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January 4-17, 2024

A Night at the Opera means better days for cancer patients and survivors



Julie Royal Lowry
Soprano



Indra Thomas
Soprano

On January 13, 2024, Anderson-area music lovers will gather at First Baptist Church for A Night at the Opera, a fundraising event to benefit the Cancer Association of Anderson. The program will feature selections from well-known composers of operatic works performed by professional opera singers from across the Southeast. The fundraiser, spearheaded by Anderson resident and profes-



Kim von Keller

Association of Anderson.

"I used to sing in the Concert

sional opera singer Timothy Kelley, was conceived when Kelley was forced to withdraw from another benefit for the Cancer

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA
January 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm
First Baptist Church
307 S. Manning St., Anderson,
SC 29624

of Hope, which is the annual fundraiser for the Cancer Association of

SEE OPERA ON PAGE 2



Timothy Kelley
Bass-Baritone



Logan Webber
Tenor

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RESOLVED — LEARNING WHEN TO SAY NO TO PINTEREST

Did you or your daughter become engaged over the Christmas holidays? Congratulations! There's no happier, more energetic time in the life of a family than wedding season. I say that with authority as our



Kim von Keller

daughter was married last month. But January is the month of resolutions, so to all you brides-to-be and mothers of brides-to-be, let me suggest one: Learn to just say no to Pinterest.

If you're not familiar with this social media platform, stop reading here. People have planned weddings without Pinterest for thousands of years.

You didn't stop reading. That's because you've been planning a wedding for a week now and have already become slightly manic. So if you're not familiar with

Pinterest, it's a social media platform which allows users to share ideas and create "pinboards" for

cooking, traveling, fashion, weight loss, exercise, home renovation and decor, and wedding planning. That last one is the rabbit hole

you'll find yourself in if you don't limit your exposure to ideas.

There are ideas for themes, place settings, wedding favors, menus, and wedding party gifts. There are ideas on how to dress the mother of the bride, the mother of the groom, the flower girl, and the ring bearer. Pinterest will even tell you who should wear what hairstyle and why. And depending on what day you check out the website, the ideas are totally different.

Not that wedding ideas are a bad thing. As a mother of a bride and a writer for "Town Bride"



magazine, I've picked up some really great suggestions by doing a little research. I've even used Pinterest for inspiration. But with its

constantly updated content, seductive graphics, and titles such as "Ten Tips for a Perfect Wedding," "Three Hacks for a Perfect Wedding," or "Five Suggestions for a Perfect Wedding," you'll never have a finished wedding plan if you keep adding on.

It is important to realize that there is no such thing as a perfect wedding. For example, when you mix a toddler flower girl, two sleeves of Pez candy, Sprite, and the dance floor, nausea of epic

proportions will occur. (Luckily for us, this occurred in the car driving away from our daughter's wedding; unluckily for her parents, it was their car.)

You might also encounter problems that are never referenced on Pinterest. For example, one of our daughters' bridesmaids turned out to be allergic to cedar. This was unfortunate as she didn't examine the contents of her bouquet, which included seasonal greenery, before she picked it up. No matter, though, as I found some Benadryl while the other bridesmaids ripped the cedar from her bouquet. Was her arrangement noticeably smaller? Yes, but she didn't break out in hives, so I would call that a win.

As the prospect of just planning a wedding sets in, use every source you can to create your version of a dream wedding, including Pinterest and Anderson's Town Bride magazine. Just remember to hit the brakes on ideas early on. And should you find an article on "Three Terrific Ideas for Flower Girl Gifts," just say no to Pez.

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TO SEND INFORMATION

Please make sure photos include the date taken, location and names of people in the photos. If photos are submitted via email, make sure they are a minimum of 300 dpi and saved as a JPEG file. If photos are mailed, we cannot guarantee the photo will be returned. The editor of The Electric City News will make your article/story grammatically correct without altering its content. The publishers of The Electric City News reserve the right to withhold inappropriate content or photos.

Opera

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Anderson. This year, as rehearsals were beginning, I was cast in an opera in Atlanta. I was heartbroken until one night, I had a dream about an opera benefit. It seemed like the perfect thing to do because we've never done that in Anderson. For A Night at the Opera, I have invited singers who have performed with the Metropolitan Opera, the Atlanta Opera, the Hawaii Opera Theater, and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic in Russia."

In addition to Kelley, a bass baritone, singers featured in A Night at the Opera are tenor Logan Webber, soprano Julie Royal Lowry, and soprano Indra Thomas. They will be accompanied by collaborative pianist Steve Grant. The program will feature works familiar to all music lovers, including pieces by Mozart, Verdi, and Puccini.

"If you have ever watched the "Bugs Bunny" cartoons, you will recognize some of

these classic arias," Kelley says with a laugh.

A Night at the Opera will also feature music from "Les Misérables," "West Side Story," and "Porgy and Bess."

Angela Stringer, Cancer Association of Anderson's executive director, is excited at the prospect of what A Night at the Opera will do for the county's residents suffering from cancer.

"Our mission is to lessen the burden on Anderson County residents who are battling cancer, and I know the importance of this mission not only as executive director, but as a cancer patient. In 2013, I had just been diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. I didn't know what the CAA did, but I walked in the door with my mother and my husband, and the Cancer Association of Anderson made me feel like I wasn't alone."

The Cancer Association of Anderson provides emotional, financial, and physical assistance to patients in active treatment as well as to cancer survivors.

"We pay mileage for patients' travel to cancer treatment centers such as USC, Emory, and MD Anderson," Stringer says. "We pro-

vide prescription assistance through local pharmacies. We provide household equipment and nutrition assistance. We help with insurance premiums. For patients who have lost their hair during their treatment, we provide a 'boutique' where they can pick out wigs and hats. We have a lady who measures for mastectomy bras, and we provide the bras as well. We offer a 'Face Forward' class led by hair and makeup specialists for women struggling with hair and skin issues. A Night at the Opera is going to be a fun night out that supports our mission."

Tickets to A Night at the Opera are \$50 and may be purchased by visiting cancer-associationanderson.org/events. A \$100 ticket features the show and the Curtain Call Reception, an opportunity to meet the singers while enjoying delicious beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

Kelley believes that A Night at the Opera is a great fundraiser for the Cancer Association of Anderson.

"Anything that causes you to feel something is good," he says. "Music has the power to heal and to take you to a different world."

Coming Soon!

110 NORTH KITCHEN + COMMISSARY

The City of Anderson will open 110 North Kitchen + Commissary, Anderson's first shared kitchen for food entrepreneurs who want to start or grow their business.
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A sense of place and time

We all get caught up in our daily lives. We are so busy that usually we have time only to exist in the present: get ourselves and our families to work, to school, to church; get basic shopping done, cook a little and make lunches for the kids, do the laundry and clean the house, go to an occasional celebration, and maybe throw in a beach trip once a year.



Ann K. Bailes

It's good to remember from time to time that we are not isolated unto ourselves. We are all part of a line of people who have occupied the land down through the years.

To get to our farm property, we go through the little community of Ebenezer, right where SC-185 crosses Highway 413. The brick numbers built into the front of the old schoolhouse on the corner proudly proclaim that it was built in 1938. A fire station sits behind the schoolhouse, and we often see the current firefighters outside working on their engines. And nearby is the small but picturesque Ebenezer United Methodist Church, set behind their large church cemetery. All this I took in quickly. Not until a later trip past did I notice the dates on the metal archway to the cemetery: "Established 1790."

That's quite a long time ago, at least to us.

The newer tombstones in the cemetery give way to older ones, and finally to small stones from the 1700s that have almost completely eroded away. Ebenezer Cemetery, the even older Long Cane Cemetery further south in Abbeville County, and others represent the influx of immigrants who moved up from the coastal areas into what they called the "upcountry" over 250 years ago. They lived on the land long before any of us did. And Native Americans occupied this territory for many years before that.

Another example: A swift-flowing creek borders the edge of our property, so isolated that it feels like a mountain stream. It's beautiful, and we claim it as "our" creek. We did a little research, and found out that an abandoned mill of some sort was once located a little further down the trail. The flat stones can still be seen. That mill didn't get there by itself. Somebody built it, and used it, right on the same land and stream that we consider to be our own. And up the hill is a little circle of flowering plants that don't look wild. I like to think that perhaps some long-ago family, who got their water from "our" creek, planted those flowers by a cabin that is now long gone.

Our lands are not really our lands. All of us are merely the current owners and renters in a long continuum of people who have inhabited our properties. And that's yet another reason for being good caretakers of the beautiful earth God has given us!

Attorneys honored at Memory Hold the Door ceremony

The Anderson County Bar Association held the second Memory Hold the Door ceremony Thursday, November 29 at the old Anderson County Courthouse in the main courtroom. The inaugural ceremony was held in 2005. Memory Hold the Door is in honor of Anderson attorneys who served the community as lawyers and civic leaders. This event is a way of paying tribute to those dedicated men and women who have since passed on and in honor of their families, friends and colleagues.

WILLIAM RICHARD MCCLELLION JR. (1946-2012)

W. Richard McClellion was a true Horatio Alger story. Born August 18, 1946 on the Pelzer Mill Hill to the late W. Richard McClellion, Sr and Sara Lois Cobb McClellion. At 13, while sweeping cotton, "Dickie" made a vow never to work in a mill again. He finished Palmetto High School earning a football scholarship to Furman

where his academic advisor told him he should drop out and become a barber. His mother and sister, Mary Carraway, supported him financially while at Furman, saving back paychecks and tips to ensure he finished. His academic and financial struggles didn't stop him from attending Law School at the University of South Carolina.



Dickie returned home with a mission to dedicate his life to his community. He found a way to give people a chance to overcome financial limitations by founding the Anderson Jockey Lot. Dickie exemplified generosity and concern for people. Dickie was genuine and enjoyed learning about the people he encountered.

Dickie believed that you should do what

you love and help anyone willing to make an effort. He was tough but fair, he fought fiercely for what he thought was right.

The legacy he left was full of hope, determination and passion. He believed that if you live your truth, you could do anything. The people who knew and loved him valued this lesson and hope to keep it alive.

He was predeceased by his brother John Lee McClellion, his sons Joseph Michael "Mich" McClellion and Matthew Cobb "Jet" McClellion passed away soon after Dickie's death in 2012.

Dickie is survived by his first wife, Jo Gayle McClellion, their children Amanda Caron McClellion and William R (Mac) McClellion, his second wife Donna McClellion and their child Sara Elizabeth McClellion.

LOUIS G. SULLIVAN II (1940-2011)

Born April 15, 1940, in Anderson. Louis

was a son of the late Henry Shumate and Mary Barr Prince Sullivan. He was a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he played basketball for Dean Smith and lettered in track and cross country. He received his law degree from the University of South Carolina and attended Emory



School of Law. Mr. Sullivan was an attorney for 45 years, beginning his practice in Greenville and later moving to Anderson. He was a member of St. John's Methodist Church.

At his death, he was survived by his daughter Margaret McLeod Sullivan and his son, Louis Gray Sullivan III, as well as several other members of the extended family.

What do we do with all these THINGS?

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas, I know we did! We recovered from the flu just in time to enjoy Christmas with our family and friends.



Katie Laughridge

Now that Santa (and Chippy) have returned to the North Pole and countless family gatherings have been enjoyed, the time has come to “put our house back together.” Every January I know many of us find ourselves looking for ways to organize our houses. As the new year begins and you are trying to figure out what to do with the misplaced toys and other “things” in your home, I thought I’d share some of my favorite organizing containers/items in hopes that it will help you, too.

Jewelry/Accessory Organizer: With three girls in our home, we have A LOT of bracelets, earrings, and necklaces. They tend to get tangled and lost in our jewelry boxes, so these hanging organizers are great! I found them on Amazon for a little over \$10. They have two sides which makes them even better. We use one side for earrings and the other side for necklaces and bracelets.



Nine-cube Storage Organizer: I absolutely love this piece of furniture. It is functional but looks nice. I’ve used it in four different houses with three kids. I have 9 baskets labeled with chalkboard labels that fit into this organizer. It’s a great way to organize playdoh, art supplies, small figurines, cars, Lincoln Logs, Magnatiles, card games, etc. By creating a specific basket for each item, it makes looking for certain things and putting things away a lot easier for everyone involved!



Drawer Stack: This is very functional for organizing paper clips, pushpins, nails, magnets, staples, rubber bands, batteries, stamps, etc. There are so many little things that I need in my house but that can be very hard to find when you just “put” them somewhere. I’m also the first person people ask when they can’t find something. This makes looking for/storing small items much easier!

Cloth baskets: We are finally installing a linen closet in our house (as we speak!) and I’m so excited about it. One thing I bought for the linen closet is cloth baskets. I’m going to tie chalkboard labels (Amazon) onto the handle of each basket. The baskets will hold an extra set of sheets for each bed in our house. I’m going to label the basket with each person’s name. This will make finding sets of sheets much easier.



This way I won’t spend 30 minutes looking for the other pillow case and fitted sheet that go with the cover sheet (well, let’s hope so!).

Under the Bed Wheeled Storage Boxes: We don’t have a lot of storage in our house and these storage boxes have been a huge solution to our problem. You can put off-season clothes in them or even toy sets (magnatiles, Barbies, doll clothes, legos, etc). I love the idea of putting off-season clothes in these boxes because when we have an unusually warm/cold day, your child can find their clothes with ease.

Clear Storage Bins: You can’t forget these handy, simple storage solutions. These are great because they are stackable, easy to label, and they are clear. It makes organizing and cleaning



up easy for everyone involved. You can find these at any local retail store near you. We have used these to organize Barbie clothes, Barbie accessories, stationary, Lego sets, and even gift wrapping items (ribbon, tissue paper, tape, etc.)

I hope these storage solutions help you organize all of the new treasures Santa brought your family this year, as well as other items that simply need a home. Here’s to a new, wonderful year with our precious families. -Katie



COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL EVENT

VA BENEFIT UPDATES FOR 2024

▶▶▶ ◀◀◀

📅 January 23

🕒 6 PM - 7 PM

📍 Dominion Senior Living

Matt Muth
County Veterans Affairs Officer

If you or a loved one is a veteran, this is a program you need to attend! Veterans Affairs Officer Matt Muth will share important information that is key in planning for your future care needs. Bring your questions as well.

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OFF LIMITS

You have lived in, or have seen a young family's living room that couldn't be walked into without navigating a rocking horse, a thousand Legos, a platoon of Army men, and Barbie bodies throughout. It was the same at our house in the 1960s, only with Lincoln Logs and Erector sets that caused the same pain to a Daddy's bare feet. There would be empty cereal bowls and spoons on the floor in front of the television set on Saturday mornings, and newspaper comics strewn about on Sundays. The living room was the nucleus of the family dwelling, and the one place a family felt comfortable just, Living.

My Grandparents had a Living room that was OFF LIMITS to us kids except on Thanksgiving and Christmas, and only then under strict adult supervision. There were no toys or television in this room, and I'm fairly certain that even dust was not allowed to enter. Believe me,

I tried to make it past the arched entryway, only to be detected by some sort of invisible Grandma force field. There were fancy antiques, chairs, couches, tables, and lamps



Neal Parnell

that I had no interest in at all, except for the fact that I was prohibited to be near them. It was the brightest room in the house, with a large wide window that was not blocked by anything. I wanted to stand in front of that window and bask in the sunlight while at the same time licking and pressing my nose and my grimy little hands against the pane. Any flies that landed on the window were shooed away and killed elsewhere, and it was the same for me, without



the killing part. I once attempted to lie in the floor and walk my fingers across the forbidden zone, only to hear, "Get out of there!" from another room. It was the same for my mom. She tells me of the time she left a needle and thread on the tea table and got a tongue lashing from Grandmother for leaving such a horrible mess. I did have one very quick foray into the no go area. Grandmother was babysitting me when I was around six, and I had come armed with one of those little spring loaded dart guns. She'd said she was stepping out to the mailbox

and would just be a minute. Here was my chance. I'm lying prone on the line aiming at the fireplace. The dart somehow came out crooked and was heading right for a tall thin vase on the tea table. It struck the top of the vase. I was on my feet in a flash and shot toward the now rocking vessel. I caught it just in time, grabbed my dart and was back out as she came in. WHEW!

I'd never seen anyone in her Living Room except on holidays and I asked her if the room was used for anything else. She told me she used it for her "Circle Group". Of course, I

thought she got together with people and drew circles. She explained that a small group of ladies from church got together once a month for fellowship, talking, and consumed some coffee and a sweet treat. "You mean you eat and drink in your Living Room?" I couldn't believe it, here I was, disallowed from walking two fingers over the line and here they were whooping it up every month with coffee and cookies. Ok, so I haven't actually seen a Circle Group throw down and get their jig on, but trust me, if they're having cookies in Grandmother's living room, it's WILD!

CANCER ASSOCIATION OF ANDERSON
PRESENTS
A NIGHT AT THE OPERA
2024 JANUARY 13, 6 PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
307 S MANNING STREET, ANDERSON, SC

Steve Grant
Collaborative Pianist

Logan Webber
Tenor

Julie Royal Lowry
Soprano

Timothy Kelley
Bass Baritone

Indra Thomas
Soprano

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The Cancer Association of Anderson's mission is to "lessen the burden on Anderson County residents who are battling cancer."



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR CANCER ASSOCIATION'S NEW BUILDING HAS BEGUN!

Cancer Association services are funded by donations from our generous community, grants, and annual programming | fundraising events such as our Girlfriends Tea, Hot Air Affair: Rising Above Cancer Labor Day Ballooning Weekend, Concert of Hope & Remembrance, and others.

For more information about services or our Capital Campaign, visit our website. Our office is located at 213 | 215 E. Calhoun Street, Anderson, SC 29621

CAA is not affiliated with nor receives any funding from the American Cancer Society or any Relay for Life events.

YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Emphasize and practice self-care in the new year

As regular readers of this column know, I'm constantly researching information that can help us enjoy optimum health and live more productive lives. The emerging topic of "self-care" or "lifestyle medicine" I find most intriguing. I have long observed how making good life choices can profoundly impact our health, quality of life and longevity.

In the coming months, I want to explore this topic more fully to our mutual benefit.

To start, how do we define self-care or lifestyle medicine? Basically, it means approaching disease prevention and treatment by adopting healthy habits and behaviors. This does not mean we turn away from traditional medicine. On the contrary, this is a complement to it.

The truth is as a society we are not very healthy. Six out of ten of our fellow citizens live with at least one chronic disease. Four in ten have two or more. Chronic conditions being heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes.

Unquestionably healthy habits matter. And

enjoying and maintaining good health is a life-long journey that challenges us to make the best life choices we can along the way -- and stick to



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

it as best we can because it all adds up. No one can predict our individual health futures. But we can try to do our best and whatever comes we will be better prepared. Consider this a journey to a better you, and the promise of a better tomorrow. The cornerstones of lifestyle

medicine we will explore in future columns

include the following and more:

1. Getting restorative sleep.
2. Having a positive attitude.
3. Being resilient when dealing with stress.
4. Enjoying maximum energy every day.
5. Quality connections with others matters.

6. Living a fulfilling life with purpose.

And there's one more thing we should keep in mind when evaluating lifestyle medicine's potential. Science has confirmed from both research and observation that our minds and bodies are inextricably linked. Thoughts and emotions can have a profound influence on our health. For example, stressful events make your blood pressure spike. Depression lowers your tolerance for pain -- actually making it feel worse. And loneliness -- regarded by health experts as epidemic in the US and globally -- can be a cause of premature death.

But there is a positive side. There is much you and I can do. I always like to believe the coming new year will be better than the last. And there is nothing I could wish for you and your respective families in this new year that is more important than good health and the accompanying sense of peace and well-being. Consider this year a journey to a better you, and the promise of a better tomorrow. If you

have any questions, please reach out. Consider us your hometown resource for guidance and support.

Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick is the owner of Grand Oaks Dental, located at 3905 Liberty Highway in Anderson. A strong believer that dental fear and anxiety should not prevent any patient from receiving the highest quality dental care, Dr. Cannick has received extensive training in Sedation Dentistry and is a certified member of the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation. She is also a member of the South Carolina Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.

For more information about Grand Oaks Dental and the services provided, please call 864-224-0809, or click to grandoaksdental.com or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrandOaksDental>.

I love
everything
about Groucho's.

- Philly S.,
Anderson, S.C.



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Feel better and brighter in the new year

We all make New Year's resolutions that realistically, none of us keep. This year, however, I do want to get more into health and wellness, not just for physical appearance, or a toned body which is great too. All bodies are great as long as you feel healthy, but for mental clarity. I'm also one of those people that can't do a 30-day cleanse or cut out carbs or miss out on my favorite things and be deprived. So, that being said, this year I'm going to take 7 days to reset and reboot my system.

There are endless options on what you can do, but I'm going to take a week of implementing new habits that I will stick with. Being healthy doesn't have to be boring or a chore. I've come up with some options that I think all of us will enjoy. On the first day start out slow. That can even mean maybe taking a yoga class or doing something on YouTube in the comfort of your own living room. I've discovered this amazing workout program on YouTube that I actually have fun doing. She's a workout sort of guru in my opinion. Her name is Bailey Brown and she is awesome. She has 15-minute Pilates/ boxing and dance type sessions that makes you feel so wonderful and energetic after you do it. And who doesn't have 15 minutes? She has so many videos that will

keep you pumped and make your day better and it's free! You can pull out your mat on your living room floor and not have to go to the gym. It's also low impact and not hard on the body but still gets that heart rate up. That's right in my lane.

Another great motivator is a cute workout outfit. The Athleta company makes buttery soft high waisted workout pants that are reasonably priced and just as good as Lululemon. Get a good pair of shoes to go with it. I like anything that Adidas makes. I'm not big into athletic wear, but if you buy the right pieces that make you feel confident you will want to work out more often.

A vitamin regimen is so important. I hate swallowing big pills every morning so I discovered a liquid vitamin by Mary Ruth's Organics. It's a raspberry flavored multivitamin that gives you more stamina and vitality throughout the day. It's also great for your skin, hair and nails too and you will notice a difference within a few days. Lastly is getting outside more. Walking in nature makes our stress levels go down tremendously. It will boost your immunity and it eases joint pain! Walking just a few minutes a day even helps us maintain a healthy sleep system. Fresh air does wonders.

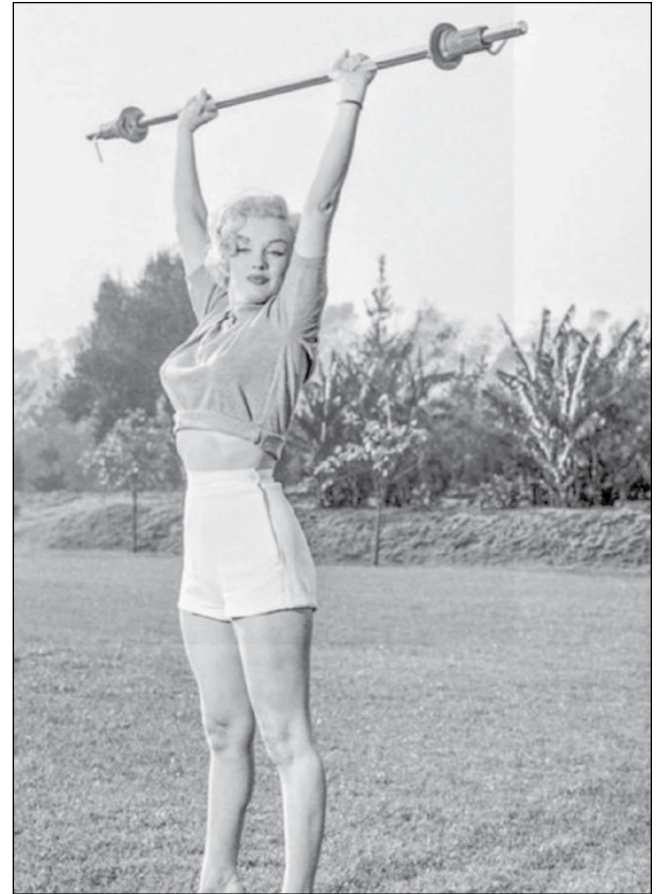
My main priority that I started on a while back was drinking more water. I love seltzer water so much! Anyone that knows me, knows I'm addicted to it. La Croix doesn't always cut the mustard though. Invest in a big cup with a straw or dare I say it one of

those big silly Stanley cups to incorporate more H₂O. It's so vital. Drinking plenty of water has so many benefits and our ancestors didn't have that luxury of drinking cold, fresh filtered water like we do today. They had more arthritis and health issues because of it. We are fortunate to be able to avoid that in doing so. Flavor your water if you must, but I always add a lemon if you get tired of it and drink away!

So, how are you going to start your new reset? What are some things you're going to do to feel better and brighter this new year? Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. Stay healthy y'all!



Kristine March



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WHAT'S NEW FOR 2024

With the new year, comes new everything. New products, new services, new ideas, new gifts, new, new, new. So we asked Gay McLeskey, owner of The Kitchen Emporium and Gifts, to share some of her new favorite things for 2024.

FAVORITE KITCHEN GADGET

- For the baker, a dough whisk for mixing liquids and dry ingredients
- For the cook, a GEFU peeler (extra sharp and durable) for right and left handed cooks
- For the grill, a pig tail flipper

A GREAT AFFORDABLE RED WINE

- Domestic - Greetings Pino Noir from Oregon
- International - Italian
- Sangiovese especially from Chianti Classico

A GREAT AFFORDABLE WHITE WINE

- Domestic: Sean Minor Sauvignon Blanc from California
- International - LaPosa Pinot Gris from Hungary

NEW FAVORITE MUSICAL PERFORMER

- Band: Fish Out of Water
- Duo: Zander and The Chicky Hat
- Solo: Talbert Black



FAVORITE NEW CLASS TO BE OFFERED

- How to classes in knife skills and care
- Sauces
- Spring Veggies

BEST HOSTESS GIFT IDEA

- Vietri Hibiscus Vases

3 POPULAR VENDORS

- Vietri
- Nora Fleming
- Local artisans and farms



BEST WEDDING GIFT IDEA

- Cast Iron Fry Pan or Dutch Oven

BEST NEW RECIPE/DISH

- In a Baker, cream cheese

topped with pesto and diced tomatoes then topped with shredded parmesan cheese. Bake until cheese is slightly melted. Serve with crostini or crackers.

BEST TIP FOR ENTERTAINING

- Create a timeline and do what you can. Don't panic. What gets done gets done!



FROM THE SHELF

ON READING AND BURNOUT

Last year I made promises to nail down a goal or direction for my reading like normal and I just couldn't. If you look at my 2023 StoryGraph* chart, you can see the waxing



Sara Leady

and waning in my reading throughout the year. Goodreads also repeatedly made me aware of how stagnant my reading was with their "you're X number behind schedule on your reading goal" continuously ticking higher. Despite the shaming, I gave up

halfway through the year knowing I wasn't going to make it (I finished with 117/150). We won't even talk about the abject failure on completing any of the typical book challenge lists I do (including the library's— which I wrote).

While a prompt from a challenge list could elicit at least picking a book, it didn't necessarily make me excited to read. I think this was the challenge with defining a direction; it just made the book I was reading feel like a job. Whatever I was reading felt like a task that had to be marked off a list, rather than something I cared about. This didn't really hit me till December, when I was looking at summarizing my year slash looking for ideas of a "direction" or "goal" for 2024.

When looking at my list of titles over the year in conjunction with StoryGraph stats, I noticed that as I shifted away from searching for intentionally selected titles for a challenge prompt, I instead read whatever I felt like and my total started to increase. When I didn't stress about whether the book I was reading was "accomplishing" something beyond my base desire to read it, I read more. This might feel like a 'duh' to the majority of you reading this, but given my profession it's really easy to fall into these types of slumps because reading can become like a job, thus less fun.

A favorite thing that librarians have said to them is "how nice it must be to just get to sit around and read all day" like all we do is read, and read for fun. Beyond the fact that pretty much none of us actually have time to read at work, it's also assuming that if we are reading for work it's whatever we want, not something serving a particular purpose for our job (book club, book ordering, a book challenge, professional development, etc). As a fiction orderer, I've chosen to be intentional with my personal reading in order to make me better professionally, more specifically at serving you,



the readers in the community, by knowing more about what's being published and all the different genres and subgenres.

It's odd to think how long it's been since I basically read whatever I wanted because I wanted to. Examining my reading life as a whole, the two previous times I can pinpoint that were me just reading for the joy of it both coincided with finishing a degree, or y'know, no longer reading for an "assignment." It's an odd thought, but I've come to the conclusion that just like any job, or job requirement, you can get burnout. Yes, burnout, that dreaded "B" word my generation is bandying about these days. Burnt out on reading? I get it. I'm sure you have "feelings" on my even making that bold claim, but just because it's something that I do truly love and have more than once in my life used as stress relief, that doesn't mean that you can't experience burnout from it. Honestly ask any artist who's out there making a living doing something that they absolutely love and feeds their literal soul, they too can, and likely have, experienced burnout simply by it starting to feel like a burden.

So, this 2024 I do in fact have a real reading goal again: to simply read whatever I want because I want to, and to not stress about anything reading related beyond making sure I actually get my book club books read. If I decide I'm feeling frisky, I might see if I can't

maintain my current StoryGraph ratio of fiction to nonfiction, a respectable 90 to 10, but I'm certainly not committing to it.

*StoryGraph is a reading tracking app with lots of stats and data on your trends regarding format, genre, authors, etc.

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The GARDEN HOUSE

'Touchstone to a past we will never see again'

BY RICH OTTER

Bill Johnston might be considered to have been the epitome of an old-time politician. He seemed to know everybody or at least could make anybody he met think he knew them. He worked the streets and enthusiastically hailed friend or foe alike. He served seven terms as mayor of the City of Anderson.

In an interview recorded by Charles Welborn, Jr. in 1975, he told Chuck he really loved people and was interested in the welfare of people. Anderson newspaper reporter Cary Hayes recalled Johnston having told him one day he had to go up to the hospital. Hayes asked him who was sick. Johnston responded: "Oh, I don't know, I'm going to shake hands with everybody."

William C. Johnston (1904-1983) grew up in Honea Path on his father's farm. His father, E. A. Johnston, in 1919 opened a furniture store in Anderson when cotton prices tumbled. Bill Johnston took over the business in 1939 (during the Great Depression) and ran it until his son-in-law, Bill Hendrix, assumed management in 1964. Alvin Fleishman, whose family operated a nearby store on Anderson's Square behind the Historic Courthouse, related that initially Johnston would come to his family after getting an order and his family would finance him and be repaid by the week.

Louise Ervin wrote at the time of Johnston's death that he had worked his way through school as a barber and a school janitor. At one point he also worked in a textile mill. That might explain a particular interest he had as described by Alvin Fleishman in selling to "mill people who needed furniture."

Cary Hayes covered Anderson City Council meetings for several years while Bill Johnston was mayor and Hayes said he could not cover everything during the meetings so he would meet with Johnston before and then after the meetings. He said the mayor would talk with Wilton Hall, the editor of the Anderson Independent and Daily Mail, every day before a meeting and decide what to do. "If it didn't happen, it would go in the paper anyhow. I know that sounds crazy but that's the way it operated a lot of times."

Judge G. Ross Anderson spoke of Bill Johnston's relationship with Wilton Hall:

I always liked Bill. However, Bill could be difficult sometimes to get along with...He and Wilton Hall were very close, very close. He would argue with Mr. Hall...He would say, "You are just wrong, just plain wrong Wilton." Wilton would say, "Bill you don't know what in the hell you are talking about." They would work out their differences but he was one of the few people who could speak to Mr. Hall like that. I never saw Mr. Hall overly influenced by Bill, but they were good friends.



William C. Johnston

During Chuck Welborn's interview, Johnston talked about when a teacher with about a third grade group visited City Hall some eight or ten years after Johnston first entered office. After a tour of city departments, a little girl (following a nod from her teacher) said "Mr. Mayor, we want to thank you for taking your time and effort to show us and explain our government to us. We know that you are busy...and we thank you for it. I think you are the best Mayor we have ever had." Bill Johnston said with pride he responded, "Thank you." The little girl then said, "Mr. Mayor, you know, come to think of it, you are the only mayor I have ever known." He reflected to Welborn: "Never take yourself too seriously."

Bill Johnston commented it was necessary to train yourself to hold no grudges, not be embittered against anybody, but, "of course there are some things that you naturally don't like that people do. That is natural, that is human. As long as you can be honest in your own thinking and do what you honestly believe to be right, you will come out on top. This is the philosophy that I try to live."

The mayor's soft spot was the downtown area where his business was located. He

required constant police patrols there that some officers felt unnecessary, to the detriment of the community as a whole as taking them away from other areas. His impatience and reprimands were resented and considered by some as dictatorial and contradictory to his stated philosophy.

Johnston handled his half-brother Olin Johnston's successful Senate campaign and had himself run unsuccessfully for governor. He served eight years as director of the Santee Cooper Board that later became the South Carolina Public Service Authority. While mayor, the former Anderson County Recreation Center building (an acquired former Shaw Air Force Base hanger) was modified for community use. He was particularly proud that all unpaved city streets had been paved during his administrations. He said that amounted to 50 streets.

Cary Hayes credited Johnston as being "as good a mayor as we could have had in the '30s or '40s." Following Johnston's death Chuck Welborn commented: "He was a touchstone to a past we will never see again."



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Bay3 Artisan Gallery partner: Jewelry designer and watercolorist Kathy Ogden

"I draw my artistic inspiration in my jewelry designs from nature and try to represent that in many ways by using a variety of media. It's interesting to me to develop unique designs and incorporate that with vivid color and contrast," explains Kathy Ogden, Bay3 Artisan Gallery Partner. "In my jewelry designs, I like using natural stones, pearls, leather, metals, and other interesting elements. I have recently been hand-forging sterling silver and copper to create a unique design and embellishing it with the other elements. My goal is to integrate simple yet elegant and interesting pieces."

Ogden has also been painting since the 1990's. Her subjects are florals, landscapes and animals in oil and watercolor. In recent years she has concentrated on creating watercolors.

"In my paintings I basically use the same approach as I do when making jewelry by using nature as my inspiration." Ogden has won numerous awards including "Best



of Show" in the Grosse Ile, Michigan Wildlife Art Show, First Place in Art Ambience Downriver Art Expo, and many Honorable Mentions.

Ogden is a partner in Bay3 Artisan Gallery's where her jewelry and watercolors are on

display. Bay3 Artisan Gallery located just off the Atrium Gallery in the Anderson Arts Center, 110 Federal Street in Anderson. The Gallery is open Wednesday - Friday, 10:00 - 4:00pm and Saturday 10:00 - 1:00.



Jewelry designer and watercolorist Kathy Ogden



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It is year in review time again. Making new year resolutions never was much of a thing for me. Why do we have to wait until a new year to resolve to do something? There was one big goal I set in the fall of 2022 to have done in 2023. And got'er done. Overall, I'm glad to see 2023 gone. It seems to have been a bit of a tough year, maybe because it's still fresh in my mind.

But it did end on a great note. After four months of seeing what life is like for people who don't garden, I got back into the yard. In spring of last year, my back started talking to me, as I'll call it, about my activities. A double kick in the teeth was this was the time my faithful four-legged companion Cadet died. By August, I finally pushed the medical system to see things my way and found out that my lifestyle had finally caught up with me. A doctor's standard answer to all my questions was "I would rather you not". Well durn, what's to keep me sane if I follow doctor's orders and "not"? I've often referred to myself as becoming the weird ol' lady at the end of the road with the yard that's all grown up". I thought I had another decade at least before becoming that person.

As with accomplishing anything, I got my mind right first about my experience with the medical system, and set out to find a way over, around, or through it. After using most every non-traditional medicine method I could find, and resting, I spent the last two weekends of 2023 doing my favorite things. Outside, with my shovel, and as Yogi has finally earned the title of faithful four-legged companion, digging in the dirt, planting, dividing, potting up plants for the master gardener plant sale in April, and I've never enjoyed it more. All the health benefits of hands in the dirt, the healthy stuff in the soil that is supposed to increase serotonin, etc., was sorely missed. I didn't even wear gloves because I wanted the full benefits of my hands in the dirt. Where there is a will there is a way. A few times I forgot that such activity must be done a bit differently but everything I wanted to get done was done. Several South Carolina state grasses, Indiangrass, (*Sorghastrum nutans*) finally got

put in the ground. After planting some last year, I've since learned they might tend to flop so the new ones were planted close together and mixed in amongst azaleas to help prop them up. I'm not sure azaleas and ornamental grasses go together but so what. Heucheras and heucherellas, from the last Garden Shop article, were planted. So far so good on being deer resistant. Boxwoods cuttings taken from an old house I used to visit had finally grown enough to put in the ground. By the way, boxwoods are very easy to root. Pink muhly grasses were dug up and potted for the plant sale. Something on the to do list for a couple of years was the test of my new abilities. A mohawk viburnum needed to be moved. It

was somewhat small because it had a hard life. I ran over it in the truck shortly after it was planted. A year or so later scraped it with the lawnmower, then it ended up being in part of the yard that's going back to pasture, so it got lost in the high grass. But now it is nicely planted near the fence where its wonderful early spring fragrance can be enjoyed. I don't why I planted that far out in its first spot.

The happiest of all of 2023's last days was Yogi gardening with me. He learned he could run wide open around the yard, mosey around and sniff, and lay up in a pile of leaves with endless sticks to chew. Oh the joys of a girl, with her dog, and her shovel!!



A girl, her dog and her shovel.



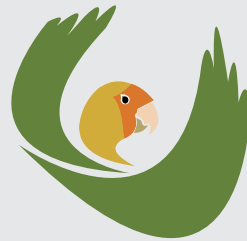
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