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APRIL 2019

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Mariel short-brim hat, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing; **Denver Darling** green tortoise earrings, $22, at Denver Darling, Cherry Creek North, 303.993.4511, *denverdarlingboutique.com*; Balmain Veste blazer, $2,195; Dolce and Gabbana Jasfo sleeveless blouse, $995; and Valentino denim bag, $1,895, all at **Neiman Marcus**; Frame crop pleat pant, $379, **Rebel**, Greenwood Village, 720.283.1004, *facebook.com/shoprebel*

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Everything you need—from larger-than-life hats to sophisticated spring outfits to expert tips—to get ready for the Kentucky Derby. ON THE COVER, our first look: Mariel red fascinator, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing, Cherry Creek North, 303.623.1151, *marielboutique.com*; Limited Edition Roland Mouret Ivy dress, $1,995, at **Neiman Marcus**, Cherry Creek Shopping Center, 303.329.2600, *neimanmarcus.com*.

MODEL: Judith Boyd, Style Crone; PHOTO: Chad Chisholm, Custom Creations & C2Media; STYLIST: Jani Duncan Smith; MAKEUP ARTIST: Erroll Perkins

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TALK OF THE TOWN

KNOW SOMEONE who should be featured in *AvidLifestyle*? Tell me about him or her at *kendall@avidlifestyle.com*



PHOTO: CHAD CHISHOLM, CUSTOM CREATIONS & C2 MEDIA

OFF TO THE RACES

Cuckoo for Coco!

I ADMIRE COCO CHANEL. In a sea of early 1900s finicky fashion, the designer not only put comfortable clothes on the map, but also created the little black dress, the most powerful special-occasion outfit to date. Her mysterious nickname (her given name was Gabrielle) has long inspired curious fans to try to uncover its origin, and her beautiful brand is comprised of clothing I'd like to wear exclusively for the rest of my life. Mme. Chanel also said: "In order to be irreplaceable, one must always be different."

That sentiment of steering clear of the metaphorical bandwagon is something I've always embraced.

It's therefore fitting that the same company that has published *Colorado AvidGolfer* for the last 18 years launch *AvidLifestyle*—the only publication devoted to the good life in the south suburbs—with a fashion issue. And a Derby fashion issue at that.

Denver has the largest Derby party outside of Kentucky's Churchill Downs racetrack; and we in the south suburbs have an impeccably chic fashion sense to match such a big bash. Starting on page 42, you'll find outfit inspirations for both minimalist and maximalist styles, all modeled by influencer and major hat enthusiast Judith Boyd, also known as Style Crone.

Chanel's statement, too, speaks to our unique community. Most other people in Denver have chosen either a suitable suburban home or a modern downtown life. Here in the south suburbs, we have both. Sure, we can venture toward Union Station for a night out, but when you truly explore the gems and town centers in our backyard, there's close to no need.

For the last few months, our staff and I have been hard at work uncovering just such places (like a great Centennial brewery, pg. 20, a local expert in the art of Japanese flower arranging, pg. 28, and some compelling stories behind the residents of our friendly, well-groomed streets, pg. 56).

Stick around; we've got a lot of fun stuff planned that you won't want to miss. For now, I've gotta go. There's a bottle of celebratory Champagne in the fridge and it's about time we opened it.

Here's to living well,

KENDALL KOSTELIC

KENDALL IS WEARING: Better Bell-ieve It striped top, $78, at **W Boutique**, Happy Canyon Shopping Center, 720.502.6081, *wishdenver.com*; Joseph Ribkoff polka dot blazer, $258, **Wish Boutique**, Old South Gaylord Street, 303.733.4848; Denver Darling pearl necklace, $40, at **Denver Darling**, Cherry Creek North, 303.993.4511, *denverdarlingboutique.com*

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APRIL



April 3-13

BEEHIVE
An actual blast from the past—that's what is in store at this 1960's tribute. Celebrating the women who made the era's tunes so unforgettable, you'll be dancing to classics like *Be My Baby*, *You Can't Hurry Love* and *Proud Mary*. Groovy. **LONE TREE ARTS CENTER** *lonetreeartscenter.org*

April 6

CRAFTERNOONS
This month's project: Derby hats. In other words, now the kids can get all decked out for the occasion too. **CASTLE PINES DOUGLAS COUNTY LIBRARY** *dcl.org/castle-pines*



April 6

OUT OF THIS WORLD!
This night at the symphony isn't just for adults. Bring the whole family for a melodious jaunt through space with the Arapahoe Philharmonic, among the longest-running music organizations in the state. The night's set features music from *Star Wars*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Star Trek* and more from galaxies far, far away. **ASPEN ACADEMY** *arapahoe-phil.org*



April 12-13

NORM MACDONALD
He was a regular on *Saturday Night Live*, performed the very last stand-up set on the *Late Show with David Letterman*, transformed into KFC's Colonel Sanders, has been named one of the top 100 comedians of all time and, now, Norm Macdonald is coming to Greenwood Village for a few laughs.

Tip: Plan to catch more than one performance. Macdonald claims no two stand-up shows are the same.
COMEDY WORKS, GREENWOOD VILLAGE *comedyworks.com*



April 13

BOOTS N' BREWS
Rodeo season starts now. At this year's adults-only Cherry Hills Village Elementary School fundraiser, bull riding, dancing, a live auction, dinner and drinks are all on the schedule. **THE FARMHOUSE AT BRECKENRIDGE BREWERY** *chve.org*



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April 25

DENVER DRAFT PARTY
Calling all Denver Broncos fans: At this charity event, benefitting Todd Davis' A+ Living and the Active Force Foundation, you can bowl, take pictures with and get autographs from the NFL players. A silent auction featuring signed collectibles is also on the schedule. **CELEBRITY LANES** *denverdraftparty.com*

April 28

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If you haven't witnessed a Colorado Children's Chorale performance, now is the time. The award-winning group has been singing all over the world for 45 years and has mastered opera and musical theatre in addition to traditional choral performances. **TOWN HALL ARTS CENTER** *townhallartscenter.org*

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THE CLUB

Cherry Hills Village's story starts with the Cherry Hills Country Club.



BEFORE there were sought-after lavish estates, famous residents or even the name Cherry Hills Village, there was Cherry Hills Country Club.

In 1922—16 years before anyone even had an inkling of a neighborhood—a group of prominent Denver Country Club members founded a club for serious golfers that would take them away from the city and wouldn't create too much of a crowd. The group had a planned 272 acres to play with and named the club for a cherry orchard growing on the rolling land.



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PHOTOS: COURTESY CHERRY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB





VERY CHERRY Early members of the Cherry Hills Country Club, plus 1938 U.S. Open champion Ralph Guldahl and his necktie (immediate right).

They asked William S. Flynn, considered one of the best golf course architects of the time, to create the course. After that, it didn't take long for the organization to become an irreplaceable piece of the Cherry Hills Village puzzle, playing host to some of history's greatest golfers. In 1938, for example, the club welcomed the first U.S. Open ever to be held west of Minneapolis. The last player to win wearing a necktie, Ralph Guldahl defended his national championship, but Ray Ainsley made history by posting the highest single-hole score in U.S. Open history—a 19 on the 16th hole.

Though the club originally wanted no activities but golf in the area, in the early years, the Cherry Hills Saddle Club began leasing land around the club for $10 a year.

And during the Great Depression and World War II in the 1930s and '40s, members often put their mind toward just surviving. The doors did stay open thanks to some extraordinary measures. Among them: dropping initiation fees, creating associate memberships and, when the original owners defaulted on bonds, enlisting the help of J. Churchill Owen, the mastermind behind two crucial pieces of legislation protecting the Cherry Hills Village way of life.

In other words, they escaped the rough, and it's been fairways and greens ever since.

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Savoring SouthGlenn

HODSONS BAR & GRILL has everything we want in a spring midday meal: relaxed atmosphere, a low-key, helpful waitstaff and ample patio.

By Lori Midson



PHOTOS: COURTESY HODSONS

SOPHISTICATED, BUT LAID-BACK—that's the ambiance at Hodsons, one of several restaurants anchoring the culinary landscape at The Streets at SouthGlenn. Open since 2010, its prime corner plot with an impressive patio space is a hot spot for movers and shakers who want a stylish dining experience by way of sandwiches, salads and burgers. Ready to dig in?



WHEN to *GO*

BETWEEN THE END of the noon rush and happy hour. Pop in after 1:30 p.m. and the large dining room, flanked by a centerpiece bar, is bereft of hustle and bustle. Once happy hour kicks in at 3 p.m., the bar fills up with revelers tucking into discounted well drinks, house wines and draft beers—feel free to join.

WHEN YOU'LL EAT

Timing is everything, and the kitchen here understands that the right eating pace isn't a race. Starters arrived at our table within ten minutes of our order, and our entrees—a salad and a sandwich—were promptly delivered within ten minutes.

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PHOTO: LORI MIDSON

WHAT TO ORDER

THE ALL-DAY MENU ballyhoos a solid lineup of substantial salads, burgers, sandwiches, steaks, fish, pastas and a few extras like street tacos with cornmeal-crusted mahi-mahi. To begin, we ordered the deviled eggs ($5 for three; $9 for six) crowned with sheets of crisped prosciutto and snips of fresh chives, and while a bit cold, they'd be a hit at a picnic potluck. Next up: the shrimp and bacon spinach salad ($21) tossed with grape tomatoes, Gorgonzola crumbles, cucumber, rings of red onion and a lemon chive vinaigrette, as well as the prime dip sandwich ($19). It comes with a heap of shaved beef mounted on a soft roll and paired with a bowl of full-bodied gravy scented with rosemary, a side of horseradish cream and enough fries to fulfill any starch obsession. The Black Forest cheesecake ($9) with sour cherry coulis was our sugar finale.





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PHOTO: LORI MIDSON

Micro But Mighty

CRAFT BEER RIVALING THE HIPPEST DOWNTOWN SPOTS IS JUST DOWN THE STREET.

By Lori Midson

THE NEXT TIME your North Denver friends claim there are no good craft brews to be had in the southern parts of the city, tell them to meet you at **Resolute Brewing Company**. "Community, craft and culture: those are our pillars," says Andrew Duvall, the brewery's community and sales manager. "We don't take the easy way out or cut corners. Our mission is to put in the extra hour and over-deliver, especially in this competitive market."

A small but mighty microbrewery and taproom opened in 2016 in Centennial, Resolute, the brainchild of three Columbine High School graduates and one Denver Christian School alum, is more than worth the pilgrimage. Its taproom-only beers—which zigzag from an award-winning Hefeweizen and Hoppy Pilsner to offbeat and experimental types like a dry-hopped sour and strawberry wheat wine aptly titled "Danger Zone" for its high (11.5 percent) alcohol by volume



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BEER OF CHAMPIONS
Resolute won a gold medal, too, for its Robust Porter at the 2018 All Colorado Beer Festival.





PHOTOS: COURTESY RESOLUTE BREWING

RAISE A GLASS

Resolute Brewing Company
Centennial
720.722.1238
resolutebrewingco.com

(ABV)—cement Resolute as a brewery with stubbornly uncompromising grit.

Case in point: Within its first year of business, Colorado brewers named Resolute a top new brewery among a list of 40 just-opened spots in a Colorado Brewery List survey. The crew has continued to capture the attention of beer geeks since. "Justin Burnsed, our brewer who came to us from Mockery Brewing, isn't afraid to experiment or come up with new techniques," says Duvall. "We can appease a big section of the craft-brew crowd that demands crazy, weird beers."

The brewery's success, in fact, has been so significant that the team is unleashing a second location—Resolute Tap and Cellar—in Candelas, a master-planned community in a suburb of Arvada near the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons site.

"We cornered a niche when we opened the Centennial location. Until Resolute, the nearest brewery was four miles away," explains Duvall. "We're hoping to do the same with the new location." While there will be some crossover between the two taprooms, the Candelas project will focus on barrel-aged beers and special releases specific to that zip code.



In keeping with the cultural element integral to Resolute's mission, the Centennial space struts a rounded bar conducive to conversation, rustic community tables, daily food trucks, kid-friendly board games and a taproom and patio that encourages the presence of well-behaved owners and their dogs. "It was vitally important to us that we have a family-focused atmosphere," Duvall adds.

He and the Resolute staff are heavily involved in the community as well, teaming up with local nonprofits—a pig rescue group, for example—to host special events at the brewery. "We try to be as involved as possible. With beer, we can bring a lot of people together; it's a no-brainer," he says.

In the near future, Resolute will begin canning its beers, with the goal of eventually distributing it to local liquor stores. In the meantime, the brewery sells crowlers. If you've got an empty growler to fill, too, the staff is happy to oblige.

Ultimately, concludes Duvall, "this is a place where people in the Centennial area can drink unique craft beers and meet friends close to home."



PHOTO: LORI MIDSON

NOW ON TAP

RESOLUTE RELEASES
new beers each week. Duvall shared a few new to the brewery this month.

FLUFFY THE LEMON SLAYER
A lemon-drop milkshake sour made with lemon-drop hops to "add a completely hop-derived citrus character," Duvall says. "This is a beer with a good dose of acidity, some lactose and a hint of vanilla. It's the closest thing in a glass to lemon meringue pie." Note: No lemons were harmed in the making of this beer.

DISCOUNT DOUBLE CZECH
An earthy imperial pilsner with Czech hops.

MAMA'S BOY
A kristallweizen with lemon zest, this departure from a hefeweizen retains the banana and clove flavors wheat beer lovers cherish, but leaves behind the haze from yeast and protein. "The addition of fresh lemon zest adds a subtle brightness too, which makes this a great patio beer," explains Duvall.

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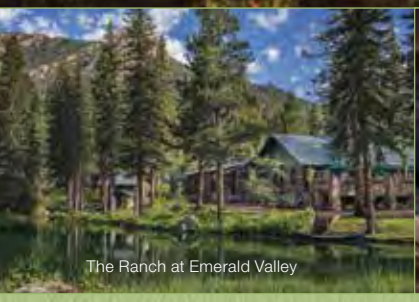
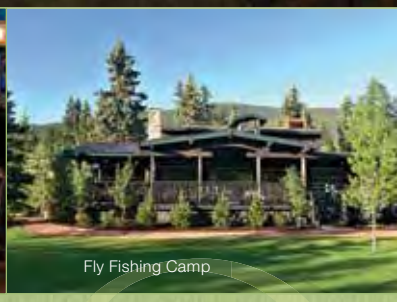

The Ranch at Emerald Valley


Cloud Camp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Main Squeeze

MAKE ROOM FOR THIS STAR ATTRACTION.

By Malissa Stark-Rodenburg

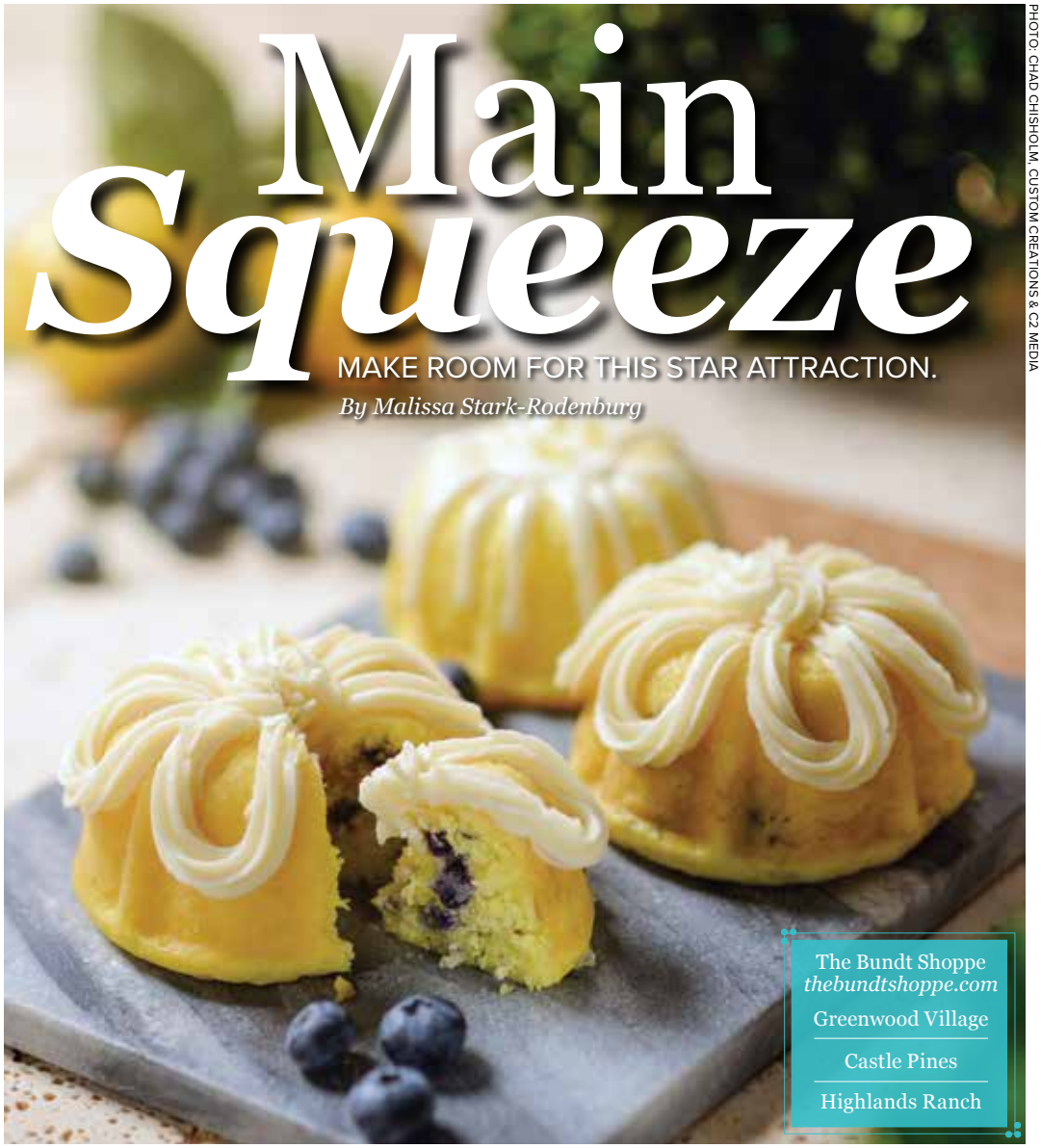

PHOTO: CHAD CHISHOLM, CUSTOM CREATIONS & C2 MEDIA

THERE ARE spring desserts, and then there are Spring Desserts—delicacies so full of just-pulled-from-the-garden flavor one could call them the headliners of the seasonal dessert table. Is it any surprise **The Bundt Shoppe**'s three-inch lemon blueberry Bundtie is closing in on first place in that latter category? A mini version of the classic Bundt cake—the pan of which was named after the German word *Bund*, meaning "bond"—the cake (also available as a two-inch Bitty Bundt, eight- or 10-inch Bundt and tiered cake at the bakery) is packed with tart lemon and pops of blueberries.

The pairing came to shop owner Pam Randall after she'd finally found a way to enjoy baked bluebs: "I didn't really care for baked blueberries as a kid. They were always presented in a blueberry pie, which I found to be too mushy and too rich. Adding fresh blueberries to a lemon base, though, was a delightful experience and is, now, one of my favorite combinations." The lemon glaze drizzled over top only sweetens the deal. For a real hit, serve as personal desserts at your next get-together.

GOT LEFTOVERS?

BREAK YOUR lemon blueberry Bundtie into bite-size pieces and create a layer of cake bites on the bottom of a torte or trifle bowl. Add a layer of fresh blueberries followed by a layer of lemon whipped cream (recipe below). Repeat layers two more times. Garnish with blueberries and lemon zest.

Lemon Whipped Cream

INGREDIENTS

2 cups chilled heavy cream
6 tablespoons powdered sugar
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
4 teaspoons finely grated lemon zest; save 1 teaspoon for final garnish

METHOD

Using an electric mixer, beat heavy cream until it begins to thicken. Gradually mix in sugar and lemon juice and beat until soft peaks form. Fold in lemon zest.

LEMON BLUEBERRY *Bundtie Cake*

INGREDIENTS

THE CAKE

3 cups all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon baking powder

2 teaspoons salt

2 ½ cups sugar

½ cup freshly grated lemon zest

1 teaspoon lemon extract

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

1 cup room temperature butter

4 eggs

1 cup buttermilk

¾ cup small fresh blueberries, plus extra for garnish

LEMON GLAZE

2 cups powdered sugar

3-4 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 tablespoon lemon zest

METHOD

LEMON GLAZE

Sift powdered sugar to remove any lumps. Gradually mix in the lemon juice and zest. Set aside.

THE CAKE

Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a Bundt pan with three-inch molds with a high-quality baking spray, making sure to spray all crevices. Set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt. In a separate bowl, combine sugar and lemon zest, working the zest into the sugar with your fingers. Then add lemon and vanilla extract and lemon juice.

Add butter into sugar batter using a mixer, beating on high until light and creamy. Add eggs one at a time, scraping sides of the bowl between each, and beat until light and fluffy. Reduce mixing speed to low and slowly begin to add dry ingredients and buttermilk, alternating each and ending with dry ingredients. Slowly fold in blueberries. Pour ½ cup batter into prepared molds and bake for 18 to 20 minutes or until cakes begin to pull from sides and a cake tester comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes in pan and turn out onto cooling rack to cool completely. Drizzle with lemon glaze and garnish with fresh blueberries.

Restore Balance Layer By Layer





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"Putting the island in the center of THE KITCHEN created a nice, large working space the Ralstons could use to cook together," designer Kristina Sterling says. Modern updates came in the form of granite countertops from The Stone Collection, tech pendants from Fusion Light and Design, yellow bar stools from RJones and Associates, Inc. and that eye-catching backsplash.

In THE FAMILY ROOM, Sterling created a family-friendly space the Ralstons' grandchildren would want to hang out in. An arch lamp, lamp shade and side table from the Charles Eisen and Associates showroom; a sleek Spa Brokers fireplace; and custom Pollack pillows were added.



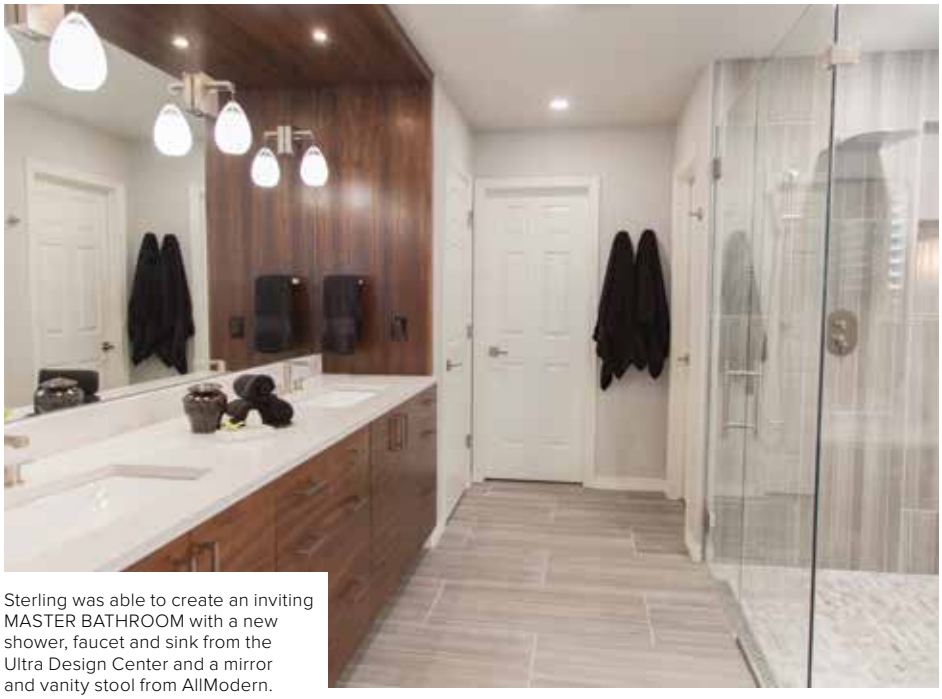
PHOTOS: SHAUNA INTELISANO

Good as New

Updating four rooms took the Ralstons' home from outdated to modern and sleek.

By Brittany Anas

SPACE. Becky and Rally Ralston were missing space in their Greenwood Village home. They had been living with a '90s-era design since they moved in in 2001 and, now, things were feeling outdated. Their chief complaint: The galley-style kitchen was far too crowded, with a small desk area that served no function. "We love to cook and entertain, but it was hard to move around with even just the two of us," says Becky, who recently retired to spend more time with her grandchildren.



Sterling was able to create an inviting MASTER BATHROOM with a new shower, faucet and sink from the Ultra Design Center and a mirror and vanity stool from AllModern. "Everything in this bathroom has a place," Sterling says.



They also wanted to make changes to the family room and their first-floor master bathroom and master bedroom. In other words, it was time for a remodel. **Kristina Sterling of Seek Interior Design** led the charge, transforming the choppy kitchen and a mauve family room, among the other areas on the Ralstons' list, into sleek, bright and modern spaces. "Now, our home feels open, fresh and new," Becky says.

The key to Sterling's room-by-room renovation: Design changes that are fashion-forward but not trendy—ensuring a look that will last for years to come.

1. The kitchen is brightened and re-arranged to make 300 more square feet of usable space.

Previously, the room was crowded with a small eating nook and a sliver of an island with a cooktop stove. The dishwasher and sink are now where that unused desk workspace was, helping the kitchen flow better. The Ralstons' favorite feature of the remodel? The kitchen island, with the dramatic pendant lighting. "The island is what everyone comments on when they first see the kitchen," Becky says. "It has changed how we move around the kitchen when we have guests over." White cabinetry and a Decorative Materials backsplash also contribute to the open feel.

2. Hardwood floors and a new fireplace add warmth to the family room.

Carpet Exchange hardwood floors replaced carpet in the family room and a contemporary, linear fireplace upgraded the outdated black granite one, Sterling says. To open the room, she replaced old bookshelves with custom cabinetry created by designer Angela Otten.

3. New furniture and pops of yellow—one of the Ralstons' favorite colors—lend a cheerful, innovative aesthetic.

The Ralstons wanted recliners—non-clunky, sleek recliners—for the family room. The Natuzzi Italia variety that Sterling found hides the chairs' motorized mechanics. The statement artwork hanging in the family room came from the homeowners' own collection: Yellow accents from West Elm and custom couch pillows tie the artwork and the room together. Sterling continued the yellow in the kitchen with bright bar stools. New lighting fixtures and tables add more dimension and texture.

4. The bathroom goes neutral.

In its past life, the master bath was painted jade green and carpeted. Now, the Ralstons were looking for something a little more traditional. The room was transformed into a luxe hotel-inspired space with a neutral color palette, using Benjamin Moore's Thunder shade of gray as the main paint hue. Also updated: the tile (into Decorative Materials porcelain tiling), cabinets (into custom-made storage built by Greg and Elijah Misner), lights, shower, faucets and sinks. They also added a simple vanity area with more custom cabinets.

5. Minor moves make for a big update in the master bedroom.

The master bedroom was the smallest project of the remodel, Sterling says. The room got new carpet, furniture, "accents" and colorful bedding from West Elm. "Having those extra touches makes our bedroom feel like a sanctuary," Becky says.

THE MASTER BEDROOM got updated fixtures and decor, such as a Moroni swivel chair and ottoman from Charles Eisen and RH nightstand, lamp and headboard. "Once we finished the family room and kitchen, the Ralstons were fully on board with new, fun furniture for the master," adds Sterling.

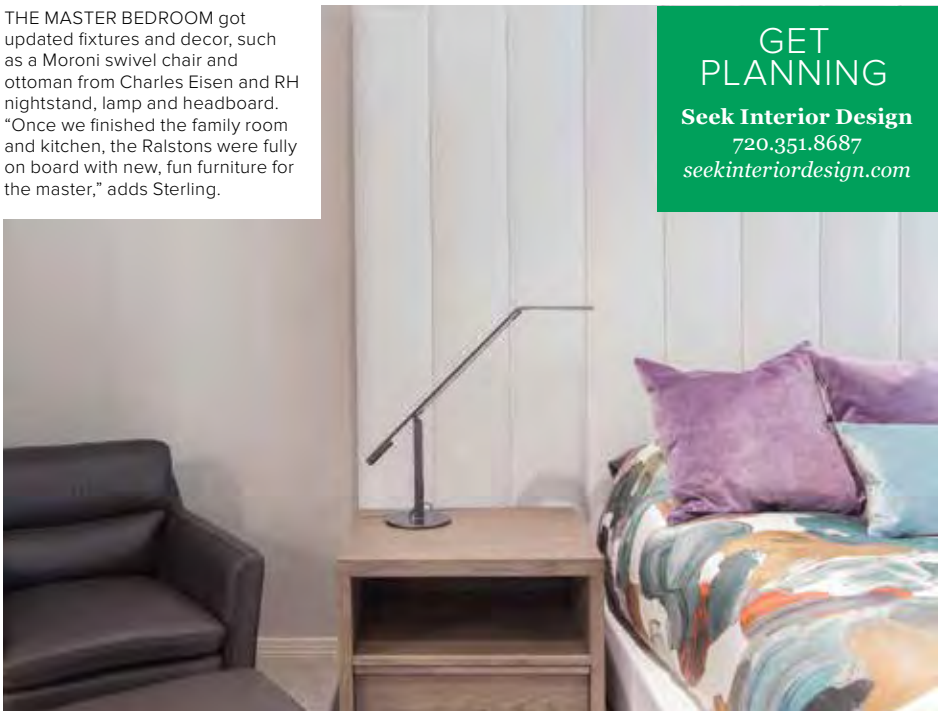


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PHOTO: COURTESY IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL DENVER CHAPTER 66

flower POWER

ARRANGING BLOOMS IS ABOUT TO GET A LOT MORE MEANINGFUL.

By Annie Nagel

IT'S EASY to live in the moment here. I'm standing in **Sogetsu School of Ikebana** Sensei Kinko Ohata's home studio watching three of her students intentionally place branches, flowers and leaves into planters. They carefully cut, angle and set each blossom, creating a traditional Japanese triangular silhouette.

One would think that, with such purpose in an albeit beautiful flower arrangement, Ohata's students would feel nothing but pressure. But looking around the only thing you see is peace—a true enjoyment of the methodical approach. "This is my meditation," says Cindy Livingston, one of Ohata's more advanced students.

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The Sogetsu School of Ikebana is in its 92nd year as one of the largest schools of ikebana, also known as the art of Japanese flower arranging, worldwide. Ikebana looks beyond obvious beauty and teaches appreciation for the fleeting nature of living things. Sogetsu's approach, unlike others, breaks the rigid rules of traditional ikebana, opting instead for freedom of expression. Centennial resident Ohata, an instructor under Sogetsu's Colorado branch, has been practicing the craft for 40 years. Follow these steps for your own ikebana breather.

1. SUPPLIES

All that's needed to begin are your favorite plants, a container and a pair of scissors or shears. The container type will depend on the ikebana style chosen–*Moribana*, a beginner arrangement, uses a shallow container and *Nageire* uses a tall, narrow vase. For shallow containers, you will need a tool called a *kenzan* (also referred to as a spiky frog or flower frog) to support stems. Tip: The color of your vessel should complement your plants.





PHOTOS: COURTESY IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL DENVER CHAPTER 66



APRIL FLOWERS (Above) Ohata putting the final touches on an arrangement, (left) a recent piece from Cindy Livingston, (right) basic ikebana tools

2. PICK YOUR PLANTS

Sogetsu basics call for three main stems of varying lengths for each arrangement: *Shin*, the longest stem, represents "the heavens;" *Soe*, the second longest, symbolizes humanity; and *Hikae*, the shortest stem, signifies the earth. Ohata and the Sogetsu school say it's best to start with branches for *Shin* and *Soe* and a flower for *Hikae*. Use any plants and flowers you like—we have our eye on cherry blossom stems and wildflowers right now. Tip: Unlike Western arrangements, ikebana sees beauty in both life and death. Don't be afraid to experiment with wilting and dried flowers—wrap wilted flowers in wet newspaper and submerge in water before using.

3. TRIM

First, remove all excess foliage from stems. Then, trim to these designated lengths: *Shin* should be 1 ½-times the height and diameter of the container, *Soe* three-fourths the size of *Shin* and *Hikae* three-fourths the length of *Soe*. Tips: Trim stems in water to help your plants live longer and trim at an angle for the *kenzan*; the



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longer side of the stem can be placed towards the direction you want the stem to lean.

4. ARRANGE

Sogetsu teaches two core arrangement techniques: Basic Upright and Basic Slanting. Basic Upright in a *Moribana*-style container is the first arrangement Sogetsu students learn and create. In other words, it's the best place to start. (Note: The below angles are measured from the upright position; when a stem is standing perfectly upright it is at zero degrees.)

Place the *kenzan* to the left of the center of your shallow container and pour water into your planter until the *kenzan* is almost fully submerged. Sit your *Shin* stem upright in the *kenzan* and slant 10-15 degrees to the left. Next, place the *Soe* stem in the *kenzan* and lean about 45 degrees to the left. Finally, place and lean your *Hikae* 75 degrees to the right—this should create an appropriate tension between the other two stems and make ikebana's traditional triangular, asymmetrical shape.

Now, play with placing supporting pieces, called *Jushi*, to add volume and cover the *kenzan*. *Jushi* can be any kind of flower, leaf or branch and has no specific length requirements. To finish, add enough water to fill the container and completely cover the *kenzan*.

5. SHOW IT OFF

Your arrangement can go anywhere: Modern ikebana displays are meant to be seen from a 360-degree angle.

6. STAYING ALIVE

Most arrangements will only last about a week, depending on your materials. The delicate nature of ikebana makes even the smallest adjustment difficult, but managing to change the water may extend the life of an arrangement.



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TREND REPORT

A NEW SEASON brings loads of new accessories. We asked Rebel boutique owner Robyn Bairstow to talk us through three of spring's best adornments, and then went shopping. Enjoy our spoils.

By Dahlia Jean Weinstein



NEW CHUCKS
Converse Chuck Taylor All Star platform, $75, at **Nordstrom** Park Meadows and Cherry Creek Shopping Center, *nordstrom.com*



SOLD ON SEQUINS
Giuseppe Zanotti metallic low-top, $725, at **Neiman Marcus** Cherry Creek Shopping Center, *neimanmarcus.com*



ZIP AND GO
Frye Lena platform sneaker, $228, at Nordstrom

CHUNKY KICKS

"Few shoe silhouettes can be considered staples in our off-duty lives, but sneakers are undeniably at the front of the 'out-of-office' pack," Bairstow says. Try these metallic and neutral platform types.



STURDY LACES
AGL perforated platform in talc leather, $388, at Nordstrom





BOLD AND GEOMETRIC
Dolce & Gabbana Super Queen trainer, $995, at Neiman Marcus





SUBTLE SNAKESKIN
Steve Madden Cliff "Dad" platform, $99, at **Macy's** Park Meadows, *macys.com*



THE "DAD SNEAKER"
Lola Cruz Luqui sneaker, $225, at **Rebel**, Greenwood Village, *facebook.com/shoprebel*



JUST ADD RUFFLES
Tory Sport low-top, $228, at Neiman Marcus



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SOPHISTICATED OMBRE
MICHAEL Michael Kors Sloan shoulder bag with chain, starting at $228, at Macy's



INSPIRED AMERICANA
Isabel Marant New Wardy shopper, $990, at Nordstrom



STUDDED AND SWEET
Kate Spade New York White Rock Road Jamie, $398, at *katespade.com*

SLIGHTLY NAUTICAL
MICHAEL Michael Kors Isla washed denim ring tote, $248, at **Dillards** Park Meadows, *dillards.com*





PATCHWORK PERFECTION
Hammitt Mr.G satchel in Jarty, $495, at **Rebel**



CLASSIC SATCHEL
Tory Burch Lee Radziwill structured handbag, $698, at Nordstrom

ALL IN THE DETAILS
Prada shopper with multicolor stitching, $1,270, at Neiman Marcus





GREAT GRUNGE
Proenza Schouler PS1 tiny satchel, $1,735, at Neiman Marcus

PRETTY AND PRACTICAL
State of Escape Guise perforated tote, $390, at Neiman Marcus



POLISHED TEXTURE
MICHAEL Michael Kors Whitney bag, $328, at Dillards



GUYS' GUIDE

Five popular accessories that are easy to add to your spring wardrobe.



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FROM THE DEEP BLUE SEA

We may be landlocked, but ocean inspirations are washing up in jewelry collections everywhere. "The shell jewelry trend has evolved from being more casual in 2018 to much more sophisticated and chic today," says Bairstow.



FRESHWATER BAROQUE
Alexander McQueen shell bracelet, $1,790, at *alexandermcqueen.com*



CHARMED LIFE
Chan Luu Mokuba necklace with mother-of-pearl accents, $175, at **Rebel**



THE LONG LOOK
Viktoria Hayman long disc necklace, $395, at Neiman Marcus



PROMINENT PENDANT
NEST Jewelry shell pendant necklace, $195, at Neiman Marcus



ALL EARS
Chan Luu Champagne hoop earrings with freshwater pearls and seashells, $105, at **Rebel**



CULTURED CLASSIC
Ross-Simons cultured pearl and pink enamel necklace, $599, at *ross-simons.com*



STAR OF THE SHOW
Ross-Simons sand dollar ring, $165, at *ross-simons.com*



BURIED TREASURE
Ross-Simons drop earrings, $299, at *ross-simons.com*



UNLIKELY DUO
Alexander McQueen mismatched hoop earrings, $490, at *alexandermcqueen.com*



PURE AND SIMPLE
Isabel Marant cowrie earrings, $105, at *netaporter.com*



SHOULDER-LENGTH SHELL
Kendra Scott Brooklyn linear earrings, $110, at Nordstrom



ALL IN THE WRIST
Isabel Marant cowrie bracelet, $115, at *netaporter.com*



ON-POINT PUKA
Tohum puka gold-plated necklace, $420, at *netaporter.com*











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Dewy Delight

By Kendall Kostelic

TO UPDATE your makeup routine for the season ahead, just look to the weather outside. The hues of new blooms provide an inspired color palette and April showers serve as a reminder to opt for skin so moisturized it gives off a noticeable sheen. Erroll Perkins, a lauded makeup artist and stylist who calls Nordstrom at Cherry Creek Shopping Center home, talks us through the specifics.



MODEL: BATYA G. CRUZ, NXTMODEL & NATALIE LYNN TALENT; MAKEUP: ERROLL PERKINS; PHOTOS: CHAD CHISHOLM, CUSTOM CREATIONS & C2 MEDIA; OUTFIT: CUPCAKES & CASHMERE BLOUSE, $98, AT WISH BOUTIQUE

MOISTURIZER

"For that dewy opalescence, I started with Lancome's Absolue cream for the eyes and face, then YSL's lightweight oil and Nars The Multiple Stick on the cheeks." *YSL OR Rouge oil, $255, Nordstrom Cherry Creek Shopping Center, Nordstrom Park Meadows, nordstrom.com*



EYESHADOW

"I call this a dark sunset look. The layers: two Giorgio Armani Eyes to Kill Stellar creams ($35) on the eyelid and then the Armani Eye Quattro Festival palette—burnt orange over the eyelid, gold on the ball of the eye, brown on the outside corner and white under the brow bone and on the inside corner." *Giorgio Armani Eye Quattro eyeshadow palette, $58, at Nordstrom*



NEW CONCEALER ALERT

"The new Armani Power Fabric concealers are very creamy, rich and soothing. They hydrate and open the eyes." *Giorgio Armani Power Fabric high coverage concealer, $34, at Nordstrom*

CONTOURS AND MORE

"The Nars bronzing powder adds warmth and the Diorskin Luminizer, topped with the Dior Rouge blush, brings out the cheekbones. I finished with YSL Tatouage lip stain in Nude Emblem, a big spring color, and Armani Ecstasy Lacquer lip gloss." *YSL Tatouage Couture lip stain, $37, at Nordstrom*





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A BOXED WAGER
Mariel yellow short-brim hat, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing, Cherry Creek North, 303.623.1151, *marielboutique.com*; Ranjana Khan handmade crystal earrings, $475, at **Neiman Marcus**, Cherry Creek Shopping Center, 303.329.2600, *neimanmarcus.com*; Mauzie Infinity Love necklace, $275, at **Mauzie's Fine Jewelry**, Centennial, 303.779.9300, *mauzies.com*; Cinq a Sept Janae blazer, $495, at **Rebel**, Greenwood Village, 720.283.1004, *facebook.com/shoprebel;* Yellow gloves, model's own

Hat Heaven

Time to start thinking about your Kentucky Derby outfit. The 145th year of the iconic style event and 18th year of the Denver Derby Party—the biggest Derby fête outside Churchill Downs—is right around the corner (May 4, to be exact). Your inspiration: the season's best minimalist and over-the-top looks modeled by major style influencer and hat connoisseur Judith Boyd of Style Crone. Let's get ready for the grandstand!

By Kendall Kostelic
Photos: Chad Chisholm, Custom Creations & C2 Studios
Model: Judith Boyd, Style Crone
Stylist: Jani Duncan Smith
Makeup Artist: Erroll Perkins



MINI *and* MARVELOUS

FOR A QUIRKIER Derby experience, make your way to the adults-only **Denver Mini Derby**. Running from 1 to 6 p.m. May 4, the adorable afternoon features a corgi race, mini horse "race," best-dressed contests and, yes, a live screening of the traditional Derby. The event supports Minds Matter Denver, an organization helping students from low-income environments get to college.
denverminiderby.com

EXACTA WAGER
Mariel pink wide-brim hat, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing; C/Meo Collective Petition top, $165, at **Denver Darling**, Cherry Creek North, 303.993.4511, *denverdarlingboutique.com*; Etro white pants, $1,360; Chloe Nile satchel bag, $1,690; and Prada slingback pumps with bow, $890, all at **Neiman Marcus**



TRIFECTA WAGER
Mariel leopard-print wide-brim hat, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing; Mauzie heart necklace, $495; long pearl strand, $275; and Line Your Life With Love bracelet, $1,100, all at **Mauzie's Fine Jewelry**; Etro jacquard jacket, $2,105, and Prada color-block slingback pump, $990, both at **Neiman Marcus**; Sage the Label Delilah dress, $98, at **W Boutique**, Happy Canyon Shopping Center, 720.476.4990, *wishdenver.com*

EXACTA WAGER
Mariel white fascinator, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing; Mauzie Fringes Baroque diamond necklace, $1,295, and heart necklace, $495, both at **Mauzie's Fine Jewelry**; Olivia Belle floral dress, $98, at **White Oak Formal Boutique**, Littleton, 720.550.6194, *facebook.com*; Prada color-block slingback pump, $990, at **Neiman Marcus**



THREE QUESTIONS FOR...

TERRANCE HUNT,
a Denver Derby Party co-founder who grew up in Centennial.

What inspired you and Scott Anderson to start the Denver Derby Party?
"We both went to Colorado State University and had a mutual friend, Sean Lough, who unfortunately passed away at 29 in a mountain biking accident. We created a Colorado State University scholarship fund in his honor and started throwing events around town to raise money. The last time I saw Sean was at the Kentucky Derby, so I had this great memory of him there. We had 138 people at our first party and filled a water cooler with money. Now, here we are—with 5,000 to 6,000 people attending and major corporate sponsors."

How many scholarships do you give away every year?
"I believe, total, we have given away 55 full-ride scholarships to underprivileged students. We are able to offer three to four a year."

Any tips for making the most out of this year's bash?
"Get a hotel and make a weekend out of it. People come to Denver from all over the U.S. for this party—even people from Kentucky."
denverderby.com

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JUDITH'S TOP HAT TIPS

FORGET THE RULES

"There is certainly advice for what types of hats go best with certain face shapes out there, but I don't pay any attention to that. If I love a hat and love what I see in the mirror when I'm wearing it, I make that hat mine."

STYLE THEM SLANTED

"I like to tip my hats just a little bit over one eye, though not covering the eye, for that asymmetrical look."

DO TRY VEILS

"Every woman should have a veil. They are mysterious, fun and you'll be memorable wherever you go because there aren't that many people wearing them right now. I love to wear veils when I'm going out to dinner on a Friday night."

TRYING HATS FOR THE FIRST TIME?

"Start with something understated—a fedora, a beret—from a thrift shop and practice wearing it to, say, the grocery store to see what kind of responses you get."

JUDITH BOYD is a 76-year-old Denver fashion icon and blogger. Before she started inspiring the world online, she worked as a psychiatric nurse "in an emergency setting," co-owned a hat shop and sold vintage clothing. *stylecrone.com*

Pictured above wearing a Mariel fascinator, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing; and Ralph Lauren Sherwin jean jacket, $1,590, at **Neiman Marcus**

TRIFECTA WAGER
Mariel feather hat, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing; Endless Rose jumpsuit, $110, at **Denver Darling**; Dior J'Adior ballet pump, $790, at **Neiman Marcus**

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GUYS' GUIDE

NOW IS THE TIME to don your best spring suit, says Brooks Whitworth, vice president of **Homer Reed Ltd.**

THE SUIT

"The Derby party is a classic, traditional event. In the spirit of the occasion, go retro with seersucker or white linen slacks, a blue blazer and khakis."

THE TIE

"Bow ties are big with the Derby. It has that Southern, mint julep feel. Always go with a bow tie you can tie yourself—that's what really impresses people: Women like a man that has the chutzpah to tie his own bow tie."

THE HAT

"If you really want to go over the top, go for a straw hat. I recommend shopping for one at the costume shops on South Broadway; you'll find really retro, fun options."

FOR SOMETHING MORE CASUAL

"Look for updated five-pocket pant fabrics like corduroy or poplin. Don't wear blue jeans."

Homer Reed Ltd.
Greenwood Village, 303.770.7512;
Denver, 303.298.1301
mensclothingdenver.com

A BOXED WAGER
Mariel multi-feather hat, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing; Michael Kors Collection floral gem denim jacket, $1,595, and Ash Lunatic Star sneakers, $215, at **Neiman Marcus**; Insight rainbow pant, $98, at **Wish Boutique**, Historic South Gaylord Street, 303.733.4848, *wishdenver.com*

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EXACTA WAGER
Mariel peach hat, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing; Oscar de la Renta flower hoop earrings, $425; Donna Mizani Brody blazer dress, $225; and Dior J'Adior ballet pump, $790, all at **Neiman Marcus**; Wish Boutique Style Maven necklace, $26, at **Wish Boutique**; Foxiedox Takeo column dress, $248, at **Denver Darling**



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TRIFECTA WAGER
Mariel wide-brim hat, at **Mariel**, contact store for pricing; Custom **Marie-Margot Couture** gown, see designer for pricing, South Platte Park, 303.748.3562, *mariemargot.com*

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PHOTO: EJ CARR; STYLIST: NILE OTTE

Sky High

A TYPICAL DAY FOR MOST 12-YEAR-OLDS CONSISTS OF SCHOOL, EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS AND MAYBE TIME WITH FRIENDS. **SYDNEY KENNETT**, A COMPETITIVE INDOOR SKYDIVER, IS NOT MOST 12-YEAR-OLDS.

By Kelly Smith

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It's FEET FIRST on this recent trip to Madrid.

SYDNEY KENNETT can fly. This 12-year-old Douglas County phenom swoops, twirls, dives and pirouettes using the 130-mile-an-hour wind inside Lone Tree's iFLY nearly 40-foot vertical tunnel as her landscape. Watching her, one is reminded of a hummingbird darting in the air.

Having embraced the burgeoning sport just four years ago, Sydney now competes on an international stage in indoor skydiving. She has risen through the ranks quickly, already earning impressive credentials as the two-time U.S. junior freestyle champion at the U.S. Indoor Skydiving Open National Championship, winning last year and this year, and becoming champion in the 2019 competition's Best Trick category. She is also one of the youngest members of the U.S. Indoor Skydiving team to qualify for the World Air Sports Federation competition, scheduled to take place in France this month.



She practices TRUE TEAMWORK in Spain.

Sydney's father, too, claims she is the youngest and only flier in the world to compete in all four skydiving disciplines, including Freestyle; Dynamic Flying, a fast-paced, "follow the leader" team event; Vertical Formation Skydiving, another team event; and Formation; along with that Best Trick category.

Suffice it to say that to do all that—and keep winning—Sydney doesn't spend her days like an average pre-teen. Here, what the talented flyer does to stay on top of her game:

8-11 A.M.: HITTING THE BOOKS

The seventh-grader, a member of the high I.Q. society Mensa, is homeschooled this year to allow flexibility for travel and training. A lot of her work examines her experiences as she travels and interacts with others. Right now she's working on a project incorporating her recent trip to Spain. She's also writing a paper about her media interviews and speaking engagements.

11 A.M.-NOON: STRETCH OUT

Sydney dedicates an hour each day to stretching, working through her entire body to loosen and lengthen muscles. It's an activity, she says, that helps set the stage for all of the other physical movement she does in the afternoon. She has a variety of splits in her freestyle routine, so she focuses much of the hour on her back and legs, finishing with arm stretches.

1-2 P.M.: AGILITY DRILLS

Gymnastics, trampoline and contortion training add to her skill set. Contortion training is the newest addition to Sydney's practices, and is one she has quickly grown to love. She is working on body positioning and flexibility today in preparation for this month's world championship competition: She stands and then bends in half, with her head touching her feet, as a dry-land practice for a flip/twist maneuver she does in the wind tunnel.

2-5 P.M.: REACH FOR THE SKY

Sydney typically visits the iFLY facility two to three times a week, spending three 15-minute blocks of time in the wind tunnel each visit. "If there's a competition coming, I might go every day," she adds. Her parents coach her.

After suiting up in the standard aerodynamic bodywear, she steps into the tunnel and executes a dizzying variety of flips, spins, splits and twisting maneuvers. Sydney recently introduced a signature trick to her solo freestyle routine for this month's competition called the Scorpion Stinger and is taking today to perfect it. "She basically shapes her body into a human horseshoe," explains Andrew Kennett, her dad.



Sydney is DANCING ON AIR in Virginia Beach, Va.

PHOTOS: COURTESY KENNETT FAMILY

After the first session, father and daughter review video of her moves on his phone, talking over how she felt doing a new transition and brainstorming new additions. "The collaborative communication has made our family learn how to listen to one another," says Andrew. "It's been a priceless piece of this experience." Sydney steps back into the tunnel, practicing more flexibility-based tricks.

Sydney finishes the session with a two-person practice with Cory Pope, one of her iFLY instructor partners. They carry out an intricate, timed game of "follow the leader" to prepare for the Dynamic competition. It's a sublime aerial ballet.



STRIKING A POSE before heading into the wind tunnel.

6 P.M.: WINDING DOWN

After a full day, Sydney appreciates some down time. She and her family are foodies and, while dinner this evening is a relaxed event, she has been known to create 15-plate tapas meals.

Sydney and her family have their sights set high: Indoor skydiving as a sport has been submitted for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris and, if that happens, she hopes to participate. "I like that I get to meet new people from all over the world and that we can create new tricks," she says. "I want to be a coach when I'm older." Better get on that lesson waitlist now.



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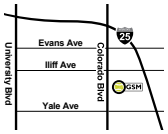

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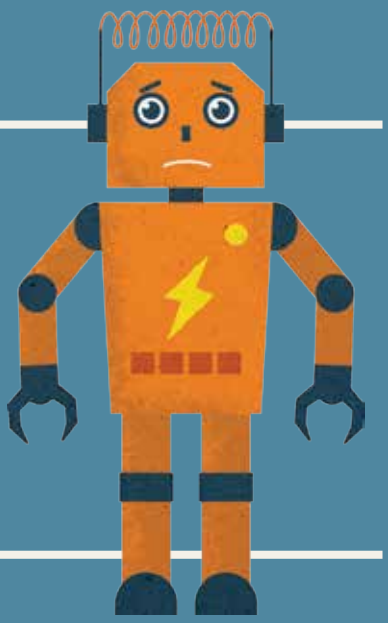

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FRANK KEESLING WORKS TO SAVE THE ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN GORILLA POPULATION, CONTINUING THE WORK OF THE LATE DIAN FOSSEY AND HIS MOTHER, RUTH KEESLING.

By Kelly Smith



GOOD HUMANS

Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund
Cherry Hills Village
saveagorilla.org

PHOTOS: COURTESY FRANK KEESLING

COLORADO BEER drinkers may not realize it, but when they enjoy a Silverback Pale Ale from Castle Rock's Rockyard Brewing Company or a Silverback Spiced Weiss, available at Wonderland Brewing Company in Broomfield, they are helping the endangered mountain gorilla. Sure, we live thousands of miles from the mist-shrouded mountains of Rwanda, one of just three homes for the world's mountain gorilla population. But Frank Keesling, president of the **Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund**—protecting the very gorillas renowned anthropologist and mountain gorilla advocate Dian Fossey devoted her life to—lives right here in Cherry Hills Village.







FIGHTING FOR LIFE (Clockwise from top) Ruth Keesling, Ruth Keesling Wildlife Health And Research Centre, Frank Keesling, Silverback Pale Ale.

"The breweries donate 50 percent of the profits from these products back to the Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund," Keesling explains. "These brews help to create awareness and, to date, have raised close to $1 million."

Keesling became president of the Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund (MGCF) in 2005 and today spends his time fundraising for the organization, but these animals—and Fossey—transformed his family's life more than three decades ago during a trip to Rwanda.

Keesling's parents met Fossey, made famous by the 1980s movie *Gorillas in the Mist*, in a hotel lobby. His mother, Ruth, with a background in veterinary medicine and strong nonprofit connections, struck up a conversation with Fossey on health issues facing the gorillas. Some examples: how deforestation was impacting the gorilla's habitat and how poachers and disease were shrinking the population. "Poachers will trap and kill gorilla family members in order to get to the babies," explains Keesling. "The babies will not leave family caught in traps, thus allowing poachers to capture and sell the babies."



You could say Ruth and Fossey really hit it off. That conversation led to Fossey speaking at a U.S. veterinary conference and an agreement to develop a veterinary program to support Fossey's work, now known as Gorilla Doctors.

After Fossey's murder in Rwanda on Dec. 26, 1985, the program stalled. But the Keesling family was determined to honor her legacy and continue fighting for this endangered species: In 1986, the first veterinarian Ruth hired for Gorilla Doctors landed in Rwanda.

Frank worked alongside his mother through the 1990s, creating and distributing educational films of the work being done to support mountain gorillas. In 2001, the MGCF came into being. The project partnered with Uganda's Makerere University to create the Ruth Keesling Wildlife Health And Research Centre, which trains wildlife veterinarians to work throughout the region. To date, the program has coached 47 vets.

Frank, too, developed the popular Gorilla Run event, a 5k race that ran for 14 years across the country (Denver included) where participants dressed and jogged in gorilla suits. He also helps facilitate small mountain gorilla encounter trips and, personally, has traveled to Rwanda upwards of 140 times. Keesling continues to honor the legacy of both Fossey and his mother, who passed away in April 2018.

Has the work made a difference? Since 1985, Keesling happily reports, the gorilla population has increased from 248 to a reported 1,004 in 2018. "Once you look into the eyes of a mountain gorilla," he says, "you are forever changed."

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PHOTOS: COURTESY LAOS SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL; MARK PONTE AND CHARLES HOAG

SIGHTSEEING Kuang Si Waterfall, (left) Mark Ponte and Charles Hoag.

LAZING *in* LAOS

By Kendall Kostelic

"I NEED A VACATION from my vacation." Have you found yourself uttering this phrase far too often lately? Time to head to **Luang Prabang, Laos**. The former capital of the Southeast Asian country is low-key (i.e., the area hasn't been overrun by tourists), worthy of sightseeing (the Mekong River runs right through the city) and, as annual visitors Mark Ponte and Charles Hoag will tell you, is just the spot for a relaxed retreat. "If you're looking for a laid-back trip with great scenery and a good vibe, this is the place for you," Ponte says. Here, the Centennial residents' tips for a tranquil, slightly adventurous escape. Let the real vacation begin.

GETTING *THERE*

"WE GO THROUGH Bangkok, Thailand and fly **Bangkok Airways**. Pretty much everyone but **Vietnam Airlines** flies prop jets to Laos thus far. If that's not your cup of tea, you can fly through Hanoi to take a commercial jet too."

EXPLORE

"They have a lot of gorgeous temples, waterfalls and nature hikes. Mount Phousi, featuring several temples, is right in the middle of town and the view from the peak is incredible. There's also a cave with more than 4,000 Buddhas called Pak Ou Caves. It's a big tourist attraction but worth seeing once.

"If you go in the summer during high-water season, you'll see the fullness of the amazing waterfalls. In winter (our favorite time to go), the water features kind of trickle.

"Another big thing in Laos is weaved fabrics. They have whole villages who do nothing but weave. We book tours to see them through **Mekong Estate**." *mekongestate.com*



SHOP

"There's a big evening market in Luang Prabang: The main street closes and a lot of local merchants bring out their products. The town has great antiques and textiles sold at fairly reasonable prices. A lot of village women in Laos wear their wealth around their neck so you can buy these massive silver necklaces as well. Our haggling tip: start at half the asking price. Another strategy is to leave the shop and see how the clerks react. Anything we buy goes in the overhead bin on the plane, where we can watch it."



PHOTO: L'ELEPHANT RESTAURANT

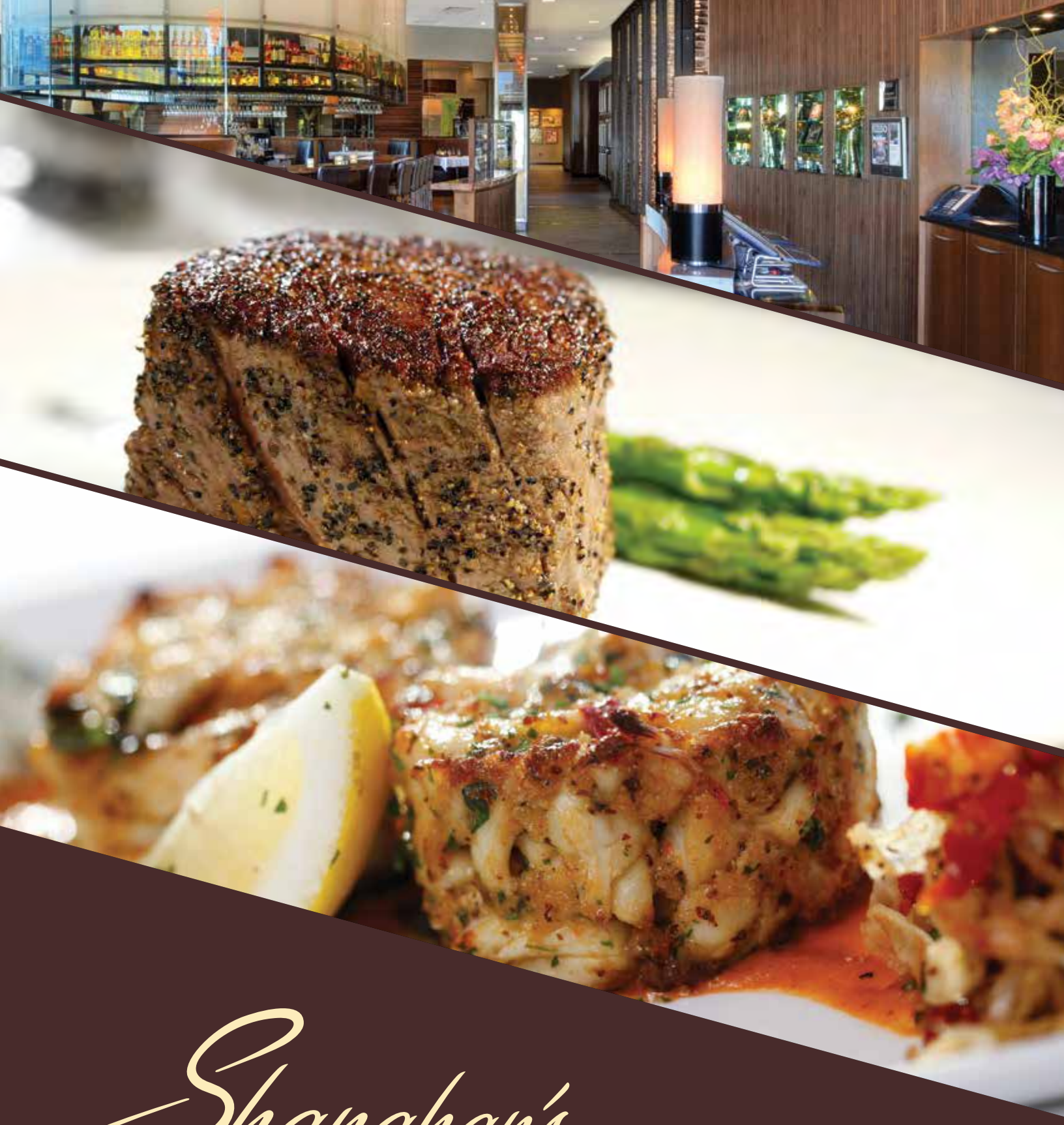
FEAST

"One of our favorite places to eat is **L'Elephant Restaurant**, an unbelievable French spot. The Laotians learned to make French cuisine during French colonialism from the end of the nineteenth century to the 1940s—you can get a perfect baguette and croissant here. Another favorite restaurant is **Tamarind**. As a whole, the Luang cuisine is somewhere between hors d'oeuvres and tapas—and it is delicious."



SLEEP WELL

"We book places to stay through Mekong Estate," Ponte says. "They rent apartments and homes, some broken up into individual units and some available as fully private homes. Most properties are either in town or right on the Mekong. A lot of people in town make a fuss about watching sunsets over the Mekong. We recommend renting something on the river so you can watch the night sky from your own private place: Those sunset views are stunning."



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