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Dear readers,

I've always been drawn to more intellectual and musical pursuits, but when I was four years old, I won my first and only athletic competition: an ice-skating race hosted by the Williams Bay recreation department. I won not because I was the fastest skater, but because I had followed the advice my mom gave me just prior to the race: "Don't worry about how fast you're going," she told me. "Just don't fall down." When the whistle blew, our little band of preschool competitors set out evenly matched, but one by one, everyone else in the race did indeed fall down, leaving me to cross the finish line first and win a gold medal for my efforts.

I have loved to ice skate since I was a little girl, and I still love it, which is why it was so fun to spend a day last February tagging along with Holly, our photographer, while she photographed a local family enjoying a day on the ice (including the very first ice skating experience for 3-year-old Leland!). Those photos are part of our guide to ice skating in the Geneva Lake area (page 93), which provides a great reminder that winter is a wonderful time to live and play here.

Residents of the Lake Geneva Manor neighborhood would likely agree. More than almost any other lakefront subdivision, "the Manor" seems to attract year-round, full-time residents, many of whom represent the third or even fourth generations of their families to live there. We decided to dig into the history of the property — once a grand lakefront estate named Linden Lodge — and its development over the past 90+ years into the charming neighborhood it remains today (page 32).

Speaking of lakefront locations, anyone who's yearning for summer on the water should turn to our special advertising section, Getting Married at the Lake (page 59). There you'll find the stories of three couples who exchanged vows in the area last spring and summer, and learn all of their tips and recommendations for planning a local wedding and maximizing the beautiful settings around Walworth County.

However you decide to fill your time and whatever activities you decide to engage in this winter, remember: it's not about how fast you're going. Just don't fall down.

Anne Morrissy
Editor
anne@ntmediagroup.com



BARN BEAUTY

Our portfolio of local, historic barns (page 42) features one that is close to my heart — it was owned by my great-grandfather (and then my grandmother) for almost 90 years!

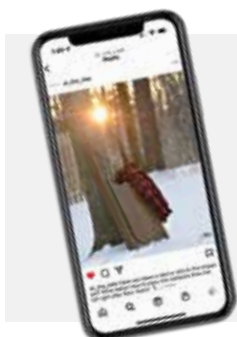


CUTE DUDDS

On page 83, check out our guide to Lake Geneva-themed holiday gifts! I've got my eye on these Lake Geneva sweatshirts.

CHEERS!

I love a good glass of bubbly all year 'round, but our guide to sparkling wines (page 108) has me ready to pop champagne (or cava, or prosecco) in front of a roaring fire this winter.



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Lofty Landmarks

A portfolio of some of the area's beautiful, historic barns

By Anne Morrissy

Photos by Holly Leitner

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The Manor, Born

Explore the history of the Lake Geneva Manor neighborhood and its predecessor, Linden Lodge

By Anne Morrissy

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By Tasha Downing

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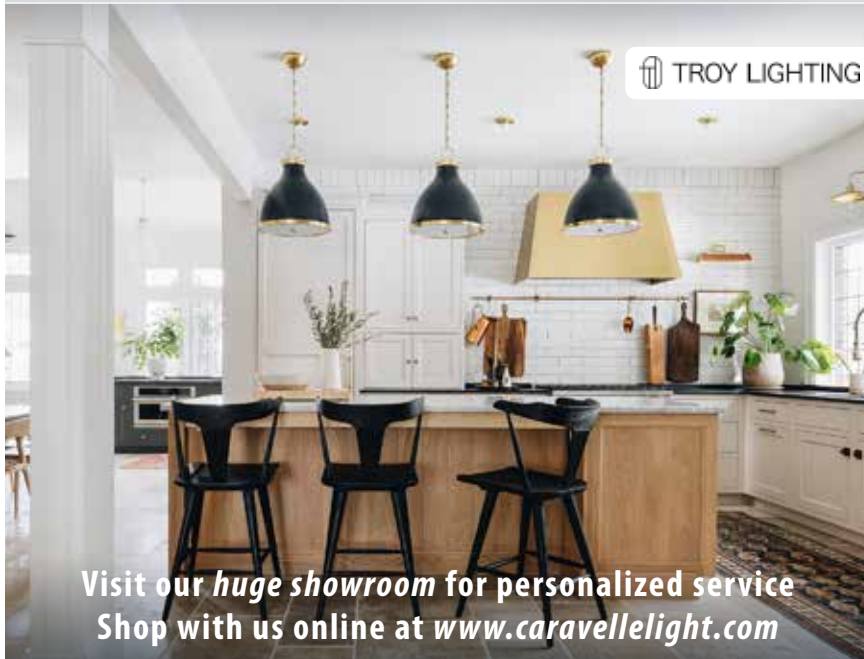
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ON THE COVER



The warming
station for an
impromptu
ice skating
session on
a frozen
Williams Bay.

*Photo by
Holly Leitner*

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The cafeteria at Badger High School, part of the original 1958 structure, is being renovated and updated for accessibility.

Renovation Lessons

Badger High School
undergoing upgrades

BY ANNE MORRISSY

Lake Geneva's Badger High School is currently undergoing a \$6 million dollar renovation project, which will update some of the oldest parts of the building for efficiency and accessibility, as well as replace the aging roof and optimize areas of the building used frequently by the general community. Dr. Peter Wilson, superintendent of schools, describes the renovations as a "continuing effort" to ensure that the school appropriately serves the roughly 1,300 students and 250 staff members on site every day, as well as maintains its role as a vital community meeting and event space. "It truly is a building that never sleeps," he explains.

COURTESY OF LAKE GENEVA SCHOOLS

Renovations are currently under way to address portions of the oldest part of the building, which was built in 1958. Today, this section of the building contains the cafeteria, the kitchen, the gymnasium and the lobby and restrooms, all of which will be upgraded. In addition to these updates, the project includes replacement of the 1990s era roof, installation of energy-efficient LED lighting, as well as updates to the auditorium that will improve the audio-visual system for school and community meetings and events.

Funding for the renovations came from a referendum passed by Lake Geneva voters in April of 2021. George Chironis, director of business services, explains that some of the updates are long overdue in order to bring the school into compliance with modern codes. "When you have 1958-era bleachers, they're not up to the safety or accessibility standards for a modern

school gym. We've modernized our restrooms as well, making them more ADA-compliant."

Administrators had hoped to have the renovations completed by the beginning of the school year, but delays in receiving materials and supply-chain challenges slowed the progress. Despite this, Wilson says that the majority of the work has been completed. Holly Eckola, director of marketing and communications, says the school hopes to host a community-wide celebration around the completion of the renovations, this winter. "We'd like to show off the space that the community helped us complete by passing the referendum," she adds.

Wilson emphasizes the community focus of the project and the combined effort it took to accomplish this latest round of renovations to the school. "We want to see people of all different

ages being able to come together to watch athletics and activities here, and these enhancements will allow all segments of our community to come together in a single space," he says.

Serving Safety

Agape House celebrating 25 years

On November 10, Walworth's Agape House celebrated 25 years of service with a gala fundraiser and kicked off a yearlong campaign of sharing the positive impact they have achieved over the past two-and-a-half decades. The faith-based nonprofit organization remains the only private placement treatment home and school in the state of Wisconsin for teens recovering from trauma. The organization's mission focuses on

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Agape Girls' Home residents enjoy a winter outing as part of the treatment program.

helping girls ages 12-18 and boys ages 12-16 as they work to overcome past abuse and trauma.

"It's rewarding and truly exciting to see the tremendous success we've had since opening our doors in 1998," says Pam Patterson, founder and CEO of Agape House.

The Agape House program consists of Agape Girls' Home and Agape Boys' Home, Christian-focused, non-denominational residential living, as well as Agape School, offering individualized academics, mentoring, tutoring and counseling services. These programs are funded primarily through donations and grants – participation fees are kept intentionally low and are offered on a sliding-scale payment system.

November's fundraising event at the Geneva National Clubhouse featured the theme "Give Them Hope," and included a gourmet dinner, a silent auction and a presentation on the work Agape House has undertaken over the past 25 years. Part of the funds raised from the event will go toward establishing a learning garage on the organization's site where students can gain hands-on lesson in automotive technology and repair, with the goal of giving back to the community through auto maintenance and repair students.

Patterson thanked the organization's

supporters and volunteers for their continued commitment. "More and more families are reaching out for services from all of our programs, and we're hopeful that with God's continued miraculous grace, we'll keep growing and meeting those needs for another 25 years."

Wellness Warriors

Open Arms Free Clinic celebrates 10 years serving Walworth County

This winter, Elkhorn's Open Arms Free Clinic will celebrate 10 years of serving low-income and uninsured residents of Walworth County with primary medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, lab and pharmaceutical assistance. To commemorate a decade of service to the community, the clinic will host a Birthday Gala at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa on December 2 (see page 52).

According to executive director Sara Nichols, the clinic arose out of a need in the community that was not being served via traditional medical networks. The clinic provides care to those families that are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. "We serve a rural, marginalized community, and the clinic was started on the premise that access to basic health care is a right," Nichols explains.

The organization's mission is to better serve with compassion the health and wellness needs of the uninsured, low-income and underserved residents of Walworth County. Funding for the clinic began in 2012 with a \$15,000 grant from the Kikkoman Foods Foundation to support the rent of an 1,800-square-foot facility. Medical equipment was donated by Dean Foods, Aurora Medical Group and Mercy Health Systems. With growing community support, the organization

expanded in 2015 and moved to a 6,000-square-foot facility where they were able to expand their services to include dental, behavioral health and care coordination. In 2019, Open Arms purchased the dental office adjacent to their medical office, and today the clinic serves as a dental student rotation site in partnership with the Marquette University Dental School, in addition to its suite of medical services.

Nichols estimates that since opening its doors 10 years ago, the clinic's volunteer staff of medical professionals has provided quality and compassionate health care to over 5,000 patients, including 35,000 patient visits. A 2019 study estimated that the clinic had delivered over \$2.4 million in health care in a single year. With these accomplishments have come a series of accolades: Open Arms Free Clinic has achieved the Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics Gold Standard of Excellence (2021) and the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics Gold Standard (2021).

Looking to the future, Nichols highlights a handful of programs that have gotten under way in 2022, including: a partnership with Uber Health to provide free rides to the clinic for those without transportation; the dental Seal-A-Smile which provides free, school-based oral exams, fluoride varnish, and sealants to children enrolled in Walworth County schools; and the Mobile Medical Clinic, started last summer to provide basic medical services to assist employers, churches and schools.

Nichols says she is looking forward to the gala and to celebrating the work Open Arms Free Clinic has achieved over the past decade. She credits the clinic's success to the unwavering support of the community. "Every person, company and foundation with the capacity to give has made a difference in the lives of so many," she says. 🐾

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A portrait of Mary Alice Myers, a woman with blonde hair, smiling and holding a colorful mug. She is wearing a dark blue sweater, a pearl necklace with a gold medallion, and a matching bracelet. The background is a blue and white patterned fabric.

Designing Woman

Home decor Instagram influencer Mary Alice Myers shares her creative journey

BY AMANDA N. WEGNER

Entertaining with Mary Alice

Holiday Place Settings Three Ways



Myers loves whimsical accents for a festive Christmas setting.



Tartan inspiration and snowflake china create an elegant holiday setting, she says.



Using roses and fresh oranges, Myers adds color and texture to this traditional table setting.

side tables, shelves and mantelpieces. Myers uses her experience and well-honed eye to bring together diverse tabletop pieces, including dishes, candles, linens, florals, glassware and other decorative objects to create dreamy tablescapes. This passion has been a significant driver for her growing Instagram audience.

LEARNING THE TOOLS OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA TRADE

As the world first started emerging from the COVID-19 lockdown, Myers chose to retire from her position at Paper Dolls. But she also knew she couldn't sit idle in retirement. And Instagram, which she had started experimenting with a few months before the pandemic began, offered inspiration.

"I started becoming more interested in Instagram," recalls Myers. "There, I could follow an interior designer in any state or country and see what they were doing. Then I stumbled upon people who are very savvy and creative with table settings, and I thought, 'This is awesome, and I can do that, too!'"

Myers first started "playing around" on Instagram in December 2019. "I was building up the confidence to do it," she recalls of her timid start on the platform. "I didn't want to be rejected or not have people like my posts. At first, it was just for fun, and I didn't know what I was doing."

Initially, Myers took a "see what today brings" approach to posting, but she knew that if she wanted to grow her account, she needed some expert advice, so she enrolled in an online course to learn more about successful social media strategies. In that course, she learned how to better structure her photos, how to use hashtags to reach new audiences, and how to determine which content was working toward her goals. The class also emphasized the importance of having a larger strategy and a posting schedule to maintain a regular cadence of relevant and engaging content. This, says Myers, has helped her create a vision for her platform and deliver content that her existing followers love, while also attracting new followers.

Myers cautions that finding success on social isn't easy, and a lot of work goes into a single gorgeous photo. "It's a lot of work behind the scenes. And it's not just the work of designing a tablescape or setting up the shot. There's the work of planning, analyzing what you've done and adapting to the platform, which is always changing. Like anything else, you have to adapt and keep up with the trends, whether you like it or not. It's an uphill battle, and I'm constantly learning along the way, and really enjoying the journey."

Followers of Myers' account will find a rich use of colors, textures and patterns, combining bespoke pieces with everyday items. There's plenty of inspiration for creative ventures, as well as regular appearances by Myers herself. She says that she draws her inspiration from the world and objects around her, including leafing through magazines and tearing out pages that inspire her, an activity she loved as a child. Antique stores and flea markets are wellsprings of inspiration for her; a vintage bowl with interesting colors might inspire her to undertake a shelf redesign to highlight the bowl. The pattern of a plate might be the sole spark for an entire tablescape. "[Creativity] sparks from a lot of things," Myers says of her inspiration. "I can't say it's one thing, but the world around me."

GROWING HER COMMUNITY

As Myers' following has grown, so have her business partnerships. Toward the end of 2020, she says, companies began reaching out to her with partnership opportunities. In this kind of business arrangement, companies provide products that Myers incorporates and tags in her posts to help amplify the company. She focuses on products in the home and entertaining categories.

Most of the companies Myers currently works with are smaller, boutique ventures. For instance, she's currently working with a family-owned business out of Tennessee that makes a cream liqueur, and another family business that makes



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Italian chocolates. She also works with a woman-owned company that produces paper placemats and vases — “which sounds odd,” she admits, “but they are beautiful, energetic and fun.” One of her newest partnerships is with a new company that creates high-end pieces for entertaining. The “craziest” product she was provided through a partnership was a unique garden hose. “It was very cool and one gift my husband loves,” she says.

But perhaps the greatest gift Myers has received in her new role as a social influencer is the community of friends and like-minded entrepreneurs she has cultivated. “One of the most interesting and rewarding things about all this is how it brings together a community,” says Myers. “I have a wonderful group of friends, but some aren’t on social media or understand what it is that I do every day! It may seem like I’m just playing with dishes and taking pictures, but there is much more to it than that. Through this, I’ve found this niche of people I relate to, and [who] understand what I do day-to-day.”

Those friendships moved from the digital world to the real world this past summer when Myers attended a conference in Alabama for tabletop designers. “It was like meeting old friends. It was so great,” she says. In addition to classes and camaraderie at the conference, attendees worked together to create table settings, which will be featured in Hoffman Media’s Entertain & Celebrate Magazine in Spring 2023.

While it certainly requires dedication and hard work to cultivate an online presence and become an influencer, Myers appreciates that she has found a new avenue to do the work she loves. “I love that I can play every day when I’m doing things like this. I can be creative, do what makes me happy and help companies grow,” says Myers. “For me, it really, truly, is fun. Most days, it doesn’t feel like work.”

Find Mary Alice Myers on Instagram at @maryalice.home 🍷

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The background of this section is a photograph of a cozy living room decorated for Christmas. It features a green sofa, a large Christmas tree on the left, and several smaller Christmas trees in the background. The room has warm lighting and a rustic feel.

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\$3,000,000



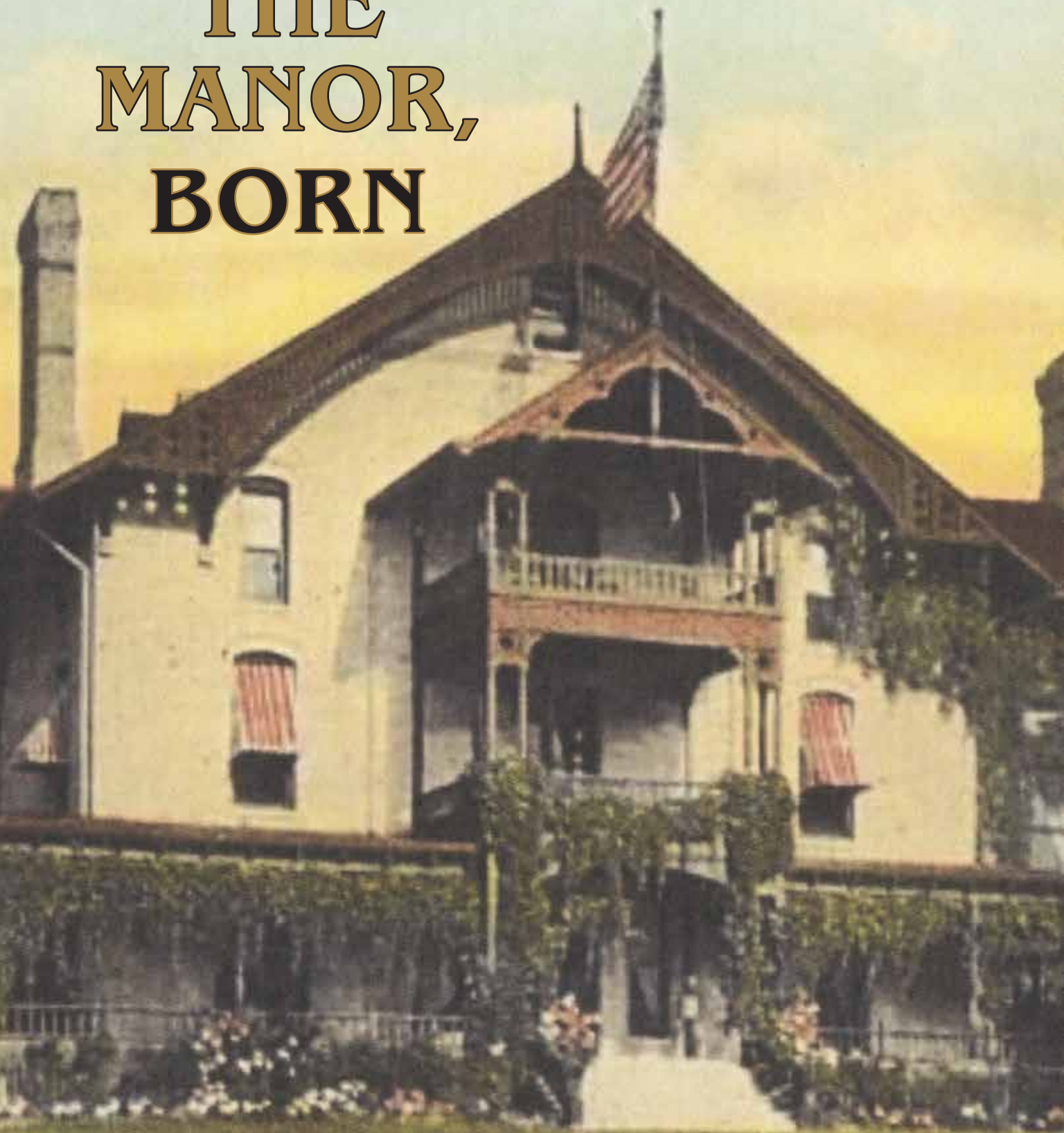
\$2,700,000



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THE MANOR, BORN



Exploring the rich history of the Lake Geneva Manor
neighborhood and the property's original estate, Linden Lodge

BY ANNE MORRISSY

LAKE GENEVA MANOR

TRACT NO. 17

LAKE GENEVA, WALWORTH COUNTY

WISCONSIN

Scale 1 inch = 100 feet

Vol. 9
Page 5

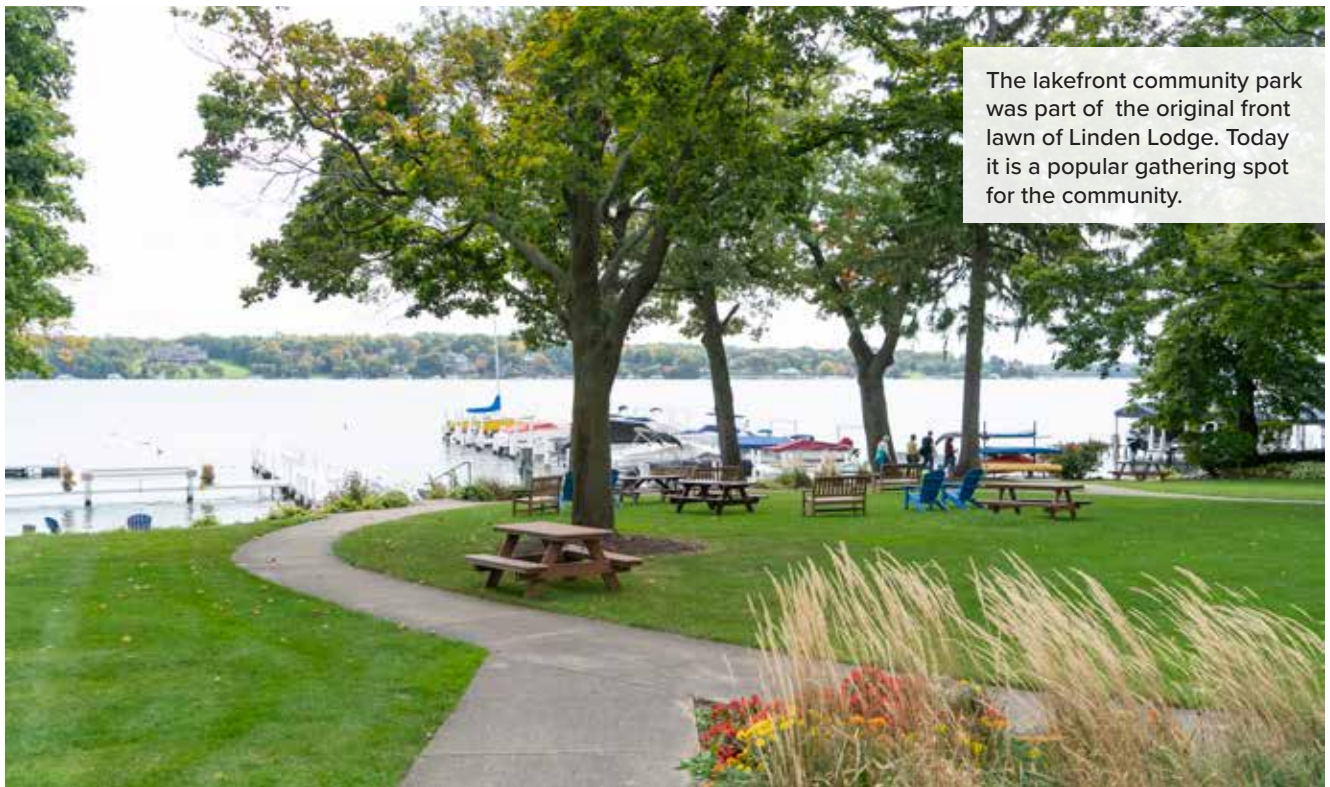
STREET

MAIN - S 67° 12' W

S 67° 23' W

8078





The lakefront community park was part of the original front lawn of Linden Lodge. Today it is a popular gathering spot for the community.

From the age of 18, Andy Kerwin spent summers in Lake Geneva and knew about the Lake Geneva Manor, a lakefront neighborhood west of Library Park, but it wasn't until he purchased a home in "the Manor" (as residents call it) in 2013 that he started wondering about its history. How long had the Manor been around? What was located on that prime lakefront land prior to its development? Kerwin started asking his new neighbors what they knew about the Manor's history, and discovered a wealth of knowledge. Many families had lived in the Manor for several generations, and everyone seemed to know each other, as well as the history of their properties and their neighbors' properties. Very quickly, Kerwin realized there were endless stories to dig into, and he wanted to learn more.

So Kerwin reached out to his friend Sonja Akright, a local researcher and historian with years of experience doing just this sort of project. Akright is a member of the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Committee and sits on the board of the Geneva Lake Museum. She had plenty of resources at her fingertips to help Kerwin and the other residents of the Manor dig into the neighborhood's history. "I knew Sonja was the perfect person



This plat map from the late 19th century shows the parcel owned by L.Z. (Levi) Leiter.

for this project," Kerwin says. "She jumped right in." Over several months, Akright compiled a hefty binder full of research from historic newspapers, museum archives and rare books, and together, she and Kerwin created posterboard presentations to share with the members of the Lake Geneva Manor Association. It turned out that was just the beginning of what would eventually become a neighborhood-wide celebration of the Manor's storied history.

LINDEN LODGE

In the 19th century, the property that would one day become the Lake Geneva Manor was owned by Levi Leiter, the early partner of department



Manord resident Andy Kerwin and historian Sonja Akright hold a photo of the Linden Lodge property.

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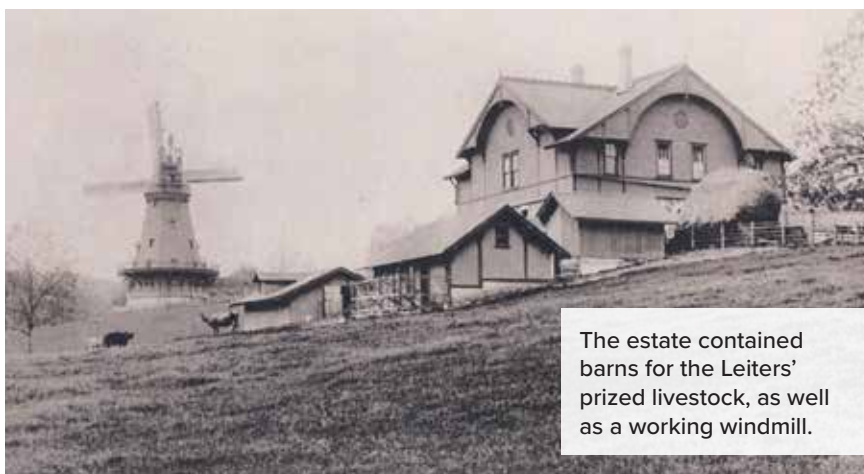
store founder Marshall Field. The two met as clerks in a wholesale drapery store, and together they purchased a controlling interest in a dry goods store owned by another famous Chicagoan, Potter Palmer, changing the name of the store to Field, Leiter & Co., in 1867. Although they lost \$2.5 million in merchandise to the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, they reopened their store 18 months later. Leiter also took the opportunity to buy up tracts of burned real estate at a low price, helping to make him a very wealthy man as the city quickly began to rebuild.

As early as the summer of 1877, Leiter and his family — wife Mary and their children, Joseph, Mary Victoria and Nannie (daughter Daisy would arrive in 1880) — spent time in Lake Geneva. They enjoyed the lake so much that Leiter eventually purchased land directly to the east of Maple Lawn, the estate owned by the Sturges family, and began building a summer home. The Leiter estate, named Linden Lodge, was completed in 1880. The three-story house was built of cream-colored brick in a style vaguely reminiscent of a Swiss cottage, with a wide veranda. The home boasted 37 rooms, most featuring ornately carved woodwork interiors: a first-floor ballroom, a large square reception hall with drawing rooms on either side, a music room, a dining room and multiple subterranean wine cellars, among many other luxuries. There were a total of 19 fireplaces and multiple oversized, footed bathtubs. On the property surrounding the house, Leiter constructed a large barn for the care of the estate's 600 chickens, 100 head of sheep and small assortment of Jersey cattle. One of the most distinctive elements of the Leiter estate was the sizable Dutch windmill constructed behind the main house. (Akright says that local residents particularly disliked the windmill, which was located close to the road and tended to spook their horses.)

For several years after building Linden Lodge, the Leiter family became a fixture of the Lake Geneva summer social scene, and their yacht, the *Daisy*, was a common sight on the lake. Beginning in 1904, the estate hosted



The Leiter family built a large summer home vaguely reminiscent of a Swiss cottage.



The estate contained barns for the Leiters' prized livestock, as well as a working windmill.



Linden Lodge served as the site of the Mid-Summer Fair beginning in 1904.

the Mid-Summer Fair, recreating the scene of an English country fair, complete with livestock judging and a competitive horticulture competition. The Mid-Summer Fair raised funds for Holiday Home Camp, which the Leiters and many other early summer residents strongly supported. For many years, the fair was a highlight of the summer social season in Lake Geneva.

However, as the Leiter children grew

up and moved away (their daughters famously married into the British aristocracy), Levi and Mary Leiter began spending less time at Linden Lodge. Leiter's partnership with Marshall Field had dissolved in 1881, and he spent the remainder of his life monitoring his vast investments, devoting his time to philanthropy and travel. When Levi Leiter died in 1904, the estate passed to his wife Mary, who allowed her sister and brother-



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In 1926, the property was subdivided into smaller, individual lots (above). A notice in the Lake Geneva Regional News advertised the lots for sale by promising prospective buyers that they could have a piece of the “refined and exclusive” lifestyle once enjoyed by the Leiter family (right).

in-law to use it. When Mary died in 1913, ownership of Linden Lodge transferred to their son Joseph and the estate’s trustees.

THE 1920S: THE FIRST ATTEMPT AT DEVELOPMENT

By the early 1920s, after several years of trying to sell the estate intact, Joseph Leiter sold the property to a Chicago real estate development company, which platted the land to become a neighborhood, adding roads and subdividing the land into buildable lots. A notice in the Lake Geneva Regional News of June 10, 1926, announced, “The famous Leiter estate at beautiful Lake Geneva opens its gate to you for home or investment,” and featured an artist’s rendering of Linden Lodge’s stone gates and a view of the lake beyond.

The notice featured the first mention of the subdivision’s new name — Lake Geneva Manor — and boasted that in addition to offering nearly 80 lots in the neighborhood, the developers also intended to preserve the main house and convert it for use as a private clubhouse, with a ballroom, a dining room, several lounging rooms and 50

guest rooms. They set aside the land between the main house and the lake as a community park, a space that remains to this today.

According to Akright and Kerwin’s research, a handful of properties — including most of the lakefront lots — were purchased as part of that initial sale, and houses began appearing in the new subdivision around 1928. However, the stock market crash the following year stalled sales and many of the lots remained unsold. Following an initial remodeling project, Linden Lodge’s main house was purchased by a group of Chicago businessmen who renamed it the Linden Lodge Country Club and used it as a private club during the Depression, but eventually failed to pay their property taxes and lost ownership.

WILLIAM F. TRINKE AND A NEW HOUSING BOOM

In 1939, a local attorney named William F. Trinke purchased the clubhouse and the unsold lots in the Manor from the county after they had been seized for unpaid taxes. He spent \$10,000 to acquire it all, and then demolished the clubhouse and invested in a new

community pier and boat landing to entice people to purchase the lots. His real estate investment plan worked, and several new homes were built in the neighborhood in the 1940s. (Trinke would go on to develop other subdivisions in the area, including one on the lake’s south shore that still bears his name: Trinke Estates.) Then when World War II ended, the “baby boom” led to a housing shortage that further spurred sales in subdivisions like the Lake Geneva Manor. As a result, the decades of the 1950s and 1960s saw the highest rate of new construction in the Lake Geneva Manor, including homes in both classic and mid-century modern styles.

Jim McCullough’s family moved into a house in the Manor in 1958, after his father bought a drugstore in downtown Lake Geneva. Over the years, McCullough has lived in three different houses in the Manor and remains a resident to this day. He remembers the Manor in the 1950s as a friendly community of local families, much as it remains today. “When we were kids, we would mow an empty lot across from our house so we could use it to play ball,” he remembers. “Then if that lot was sold and they started building a house, we’d move to the next empty lot.”



A few of the original 1928 homes still stand in the Manor today.



A home built with bricks from the original Leiter home.

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF THE GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM, COURTESY OF THE LAKE GENEVA REGIONAL NEWS, HOLLY LEITNER, HOLLY LEITNER

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Built over Linden Lodge's foundation, this home's basement contains a portion of the original wine cellars and a vault.

LAKE GENEVA MANOR TODAY

Today, the Manor remains an exceptionally friendly neighborhood of about 80 homes, and many families in the Manor have lived there for two, three and even four generations. When asked what facilitates the unusually high degree of camaraderie in the neighborhood, former Lake Geneva Manor Association President Tykee Green cites the central lakefront park that draws people out of their homes to connect and interact with each other.

"The community park is the secret ingredient," she says. The association makes use of the park for events like a Fourth of July bike parade and party each summer, and a Halloween party to coincide with trick-or-treating.

And since Kerwin and Akright began their project five years ago, the neighborhood has been celebrating its history as well. In 2017, Kerwin and Akright, along with Manor resident Carol Zimmermann, organized "Leiter Days," with local costumed docents Dave Merhar and Chris Brookes portraying Levi and Mary Leiter for a presentation on the property's history, and a guided walking tour of the neighborhood. The tour included stops at homes in the Manor that were constructed using bricks from the original Leiter home, repurposed when the house was razed in 1939.

The tour also highlighted a house in the neighborhood that was built over the original home's foundation, and contains a vault in the basement that was once used by the Leiters. Perhaps most uniquely, the walking tour included a stop at the site of a pair of elaborate gravestones marking the final resting place of Daisy Leiter's beloved Japanese spaniels, Naezan and Chiko San. "We read about the gravestones in an old newspaper article, and went looking for them," Akright explains. "We couldn't believe it when we found them covered in grass in someone's backyard."

As the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Lake Geneva Manor nears, Kerwin and Akright say they hope to celebrate with a neighborhood party and a new iteration of Leiter Days. "There's just something special about this neighborhood," Kerwin explains. "It's the history, it's the location, it's the park, it's the people. It's a truly wonderful place to live." 🐾

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5 BD 4 BA 5,600 SF \$1,795,000

LAKE ACCESS



1038 Tarrant Dr Fontana
5 BD 4 BA 4,654 SF \$865,000

ABBAY HILL



830 Aspen Dr, 5D Fontana
2 BD 2 BA 1,680 SF \$375,000



N1547 Washington Ave Linn
3 BD 2 BA 1,518 SF \$334,900



206 Plafield Ct Walworth
3 BD 2 BA 2,210 SF \$299,500



405 1st St Walworth
2 BD 1 BA 960 SF \$249,000

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269 Fontana Blvd, 1242 Fontana
1 BD 1 BA 325 SF \$94,500



Lofty Landmarks

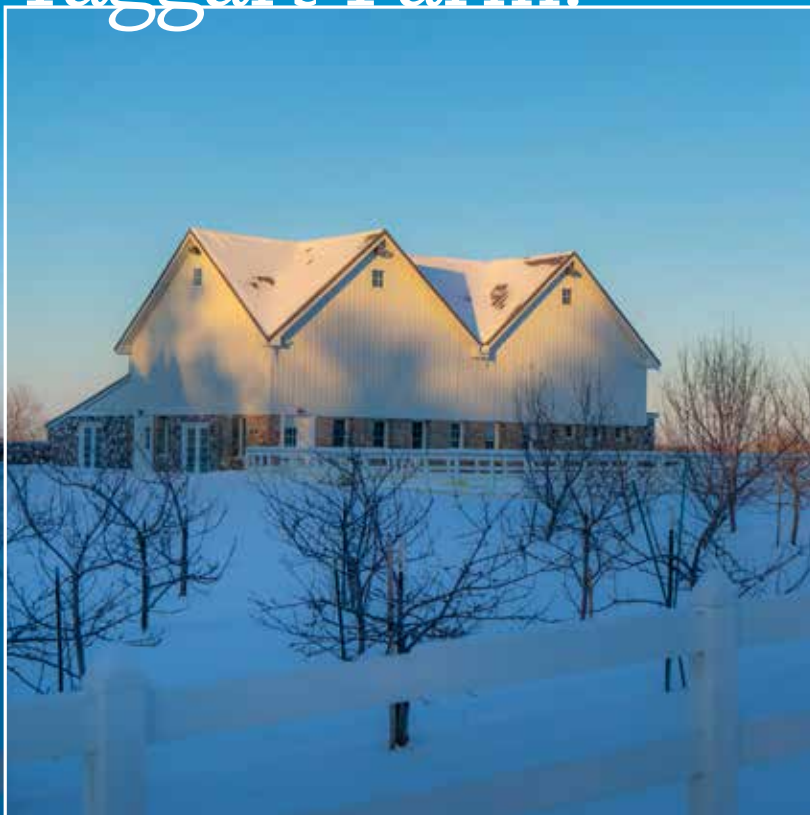
Exploring the stories of a few of the area's
beautiful, historic barns

BY ANNE MORRISSY
PHOTOS BY HOLLY LEITNER



Before the Geneva Lake area became the fashionable resort community and tourist destination it remains to this day, the rich soil and strong growing season here drew pioneers from New England and Europe, who came to Walworth County to build farms and start new lives. Today, many families in the community continue this farming tradition, and some of these farms make use of historic barns that were built in the 19th and early 20th century by the original pioneer settlers of this area. These barns serve as a beautiful reminder of Wisconsin's agricultural heritage, and give a glimpse into the area's history, one hand-sawn board at a time.

Taggart Farm.



Located between Geneva Lake and Lake Como, this distinctive, gable-roofed barn was built prior to 1891, when it was owned by the Nohelty family, in what was at the time a predominantly Irish area of the county. In 1940, at the age of 7, Sturges P. Taggart, Jr., (1933-2014) moved with his family to the farm. Taggart would go on to become a well-known local leader. In 1968, he married his wife Judie on the property, and together they raised a family, living on the farm until 2006. Taggart served many roles in the community

throughout the years. He was the charter president of the Lake Geneva Jaycees, and in that role, he served as the emcee for the Venetian Festival Boat Parade and Fireworks for 50 years. He also served as the president of the Geneva Lakes Family YMCA and sat on the board of Oak Hill Cemetery. Later, Taggart served as an alderman in the city of Lake Geneva until his death in 2014 at the age of 81. Though the farm has passed to new owners, many locals still refer to it as the "Taggart farm."

White River.

This 195-acre farm northeast of Lake Geneva along the White River was established in the 1880s, and owned by the Malsch family from 1907 to 1967. The next owner of the farm was Duane Clark, who donated the property in 2014 to the Geneva Lake Conservancy and Walworth County. Today, the historic cedar barn is part of the White River County Park, and is a well-loved site appreciated by the many hikers, kayakers and cross-country skiers who pass through the park each year. Future long-range plans include the conversion of the barn into a nature center.





This farm, located at the intersection of North Walworth Road and Six Corners Road, south of Delavan Lake, was established prior to 1857, during the earliest waves of white settlement in the area. In the 1920s, the property was purchased by Chicago native and Delavan Lake summer resident Charles B. Goes, Jr. as a place to

keep ponies and show horses for pleasure riding, as well as raise chickens and goats. Renamed “Pike Farm,” (a nod to its owner’s nickname), it remained in the Goes family until 2010. The barn has since undergone renovations, including residing, but retains its distinctive roof line and barn door. It remains in private ownership.



Twin Barns.



The iconic twin barns, located east of Fontana on County Highway BB, were built by Chicagoan Edward Ayer in 1901 on a portion of his more than 1,200 acres of land abutting Geneva Lake. The gambrel-roofed barns were built of Oregon Fir on top of stone foundations, and finished in gray shake cladding. The east barn originally housed beef cattle and the west barn was reserved for dairy cattle. A mile-long stone fence enclosed the area between the two barns. Ayer sold the farm in 1918 and it has had a series of owners over the past century. 🐄

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Now Hear This

Over-the-counter hearing aids can improve hearing at an affordable price

BY SHELBY DEERING

While some health concerns can be addressed with a quick trip to your local pharmacy, others can be a lot more complicated and costly. For several years, hearing aids have fallen into this category, priced anywhere from \$900 all the way up to \$6,000 or more. Improved hearing has a direct effect on a person's quality of life, so people have begrudgingly footed the bill — that is, until now. Last August, the FDA approved the use of over-the-counter hearing aids



... most over-the-counter hearing aids are likely to be the over-the-ear style that has become popular ...

Dr. Paul G. Rudkin, Mercyhealth

have typically gone through to attain hearing aids. As Paul G. Rudkin, Au.D. of Janesville's Mercyhealth system explains, historically, hearing-impaired individuals would see an audiologist for a hearing exam and consultation, and a hearing aid would be selected based upon the patient's preferences and needs. Once the appropriate hearing aid was chosen and ordered, a fitting appointment would be scheduled at a later date to allow the audiologist to program the hearing aids and discuss care and maintenance. Two weeks after the initial fitting, the patient would return for a follow-up visit for additional adjustments and to discuss any concerns.

With the new over-the-counter model, customers won't need to go through any of these steps and will be able to complete the adjustments and maintenance themselves at home. Because of this, the price for over-the-counter hearing aids is significantly lower than traditional equipment. On average, over-the-counter hearing aids run about \$300 to \$500, which is music to the ears of many who previously believed they would need to shell out thousands of dollars for a set.

for certain cases in which people experience hearing loss, making these adaptive aids more affordable and accessible than ever.

According to Anthony Florek, president of Soundwave Hearing, LLC, an Oak Brook, Illinois-based company that's on the cutting edge of this movement, these new over-the-counter hearing aids are intended for people over the age of 18 with mild-to-moderate hearing loss. The new rules don't require a hearing exam or prescription, and they're regulated by the FDA as a separate category from traditional prescription hearing aids.

"The new FDA regulations governing over-the-counter hearing aids ensure that [they] will be safe and

effective," Florek says. "In addition to specifying maximum volume levels, insertion depth and labeling requirements, the regulations also describe the requirements for buying hearing aids without a prescription via mail, in person and online."

It's a far cry from the process people

Dr. Rudkin explains that the benefits to the new, over-the-counter hearing aids include this lower price point as well as the elimination of time-consuming hearing aid fittings and follow-up care. He adds that most over-the-counter hearing aids are likely to be the over-the-ear style that has become popular over the









"The new FDA regulations governing over-the-counter hearing aids ensure that [they] will be safe and effective ..."

**— Anthony Florek,
Soundwave Hearing, LLC**


last decade. “There are some in-the-ear (ITE) type aids that are also available,” he explains. “However, they are not custom-made and may not fit well.”

You might be wondering how to set up your over-the-counter hearing aids once you’ve bought them. Florek of Soundwave Hearing explains that you can order their hearing aids online from the “comfort of your home.” Customers then download a free app to their smartphone in order to take a three-minute hearing test using the newly purchased hearing aids. The app automatically customizes the new equipment to the individual’s hearing needs, and customers can further personalize their preferred hearing levels within the app.

Over-the-counter hearing aids can be purchased directly from pharmacies, big-box stores or online. Importantly,

HEARING AID COMPARISON	OTC Aids	Prescription Aids
Mild-to-moderate hearing loss		
Moderate-to-severe hearing loss		
Over-the-ear style of aids		
In-the-ear style of aids		
Hearing levels adjustable by user		
Smartphone required for use		

Dr. Rudkin points out that these new hearing aids may not work for all cases of hearing loss. “The most important thing is that over-the-counter hearing aids are not for everybody,” he explains. “They may work well for individuals who have a typical, mild-to-moderate, high-frequency hearing loss due to aging or loud noise exposure. However, all hearing losses are not the same, and if

the hearing aids are not programmed specifically to the consumer’s needs, they may not hear as well with an over-the-counter device as they would with a conventional hearing aid.” That said, for the right person, the new technology may allow for easier interaction and improved quality of life, at a much more affordable price point than has ever been available. 

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Open Arms
Birthday Gala



GLC's
Holly Ball

For a Good Cause

During the winter months, the Geneva Lake area brims with sparkling charity galas

BY SHELBY DEERING

While wintertime might be a slow social season in some places, that's certainly not the case in Lake Geneva, with a variety of local nonprofit organizations hosting charity events that offer an exciting night out to benefit community programming. Here are three options for a night out while giving back.

Open Arms Free Clinic Birthday Gala. Dec. 2, 5-9 p.m., at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa. Furthering the goal of providing equitable access to healthcare for those most vulnerable in Walworth County, this 501(c)3 charitable organization has helped more than 5,000 patients to date, and its Birthday Gala fundraiser is one event that keeps its generosity flowing. This year's event will be held in conjunction with a momentous anniversary in the organization's history: exactly 10 years before the gala, on Dec. 2, 2012, the team treated their first patient in the newly established clinic. Executive Director Sara Nichols says the Birthday Gala will be a "Cirque de Soleil-inspired event" that will include aerial dancers, a champagne reception and a silent auction, among other entertainment. Tickets to the event can be purchased online (openarmsfreeclinic.org/events) or in person at the Open Arms Free Clinic in Elkhorn.

Geneva Lake Conservancy's Holly Ball. Dec. 3, 5-11 p.m. at Big Foot Country Club. Fulfilling a mission to protect the land and lakes of Walworth County, over the past 45 years the Geneva Lake Conservancy has protected nearly 3,000 acres of open land, and opened five public nature preserves, primarily through fundraising and donations. "The Holly Ball is the Geneva Lake Conservancy's biggest fundraiser of the year," explains Executive Director Karen Yancey. The annual event includes a popular silent auction, which often features high-value, notable items and experiences. "We also present a video about our Conservation Stewardship Award winners, and each year, we honor two people for their contributions to conservation in Walworth County," Yancey continues. The event is limited to 250 attendees by invitation only, sent to members of the organization. To join the Geneva Lake Conservancy, visit genevalakeconservancy.org.



YMCA Annual
Auction

Geneva Lakes Family YMCA Annual Auction. Feb. 18 at the Grand Geneva. Every year, the Geneva Lakes Family YMCA hosts one major fundraiser: the Annual Auction. Funds raised at the event support their Financial Assistance and Outreach programs for families and individuals who can't afford memberships or program fees. "No one will ever be denied access to the YMCA due to financial hardship," explains Ann Fulmer, senior director of marketing and development for the Geneva Lakes Family YMCA. This will be the 37th year the organization will hold its popular auction event. This year's theme is "Heroes vs. Villains," with 450 guests dressing the part, according to Associate Executive Director Sherri Baker. Guests will enjoy an open bar, plated dinner, and silent and live auction. Tickets go on sale on December 1, and can be purchased online at genevalakesymca.org/auction or by calling the YMCA at (262) 248-6211. 🦋

CLOCKWISE: COURTESY OF OPEN ARMS FREE CLINIC; COURTESY OF GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY; COURTESY OF GENEVA LAKES FAMILY YMCA

At The LIBRARY

Lake Geneva Public Library Community Engagement Librarian Ellen Ward-Packard has a few suggestions of books to read by a roaring fire this winter.

DRAGONS OF DECEIT BY MARGARET WEIS AND TRACY HICKMAN



With Dungeons and Dragons making a cultural comeback in a big way, why not explore the iconic Dragonlance books?

Originally conceived in Lake Geneva in 1983 as a Dungeons and Dragons tie-in series, Dragonlance is being revived as a new series beginning with "Dragons of Deceit." For fans new and old, Dragonlance offers a richly imagined, high fantasy world.

WYCHWOOD BY FRANCES KINSLEY HUTCHINSON



Originally published in 1928, "Wychwood" relates the story of one of Lake Geneva's great, lost estates, a wooded, 73-acre property on the

north shore of Geneva Lake that became an important hub for botanical research and conservation. Written by the estate's matriarch, "Wychwood" is equal parts memoir and love letter to Wisconsin plant life, and will appeal to outdoor hobbyists and nonfiction readers of all sorts.

MAILBOAT V: THE END OF SUMMER BY DANIELLE LINCOLN HANNA



The fifth book in the popular Lake Geneva-set Mailboat Suspense series, "The End of Summer" ratchets the tension even

higher as a bloody summer on the lake draws to a close. For mystery fans and those yearning for summer on the lake, the Mailboat series offers high-drama escapism with local interest.

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MAKING A HOUSE A HOME

Stebnitz Builders gives a growing family more space by reimagining the property

Holly and Sean Marquis spent a year conducting an exhaustive search throughout Walworth County for the perfect home to accommodate their growing family. Finally, they laid eyes on a charming, rustic house that was tucked into a private wooded area between Geneva Lake and Lake Como. "It was love at first sight," says the couple, who were married in 2020. They loved the home's location and look, but unfortunately, it didn't provide as much space as they had hoped for, so they decided to pursue their options for expansion.

The biggest challenge the Marquises faced was finding and designing the space. They turned to Elkhorn-based Stebnitz



Builders for help. Jeff Auberger, one of the company's remodeling and design consultants, helped the Marquises bring their design plans to life. "Jeff, and the team, encouraged us to think about all the details," explains Holly. "They were so patient throughout the whole process." One of the tools that helped the Marquises during the planning phase included 3D design software that Stebnitz offers clients to help contemplate spaces, colors and textures virtually.

Stebnitz Builders has been remodeling homes for over 50 years throughout Walworth County. They have championed "the art of listening" to their clients and know what it takes to



provide the best possible outcome for each project. Stebnitz Builders sets themselves apart from other companies with their commitment to their employees. “We invest in our people, and that makes a big difference,” explains Sam Stebnitz, brand manager. “The commitment we have with our employees is what allows us to continue providing the best client experience year after year.”

Stebnitz Builders has a strong commitment to the community through a variety of organizations. They are proud to be a third-generation partner of the United Way of Walworth County, matching 100% of all financial contributions made by their employees. The company is also an avid supporter of Open Arms Free Clinic, the Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, the Walworth County Fair Meat Animal Sale, Elkhorn YouthBuild, and teachers and staff in various schools across Walworth County. “We are always eager to serve our community in any way we can,” explains Stebnitz. “We are a great team that moves together.”

With the Stebnitz team’s direction, the Marquises decided to convert the home’s original garage into additional living space, and then to add a new garage to the property. The first step of this involved redesigning the backyard. “The house had the backyard in front,” explains Sean. “It was a challenge to renovate the garage without first fixing the yard, but Jeff and his team figured out every detail.”

To achieve the couple’s desired effects in the yard, Stebnitz





Builders partnered with Elkhorn's Terra Yard Creations for the landscaping. Auberger's production team designed an outdoor space that would be both family-friendly and inviting to guests. They added an outdoor kitchen with a custom designed, rough-sawn cedar pergola covering the patio, and added a fire pit and a hot tub. Unilock pavers and blocks create winding paths throughout the yard, and a long fence enhances the tall trees at the perimeter of the yard to provide privacy and beauty.

Next, the Stebnitz team converted the original garage space into a new space that contains a mudroom and laundry room, powder room, sitting room, dining room and great room with fireplace. Auberger recommended using distressed hardwood throughout the converted garage living spaces to complement the hardwood flooring in the original house. For the combination mudroom, laundry room and powder room, they opted for luxury vinyl tile in a marbled finish, due to its versatility in high traffic areas. Auberger added stained, built-in cabinetry and shelves to the mudroom for easy organization and storage space.

The final step of the project involved adding a new, three-car garage to the home. The Marquises took advantage of the



added space above the new garage by adding a bedroom, a bathroom and a bonus room living area in the design. A combination of carpet and hand-scraped, hardwood flooring was used throughout the living quarters to create a warm and classic feel. The team at Stebnitz Builders designed a large bathroom with a walk-in shower and custom cabinetry. The garage living spaces feature private entry from the side of the garage.

The Marquises finished the project just in time to bring their first child home from the hospital to settle into the new space. Admiring the changes, the Marquises declare that the renovation was a big success. "It was certainly a leap of faith to take on such a massive project," explains Holly. "It turned out even better than we had envisioned for our family."

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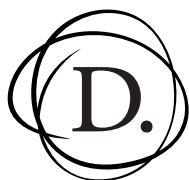
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GETTING MARRIED *At The Lake*

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FORWARD**

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WEDDINGS**

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FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

WRITING AUTHENTIC WEDDING VOWS
BY ALEXANDRA DILLARD



Beyond all the pomp and circumstance and decor, what happens at the altar is the most meaningful part of your wedding. You'll have an officiant to guide the ceremony, but when it comes to exchanging vows, this is your time to really focus on what matters most. Guests, musicians, officiant and wedding attendants will fade into the background as you have these few minutes to share your commitments with each other. So how do you even start writing such an important collection of words? A few tips:

GET A HEAD START

As you start brainstorming, set aside a notebook or create a document on your phone or computer to begin compiling tidbits you want to include in your vows. This can be as simple as a bulleted list or as complex as full sentences. By adding ideas and nuggets all along the way, when you finally sit down to perfect it all, you'll have a good start.



Some of the most special and unique vows include storytelling elements. While a vow template from the internet will do the trick, it's special to personalize your vows with inside jokes, memories together and references that are uniquely "you." In your notebook, jot down stories about your first meeting or "the moment you knew" as the memories pop into your head. Include favorite songs, TV series and any other special connection you two share. These specifics can be just lists, but they will help you start to see patterns you might want to incorporate. The most important part is that you don't have to do all of



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this in one sitting. Writing one or two notes down every few days or weeks is all you need!

BE ON THE SAME PAGE

If you're like most couples, you and your partner have different personalities, which is why you're joining together to bring out the best parts of each other! So it wouldn't be a surprise that your approach to writing vows would be different. However, it can be a bit awkward when one partner reads a

10-minute, heartfelt speech, followed by the other sharing only a few (just as heartfelt!) words.

To keep your vows on the same page, discuss with your partner what they are planning on writing. You don't need to reveal specifics, but it is good to have a conversation about expectations and make sure that you see eye-to-eye. Just as important as length, make sure that you match tones. One partner might fill their vows with jokes and lighthearted

fun, while the other plans a tear-jerking and poetry-ridden declaration. Both of these are great vow options, but finding a middle ground will keep the ceremony cohesive.

FIND EXAMPLES

We are not all naturally gifted with words, and that's okay! If you're feeling nervous about writing, use vow templates to help you get started. By looking at examples, your mind will automatically start putting things together. There are a lot of examples out there, from videos published on YouTube to written blog posts. Note what styles you don't like and remember the parts that make your heart skip a beat. Feel free to mix and match your favorite elements from these examples, as well as love songs or favorite poems, to create something that fits you.

SET THE SCENE

When you've gathered all your inspiration and are ready to write, set a cozy scene for yourself. You have the groundwork for your vows, thanks to your research and planning. Now it is time to bring it all together. As you sit down to write your final draft, find a quiet, stress-free place to be alone and really reflect on your relationship. Perhaps light a candle, throw on some serene music, find your favorite pen and get comfortable. As you write, think about what this marriage will mean to you. What do you love most about your future spouse? What kind of journeys have you experienced together to get where you are today? What makes them The One? What are you most looking forward to in your future life together? What do you want to promise to them? Thinking of these questions will put you in the mindset to write in your authentic voice and create something lovely and unique.

SECOND SET OF EYES

When you are feeling comfortable about the state of your vows, show them to someone you trust. Be open to honest feedback; it's better to receive that now than when you're reading the vows in front of a room full of people! While getting a second opinion is useful, keep in mind that

You planned the perfect wedding, let me help you plan the perfect honeymoon!



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your vows are ultimately yours. Some people might disagree with a phrase or two, but if you feel something is important to your relationship, keep it. You know your relationship best and you know what vows will be the most special.


Sharing your vows with a friend or family member is also a great way to practice reciting them. Even just saying them out loud in front of a mirror is crucial. When you're at the altar and nerves are high, you won't want the words to feel foreign on your tongue. Play around with your delivery, pacing and how you'll express your emotions. Sometimes how you say something is just as important as the words themselves. As you practice, it can be helpful to make notes to yourself — "take a breath here" or "pause for laughter" — so you don't get tripped up.

THE WRITTEN WORD

Most couples don't memorize their vows. Emotions run high during the ceremony and adding a memorized script to the mix can be intimidating. If you're comfortable with doing so, go for it! But it is just as special to have your vows written down so you can ensure your thoughtful words are spoken as you intended.

Some couples enlist their stationer or calligrapher to transcribe their vows into a beautifully designed memento. This can be your script for the ceremony, but also serves as an heirloom you can cherish for years to come. We've seen some beautifully designed vow booklets, scrolls and notecards. If you decide to have children, these keepsakes can maybe even help them write their own vows someday!

BE TRUE

No matter what direction you decide to go with your vows, the most important thing is to be true to yourself. You're giving your authentic self to your partner and you want your words to come out naturally. But with the right preparation, you'll be ready to speak from the heart and focus on what really matters: promising your commitment to the love of your life. 



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Setting the Scene

A GUIDE TO WEDDING
CELEBRATION VENUES
BY ALEXANDRA DILLARD



THE TREASURY

When planning a wedding, many couples start with the venue. After all, the space you hold your big day will ultimately influence the mood, logistics and design choices of your celebration. From the rehearsal dinner to the ceremony to the reception, there are a lot of options for what your wedding landscape can be. You can keep things simple and streamlined by planning all of your festivities in one spot, or treat your guests to the experience of several locations. There are so many options! Here are a few of our favorites in the Geneva Lake area:



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HOTEL OR RESORT

Wedding logistics are a breeze when you book a hotel wedding. Hosting your wedding at a hotel or resort is a great option if you anticipate a lot of out-of-town guests. On-site accommodations ease the need for wedding-day transportation, and it helps keep everyone in a central locale. Plus, there's an added layer of guest safety, as no one will need to find a sober driver at the end of the night — they can just go up the elevator to their room! Many of the area's hotels and resorts offer a variety of celebration locations, from waterfront ceremony spots to indoor ballrooms to grand dining spaces. The value of all the

amenities a resort provides is hard to overlook. Locally, options include **The Cove of Lake Geneva, The Abbey Resort, Grand Geneva Resort & Spa** and **The Ridge**.



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GOLF OR YACHT CLUB

Views and greens abound! Private clubs like country clubs and yacht clubs, as well as public and private golf courses, lend themselves to some stunning panoramic photo opportunities and event backdrops. In addition to the aesthetic appeal, these venues often come with white-glove service, multiple rooms options, and experienced staff and catering. Many country clubs offer events to their members only, so be sure to check before you get your heart set on one. However, this does add extra privacy and security for your special day. Check out **Hawk's View Golf Club, Destination Geneva National** and **Abbey Springs**.

BARN

Rustic charm comes easily at a barn wedding. Barns offer a lot of space, so these are ideal for large weddings, especially if you intend on having both indoor and outdoor festivities as part of your celebration. The outdoor grounds allow space for elements like a fire pit, yard games and maybe

even some petting zoo cameos. And don't feel boxed-in by the rustic aesthetic. These venues are versatile and can be dressed up to create an engaging juxtaposition of glamour and homespun charm. For a breath of fresh air and a step away from the hustle of city life, a barn or farmhouse is a lovely choice for a blissful wedding. Local options for rustic, barn-style weddings include **Boxed and Burlap, The Barn at Back Acres** and **The Landing 1841**.

HISTORIC ESTATE OR SITE

Character abounds with a historic site or estate as a venue. By leaning into the past, you can ease up on decor rentals and let the space speak for itself. These venues typically have breathtaking architecture and the irreplaceable richness of historical detail. Local options include the **Riviera Ballroom, Maxwell Mansion** and **The Treasury**.



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WATERFRONT

Romanticism comes with the territory of a waterfront wedding. No matter your wedding-day nerves, ultimate relaxation comes with getting married by (or on!) the water. The Geneva Lake area offers several options for waterfront ceremonies, including **Lake Lawn Resort, The Geneva Inn** and **Lake Geneva Cruise Line**. 🐾

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JAKE + SARAH

August 26, 2022 | Photography by Anna Urban Photography

Sarah and Jake first met in a high school math classroom when they were seated next to each other alphabetically as sophomores. It wasn't until a few years later, following their freshman year of college, that they started dating and fell in love. However, Sarah was in nursing school in Kentucky and Jake was still living in Illinois, so he made the seven-hour drive every weekend to see her. After finishing school, Sarah returned home, and during a hike in Devil's Lake State Park, Jake arranged a surprise: their friends and family were present as he got down

on one knee and proposed.

When it came to planning the wedding, Sarah said she wanted something that felt "in between a destination wedding and a local wedding," so they chose Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, choosing an outdoor ceremony overlooking the resort's beautiful golf course, and a reception in the ski chalet. Sarah wore a sleeveless lace gown with a dramatic fishtail train and an elegant, matching cathedral veil. Jake wore a classic navy three-piece suit with a white tie. Bridesmaids donned gowns of sage and carried bouquets of

white, pale pink and coral roses.

The ceremony featured live music by Guy McGuinniss. Following the vow exchange, guests snacked on Chicago-favorite Garrett's popcorn during the cocktail hour, and then dined on chicken, steak and salmon while enjoying live music by country artist Dan Lepien. After the plates were cleared, the party continued into the night as the newly married couple and their friends took pictures in the photo booth and hit the dance floor. "It was the perfect mix of rustic yet elegant," Sarah said.



THE DETAILS

CEREMONY & RECEPTION VENUE: Grand Geneva Resort & Spa

ENGAGEMENT & WEDDING RINGS: Rolland's, Libertyville, Illinois

VIDEOGRAPHER: Allan Nino

BRIDE'S GOWN: Madison James Allure Bridal via Here Comes the Bride

BRIDE'S SHOES: Badgley Mischka

BRIDE'S EARRINGS: GlamourBride USA via Etsy

BRIDEMAIDS' DRESSES: Azazie

GROOM'S FORMALWEAR: Men's Wearhouse

GROOMSMEN'S FORMALWEAR: Men's Wearhouse

HAIR: Emily Herman and Danielle Kaplan, Hair by Emily Herman

MAKEUP: Beauticianzillas

INVITATIONS & STATIONERY: Minted

FLORAL: Avenue Bloom

CATERING & MENU: Grand Geneva Resort & Spa

CAKE & SWEETS: Grand Geneva Resort & Spa

ENTERTAINMENT: Live music for ceremony by Guy McGuinnis; live music for cocktails and dinner by Dan Lepien; reception DJ: Ryan Runnion of MC Pro DJ

PHOTO BOOTH: Sweet Pea Photo Booth

TRANSPORTATION: Grand Geneva Resort & Spa





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RAYMON + MEREDITH

August 27, 2022 | Photography by Matt Mason Photography

Raymon and Meredith were both celebrating with their respective friends at a posh bar in Chicago's West Loop, and the two groups happened to be seated near each other, which led to the couple's first encounter. A month later, they went on their first date and the sparks flew. In early 2021, Raymon and Meredith purchased a condo together in Geneva National, and one evening that spring, they dodged a power outage to have an elegant dinner at the Hunt Club Restaurant. Returning home, Raymon got down on one knee and asked Meredith to marry him.

For the late August ceremony and reception, the couple chose the Geneva Inn, loving its breathtaking lake views and the food from the hotel's fine-dining restaurant, The Grandview. Raymon and Meredith were married on the lakefront patio, with a friend officiating and 56 of their closest friends and family looking on. (Several boats on the lake stopped to witness the event as well!) Meredith chose a simple and elegant off-the-shoulder gown, with a fitted bodice and gentle, A-line construction. The bouquet and floral decoration featured

a mix of white flowers and greenery designed by Pesche's Greenhouse. Bridesmaids wore wine-colored, one-shoulder gowns, and Raymon and the groomsmen complemented the color scheme in classic navy suits.

Following the ceremony, the party moved into the ballroom for a dinner catered by The Grandview, and cupcakes from Lorelei Bittner's Bakery. After dinner, the DJ kept the dance floor packed. The next morning, the couple hosted a post-wedding brunch at The Grandview before setting off on a honeymoon in Greece.



THE DETAILS

CEREMONY & RECEPTION VENUE: The Geneva Inn

ENGAGEMENT & WEDDING RINGS: Martin & Martin, Oak Lawn, Illinois

BRIDE'S GOWN: David's Bridal

BRIDE'S SHOES: Badgley Mischka

BRIDE'S JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES: Borrowed from family and friends

BRIDEMAIDS' DRESSES: David's Bridal

GROOM'S FORMALWEAR AND SHOES: Men's Wearhouse

GROOM'S ACCESSORIES: Michael Kors watch

GROOMSMEN'S FORMALWEAR: Men's Wearhouse

HAIR & MAKEUP: Clear Waters Salon and Day Spa

INVITATIONS & STATIONERY: The Knot

FLORAL & DECOR: Pesche's Greenhouse

CATERING & MENU: The Grandview Restaurant at the Geneva Inn

CAKE & SWEETS: Lorelei Bittner's Bakery, Constant Cravings

ENTERTAINMENT: Cage & Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois





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CHRISTIAN + GRACE

May 15, 2022 | Photography by Ideal Impressions Photography

Christian and Grace were dating long-distance after the Navy transferred Christian to Pensacola, Florida, for training. Grace traveled to Florida to visit him, and found that Christian had arranged to take her to the top of the lighthouse on the naval base, where he proposed.

The couple officially married in 2020 but, due to the global health crisis, decided to delay their celebration with friends and family to the spring of 2022. Opting for an intimate gathering of about 85 people, Christian and Grace described Boxed

and Burlap as an “irresistible” site for their second ceremony and a reception to celebrate their marriage. They loved the beautiful, outdoor location and the indoor reception space. Grace says they opted for simple greenery and minimal decor, choosing to use the setting itself as a theme. “We wanted the main focus to be on our love,” she explains.

Grace wore an elegant gown that featured beaded spaghetti straps, a fitted bodice and a long, flowing lace train. Christian opted for a custom gray wool suit with matching vest. Grace’s bridesmaids wore floor-length,

emerald green dresses to complement the green of a Wisconsin spring. The floral design included white peonies and white roses with greenery, baby’s breath and eucalyptus.

Grace says the highlight of the evening was the celebration with family and friends, which culminated in a rollicking dance party. Following a dinner catered by Annie’s Burgertown in Elkhorn and cake from Lake Geneva’s Poppy Cakes, the couple and their guests hit the dance floor to a custom playlist, dancing the night away at a party that was well worth the wait.



THE DETAILS

CEREMONY & RECEPTION VENUE: Boxed and Burlap

BRIDE'S GOWN: Essence of Australia

BRIDE'S JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES: Heirlooms from the bride's mother and grandmother

BRIDEMAIDS' DRESSES: Baltic Born

GROOM'S FORMALWEAR: Men's Wearhouse

GROOMSMEN'S FORMALWEAR: Men's Wearhouse

HAIR: Level 9 Salon

MAKEUP: Katelyn Pearson, Health Accel

INVITATIONS & STATIONERY: Zola

FLORAL & DECOR DESIGN: The bride's friends and mother

CATERING & MENU: Annie's Burgertown

CAKE & SWEETS: Poppy Cakes





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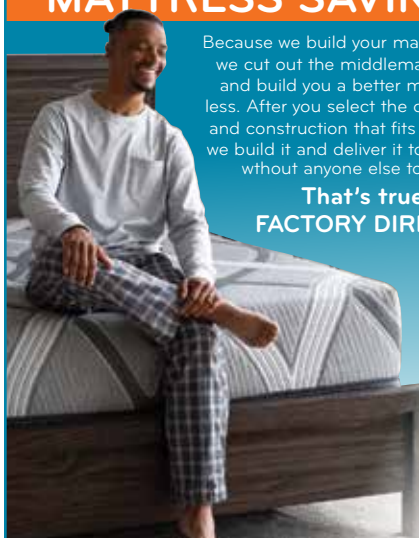
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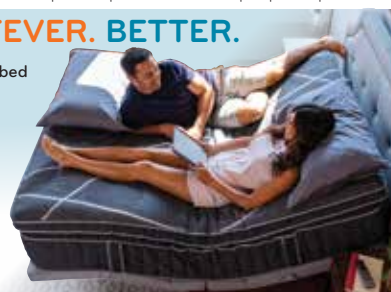
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home & garden LIFESTYLE



The latest home trends include designing a room around specific focal points like unique furniture and dramatic light fixtures.

Modern Luxury Today

Local experts share the latest trends in home design

BY RACHEL WISINSKI

In the 30 years he's spent building custom homes, John Matustik of Matustik Builders says the industry has evolved in many ways. Gone are the days of designing multiple-use homes with huge great rooms, family rooms and bedrooms, Matustik says. Instead, homeowners are opting to shift the focal point of each room to the furniture. "For us, it's an art to design a home that's cozy enough for a couple [to live in], but when they have 50 people over for a party or for the weekend, it doesn't feel cramped or closed in," Matustik says.

*“These days,
homes are more
than just a place
to sleep ...”*

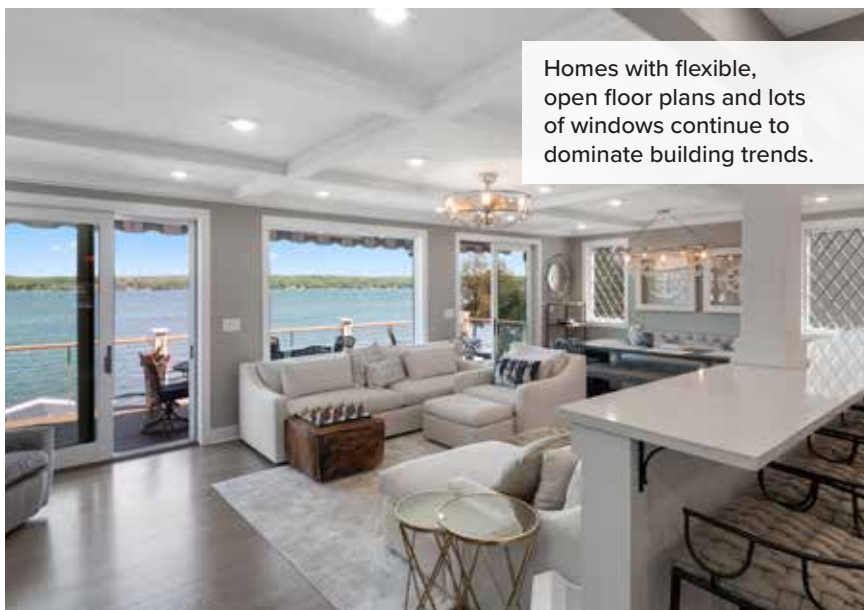
— John Matustik,
Matustik Builders

Most people look for a way to optimize the space they have, within their budget. A home with an open floor plan, a design that has been popular for nearly two decades now, continues to dominate the top trends. This sometimes includes opening up lower ceilings to make a room feel more spacious, as well as increasing the number of windows in a room.

Matustik says multipurpose spaces within a home have grown in popularity over the years as well. Mudrooms have increased in size and functionality. Bathrooms are being fully revamped, complete with luxury, walk-in showers with multiple rain heads, body sprays and other features.



Bathroom trends include luxury walk-in showers with multiple showerheads.



Homes with flexible, open floor plans and lots of windows continue to dominate building trends.

Jeff Auberger, a design and remodeling consultant at Stebnitz Builders who has been with the company for more than six years, says new hardware styles have begun to “push the envelope” and vary from the traditional options that dominated the market in the past. Auberger attributes this at least partly to the fact that Baby Boomers are considering how they’ll get around the house as they grow older. These aging-in-place design elements often dictate the choices homeowners make, Auberger says, and the hardware available today supports such design considerations. Among the features gaining ground are grab bars and unique toilet paper dispensers.

Dedicated entertainment spaces within the home have gained popularity: these may include golf simulators, secondary kitchens or bars and screened-in rooms with retractable windows. “These days, homes are more than just a place to sleep,” Matustik explains. “It’s a place for entertaining, for family, for bonding.”

Auberger says that when it comes to design trends, homeowners tend to want to mix traditional elements — often farmhouse elements — with something more modern, including



Screened rooms are popular spaces for entertaining.

elements of the still-wildly-popular mid-century designs or nods to the burgeoning resurgence of 1980’s contemporary elements. Natural tones and complementary colors remain popular, along with the implementation of softer wood tones or distressed materials, according to Auberger.

While homeowners in other areas of the country may be showing fatigue with the “modern farmhouse” look that has dominated design for the past decade, Auberger says the



Homeowners are adding more natural and reclaimed wood to all rooms in the house.


trend is still going strong in the Geneva Lake area. “There’s a striking contrast [in the modern farmhouse look] that continues to be strongly appealing to people in our market,” he explains.

Sustainable building and the idea of “going green” has gained ground here recently and continues to be an

element of interest, Auberger says. This can include the practice of using reclaimed wood in home interiors — often as a wall treatment, fireplace mantel or open shelving — which has the added bonus of creating a distinctive look that works well with both traditional and modern designs. Updating the home’s systems for environmental sustainability has the

added advantage of making the space more luxurious as well. “When we go in, we make sure we’re modernizing everything — introducing everything from smart home technology, lighting and controls to incorporating music and sound that can be heard throughout the home,” Auberger says.

Both Auberger and Matustik say they have seen a shift in some home trends in recent years: theater rooms are a thing of the past; instead homeowners are opting to enjoy their views with the addition of three-season rooms. For outdoor spaces, fire pits take precedence.

Of course, when designing a new home or a remodel, the most important thing to consider is not the latest trends, but how each family lives, how they use the home and what designs they prefer, Matustik explains. “It’s the client we really focus on,” he says. 

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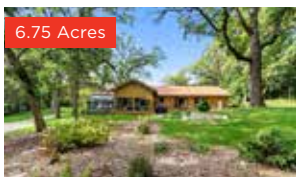
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LIGHT IT UP

Three ways to light a kitchen

BY RACHEL WISINSKI

1. Island pendants

Kitchen islands have increased in size over time, so opt for larger pendants that resemble a small chandelier or other statement pieces over the island to draw the eye to that space. You can also stick with smaller lighting fixtures, and simply increase the number of them for longer islands.

2. Overhead lighting

The latest trends in overhead lighting incorporate a decorative fixture at the center of the room. This can take the form of everything from a traditional chandelier to a modern, industrial-inspired fixture.

3. Spotlighting

To highlight collections of dishes, wine bottles, cookbooks or other treasured items in the kitchen, add smaller puck lights inside glass-faced or mesh-faced kitchen cabinets. Spotlighting can also be used to showcase artwork on the walls or other decorative elements in the room. 

1



2



3



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trending at the lake

This holiday season, we shopped for a few of our favorite Lake Geneva-themed gifts from local stores

STYLING & PHOTOS BY VICTORIA MCHUGH



1



2



3



4



6



5

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House in the Big Woods



How a homeowner created a one-of-a-kind
guest house that doubles as a sanctuary for
treasured collections

BY TASHA DOWNING



Emerging gently from within 28 acres of lush, wooded property near Geneva Lake, a stunning, modern cottage peeks out from the trees. From the exterior, this one-of-a-kind home manages to blend beautifully into its natural surroundings while at the same time striking the eye as a truly exceptional piece of architecture. By expertly carving out a five-acre site from the extensive forest surrounding it, the homeowner and his wife built this three-bedroom, three-bath guest home while respecting an established conservation easement that provides protection for the surrounding woods, including the majestic, old-growth walnut and oak trees throughout the property.

Dedicated conservationists and nature lovers, the owners felt it was imperative that the entire property be pristinely maintained — the permanent easement guarantees the forest’s natural beauty will be preserved.

In designing the home, the homeowner was looking to build a space that would serve multiple roles, including room for guests and an office, as well as the display and storage of a stunning collection of vintage wooden boats. “The home fits so perfectly in the woods, it

wouldn’t look right on the lake,” says the homeowner. “All of the design choices we made were unique to fit the location.” Since completing the home more than a decade ago, the homeowner has found the elegant space is welcoming and flexible enough to host everything from charity events and family weddings to groups of friends, colleagues or clients touring the Lake Geneva area.

Milwaukee’s Abacus Architects created the home’s unique design. Though it was not originally intended to evoke the work of famous architect

Frank Lloyd Wright, the end result naturally contains unavoidable parallels to his organic architectural philosophy. The homeowner shares Wright’s belief that it is possible to create structures that live in harmony with the environment, which ultimately led to the design of a home that blends seamlessly with the natural world surrounding it. “It’s a ranch-style house in the woods, so there are some Frank Lloyd Wright themes, particularly in the deck,” the homeowner explains, referencing the horizontal lines of the deck, an element Wright often included in



A set of glass accordion doors can be opened between the great room and the boat showroom to allow unimpeded views (opposite page, top). Designed to complement the natural slope of the land, the home's exterior borrows from the design philosophy of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, particularly in the design of the deck (opposite page, bottom left and bottom right). Throughout the home, polished concrete floors contrast with the warm walnut ceilings and trim (left).

his designs. Emerging from the center of the home is a distinctive, stone-covered cylinder that encases a large spiral staircase within and adds to the overall organic look.

In designing the home, an emphasis was placed on using environmentally friendly and sustainable building practices and materials throughout. The exterior of the home was built mainly with rich brown Douglas fir planks from Washington state, while the interior features a combination of Douglas fir planks and beautiful blonde wood from walnut trees like those native to the surrounding property. In this way, the

tranquility of the forest is quite literally reflected in the interior, softly accented by an elegant, floating spiral staircase at the center of the home that connects the main-floor living space with the top-floor office and the lower-level living areas. The home also features beautiful rust-colored and gray-toned stone from a large stone purveyor in Waukesha. "As much as I love it, you can't have all wood," the homeowners explains. "The stonework is not only around the fireplaces but extends to where the boats are housed and also defines the entry into the house, so it accentuates the interior and exterior."

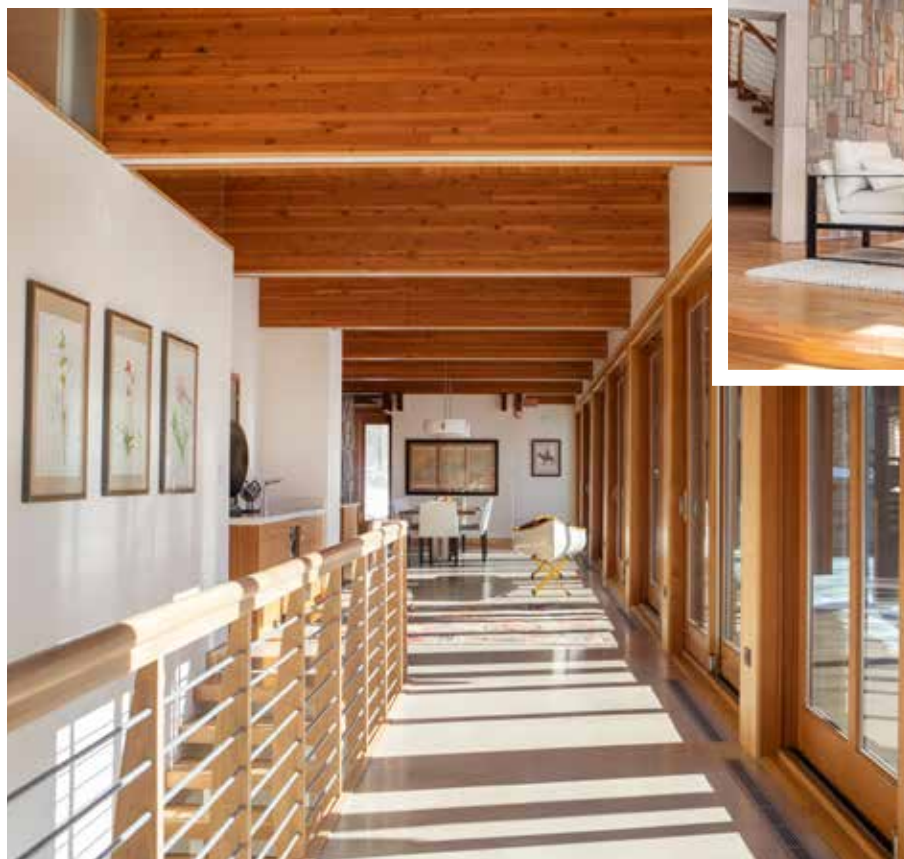


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An enormous deck runs across the entire front of the home, and is accented by jutting wood beams across the top in a design that evokes the bow of a ship. Full-length glass windows and doors look onto the deck and the landscape beyond, allowing a breathtaking view of the surrounding woods. Opening the doors creates the effect of removing all barriers between the home and the land. It also allows for free airflow, so that people inside can enjoy not only the sights, but the sounds and the familiar, earthy scent of the forest. The home also features a rooftop garden that combines form and function, laying a tapestry of wildflowers, annuals and perennials to add beauty and sustainable insulation to the home.

To finish the interior, the homeowner hired a skilled wood-cabinet designer from the Chicago area to build beautiful custom shelving and cabinetry. When it came to decorating, the homeowner selected artwork from his personal collection, opting for outdoor- and woodland-themed pieces, everything from personal photographs to incredible works by



Custom cabinets and shelving crafted by a skilled artisan provide a seamless focal point in the home's kitchen (top photo). Stone accent walls lend an organic touch to a lower-level lounge area (middle photo). A wall of windows along the front of the home flood the main floor with winter sunlight, highlighting the wooden beams on the ceiling as well as the homeowner's collection of art (bottom photo).

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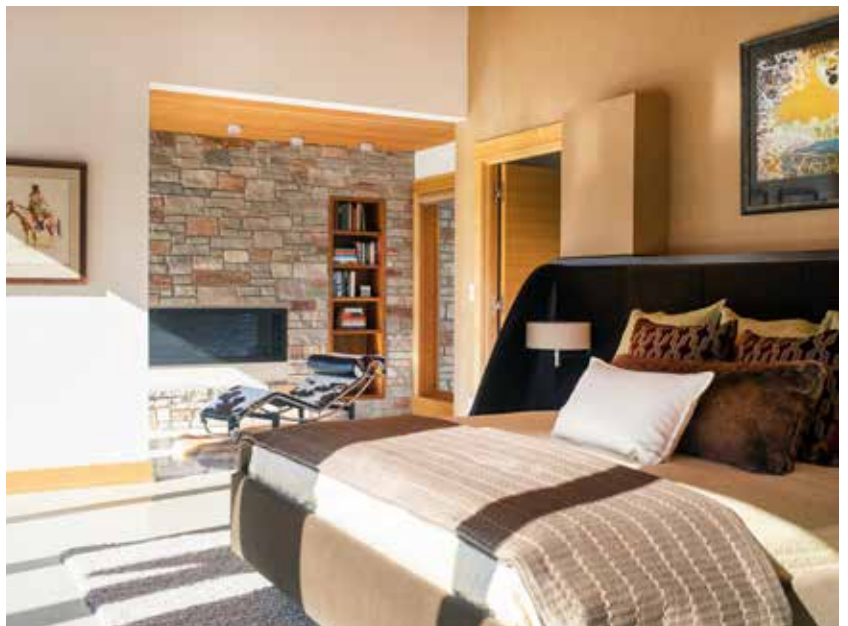


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A large room on the main floor serves as a storage space and showroom for the homeowner's incredible collection of historic and reproduction vintage wooden boats (top photo). The top-floor office space provides stunning views of the surrounding forest (above left). The home's primary bedroom features a stone-clad reading nook with a gas fireplace (above right). Finished in walnut, the climate-controlled wine vault can hold around 900 bottles (left).




odd but beautiful picture done by a Rockford artist that my mother loved.” Mixed among the artwork are treasured family heirlooms. “Most of the sailboat pictures are photographs taken by my father,” he adds.

These personal art pieces create a distinctive look for each bedroom, and multiple gas fireplaces add cozy warmth when guests retire for the evening. The bathrooms were designed in black and white, in a minimalist, Scandinavian style to evoke spa-like tranquility. Black slate floor tiles in a stacked pattern contrast beautifully with white countertops and white wall tile arranged in a subtle and sophisticated crocodile texture. Guests can relax in either a steam shower or decadent soaking tub.

The kitchen boasts top-of-the-line appliances including a gas Wolf range and Sub-Zero refrigerator. A smaller butler’s pantry and catering kitchen is equally well-equipped and separated from the main living area in order to

ensure that a catered event runs more smoothly. A highlight of the home’s incredible entertaining space is the climate-controlled wine vault with storage capacity of about 900 bottles, finished in walnut.

The homeowner and his wife often generously open up the space to guests, and they also take advantage of the unique and tranquil property whenever possible. He included an accordion-style glass door originally intended for pool patios in Florida to make for easy access to his boat collection, which can be brought in or out of the showroom to be used or displayed as desired. That collection includes two hand-crafted historic canoes, a 32-foot Ditchburn Canadian launch and a 36-foot custom Van Dam saloon runabout for group outings, among many other treasures.

The overall effect is a space unlike any other. “It’s a unique home, it’s intended to be special and also to preserve the surrounding woods,” he says. “For me, it’s a peaceful place to relax.” 

renowned Western American artist Frederic Remington. “I am a fan of Remington because his paintings are much more accurate than anybody else from that era,” says the homeowner. “I lived in Brazil for a while, so there is also art from that trip, and a very






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Gliding Right Along

A guide to ice skating in the Geneva Lake area

BY NAT WEXLER

There is nothing like the feeling of standing up on a pair of skates and gliding across a frozen surface in the brisk sunshine. Ice skating is a fun winter activity for all ages, and in the Geneva Lake area, there are several ice skating opportunities perfect for everyone from the seasoned pro to the complete novice. We've rounded up the best places to skate, as well as tricks, tips and safety information — everything you need to know in order to have a fun, safe ice skating adventure this winter!



If you are skating (or even walking!) on the frozen lake, remember to exercise extreme caution as ice thickness and stability can vary in different parts of the same body of water. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommends the following safety tips to anyone who is venturing out onto the ice:

- **Don't go alone.** Even if you are with others, ensure you have a working cell phone and that somebody on land knows your location.
- **Go during the day.** You must be able to see and assess the ice thickness, which is why it is dangerous to be on the ice at night or during low-visibility periods.
- **Clear ice is better.** The strongest ice is generally ice that does not have snow on it or bubbles in it.
- **Bring safety supplies in case of an emergency.** Carry a charged cell phone in a waterproof case or bag, a life jacket, a length of rope and an ice claw or pick.
- **Use caution and common sense.** Ice freezes very unevenly. It is vital to be aware of your surroundings and use caution and common sense anytime you step onto the ice and if you move to a new area. Just because one area is safe does not mean the space next to it is.

WHERE TO SKATE

- **Grand Geneva Resort and Spa** (7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva) maintains a large, outdoor ice rink next to their ski chalet. Operation of this outdoor rink is dependent on the weather, but it typically opens toward the end of December and closes at the end of the ski season in March. The rink operates in 1 ½-hour time slots. You can purchase tickets for a time slot online for \$5, and rent skates onsite for an additional \$10.
- The Williams Bay Recreational Department (Williams Bay) hosts a free ice rink on the lake, **in front of the Williams Bay Boat Launch parking lot**. The rink is open when a green flag is displayed, and closed when a red flag is displayed. Weather permitting, the rink is expected to open around New Year's Day and will stay open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.
- **The Abbey Resort** (269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana) turns its Harbor Patio into an outdoor ice-skating rink on certain days during the winter months. (Call for availability.) Skate rentals are free for the resort's

guests, while the general public can rent skates for \$2 a pair. All participants must sign a waiver with the activity office before skating.

- **Geneva Lake, Delavan Lake and Lake Como** can be used for ice skating when the ice is thick enough, and proper safety techniques are followed. Generally, Lake Como freezes hard first, due to its shallow depth, followed by Delavan Lake and then Geneva Lake. Do your research first — many people use a benchmark of at least four consistent inches of ice for ice skating.

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR ICE SKATING

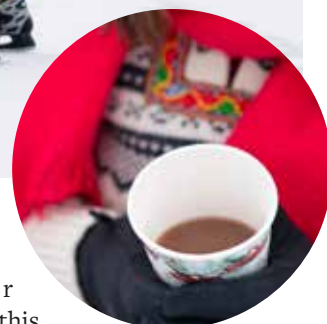
- **Make sure your skates fit properly.** Skates should fit snugly and not allow the foot to move around inside them. Figure skaters will want to wear a medium-thickness sock to reduce the chance of blisters and keep their feet warm, while those using hockey skates can wear a thinner sock, as hockey skates are more insulated than figure skates.
- **Dress in layers.** Skating is an active sport, so it is essential



HOLLY LEITNER

to wear layers. You can remove layers to maintain a comfortable temperature and avoid overheating as you warm up.

- **Wear wrist guards.** Beginners might want to wear wrist guards, such as those used for skateboarding or rollerskating, to reduce the chance of injury in the event of a fall.
- **Follow the flow of the rink.** When skating on a rink with others, follow the flow of traffic to reduce the chance of a collision. If you are skating on a rink with no traffic flow, use extra caution to avoid a collision.
- **Fall correctly.** If you take a spill, try to fall on your side instead of forward or backward. Avoid grabbing onto somebody as you fall, since this can increase the risk of serious injury.



- **Ask for a skate helper.** Some rinks (like the one at Grand Geneva) have “skate helpers” available, a device the skater can hold onto that assists with balance and reduces the risk of falling.
- **Have fun!** Ice skating is a fun activity; enjoy the experience!

After you get a little outdoor exercise this winter, warm up with a cup of hot chocolate (extra marshmallows) while sitting in front of a roaring fire. We can’t think of a better way to spend a winter day. ❄️

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Q&A

Getting Hooked



Local fishing guide
Scott Dillion shares his
love of ice fishing

BY NAT WEXLER

When the weather gets cold, true fishermen know that's no reason to give up on the sport. Winter simply ushers in a new angling season: ice fishing. We recently caught up with local fishing guide Scott Dillion to talk about his experiences ice fishing on Geneva Lake, his best tips and tricks, and what's new for winter 2023.

ATL: How long have you been ice fishing?

Scott Dillion: Since I was a kid!

ATL: What should people know about ice fishing versus soft-water fishing?

SD: Once the ice is on the lake, the fish are in an aquarium-like

enclosure since no outside factors are coming into the lake once it is frozen. This limits the fish's food sources. Ice fishing gives them alternatives, which makes it fun.

ATL: What are some of your best fishing catches?


SD: The best catches, and the fish you will mostly catch in this part of the state, are the walleyes, panfish and Northern Pike. I have caught some pretty big walleye, in the 30- to 35-inch range.

ATL: What tips are you willing to share with our readers?

SD: Always watching the depth of

the ice, is a major one. We have had some issues in previous years where people are going out, and the ice is never frozen uniformly on this lake. I think there are 13 or 14 springs that feed this lake. So when you get around the areas where the springs are, the ice can be much thinner. It's just very important to be careful out there because the depth of the ice can range.

ATL: What is new for you for winter 2023?

SD: The SnoBear [a fully enclosed vehicle designed specifically for ice fishing] is the newest thing for the business this winter; it just totally changes ice fishing to something more enjoyable than being exposed to the elements. The only time you get cold is when you go outside the vehicle. Otherwise, when you're in the SnoBear, you can set the temperature, listen to your favorite music, and enjoy your favorite beverage on comfortable seating. One of the nice things about the SnoBear is that you can move it around a lot. The more locations that you can try, the more you increase your chances of catching fish, which is really helpful. I can't wait to get my clients out in it. 



TOP: HOLLY LEITNER. BOTTOM: COURTESY OF TWIN CITIES SNOBEAR



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PARADE OF TREES

THROUGH JAN. 2

Admire Christmas trees decorated by local businesses and individuals while touring the museum. Geneva Lake Museum, Lake Geneva. Call (262) 248-6060 or visit genevalakemuseum.org/parade-of-trees.



ICE CASTLES

DATES ARE WEATHER-DEPENDENT

An illuminated ice kingdom features frozen slides, crawl spaces and fountains built into a frozen outdoor landscape. Destination Geneva National, Lake Geneva. Visit icecastles.com for tickets and up-to-the-minute opening details.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF GAGE MARINE; HOLLY LEITNER, COURTESY OF THE GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM

NOV. 26, DEC. 10, 17
DINNER TIME, WINE TIME
COOKING CLASSES

Hands-on cooking classes with changing themes. Lake Geneva School of Cooking, Lake Geneva. To reserve a spot, call (262) 248-3933 or visit lakegenevaschoolofcooking.com.

NOV. 25-27, DEC. 2-4, 9-11, 16-18
CHRISTMAS TRAIN

Trips leave from the East Troy Railroad Depot, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Online advanced reservations required. East Troy Depot, East Troy; call (262) 642-3263 or visit easttroyrr.org.

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DEC. 2
BURLINGTON 40TH ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING

Parade viewing from historic downtown Burlington and a tree lighting ceremony afterward. Santa and Mrs. Claus, Door County Sled Dogs, caroling and music will accompany the tree lighting. Parade begins at 6:30 p.m. in downtown Burlington; tree lighting to follow in Wehmhoff Square Park; (262) 763-6044 or burlingtonchamber.com.

DEC. 2
OPEN ARMS FREE CLINIC
BIRTHDAY GALA

A Cirque du Soleil-inspired event to support Walworth County's only free healthcare clinic for low-income families. 5-9 p.m., Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva. For tickets, visit openarmsfreeclinic.org/events.

DEC. 2
REPEAL DAY PROHIBITION PARTY

Enjoy pre-Prohibition style cocktails in your best 1930's gear. 7 p.m., Maxwell Mansion, Lake Geneva. For tickets, call (262) 248-9711 or visit staymaxwell.com.

DEC. 2
VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Lighted, horse-drawn carriage parade, beautiful lighted displays and towns-people dressed in period costumes. 5-9 p.m., downtown Sharon. (262) 736-6246 or historicdowntownsharon.com.

DEC. 2-4
3RD ANNUAL LET IT GLOW FESTIVAL

Free holiday festival, featuring whimsical light displays, Balsam Boulevard and Santa viewings. Friday 6-9 p.m., Saturday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 5-8 p.m. Walworth County Fairgrounds, Elkhorn; (262) 723-5788 or elkhornchamber.com.

DEC. 2-4
"TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS"

A holiday classic performed by the Lakeland Players. Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. Historic Sprague Theater, 15 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. For tickets, visit lakeland-players.org or call 262-441-3924.



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DEC. 2-4, 9-11, 15-17

WORLD'S TALLEST GLASS TREE

Rob Elliot and glass artist Jason Mack are set to build the World's Tallest Glass Tree using recycled glass bottles donated by the community. Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay; yerkesobservatory.org.

DEC. 3

47TH ANNUAL LAKE GENEVA ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS PARADE

Begins at 5 p.m., downtown Lake Geneva; (262) 248-4416 or visitlakegeneva.com.

DEC. 3-31

EAST TROY LIGHTS

A holiday light show attraction timed to music to broadcast on 90.9FM. Shows begin on the hour from 5-9 p.m. nightly. East Troy Square, downtown East Troy; visit easttroylights.com.

DEC. 3

ELKHORN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD TOWN PARADE

Christmas decorated floats, novelty acts,

music, animals and Santa and Mrs. Claus. 1:30 p.m., downtown Elkhorn; (262) 723-5788 or elkhornchamber.com.

DEC. 3

FREEZIN' FOR A REASON

This charity event features water skiers, wakeboarders, surfers and tubers braving the chilly waters of Geneva Lake to raise money for the Santa Cause Super Charity. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pier 290, 1 Leichty Dr., Williams Bay; (262) 245-2100 or santacauses.org.

DEC. 3-4, 10-11

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT OLD WORLD WISCONSIN

Explore vibrant holiday traditions brought to Wisconsin by immigrant ancestors while creating new holiday memories. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Old World Wisconsin, Eagle; (608) 264-4848 or oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org.

DEC. 9-10

ROCKIN' IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Part of the Sit & Sip concert series, performed by the Haylofters Community Theatre. 7 p.m., Malt House Theatre, Burlington; (262) 763-9873 or thehaylofters.com.

DEC. 10

CHRISTMAS WITH ELVIS

Featuring Logan Ramsey, a local Elvis tribute artist. 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Grapevine Theater, Lake Geneva. Tickets are \$30. Call (262) 348-9463 or visit thebottleshoplakegeneva.com.

DEC. 11, 18

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT DINNERS COOKING CLASS

Hands-on cooking classes begin with a sparkling wine reception. 5-9 p.m., Lake Geneva School of Cooking, Lake Geneva. To reserve a spot, call (262) 248-3933 or visit lakegenevaschoolofcooking.com.

DEC. 16-18

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A RADIO SHOW"

Performed by the Lakeland Players. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. Historic Sprague Theater, 15 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. For tickets, visit lakeland-players.org or call 262-441-3924.

DEC. 17

TCHAIKOVSKY'S "THE NUTCRACKER"

The Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra partners with the The Dance Factory to present the Christmas classic. 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater. For tickets, call (262) 359-9072 or visit lakegenevaorchestra.org.

DEC. 27-31

COUNTDOWN TO 2023 COOKING CLASSES

Hands-on cooking classes featuring cuisines from around the world. 6-10 p.m., Lake Geneva School of Cooking, Lake Geneva. To reserve a spot, call (262) 248-3933 or visit lakegenevaschoolofcooking.com.

DEC. 31

HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, signature cocktails and a costume contest while enjoying a live DJ. 7 p.m., Maxwell Mansion, Lake Geneva. Tickets are \$125. Call (262) 248-9711 or visit staymaxwell.com.

JAN. 1

POLAR PLUNGE

Take part in an invigorating community plunge into Geneva Lake. Noon. Williams Bay Beach.

FEB. 1-5

WINTERFEST & U.S. NATIONAL SNOW SCULPTING CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

The 28th annual National Snow Sculpting Competition, plus an ice sculpture tour, s'mores and bonfires on the beach, a cocoa crawl, a Fire & Ice bar, hovercraft rides and more. Downtown Lake Geneva; (262) 248-4416 or visitlakegeneva.com.

FEB. 11

SYMPHONY OF THE SEA ANNUAL GALA

An unforgettable evening of orchestral music, food, drinks, a live and silent auction and the LGSO Swing Band. Benefiting the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra. 6 p.m., The Abbey Resort, Fontana. Call (262) 359-9072 or visit lakegenevaorchestra.org for tickets.

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**GENEVA LAKES FAMILY YMCA
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This year's theme will be "Heroes vs. Villains," and will raise funds for the Financial Assistance and Outreach programs at the YMCA. Featuring an open bar, plated dinner and a live and silent auction. Tickets available Dec. 1 at genevalakesymca.org/auction or (262) 248-6211.

FEB. 24

SIX APPEAL

Hear the world-class vocal ensemble perform classic oldies, current chart toppers and more. 7 p.m., Big Foot High School Auditorium, Walworth. For tickets, visit bigfootfinearts.com or call (262) 275-2117.

FEB. 24-26, MAR. 3-5

"STEEL MAGNOLIAS"

Performed by the Lakeland Players. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. Historic Sprague Theater, 15 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. For tickets, visit lakeland-players.org or call 262-441-3924.

While we do our best to ensure a comprehensive, accurate listing of events, we recommend that you contact each event host ahead of time. If you'd like to include an event in our upcoming calendar, please email anne@ntmediagroup.com or submit it via our website: atthelakemagazine.com/submit-an-event. Submission deadline for the spring issue is Feb. 1. 🐾

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COMPASS



After a day of skiing or skating, igloo dining is a popular winter option for groups of up to six at Grand Geneva Resort & Spa.

Cold-Weather Cuisine

A look at some of the area's unique winter dining experiences

BY MAURA KELLER

There's nothing quite like settling in at a cozy dining spot during the colder winter months, and the Geneva Lake area has plenty to offer those who are seeking special dining experiences amidst the region's winter wonderland. The combination of a beautiful winter setting, hearty and delicious cuisine, and even indoor entertainment create plenty of opportunities to enjoy all that the season has to offer.

At Lake Geneva's **Grand Geneva Resort & Spa**, this AAA four-diamond resort offers a wide range of outdoor winter activities — from ice skating to snowshoeing to skiing. After taking advantage of these diversions, diners can cuddle up in a horse-drawn sleigh ride and head over to the resort's dining igloos to enjoy a hot toddy, or go for a full meal at one of Grand Geneva's three restaurants: Geneva ChopHouse, Ristorante Brissago and Grand Café. Under the direction of Food & Beverage Director Nelly Buleje and new Executive Chef Dustin Urbanik, Grand Geneva's restaurants serve up exceptional seasonal flavors and new menu highlights created specifically for the winter palate.

Courtney Nobilio, senior marketing manager at Grand Geneva, recommends the lobster bisque with Maine lobster sherry, tarragon, lobster brodo, sourdough crisp and caviar at Geneva ChopHouse, as well as the prime rib, which comes in nine different cuts to suit every preference. At Ristorante Brissago, a fan-favorite menu item is the Aragosta Tagliatelli, featuring Maine lobster, tomato and saffron sauce and sorrel pesto.

Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan offers igloo dining with panoramic views



Pier 290's inviting circular fireplace adds warm winter ambiance to the restaurant's bar area.

of Delavan Lake from their Lookout Bar and Eatery. Diners can enjoy seasonal cocktails, chef-made meals and craft beer on tap as part of the experience. Eileen Cole, executive director of sales and marketing, says that the Lakeside Igloo Adventure experience remains one of their most popular dining options in the winter.

Nearby in Williams Bay, **Pier 290** also offers igloo dining, as well as a cozy winter dining room setting thanks to inviting fireplaces, spectacular frozen lake views, specialty drinks, a golf simulator and plenty of live music. The winter menu features cuisine that

celebrates the season, including rustic ravioli, Atlantic salmon and roasted apple salad. It's a great place to enjoy a drink or a snack before boarding the Santa Cruise to enjoy festive light displays around the lake on your way to Santa's Secret Hideaway. (Cruises run the day after Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve.)

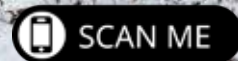
On Lake Como, a visit to one of **Destination Geneva National's** five dining establishments in Lake Geneva offers plenty of seasonal menu options. Visit the Hunt Club Steakhouse, a beloved steakhouse in the historic, 100-year-old Crane Manor with panoramic lake views, or



An outdoor fire pit and dining igloos at The Ridge's Deck Bar provide views of the resort's holiday decorations.



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Seasonal winter cocktails are part of the Igloo Adventure Experience at Lake Lawn Resort.


make reservations for the seasonal Ice Princess Brunch during the Ice Castles winter event. Geneva National's Igloo Experience on the clubhouse veranda offers gorgeous winter views of the resort's world-class golf course. Or

head to **The Ridge**, where igloos on the patio of the Deck Bar provide charming lake views.

Another local-favorite venue that offers igloo dining is **Mars Resort**, which features a special igloo-only menu designed as shareable plates. Enjoy specialty appetizers, including yellowfin tuna, shrimp de jonghe and Wagyu beef sliders. As one of the area's long-standing favorite supper clubs, Mars Resort also boasts an array of cocktails to enjoy during the cold winter months, including the Mars Signature Old Fashioned.

For those looking to combine dining and entertainment this winter, **The Fireside Dinner Theatre** in Fort Atkinson provides a place for families and groups of friends to gather for a shared experience of top-notch dinner theater. This is a particularly popular option around the holidays, according to Julie Nordeen, marketing manager

at The Fireside. "From the first day of our holiday show which is typically early in November, The Fireside is decorated for Christmas," she says. "As soon as you open the doors and see the festive trees and the beautiful merchandise in the first gift shop, you're in the Christmas spirit." This season's stage version of the Bing Crosby classic "White Christmas" is a premiere for The Fireside. From Jan. 12 through Feb. 19, the venue will host a concert series with top national acts celebrating some of the music world's most popular performers and bands.

In nearby Delavan, **Rosewood** also provides a memorable dinner theater experience with cabaret-style music productions, fresh farm-to-table cuisines and a charming shopping village filled with seasonal treasures. This holiday season, Rosewood will feature "Christmas Remembered," a treasure trove of songs, carols and hymns. 

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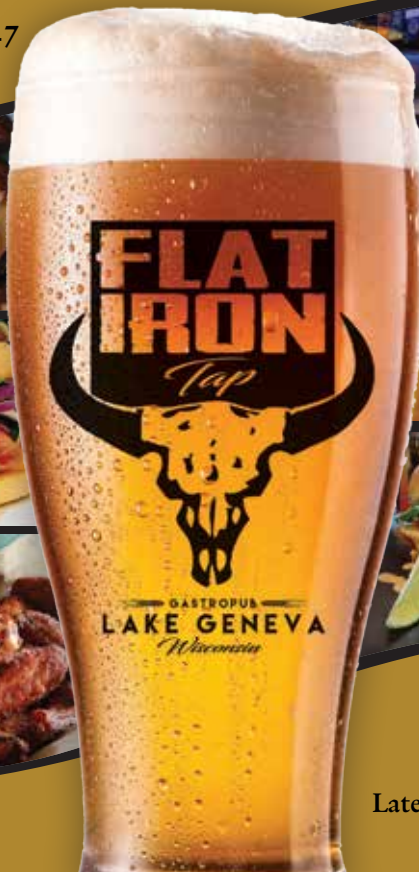
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POP THE BUBBLY

From cava to crémant, explore the differences between sparkling wines

BY MAURA KELLER

Whether it's champagne or brut or prosecco, there's an art (and science) to making exceptional sparkling wines. We asked Beth Tumas, owner of the Bottle Shop in Lake Geneva, to share her insights about the various bubbly options and how to choose which is right for each situation.

According to Tumas, in the simplest sense, sparkling wine can be adequately described as "wine with bubbles." She explains that each wine-making region around the world has a different name for the sparkling wine that is made there. Often, people use the generic term "champagne," but by French law, only the geographic region of Champagne in France can officially call their sparkling wine "champagne" — it has to be made in that region using the specific process called the *méthode champenoise*. (The only exception to this French law is Korbel California Champagne, which, thanks to a 100-year-old-loop-hole, can legally

label their *méthode champenoise*-produced champagne as "California Champagne.")

"The grapes and the method of making the champagne is highly regulated by the wine authorities of each region," Tumas adds. "The wine is bottled and left to sit for years before the wine has been aged enough for the bubbles to be created."

When it comes to choosing the right option for each meal, Tumas says it depends on the situation and the food being served. "Sparkling wine is a great reception wine for a dinner party or gathering," she says. "It freshens everyone's palate. Mild cheeses and fruits like grapes and strawberries make for a nice pairing. I find that the taste of the wine is too good to add too many flavors to it!"

Just as the variety of sparkling wines are vast, so too are the price

points. As Tumas explains, some of the wine producers hand-pick the grapes, which allows for a better quality of wine, but also comes with a price tag.

"Sparkling wine can start at \$5 a bottle, while a rarer production of champagne will be \$2,000 per bottle," Tumas says. "The average consumer will spend \$20 to \$30 on a nice bottle of sparkling wine and be happy with what is in their glass. Bubbles are a great way to start the day or end the day. They make us smile."

TYPES OF SPARKLING WINES

- **Champagne.** Made using the *méthode champenoise* from grapes grown in the Champagne region of France.
- **Cava.** This version from Spain uses native grapes with a splash of chardonnay.
- **Prosecco.** A sweet, sparkling wine from Italy; can be produced as a still wine, a semi-sparkling wine (*frizzante*) or a fully sparkling wine (*spumante*).
- **Crémant.** A less effervescent sparkling wine made in France and Luxembourg — *crémant* literally means "creamy."
- **Brut.** A dryer, less sweet sparkling wine made in many different wine-making regions.



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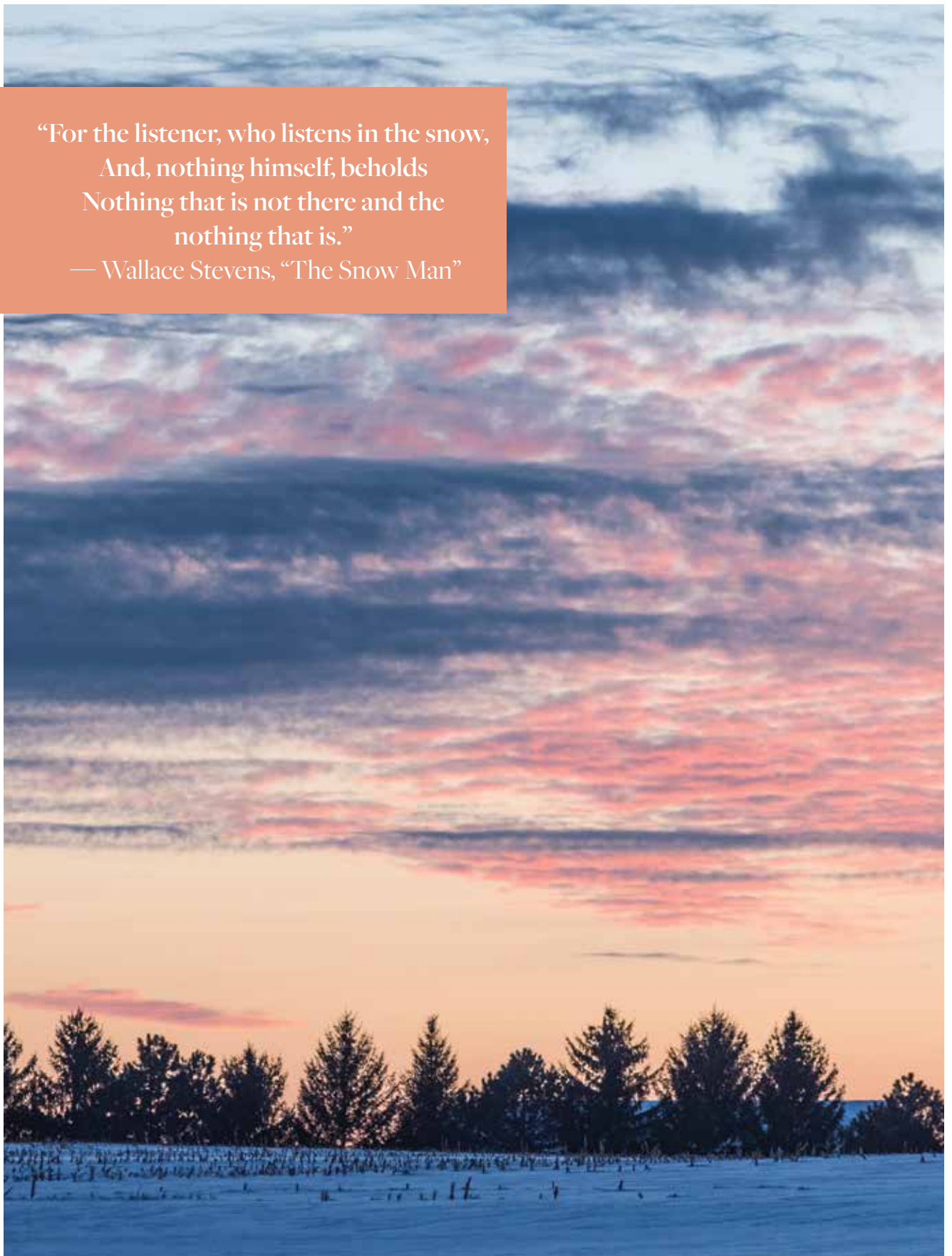


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