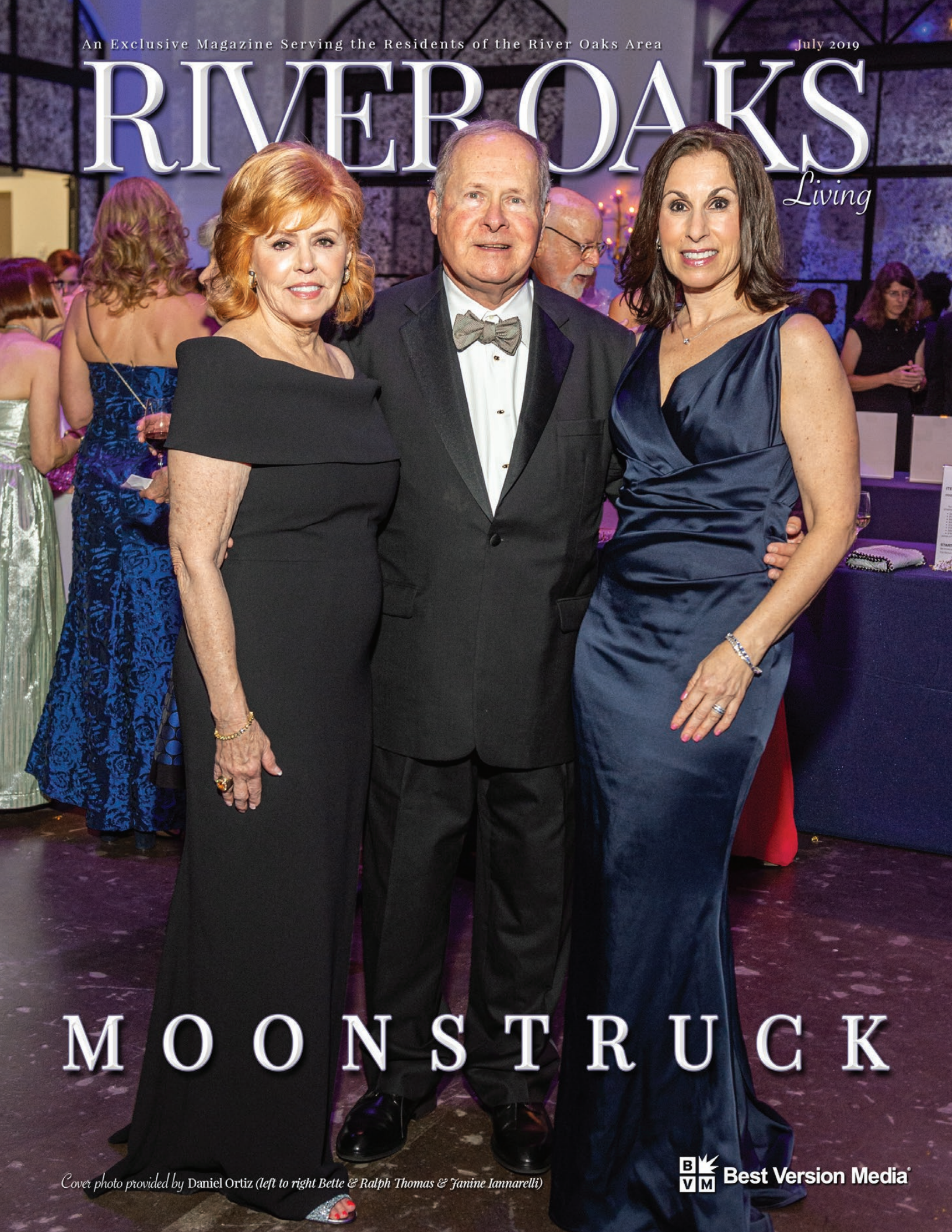


RIVER OAKS

Living



MOONSTRUCK

Cover photo provided by Daniel Ortiz (left to right Bette & Ralph Thomas & Janine Iannarelli)



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Dear River Oaks Residents,

It's hard to believe it's already July! It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating Christmas. However, the July heat, assures me that we are indeed in the throes of summer. I am certain that, other than signifying solely the seventh month of the year, July for most of us bespeaks freedom. Although, if I'm being perfectly honest, the first things that come to my mind when I think of July are BBQ, cold noodle salad, a slice of cool, key lime pie and good times with my family. Without the freedom we enjoy, these things would not be possible. Our freedom came at a price and in July we celebrate the fruits of labor of those men and women who so valiantly paid for it. We are free because others have gone before us with a spirit of selflessness and patriotic hearts. They went before us with one mind, a mind focused and fixed on being free. Truth be told, real freedom is God-given--purchased more than 2000 years ago at Calvary! The freedom we share, as one nation under God, compels us to do what is true and right and honorable even in the most trying of times. Its existence demands a code of conduct that we as Americans should strive to live by in our everyday lives.

Our country is comprised of joined individual communities. If we are to have hope as a Nation, it must originate in our hearts and in our minds. Hope can be found in what we can accomplish together as communities. I believe we choose our community so we can live among people who share our like values, beliefs and hopes for the future--hope in a future that promises to leave things better than we found them with the guarantee of freedom. If you want to truly live free, then in all things do the right thing and you will never be wrong. Truth is black and white. Live right, live free, honor God and country. I leave you with a thought from the book of James which we would all be well-served to live by: "But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it--not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it--they will be blessed in what they do." James 1:25.



Please remember this is **YOUR** publication.

Please send us stories about God's work in your life or the lives of your children and stories about your pets along with photos, vacation spots you want your neighbors to know about and photos. Sharing is caring; we all have something to share. *Your neighbors care!*

IN SERVICE, GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

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Best Regards, Carlos Sandoval | Publisher



What are you devoted to in your life? Being devoted to something is simply being loyal by giving of your time, affection and resources. Are we honoring others above ourselves? Today, as you examine your own heart and life, ask the Lord to show you ways that you can honor others. One way is by simply being faithful to your word. Be a person of integrity and honor. As you live your life devoted to one another and honoring others, you are actually honoring God. He will repay you for your kindness and reward you in this life and in eternity!

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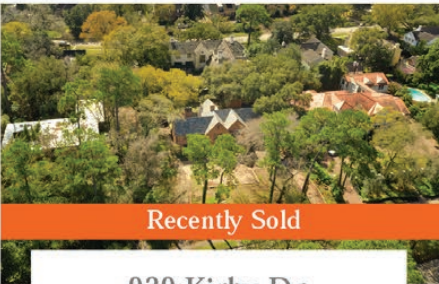
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Ralph & Bette Thomas, Scott Rozzell, Teresa Owens, & Lt. General Doug Owens

Moonstruck

By Laura Pennino | Photos by Daniel Ortiz

Stars of air and space beamed brightly at “MOONSTRUCK: 2019 BLUE SKIES GALA” on Saturday, May 18, at The Revaire located at 7122 Old Katy Road in Houston. More than 500 Lone Star Flight Museum supporters in sparkling formal evening attire contributed more than \$700,000 to support STEM-related programs and the museum’s educational mission.

Originally based in Galveston, The Lone Star Flight Museum is now located at Ellington Airport only 20 minutes from downtown Houston. The new 130,000-square-foot, \$35 million facility opened in September 2017 and is home to more than two dozen historic and rare planes, interactive exhibits, and programs that appeal to the entire family.

Co-chairs for the fourth annual Blue Skies gala were Bette Thomas and husband Ralph Thomas, a Lone Star Flight Museum board member, along with Janine Iannarelli, founder and president of international aircraft brokerage firm Par Avion Ltd. In addition to pursuing

their fundraising goals, Bette, Ralph and Janine worked closely with the museum’s leadership, gala committee, and volunteers to ensure that this year’s Blue Skies Gala produced an inviting atmosphere and memorable experience with unique décor. A large, illuminated “moon” that was suspended from the ceiling of the reception area set the tone for the evening ahead. The walls of the ballroom were covered with alternating “dark night skies with twinkling stars” and “light blue day skies filled with white clouds.”





Marshall Calderon
& Lt. General
Doug Owens



The Revaire



Phylamena Baird &
Khambrel Marshall

WE ASKED BETTE, RALPH AND JANINE THESE QUESTIONS.

- What sparked your interest in aviation?
- What inspired you to serve as a Blue Skies Gala co-chair?
- What were the best aspects of co-chairing the event?
- What would you recommend to a first-time visitor at the museum?

Here is what they told us!

Bette: Being part of a new venture after the Lone Star Flight Museum decided a new home was needed became an exciting adventure. I watched Ralph jump in and put his energy toward major fund-raising.

Before I realized it, the museum was under construction. It seemed a natural fit to join forces with Ralph in fundraising. The museum's board chair Scott Rozzell had asked me to co-chair with Ralph and Janine to take a step toward creating a new gala concept. Planning any event takes time and heartfelt care. Janine gets much of the credit for the Moonstruck theme. We started months of planning and certainly became fast friends. That alone was worth many meetings.

The first time I visited LSFM, I tried to navigate the simulator. I now have a new respect for flight. While attempting to fly to Galveston, my take off was a disaster! How wonderful to have a museum full of planes and education all under one roof! I am proud to have contributed to furthering STEM education.

Ralph: I grew up in a flying family. Both parents were pilots and many of their friends were former Army Air Corps World War II

pilots – members of the Greatest Generation. So, this led me to fly and own two airplanes. I later had an opportunity to consider becoming a board member of the Lone Star Flight Museum and when I flew on a B17 bomber, that sealed the deal.

Bette and I thought, we could broaden support for the LSFM by co-chairing the Moonstruck Gala. We were gratified by the large number of attendees and their spirited participation. We were especially proud of General Doug Owens' presentation and the video of the museum's Aviation Learning Center which inspires young people with STEM education and exposes them to the excitement of aviation. A first-time visitor will be impressed with the positive impact the museum makes on young people in our community.

Janine: My father was friendly with a gentleman who owned a Fixed Base Operation (FBO) at one of the busiest business aviation airports in the country, Teterboro, N.J., and often, he took my brother and me there to watch the comings and goings of the planes. It sparked a curiosity more than anything at that stage. Years later, when an opportunity to work in the industry arose, those days of plane-spotting came back to me and interest in the aviation industry was rekindled by the prospect of being able to earn a livelihood in it.

I have been honored to support the museum for two years now in some capacity related to a major fund-raising gala. In 2018, on the Smithsonian Free Museum Day, I was invited to participate on two panels showcasing women in aviation. I was delighted that the museum chose to promote women's contributions to the industry, a subject about which I am passionate and very supportive.



Khambrel Marshall &
Marshall Calderon



Gene Kranz

Giving back to the community is a hallmark of my business and a personal commitment that I take seriously. When the opportunity arose to assist an entity that focuses not just on aviation, but as well a subject near and dear to me, STEM education, I jumped at it. Couple that with the opportunity to allow my creative side to come out and there was no arm-twisting needed.

It was very important to me that the proceeds from the gala would go directly to the non-profit and its objective of promoting STEM-based education and maintaining and enhancing the Aviation Learning Center. My co-chairs and I, along with the entire gala team, worked extremely hard to cultivate interest in the cause and to seek out new donors. Thinking outside the box enabled us to achieve that 'Wow' factor we wanted to give the attendees. I think by anyone's measure, we succeeded.

For a first-time visitor at the museum, I would recommend spending time looking at the photos of the inductees to the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame and reading their history. For those who may have come in thinking they could never walk in the shoes of these wonderful men and women, they will leave with a new sense of inspiration. They are likely to find that many came from simple and humble beginnings yet became the pioneers and adventurers we all have come to admire.

GALA HIGHLIGHTS

Patrons of the 2019 Blue Skies Gala included the greater Houston area's prominent philanthropists, business leaders, elected and appointed government officials, pilots, astronauts, students, and others who share the belief that aviation inspires endless possibilities.

Khambrel Marshall, KPRC-TV Channel 2 meteorologist and host of "Houston Newsmakers," did an amazing job as Master of Ceremonies. Houston philanthropist Margaret Alkek Williams graciously served as honorary gala chair. The Waltrip-McGee Foundation, and John Nau, III with Silver Eagle Distributors, once again demonstrated their generosity and patronage of the museum as the top underwriters of the 2019 gala.

Keith Graf, executive director of the Department of Military Preparedness, Office of the Governor, traveled from Austin to read a greeting on behalf of Texas Governor Greg Abbott. Janine presented Margaret Alkek Williams with a certificate assigning her an honorary star in the Constellation Virgo. Her star is now known as the "Margaret Williams Superstar."

All guests rose to their feet when a tribute video began, highlighting the military service, public office, Presidency and philanthropy of President George H.W. Bush. His longtime support of the museum was recognized as instrumental in developing the museum into what it is today.

Former astronaut Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar, also a museum board member, joined Air Force Lieutenant General (ret.) Doug Owens, the museum's president and chief executive officer, and Scott Rozzell, chairman of the



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board of directors, in recognizing special guest Gene Kranz and others who played a key role in the Apollo space program. An inductee in the National Aviation Hall of Fame and the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, Gene Krantz was the NASA flight director during the Apollo 13 mission when the spacecraft experienced a malfunction but was safely guided back to earth. He attended the gala, in part, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo program and the first manned mission to land on the moon on July 20, 1969.

Lone Star Flight Museum also honored Houston-based Universal Weather and Aviation for its contributions to the private aviation sector and for delivering humanitarian aid following Hurricane Harvey. Ralph Vasami, the company's chief executive officer, accepted the Blue Skies Company of Distinction Award. Universal Weather and Aviation was founded in 1959 by entrepreneur Tom Evans and currently employs more than 1,700 people in more than 50 locations around the world. Presenting the award was Chris Richardson, the museum's chief operating officer.

The museum also premiered its new video at the gala. Stars of the video Bob Wehnert, World War II veteran; Fran Vanelli, a "Rosie the Riveter" World War II aircraft worker; Candy Torres, a former NASA engineer and museum volunteer; and museum youth ambassador Marshall Calderon, were also in attendance. The young Calderon appeared briefly on stage with

Khambrel Marshall to share a few words about his love of aviation and the Lone Star Flight Museum.

Rusty Mertink served as auctioneer for paddles up and the live auction, which featured a Harley Davidson "Fat Boy" motorcycle along with dining experiences, sports packages, and travel opportunities.

MORE ABOUT THE LONE STAR FLIGHT MUSEUM

The Lone Star Flight Museum (LSFM) is a 501c3 aviation museum and STEM learning center with a mission to celebrate flight and achievements in Texas aviation as well as educate and engage our

youth through science, technology, engineering and math. In addition to the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, the 130,000 square-foot museum is home to a flying collection of rare and historic commercial, general aviation and military aircraft. Guests can experience the wonder of flight in a warbird ride and get hands-on in the high-tech Aviation Learning Center and Flight Academy. LSFM is open daily, all summer long. Tickets start at \$9.95 with senior and military discounts.



Margaret Alkek Williams - Honorary Chair

Group rates are available. For details, visit lonestarflight.org or call 346-708-2517. Please follow the museum on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU KNOW A FAMILY (HINT, HINT - MAYBE IT'S YOURS!) THAT WOULD BE GREAT FOR AN UPCOMING EDITION OF RIVER OAKS LIVING! SEND A MESSAGE TO CSANDOVAL@BESTVERSIONMEDIA.COM.

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Paleo Cuisine

By Kristina Robinson



SPICY ETHNIC CASUAL DINING ATMOSPHERE IN UPPER KIRBY

While the kitchen at Ruggles Black is Chef Molzan's playground, the dining area is his partner's canvas. Neera Patidar invited local artist Gino Vian to join her in creating the restaurant's eclectic interior design, made to delight and inspire their upper Kirby visitors.

Although surprising in many ways, the spicy ethnic atmosphere is yet so versatile: perfect for casual fine dining, late night eating, cocktails & dancing, and can even accommodate special parties.

FRENCH AMERICAN FLAVORS, ASIAN SPICES, AND PALEO PRINCIPLES

Mixing all these ingredients is so exciting for Houston's "Paleo King" Molzan and his partner Neera Patidar!

The concept and food at Ruggles Black is modern and fun: a fusion pushing Indian, Asian, and American flavors to whole new boundaries in terms of taste, but keeping it accessible in terms of price. Ruggles Black is THE place to be for conscious eating foodies, as "The King of Paleo" cooks his amazingly delicious treats with local ingredients from farmers, while embracing the Paleo principles.



Ruggles Black is Houston's first and only Paleo restaurant serving fresh, local ingredients. Chef Molzan aka "The King of Paleo" knows how to do Paleo right! After bringing his previous projects, Ruggles Green and Corner Table to spectacular success, he decided it was time to build his own venue, where he can truly follow his sparkling vision. At Ruggles Black, Chef Molzan embraces Paleo principles creating a menu that fuses Indian, Asian, and American flavors.

Some of the Ruggles Black favorites include: Chef Bruce's paleo tacos (filled with your choice of a variety of meats nestled in a heavenly almond flour tortilla), paleo angry shrimp, paleo beef bolognese, paleo shrimp and grits, as well as a bevy of other choices.

Ruggles Black is a modern and fun concept offering ethnic spices and an eclectic atmosphere. With Paleo treats and an accessible price point, Ruggles Black has created its own lane within the Houston restaurant scene. Come see "The Paleo King" and get a taste of real life!



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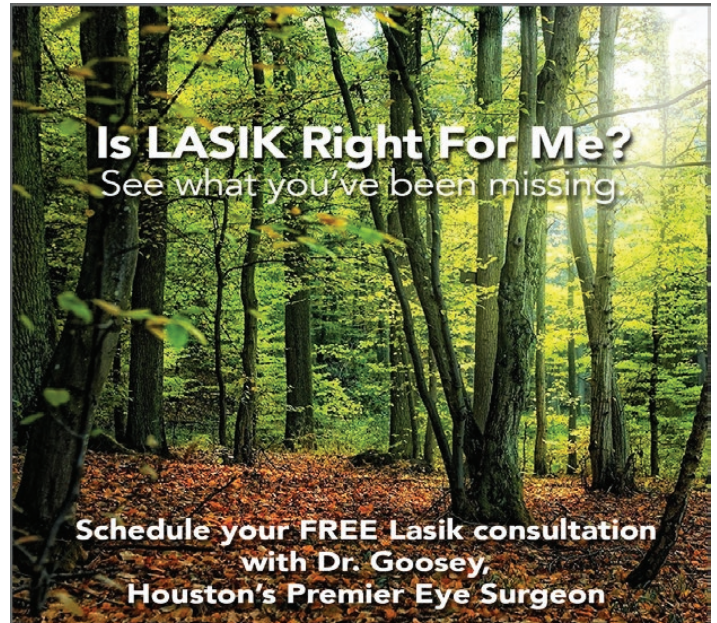


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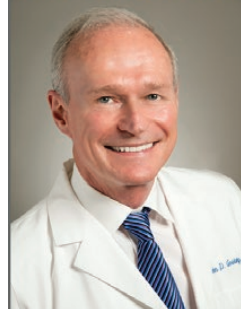
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Q&A

MEREDITH CLARK

Meredith Clark Law

Dear Meredith:

Have you ever had a couple file for divorce and end up staying together?

I have worked on multiple cases where, for different reasons, the married couple decided to nonsuit their divorce case and stay together. I believe mediation and the family law convention of temporary orders aid resolution of some marital issues in time for the relationship to be salvaged. In some cases, the requirement that the parties mediate their case allows the lawyers and the mediator to apply therapeutic measures to problems afflicting the family.

Family Courts encourage that parties attempt to settle their issues outside of court where possible. Parties to a divorce can agree to submit the issues in their case to the help of a professional family law mediator. In a caucus-style mediation, the parties and their attorneys are in separate rooms, with the mediator as a go-between trying to settle their issues. Mediation allows the parties to be more creative about their solutions than perhaps what a judge would be at trial. I find mediation to be equally if not more successful when the couples go to mediation soon after filing, and before going to court for a temporary orders hearing.

I have seen parties agree on temporary orders addressing drinking and drug problems, domestic violence, child behavior issues, therapy, counseling, and various temporary living arrangements that, given time to play out, have the effect of helping the family heal some of its issues. The divorce process naturally investigates the issues in the marriage, and can therefore illuminate what may have led to the current state of

affairs. If couples use their resources, like their attorneys, and qualified marriage and family counselors, well to investigate solutions, they may be able to resolve at least some of their issues. And, in outlier situations, that could even lead to reunification of the marriage relationship.



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A WORD FROM THE VET

By Dr. Stephen T. Pittenger, DVM

Stephen T. Pittenger, D.V.M., Dipl. A.B.V.P.
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Q: WHY DOES OUR DOG WHINE SO MUCH? HE WHINES ALMOST CONSTANTLY!

A: Whining is just another form of canine communication. From the implied tone of your question, it may be one of your least favorite forms! Common reasons for them to whine include when they are seeking your attention, anxiety, excitement or when they are trying to appease someone. We may also see whining with significant anxiety, like separation anxiety, or with illness and injuries. The anxiety whine is usually in response to a stressful situation. The excited dog may whine during greetings of other dogs or people. When a dog is showing appeasement, they may whine along with submissive postures, like tail tucking, head down, and averted gaze, etc. Dogs also often learn to whine in the presence of their owner when they desire attention or rewards. A behavior rewarded is a behavior repeated. Often, the dog seeking attention whines and we do something that they wanted us to do, thus solidly reinforcing the behavior and making almost certain that it will be done over and over by Rover! Yes, we are quite often part of the problem. For the sake of this discussion, I'll take a guess that the majority of what you are experiencing is attention seeking whining, as you noted it happens all the time. You will need to teach him that remaining quiet is a much better option for him. Since you probably have unwittingly reinforced the behavior, you will now need to actively reward the dog for being quiet. Teach your dog that he must always be quiet before he receives attention or rewards from you. Remember that "attention" can be eye contact, touching or talking with your dog. Ignoring the dog or turning away from the dog with your body helps indicate to them that they are not being successful. If you seek out the dog with rewards when they are not whining, they will eventually learn that silence works better than whining to get your attention. Everyone in the household will have to be consistent with these techniques to teach the dog these new tricks. I'm not certain we will make him into a librarian, but hopefully we can quiet down the house a bit with these tactics.



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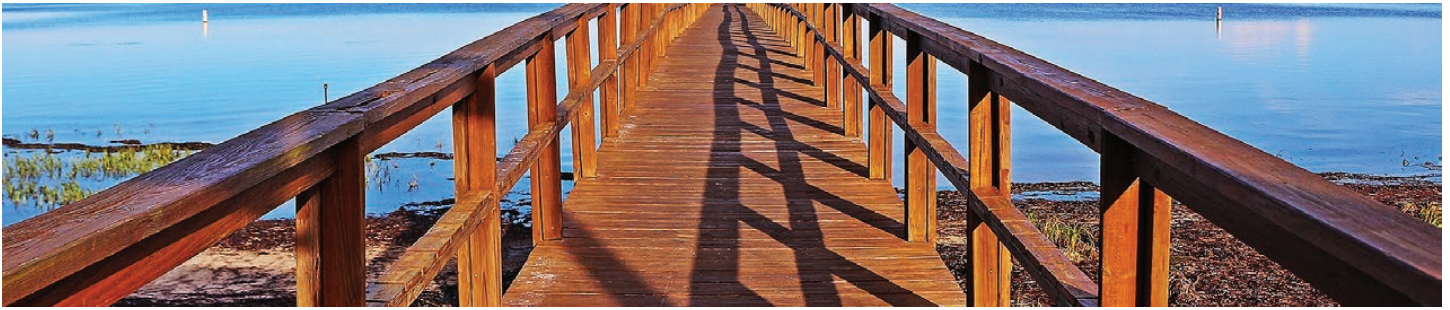
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There is a Balm in Huntsville

By Bridges to Life Staff



At Bridges To Life, we know that when crime victims share their stories with offenders, empathy is born and healing begins on both sides of the prison bars. In his new book, *There Is A Balm In Huntsville*, Austin pastor T. Carlos "Tim" Anderson tells the true story of Andrew Papke, who went to prison at age 19 because his drunk driving caused the deaths of two young people. Andrew knew he deserved the punishment of incarceration, but it was participating in Texas's Victim-Offender Dialogue program that sparked his own healing journey.



Tim's book also tells how Andrew found another dose of healing balm when he participated in one of the earliest sessions of the Bridges To Life program at the Walls Unit in 2000. After completing the program, Andrew had this to say:

"I was given two 20-year sentences for what I did. But being in Bridges To Life has given me another kind of sentence: a life sentence. What I mean is that this program has helped give me my life back and given me something to use for the rest of my life."

We met Tim Anderson when he visited the BTL staff at our annual retreat in March. You can read about his impressions of us and our work in his blog post, *Wounded Healers*.

On May 20th, we celebrated the 47,000th graduate from our program! By the end of this year, BTL will have graduated 50,000 men and women, making Bridges To Life the largest restorative justice program in the state!



Celebrating our 46,000th graduate at the Creuzot Judicial Treatment Center on April 29, (L to R) BTL Volunteers Chuck Blevins and Chrissie Snyder, BTL Graduate Jessie J., and BTL Regional Coordinator Joel Lightfoot

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4th of July Deliciousness!

By ROL Team

Fireworks and sparklers are fun, but our favorite part of the 4th of July is definitely the food and drink. A great cookout needs a balance of mains, sides, drinks, and desserts. To help you prepare, we've gone through our recipes to put together some great eye popping ideas for your menu.

It's fitting to cook a meal of American classics on the most patriotic day of the year. We recommend a loaded cheeseburger as a centerpiece, with grilled corn, potato salad, cornbread, and green beans on the side. Finish the meal with a buttery blueberry crisp.

Our watermelon cooler takes the classic summer fruit and spikes it with tequila and a Scotch bonnet pepper-infused syrup.

Bring New England and the Eastern Seaboard down to Texas, summer is the time for clambakes. This dramatic, festive cookout is a perfect way to celebrate Independence Day. The concept is simple—dig a pit on the beach, build a slow fire, and bury layers of food and seaweed. Part of the fun is deciding what food to use. Clams are of course traditional, but also consider mussels, crabs, and lobsters, plus corn and potatoes. Get your grub on!

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