Karen receives her hard-earned diploma on graduation day



Members of the Colorado Mountain College Class of 1988



It's official! Karen graduated on December 23, 1988

community of Eagle-Vail. Prior to their arrival in the mountains, Karen remembers Bob saying that the winters "weren't too bad" but that first winter it seemed to snow non-stop. "The snowplow had to come every day just to get us out of our driveway," exclaimed Karen with consternation. "It was awful."

Those who know Karen will attest that she is not one to just sit and watch the snow fall. She got to work right away volunteering at the hospital in Vail, where she started to meet a lot of like-minded, independent, local women. It was from these women that Karen first heard about Colorado Mountain College. Karen had always wanted to go to college, but as a student growing up at a country school in rural Minnesota, she was not put on the college track. In those days, for students whose parents could not afford college (especially female students), there were home economics courses and basic math classes. "The most frustrating part was that I was really good at math, but no one ever gave me the chance to prove myself," said Karen. "I started to feel like I just wasn't as smart as the other students who were allowed to take college prep classes."

## OFF TO COLLEGE

That all changed for Karen when she discovered CMC. "I started taking every business class I possibly could so that I could help run my husband's business. And you know what? I aced them! It turns out I was just as smart as the other students, and I just loved going to class."



Karen and Bob celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 17





Colorado Mountain College in Edwards today

Karen said that taking classes at CMC really helped her get to know the valley. She drove all over the county, from the old Vail Cascade building, all the way down to Eagle Valley High School in Gypsum. She even took classes in the Vail Police station. “I think CMC offered classes anywhere they could find a space in those days,” recalled Karen. One of her classes was on the phone with a teacher in Steamboat Springs because Karen was the only person who signed up. Karen said she never actually met the professor in person. (This was 40 years before the invention of Zoom or virtual classes. It turns out that Karen and CMC were way ahead of their time!)

Bob and Karen moved to Singletree in 1985 when there were only about 50 homes in the area. “Our neighbors were the deer,” chuckled Mrs. Kern. (For perspective, there are nearly 1,100 homes in Singletree today, so you can imagine how sparsely populated the development was in the 1980s.) In Karen’s memory, the ‘80s were a very dusty time in Singletree. There was a building boom underway, and she and Bob watched the neighborhood spring up around them. They were often in the thick of things, helping neighbors such as the late Doris Dewton (a longtime trustee and much beloved CMC advocate and donor) stucco and plaster their homes.

#### GRADUATION ARRIVES

Karen would study during the day while doing the books for her husband’s business at night, which only had 3-4 employees

initially. Eventually the business grew to 40 employees on 6 work crews, before Bob, who was always a hands-on employer and liked to be on job sites with his staff, intentionally downsized to 25 employees on 5 work crews. During all the ebbs and flows, Karen did the payroll for the business and kept track of materials for job estimates and proposals. While Bob was in the field, Karen was carefully managing things from her home office in Singletree. Karen went on to complete her associate degree in 1988, while working fulltime, and graduated in the spring of 1989.

Karen turned 50 in 1989 so as a birthday present to herself, she joined Vail Club 50 and started biking and hiking with the group. Karen didn’t know how to ski when she moved to Colorado, but that all changed quickly when she volunteered for the 1989 World Alpine Ski Championships at Beaver Creek. Karen volunteered for 125 days in the transportation department, driving racers, staff, and coaches to and from the old Stapleton Airport in Denver to various hotels around the valley. But more importantly, Karen took 3 ski lessons during her time as a volunteer and caught the ski bug. The following year, Karen bought equipment at the annual Ski Swap at Dobson Arena in Vail and purchased her first season ski pass.

Although Karen, now in her 80s, retired from skiing recently, she is still a regular at CMC events and a contributor to CMC scholarship programs.



Karen celebrates her 50th birthday by joining Vail Club 50

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Interested? Email [holly.proctor@n2co.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2co.com) and tell me why you would like to write for *Stroll Singletree*. Let’s make your voice heard and your application shine!

# Are you and your home Fire Wise?

Thanks to the diligent work of your Berry Creek Metro District and Singletree Property Owners Association boards, Singletree is designated as a **Firewise USA Community**.

**Have you mentioned this to your homeowner’s insurance company?**

Schedule a FREE property wildfire risk assessment at [realfire.net](http://realfire.net) and complete the prescribed mitigation.

Participate in Singletree’s complimentary community chipping day on Tuesday, July 30.

Check out grants and funding for mitigation work at [csfs.colostate.edu/grants](http://csfs.colostate.edu/grants); learn about the Mitigation Income Tax Subtraction.

Changes to your landscaping require Design Review approval prior to work being completed – you can find the Landscape Alteration application online at [singletreetoday.com](http://singletreetoday.com).

Download the Eagle County Emergency Alert system on the ReachWell App in addition to Everbridge – download the app on to your phone and add Eagle County Alerts.

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## Transforming Trees: The Alchemy of Paper in Artistic Expression

Susan Mackin Dolan creates hand made paper to explore the impact of humans on the natural world and inspire environmental awareness

CONTRIBUTED BY SUSAN MACKIN DOLAN, SINGLETREE RESIDENT



Wood cut prints on kozo sheets

Thinking about life as an artist brings back memories of growing up in a paper mill town near the end of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. The constant production of paper and its impact on the surrounding forests and waters shaped my view the world. In grade school, we toured the mill and watched trees being turned into paper in real time. Watching that alchemical process was fascinating, but one couldn't ignore the negative environmental consequences. This realization inspired many of my adult works that explore the impact of humans on the natural world.

Growing up, I had a never-ending supply of paper and was encouraged to study drawing, painting, and ceramics during my teenage years. Traveling to Europe right after high school with my boyfriend, Charles, and seeing some of the most famous museums in the world, really opened my eyes to the art world. My commitment to pursuing art as a lifelong vocation happened during a transformative exploration of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy.

While studying art at the University of Maine, I experienced the intersection of art and industry when using the equipment in the Pulp & Paper Technology Department. We made archival cotton pulp for cast paper sculptures and flat sheets of paper for etchings and lithographs. We were encouraged to push conceptual boundaries in our art making by a succession of visiting feminist artists, including Judy Chicago and Marisol.

Graduate programs offering papermaking and printmaking MFAs were rare during the early 80s and I ended up in the Art Department at the University of Colorado, Boulder. They offered well equipped studios and teaching assistantships and required all graduate students to participate in an amazing visiting artist program. Two of my favorites were folk artist, Howard Finster, and performance artist, Laurie Anderson, whose work expanded conventional thinking about what art could be. This combination of new concepts with experimental media enabled my work to evolve into large paper and print installations. CU was great preparation for my next adventure in South Texas.

I was recruited to help establish the first hand papermaking studio in South Texas at the Southwest School of Art in San Antonio. My years at the Picante Paper studio involved teaching adults and K-12 art teachers and collaborating with well-known artists to create limited edition paper works. One artist I still collaborate with is Eric Avery and you can read about our projects here: <https://passagevision.com/averydolan.html>.

Over the years, my work found its way into many important collections including the Robert C. Williams

## THE PAPERMAKING PROCESS



1. Selection of dry bark fibers.



2. Soak fibers overnight.



3. Boil fibers 3-4 hours.



4. Beat fibers to correct length before coloring and adding to a vat of water.



5. Form sheets on a mold and deckle.

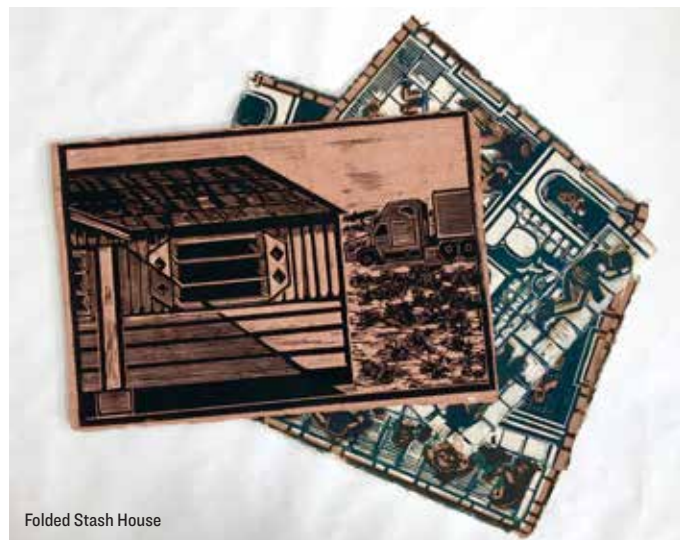


6. Wet sheets are "couched" onto a drying screen.



7. Finished pile of shaped and stenciled kozo & gampi fiber papers.





Folded Stash House



Opened Stash House



Este No Es Su Agua



Homegoing



Homegoing wood cutprinting detail

Paper Museum in Atlanta, Biblioteque Nationale de France in Paris, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Watson Library in New York. It has been shown in many notable exhibitions including, New Directions in Paper, Mendocino Art Center, CA, International Triennial of Graphic Arts, Manes Gallery in Prague, and the 6th Texas Sculpture Symposium, Blue Star Art Space, San Antonio, TX.

Art is more than just a means of expression and involves constant exploration and discovery. Art creates meaning and helps you make sense out of life! My subjects range from philosophical contemplations and explorations of human consciousness to political and social issues. Art provides a

way to understand the complex world around us.

My husband, Charles, and I have lived in Singletree for 30 years and we raised our son, Alex, here. He is an artist and lives in New York City.

To learn more, please visit my website [www.susammackindolan.com](http://www.susammackindolan.com) or [#smackind](https://www.instagram.com/smackind) on Instagram.

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# THIS AIN'T YOUR MAMA'S CABARET

John Tedstrom offers a sneak peak into the upcoming Vail Valley Theatre Company production of Cabaret - NOT TO BE MISSED!

CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN TEDSTROM, SINGLETREE RESIDENT

**A**s I'm writing this in early May, rehearsals have just begun for The Vail Valley Theatre Company's production of Cabaret \*, this summer July 16 - 21. Tickets are now on sale. Unless it's sold out, which is quite likely, get your tickets today at [vailtheatre.org](http://vailtheatre.org).

**We are very excited about this show for many reasons:**

- 1/** Cabaret is one of the most successful musicals of all time. It's really entertaining and highly relevant: a classic and a favorite of theater lovers around the world.
- 2/** We're doing the show at the world class venue Chasing Rabbits Vail, complete with the Moon Rabbit room and The Rabbit Hole, which will be transformed into the Kit Kat Club in pre-World War II 1930s Berlin. A variety of food and beverage options to go with your seat will also available.
- 3/** The show will be performed by a talented cast of local actors, many new faces, and the promise of a Cabaret that "ain't your Mama's Cabaret", inspired by the recent London West End production.
- 4/** We're doing the show with a multi-piece live band featuring world class musicians, so the place is going to be rockin' to some amazing music.
- 5/** For my part, I'm working on perfecting a German accent and trying on a very different role than I am used to performing.

Today, change is the only constant, and constant change is the only way to stay relevant. Perhaps that's how the musical Cabaret remains one of the most successful musicals of all time. Nearly sixty years ago, Cabaret opened on Broadway. But the show that opened on Broadway in 1966 is not the show you'll see today, as it has been revised and updated through several reimagined revivals.

Unlike revivals of most other musicals that are kind of a rubber stamp of the original, Cabaret's book, score and staging have been dramatically transformed over the years. It was adapted as a movie and then revived on Broadway and the West End several times. Each revision has been groundbreaking when produced, altering musical conventions, characterizations, questioning cultural norms, and how authentically 1930s Weimar Germany is presented. Today's show promises the same.

Though overall it's not a happy story, this many-layered epic is a meaningful and important one that takes on



some of the still-critical and highly relevant issues of our time, including gender and inclusion, sexuality, abortion, Anti-Semitism, and the importance of our democratic freedoms. It is filled with indelible and imperfect characters trying to make their way in a difficult time in late 1920s and early 1930s Berlin, and many well-known songs like "Willkommen", "Life is a Cabaret", and "Money", plus fabulous high energy dancing that is guaranteed to entertain. It'll also make us all think; something we could all use a little more of today.

Continuing its run of successes and sold-out performances post-Covid, the Vail Valley Theatre Company's show this July is performed in the unique and intimate spaces at Chasing Rabbits - from a surreal entry and prologue through the Chasing Rabbits secret room known as "Moon Rabbit" to an intimate setting in The Rabbit

Hole, which will be transformed into the Kit Kat Club, an immersive cabaret. Music will be performed by a live band, led by our talented Musical Director, Kim Duncan-Denning. The show will likely sell out as there are only limited tickets available over the six-night run.

The show is local David Mayer's Vail Valley Theatre Company directorial debut (David is the talented Director of the Battle Mountain High School Theater department) and it features Vail Valley favorites Charis Patterson, as the gender fluid emcee, newcomer to the company Rebecca Blitstein as Sally Bowles (borrowed by VVTC from the Lyric Theatre of Leadville and the Breckenridge Backstage Theatre), talented Valley second generation actor Jake Dutmer as Clifford Bradshaw, well-known locals Gina Parrish and John Tedstrom, and a talented cast of supporting actors and performers from all over the Valley and beyond. David's vision for the show is inspired by the West End London production and the current Broadway version, and it promises to be a Vail Valley Theatre Company show for the ages that is not to be missed.



Accolades for the show have continued since 1966. The Broadway version was a hit at the time, winning eight 1967 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Score, Director, Choreographer, and featured Actor Awards for Joel Grey and Peg Murray. The 1972 film starring Liza Minelli and Joel Gray won eight Academy Awards in 1973, including Best Director for Bob Fosse, Best Actress for Liza Minnelli, and Best Supporting Actor for Joel Grey, making him one of only eight actors to win Tony and Oscar Awards for playing the same role. It has since been revived on Broadway in 1987, in London's West End in 1993, in 2014 with Alan Cumming as the emcee, and most recently on Broadway currently running with Eddie Redmayne as the emcee, Gayle Rankin as Sally, and Bebe Neuirth as Fraulein Schneider.

Join the Vail Valley Theatre Company for our production of Cabaret at Chasing Rabbits Vail on July 16 -21, if you can get tickets that is. For more info and to get your tickets, go to [www.vailtheatre.org](http://www.vailtheatre.org).



\*Book by Joe Masteroff, Based on the play by John Van Druten and Stories by Christopher Isherwood, Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Cabaret is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)





## ABOUT THE VAIL VALLEY THEATRE COMPANY

The Vail Valley Theatre Company (VVTC) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1987. Favorite past productions have included *Cabaret*, *The Fantasticks*, *Man of LaMancha*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Chicago*, *Into The Woods*, *9-to-5*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, the well-loved series of *Evening on Broadway* shows, and more recently *Tony n' Tina's Wedding*, two *Rocky Halloween* shows, and *Valley Voices*. We offer a variety of opportunities to develop new friendships, discover hidden talents, laugh and cry, and stand in awe. Being involved in a community theatre production or engaging in one as part of the audience creates camaraderie and a unique bond with the community, which does not disappear when the curtain goes down.

We are all so fortunate to live and work in this beautiful place; add

to that an amazing blend of cultural diversity and we are truly blessed. VVTC hopes to add to that diversity by providing our very talented locals an opportunity to participate in live theatre. Whether you have an urge to hog the spotlight as an actor, singer, and/or dancer, or you would prefer to stay in the shadows, stage right, behind five people... or providing the technical help that each production relies on to be a success, we encourage every ability to become involved in one of our productions. To that end we have launched a series of new community programming that includes Improv classes, Adult Theatrical Dance and Theatrical Choir, and more. For more info on how you can get involved, please contact **John Tedstrom** at 970-376-0269 or **Connie Kinkaid** at 970-390-0024, email [info@vailtheatre.org](mailto:info@vailtheatre.org) or visit [vailtheatre.org](http://vailtheatre.org).



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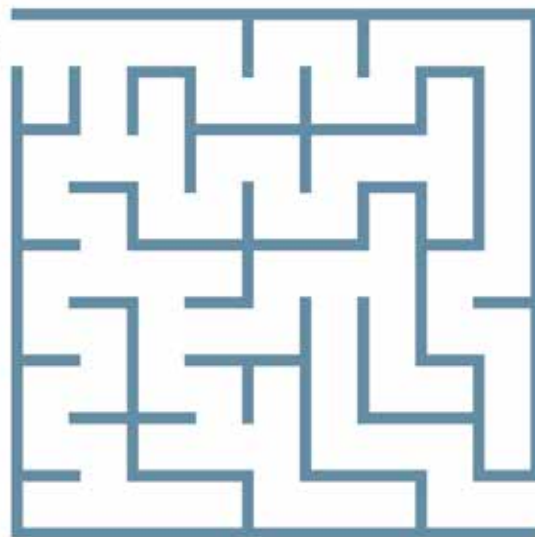
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