

NAPLES

ILLUSTRATED®

3 LOCAL
FARMS
*Yummy Food
& Fun Visits*

BIRDING
IN PARADISE
*A healthy hobby
to love*

E.T. AND LYN
WILLIAMS,
part-time
Neapolitans,
full-time art
champions

ARTS & CULTURE

FROM THE EDITOR

A Florida Thanksgiving

When we lived in Darien, Connecticut, Michael and I often welcomed either side of the family, or sometimes both together, into our home for the holidays. We hosted Thanksgiving a few times during the 13 years we lived there, and some were more memorable—or disastrous—than others. There was the year when one of the twins crawled toward the crackling fireplace at a rapid pace, as my brother-in-law, who'd volunteered to watch them while I cleaned up in the kitchen, snored in an armchair. Another year, we went to the annual Turkey Bowl football game to watch our high school battle its rival, and we lost one of our kids in the crowd for a few minutes and freaked out, until we realized that she'd gone to sit with her cousins. When we came back from that game, it was an unusually warm afternoon for a New England Thanksgiving, and the front of our home was covered in hundreds of ladybugs. I took that as a good omen and felt immense gratitude.

In 2014, we moved to Florida and have since forged new Thanksgiving traditions, including frying or smoking the bird. If you are looking for something fun to do with the family over the holiday, we suggest checking out any of the farms or farmers markets we highlight in our "Green Acres" feature on page 92. This year, on Thanksgiving weekend, I'll hopefully be huddled up with my three kids, hubby, and the dog on the couch cheering on the Florida Gators as they pounce on Kentucky in The Swamp. When we lived in Connecticut, as the wife of a Wall Streeter, I thought the SEC just meant the Securities and Exchange Commission. Oh, how much Florida life has taught me.

Since I've started this gig, I've also learned that Naples folks are always happy to collaborate with *Naples Illustrated* to fill our pages with authentic and engaging articles and photos. This issue's cover story, "An Artful Life," is a perfect example of teamwork. Writer Cary Barbor snagged an interview with E.T. and Lyn Williams, who are a fabulous philanthropic couple, featured twice in *The New York Times* for their significant contributions to the art world. In a coordinated effort, we sent New York-based photographer Eric Striffler out to Sag Harbor, where the Williamses were riding out COVID in one of their four homes. Florida photographer Jerry Rabinowitz then took charge of capturing the Williamses' art collection in their Naples condo. I love how all the pieces of this puzzle came together, and I am grateful to all the key players, especially the Williamses.

We hope you enjoy our Arts & Culture issue. Check out the Favorite Things profile of creative couple Reagan and Danny Geschardt on page 152. And don't miss Travel Journal on page 60 with opera singer Donna Issenmann. If my Thanksgiving dream comes true, I'll soon be celebrating with Jingled Elves in a Naples trolley with Donna (and *NI* publisher Kaleigh Grover!), singing my heart out to holiday songs.

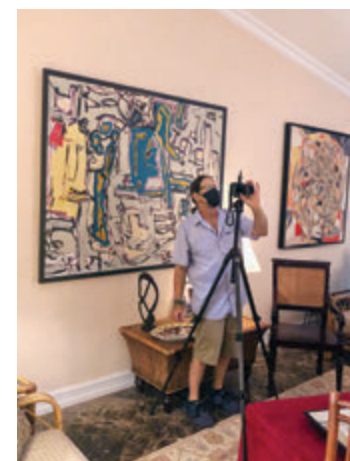
Happy November, and have a meaningful Thanksgiving.

Christina Cush

Christina Cush
ccush@naplesillustrated.com



KAREN TYRRELL



PHOTOGRAPHER JERRY RABINOWITZ AND I HAD FUN SHOOTING E.T. AND LYN WILLIAMS' AMAZING COLLECTION.

MY 2019 THANKSGIVING TABLE IN PROGRESS REMINDS US TO "GATHER WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS."



ESCAPE

TRAVEL JOURNAL

Globetrotting *SONGBIRD*

With a bachelor's of music from Arizona State University and a practiced love for singing opera, it's poetic that Donna Isсенmann met her husband of nine years, Jim, at St. William Catholic Church in Naples, where she regularly lends her voice. With a background in national television, she parlayed her experience into a successful promotional business. She's winding that role down, but she still sings for a number of local churches and has redirected her energy toward charity work. One of her biggest recent accomplishments was the formation of Jingled Elves, a philanthropic trolley tour with a flash mob component that raised almost \$30,000 for The Shelter for Abused Women and Children last year. The Isсенmanns broke away in January 2020 and toured the Panama Canal, but have since been grounded, though they're dreaming of their next adventure. —Christina Cush



FROM LEFT: JIM AND DONNA ISSEN-MANN IN COPENHAGEN; DONNA ISSEN-MANN IN HELSINKI.



NI: What's your ideal type of trip?

Isсенmann: I love to see historical places and imagine being part of the lives of the people living in that time. I remember getting such a thrill walking the path in Ephesus where St. Paul walked and seeing the city that was built during that time.

What was a bucket-list trip for you?

The Baltic capitals. We did that two summers ago, and it was unbelievable. Still on my bucket list are Austria, Switzerland, Amsterdam, and Ireland.

Any domestic destinations you'd like to visit?

I want to go to the western states to see the wide-open spaces of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming.

Do you have a top travel moment?

Catherine's Palace outside of St. Petersburg, Russia, was unbelievable. At the end of the tour, they had a reenactment of a beautiful concert and ball.

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

One of my best meals has been at a lobster pound near Kennebunk, Maine, in a little out-of-the-way place. Nantucket and Ogunquit, Maine, have some great food as well. I love the Northeast. You would never know that I grew up in Iowa.

Where's the best hotel you've stayed at?

The Château Frontenac in Quebec City. It was

not the most opulent that I have been in, but it was a magical place when we went to Quebec City for their Christmas Market. It is an old castle on the St. Lawrence Seaway, and we had a room in the old part of the castle and watched the snow falling in the middle of the night on the spires. It was the most beautiful tableau.

Which city has the best shopping?

I love Christmas, and I found some beautiful treasures that I cherish at the Christmas Market in Frankfurt, Germany. I collect nutcrackers, and they had some of the most unique that I had seen. For shops, I loved Bruges, Belgium.

Have you had an unforgettable spa treatment on a trip?

I was in Turkey, and my friend talked me into going to a Turkish bath, one that the locals frequented. The door was an old shower curtain, and the Turkish bath was a bunch of bidets with a giant marble slab in the middle of the open-air room where we took turns getting washed with Ivory dishwashing soap. It was an experience that I will never forget!

What must you bring on vacation?

I love a Lilly Pulitzer fold-up duffel bag. I start a trip with a couple of them all folded up nicely and end with them stuffed to the brim with treasures. I travel overseas with hand sanitizer and personal wipes, because you never know when you will visit a monument with a hole in the ground as a toilet. I know this from firsthand experience.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THE CHÂTEAU FRONTENAC; MAINE LOBSTER BOIL; FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET; IDAHO.



FAVORITE THINGS



Danny and Reagan Geschardt

met in Naples almost 17 years ago and teamed up to paint a reproduction of Chagall's Paris opera house ceiling for Richard D'Amico's restaurant, Café Lurcat. Their artistic and romantic chemistry was undeniable, leading them to marry in 2005. Now the co-owners of Geschardt Art and Broome Street Studios are doting parents to two tweens and two twentysomethings. The family business entails selling the couple's abstract paintings to fill spaces with fun, happy colors. They describe their vibe as a "relaxed island preppy style with a vintage flair." This fall, the creative duo is

opening a showroom off Fifth Avenue to highlight their vibrant artwork and a new line of tunics and caftans with block-printed fabrics. They draw endless inspiration from sunsets and historic downtown Third Street and say, "As artists we thrive for the sunlight, and Naples definitely supplies an abundance of that." Below, the Geschardts' favorite places to...



MICHAEL CARONCHI



AUDREY SNOW



JOHN EDER

Have a family outing:
Campiello

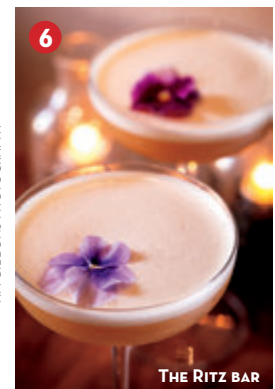


4



TIM GIBBONS PHOTOGRAPHY

Buy art supplies: *Art Emporium.*
It's also a great frame shop.



DON RIDDLE

THE RITZ BAR