

NAPLES

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**PET
POWER**
*Celebrating the
cute & cuddly*

**—
SPRING
TRENDS**
*What to wear +
where to eat and shop*

**—
AN AMERICA'S
CUP RACER**
at home in Naples

Niki and
Clyde Butcher

**ARTISTIC
RENAISSANCE**

*Niki Butcher prepares for
her first gallery show*

FROM THE EDITOR

Home is Where the Dog is

I became a crazy dog person later in life. Growing up, my parents worked hard to raise the four of us energetic whirling dervishes and permitted the occasional small pet—gerbils, budgies, and fish. But dogs and cats were out of the question.

After Hurricane Irma, in September 2017, my friend Monica, who's deeply involved with animal rescue efforts across Florida, told me that so many dogs were abandoned by owners who just didn't have the resources to care for them anymore. She could tell she'd touched something inside my heart, so she whipped out a cell phone photo of a scraggly little bleached-out dog that a nearby shelter had just rescued off the streets of a small town in Central Florida. Impulsively, I told Monica that I wanted to meet the dog to see what her personality was like. She arranged for my family to visit the rescue agency truck at a farmers market where they were doing an adoption event. The dog was so friendly, wagging her tail as we walked her around the market. Smitten by her cute face and sweet disposition, we took a leap of faith and adopted her.

At the time, the shelter had named her Trina. This, of course, was too close to my name, Christina. My family of five agreed to come up with a new name for her that we all liked. It took us about two weeks—and a spreadsheet randomizer—to find one that fit. We decided on Tilley, after a pond we used to live near in Darien, Connecticut. Since then, Tilley has changed our lives for the better. She's a silly little terrier mix mutt who does fake sneezes, chases her tail, and looks at you like, "Why'd you stop?" when you are done rubbing her belly.

Anyone who has a pet—cat, dog, bunny, whatever—knows how amazingly comforting and distracting they've been during the pandemic. We've devoted several pages in this issue to the wonder of animals and household pets. Check out our story in Insider about the magical powers of the two tiny ponies who've joined the Naples Therapeutic Riding Center (page 44). We also interviewed caring pet parents Doug Olsen and Philip Douglas about the many dogs they've rescued over the years (see Favorite Things on page 162). Lastly, we dedicated a feature story to the Kurtz family, who are well-known in Naples both for building beautiful high-end homes and for being dog lovers (read "Rolling with Bentley" starting on page 104).

Though I've only recently discovered my love for dogs, I've always enjoyed being outside and exploring the great outdoors. So have Clyde and Niki Butcher, this issue's distinguished cover stars. They are fixtures in the Southwest Florida art scene, and many of you know Clyde as the "Ansel Adams of the Everglades." However, for this feature, we've put the focus on Niki. Writer Eric Barton uncovers the impact Niki has had on Clyde's success, plus the course of her own journey as a fine art photographer as she prepares for her first gallery show. Also enjoying the fresh air in a different way is Neapolitan John "Hap" Fauth, who shares his story of boat racing leading up to this year's America's Cup on page 98.

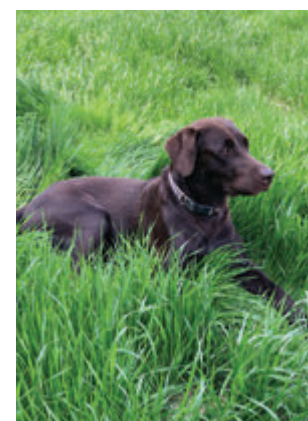
Have a healthy and happy March.

Christina Cush

Christina Cush
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REMY CUSH



ABOVE: MEET TUCK, *NI* PUBLISHER KALEIGH GROVER'S CHOCOLATE LAB AND "GOOD BOY."

MEET TILLEY, MY 20-POUND BESTIE! THE DAY WE TOOK HER HOME AS A RESCUE (RIGHT), AND NOW LIVING THE GOOD LIFE (LEFT).



CULTURE

Pelican Bay Poet

Naples author Theresa Hickey published her third poetry collection titled *SHY* (Finishing Line Press, \$15) this winter. Hickey, a member of the Pelican Bay Writer's Group, noticed that her poems reflected people's need for quiet time and a calming influence amongst all the uncertainty in the world today. "I called it *SHY* because I thought that this is something that we think is so unattainable in today's world as everything is so fast and moving at such a quick pace," she says. "I think we are always thinking to ourselves, 'I need that, but I can't find it.'"

Hickey's two other collections, *Raising the Child* (2006) and *Size of a Gracious Nature* (2010), are also about reflecting. "We all want to be our most authentic selves," she says. "The quiet time brings you that and draws you into the writing, it compels you to write, but you also see the flaws and the big picture in ways you maybe didn't see before." —*Mackenzie Griffith*



PUBLIC ART

FROM MUNDANE TO SUBLIME

As part of the "Art is Everywhere" project, 12 local mailboxes were selected to be a part of the **Marco Island Center of the Arts'** 2021 calendar and poster. Board members Mary Pat Palombo and Bruce Robertson were the visionaries behind the project. The idea initially came to Palombo when a new home in the area added a crystallized mailbox in the shape of dolphins leaping out of the water.

The center began by collecting 50 cell phone photos. After the board chose 12 images for the calendar, William H. Rheiner, executive committee member and board member, enlisted photographers Phil Wheat and Ed Cohen to professionally capture the artwork.

The project serves as a fundraiser to counter COVID-19 losses, explains Hyla Crane, executive director of the nonprofit art center, which offers 180 to 200 adult education classes. Funds are being directed toward cleaning supplies, virtual courses, and Artist Talk Live streaming events. "We are doing everything we can do to make sure we can be here another 50 years," Crane says. (marcoislandart.org) —*Kalia Richardson*

Inside the Naples Aircraft Rescue and Fire Station



The Naples Airport Authority and City of Naples Fire-Rescue Department celebrated the grand opening of the new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Station No. 3 in December. The main purpose of the \$5.8 million facility, funded by the airport and Florida Department of Transportation, is aircraft firefighting. However, it is also the most weather-protected building on airport grounds, built to withstand a category 5 hurricane, so it serves as both the fire department and the airport's emergency operations center. Station 3 was previously located on the north end of the airport. With the new facility now on the southwest end, firefighters do not have to cross any runways to reach calls on and off airport grounds, allowing for a faster response. —*M.G.*

NAPLES NOTES

COACHING with Grace

As a young mother in Kentucky, 38 weeks pregnant with her second child, Jana Seaman learned that her husband was terminally ill. He passed away in 2016 after a 15-month battle with cancer, when her two children were only 1 and 5 years old. "In the early days of loss, my heart was so heavy, but I was so grateful to go home to my kids," says Seaman, who moved to Naples in November 2017 to turn over a new leaf.

In Kentucky, she worked as an office manager in dermatology and plastic surgery practices. After putting in the soul-searching work to heal herself from this devastating loss, she knew she had a higher purpose. She studied and researched grief, loss, and coaching, and is now certified to help others get through traumatic changes. Through her Naples-



based business, **United in Assignment**, Seaman helps people all around the country work through their loss.

She describes her client base as ranging in age from 24 to their 70s, and "not all are dealing with loss through death, but some are struggling because of a job loss, the end of a long relationship, or a divorce that is wrecking their life." Thanks to the global pandemic, more people are aware of how overwhelming life transitions can be. It is Seaman's mission to give her clients the tools they "need to learn how to deal with emotions" so they can

"move forward, having a vision of what they want their life to look like."

During COVID-19, her business has seen a steady influx of clients. "We typically work with clients for a minimum of 12 weeks and an average of six months. Some clients meet weekly, others twice a week." Her coaches are always available by text or phone. "Grief strikes you at odd hours, so we walk with them when a trigger occurs." —*Christina Cush*

ESCAPE

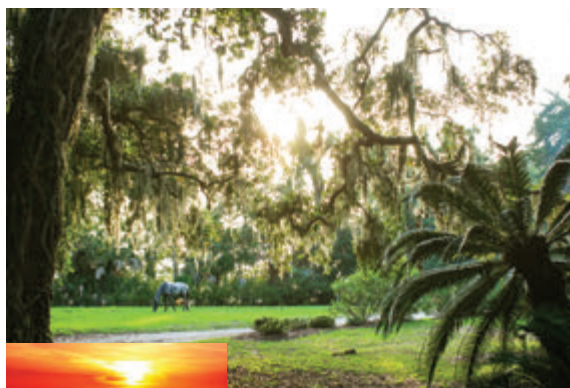
TRAVEL JOURNAL

Mother-Daughter Destinations

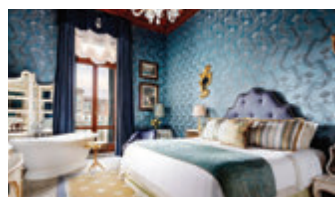
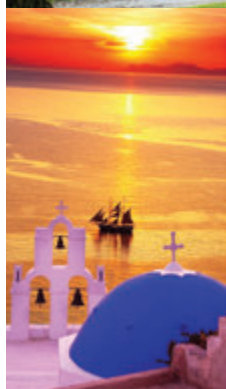
Mary Brandt, the owner and operator of The Hotel Escalante, started her professional life in the health care industry in Indiana. The stylish mom of Emry, age 17, and Allie, age 11, discovered the Escalante property while on vacation in 2003. Enchanted by Naples, she started as a seasonal Neapolitan in 2004, then became a full-time resident in 2010. Around 2013, ready to make a bold move, Brandt took the helm as the sole proprietor of the Escalante. Because the boutique hotel is just a few blocks away from her home, she is able to spend lots of time with her girls while giving her guests an amazing experience. “Considering the many places we’ve seen, Escalante serves as a mixture of the charms of France, New Orleans, Puerto Rico, and Napa Valley,” says Brandt. To stay on top of hospitality trends, she travels with her daughters to evaluate what might be worth implementing into Hotel Escalante and its restaurant, Veranda E. “We enjoy seeing new things, experiencing new cultures, and broadening our perspectives,” Brandt adds. When they are home, the Brandts focus their time on nonprofits that support children, such as Youth Haven and Ocean Kids. For now, though they aren’t traveling internationally, the Brandt girls will keep adventuring together, with their sights set on Alaska for June 2021. —Christina Cush



MARY BRANDT WITH ALLIE AND EMRY IN 2014



HUNTER MCGRAE



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GREYFIELD INN AT CUMBERLAND ISLAND; THE GRITTI PALACE; AFRICAN SAFARI; THE CLOISTER AT SEA ISLAND; PIZZA IN ITALY; GREECE.

NI: What kind of regional or domestic travel have you enjoyed during COVID-19?

Brandt: We’ve been to New Hampshire, New York, Maine, South Carolina, and Orlando. What stands out are our trips to Amelia Island in North Florida, and coastal Georgia, including the private Cumberland Island and Sea Island. We highly recommend the Cloister at Sea Island and the Greyfield Inn at Cumberland Island; they were the highlights of this summer’s travel.

Where have you been that you’d like to revisit?

The Amalfi coast and the Greek islands. For Emry, Paris is ideally an annual stop.

What’s your favorite European city?

Allie absolutely loves London for Harry Potter and theater. My favorite is Venice. Emry is split between Paris and Venice equally.

What trips are on your bucket list?

An African safari, Machu Picchu in Peru, and Australia.

What’s the best meal you’ve had on a trip?

Paris and Italy have such exquisite cuisine. In Italy, the pizzas, pastas, and fresh fish are to die for. In France, the baguettes, wine, cheese, chocolate, and croissants are killer. Allie still dreams of the gelato in Italy.

What’s the best hotel you’ve stayed at?

We try to stay at top-notch five-star prop-

erties with a preference toward boutique hotels. Some hotels we’ve enjoyed include The Gritti Palace, The Danieli, and The Ham Yard.

Where are the best shopping cities?

The best cities for shopping are Florence and Paris. In Paris, the Champs-Élysées is fun. In Florence, the Mercato Centrale is a two-level food market with everything you could ever imagine. We recommend the fresh truffles with the pasta.

Do you have a favorite museum?

The Louvre is home to the Mona Lisa, and the art and architecture of the museum are like nothing else.

Have you been to an amazing spa?

We were very impressed by the Cloisters’ spa services in Sea Island.

Can you share your favorite travel resources?

We use the American Express platinum travel site and Relais & Châteaux, in addition to personal references.

What are your travel necessities?

We can’t travel without our Hartman luggage. Mine has over a million Delta miles and its wheels are still rolling. For Allie, she needs to bring her stuffed animal, Hippiie. We always bring our small travel-size Louis Vuitton purses.

ROLLING WITH BENTLEY

By CHRISTINA CUSH

Photography by
VANESSA ROGERS

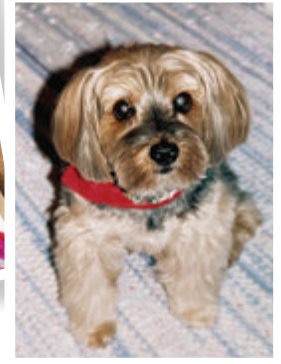
The KURTZ family is known for building beautiful luxury homes—and for their love of dogs, like this furry guy

Long before #pandemicpuppy was trending across social media, the Kurtz family of Naples has been a dog-digging bunch. However, these serial builders haven't succumbed to adding a pandemic puppy to their team of two dogs that includes Bentley, developer Randy Kurtz's beloved Goldendoodle, and Riley, his daughter Carolyn Gordon's chocolate lab. "Bentley is 11 or 12 now," says Elizabeth Kurtz, the youngest of Randy's two daughters, both of whom work with him at Kurtz Homes and at The Collective. "He is getting up there; his life expectancy is 13 or 14 years. We are hoping that a puppy will bring life to an older dog. That's why my dad is thinking about reaching out to the breeder we got Bentley from. But then again, it would be quite the feat to have two Goldendoodles to care for."





RANDY KURTZ AT HOME WITH
DAUGHTERS ELIZABETH AND CAROLYN
AND FAMILY DOG BENTLEY



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: CAROLYN KURTZ GORDON'S THREE CHILDREN, LUCY (AGE 2), NOAH (AGE 7), AND ISLA (AGE 4), WITH THEIR CHOCOLATE LAB, RILEY; NOAH WITH FAMILY BEAGLE PENNY; COOPER, THE KURTZES' SECOND YORKIE, HAD A VERY DISTINCT PERSONALITY; THE GORDON KIDS SNUGGLING WITH RILEY IN THEIR LIVINGSTON WOODS HOME.



Sales from reputable breeders, like the one Bentley came from, have boomed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and so have national dog adoptions. That trend took off locally, too, with Humane Society Naples finding homes for nearly 1,600 animals in 2020. Why are dogs benefitting from such strong popularity right now? Dogs, unlike humans, cannot grasp the concept of social distancing. Instead, they commandeer your side of the bed, act like a lap dog when they weigh in at 50 pounds, and lick your face with slobbery kisses. Their utter disregard for staying 6 feet apart could be exactly why the country and Collier County residents are rolling over for dogs.

PET MENAGERIE

Years ago, when the pound sign was not yet a hashtag, the Kurtz sisters cared for a slew of critters. “We are such a big pet family,” explains Carolyn. “Our dogs are always spoiled and treated well as an extension of us. I can’t imagine it any other way. I think it was our parents trying to instill responsibility in us.” Elizabeth adds: “That’s why I don’t have a dog right now. I am never home. I wouldn’t do that to a dog.”

Elizabeth and Carolyn agree that being raised in a house full of pets also taught them about the wonderful connection people can have with animals. “Growing up we had a Yorkie, Alex P. Keaton, named

after the *Family Ties* character,” recalls Carolyn, a married mother of three children ranging in age from 2 to 7. “Then we got another Yorkie, Cooper, a real scraggly, manic, neurotic dog who had more than nine lives.”

Carolyn has lots of fond and funny memories of the various pets she and her sister brought home. Naturally, some random lizards and frogs were smuggled in from the outdoors. “We had countless fair fish that made our mom mad,” notes Carolyn, who also shares the tale of



OUR DOGS ARE ALWAYS SPOILED AND TREATED WELL AS AN EXTENSION OF US. I CAN'T IMAGINE IT ANY OTHER WAY."

—Carolyn Gordon

an exceptionally fertile hamster named Chloe. "My really cute, chubby hamster turned out to be pregnant. She lived in my room and gave birth to six baby hamsters: two black, two cream, and two brown. We ended up giving one of each color away. Lizzy kept a black one, Rascal. My mom kept a cream one and named him Stuart Little—until we found out he was a she, then she became Martha Stewart. And I kept a brown one, Peanut. She smelled like peanut butter and was an escape artist. She lived the longest and acted like a dog. We often found her out of her cage, walking down the hall like she was a Labrador. She would chew through the twist ties we used to keep her door shut and get out of the cage, then flop down the main, curved staircase in the foyer. When we had a painter come do family portraits at our home, she painted a portrait of Peanut on the grand staircase. It's still there."

Not surprisingly, Carolyn's husband, David Gordon, who also works at Kurtz Homes, is a dog guy. "David had a little lab mix named Annie when we were dating in college at Elon University," Carolyn recalls. "She was our first baby. After she passed, we got a beagle, Penny, out of grief, while we were still in school. She was a good dog and is now buried in our backyard. We got Riley right before we had kids. We have a big backyard for kids and dogs, but we are a one-dog family for now. Before we had kids, our dogs were our world. Dogs are expensive, but kids are more expensive."

BENTLEY BASICS

Bentley helped Randy get through his divorce from his wife and the mother of his children about six and a half years ago. Randy and his ex both have roots in Iowa, but most of his family, including his mom and dad, whom he started the construction business with in 1982, relocated to Naples. Randy and his mother have homes in Mediterra, while Carolyn lives in Livingston Woods and Elizabeth in Bonita Springs.

Carolyn notes that when Randy is away on golf trips, "Bentley is the main dog and everything revolves around him. We have a friend who watches my dog if we travel, but we have to look after Bentley."



Elizabeth explains that Bentley is really attached to their dad and any time Randy leaves town, the dog gets high anxiety and hot spots on his skin. "The poor guy ends up in a cone," she says.

The sisters assert that the occasional Bentley inconvenience is more than worth it. "He is our dad's buddy," says Carolyn. "When Dad gets home from work, Bentley grabs a tennis ball to play with him on the lawn. It's part of the routine. Bentley has been a constant companion for him. He even goes to the job sites. He's the sidekick."

Elizabeth adores Bentley, and she often walks him around The Collective—one of the Kurtz's most impressive projects to date—during





BENTLEY GETS GROOMED AT THE HOUSE...THEN HE RUNS THROUGH THE OFFICE LIKE HE'S IN A PARADE TO SHOW US ALL HOW BEAUTIFUL HE IS."

—ELIZABETH KURTZ



RANDY KURTZ HAS A LARGE, FENCED-IN BACKYARD FOR PLAYING WITH HIS DOG, BENTLEY, AFTER WORK AND RUNNING AROUND WITH HIS THREE GRANDCHILDREN, INCLUDING ISLA GORDON.

her lunch break. "He is spoiled and eats better than I do," she says. "His bed in my dad's office costs more than my bed." Yet, she still finds his personality endearing. "Bentley gets groomed at the house and turns into a fluff, then he runs through the office like he's in a parade to show us all how beautiful he is."

Though Bentley sometimes ignores Elizabeth's commands—despite ample time spent with a trainer—she happily dotes on him. "He eats a special mix of wet and dry food and, at my house, he eats rotisserie chicken," she says.

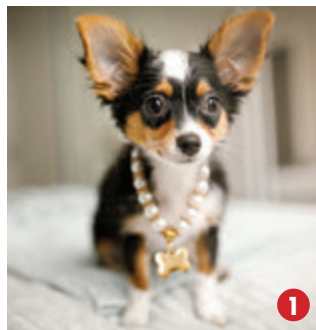
Bentley has a soft spot for Elizabeth, too. Every morning at work, he greets his top five favorite people at the office—and one of them is inevitably Elizabeth. When she hears his collar jingle and sees him rounding the desk corner, she says she smiles and thinks, "Oh good, Bentley is here." <<

FAVORITE THINGS



Pick up dog treats: Wholesome Hound, which Molly Havig owns

Doug Olsen and his husband, Philip Douglas, have been together since 1992, Naples social scene fixtures since 1994, and married since 2013. The fashionable, charismatic couple has welcomed several pet dogs into their home over the years. Most recently, their family includes Hildy, a Dachshund Beagle mix who sleeps on Douglas' head and is the watchdog of the group; Arden, a Chihuahua and Humane Society rescue who weighs under 5 pounds but has lots of charity co-chair experience; Tallulah, a Havipoo gifted by literary bestie Janet Evanovich; and Estee, a Corgi Terrier mix they rescued three years ago who is the senior citizen of the bunch at almost 17 years old. Olsen spent the majority of his corporate career as a big-brand cosmetics executive at companies like Elizabeth Arden and now teaches future aestheticians at a local school. Douglas opened his first eponymous Naples salon in 1994 off of Third Street South and moved it to Tamiami Trail North in 2013. Since both gentlemen have been groomed by years in the beauty business, it's no surprise that they take excellent care of their dogs and get a kick out of making them look cute. Below, Olsen and Douglas, in a quest to be the best dog parents possible, share their top spots to...



- 1. Select canine wardrobes and accessories:** Paws Pet Boutique
- 2. Dine out with the dogs:** The patio at Dorona or the patio at Sea Salt because "Ingrid Aielli is dog-friendly."
- 3. Shop for people things:** "Arden was heartbroken when Nordstrom closed," says Olsen, "but she likes

going to Marissa's and wearing some of their bracelets as collars."

4. Get the dogs groomed: Shear Luxury Pet Styling

5. Show up for a cause: Whatever the Humane Society is doing, when they are event-ready again.

6. Take a walk: Baker Park, downtown on Third Street, or in their home neighborhood of Briarwood.

7. Hang out with friends: Anywhere Patty Baker is. —Christina Cush



Visit for a vet checkup: Town and Country Animal Hospital in Naples with Dr. Jane Chetowsky

