



PATTERNS FOR WOOD CARVING

APR 2024

A BIT MORE LIVING

MEET THE Gaudettes

PHOTO BY KATIE RICHARD PHOTOGRAPHY

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Summer Camps For Children That Love A Bit A Drama
Pages 20 & 26

The Hottest Spot In Town This Summer - Quite Literally
Page 26

POWERED BY **BVM** BEST VERSION MEDIA

THE GAUDETTEs:

Mindfulness as Artfulness

BY SYLVIA KARCZ
PHOTOS BY KATIE
RICHARD PHOTOGRAPHY

There's a young Burr Oak tree slowly growing in Richard and Lynne Gaudette's Biltmore Lake backyard, and its name is Raymond. Inspired by Raymond Burr, the leading actor of the 60s/70s television show *Ironside*, the tree is only about six feet tall at the moment, but its reach is substantially larger; much like the steadfast, wheelchair-bound detective that Burr plays in the series. And, just as many large-growth trees with several-hundred-year lifespans are, Raymond is a beacon of hope for the future. An ode to equal parts endurance, strength, and optimism.

"It's not about what you get out of it. It's about what you do to accomplish it," Richard says. "I plant a tree that I know I'll never see fully grown. But someday, somebody's going to be able to sit in the shade of that tree." Lynne adds that they even created a seat made out of stones for that future generation. They know it'll be some time before their vision comes to fruition, but for Richard and Lynne, this ability to see the magic of something long before the seams are stitched together has always guided them.

In a sense, it's the epitome of paying it forward, which makes perfect sense coming from the Gaudettes, because they've spent close to a lifetime doing it with their talents, artistically and professionally. Richard fell in love with music and painting from an early age, and Lynne was in tap classes at a mere two years old. Both also spent decades as teachers in Houston, Texas. Lynne worked with visually impaired students with varying levels of disabilities for most of her special ed career, while Richard dove into the profession a bit later



Best Version Media



in life, following a varied career as a professional musician, graphic designer, and marketing/production manager; he worked mostly with at-risk youth, teaching art, math and science, as well as music.

Although they don't deny the difficulties and often taxing demands of teaching, their time in the profession was ripe with rewards. "At the end of the day, you're not selling somebody a box that they really don't want. You're truly helping somebody and doing something positive," Richard says, adding that he knows from his own experience the impact of the right guidance. "I understood the kids and could relate. I would say: *Yeah, I grew up in the barrio, so I know what you're talking about.* I also had teachers that changed my life. They gave me a bit of self-worth and pointed me in the right direction with a lot of things."

Teaching, both in and out of the classroom, is hardly ever a straight line, though, and finding unique ways to adapt lessons is where the true beauty

of it lies. "As a teacher in special education, you have to find ways of reaching children in any way that works for them, on an individual basis. And so you have to become so creative, every day," Lynne says. It's an ability that has seamlessly transferred over into Lynne's current endeavor, teaching seniors in the Asheville community the joys of tap dancing.

"The first thing I did when we moved here from Texas was look for a place to start another tap program for seniors," Lynne says. She found her ground at the Senior Center, Harvest House, with the Asheville Parks and Recreation. In about two years, three students have grown into thirty. Whether they're beginners who have never slipped on a tap shoe or experienced dancers who are looking to rekindle their love of movement, Lynne, together with her co-teacher Gail Hensley, offers a welcoming space for people of all abilities to feel secure in their older age, learn something new, and share their passion with others.

From nursing homes and memory care centers to local events and dance competitions, the group performs at more than a dozen events each year, and like clockwork, leaves onlookers in awe. "It's amazing how the audience supports our achievement at our advanced ages. But really, what do we have to lose?" Lynne cites her mother, who continued aerobics classes well into her 90s, as one of her greatest inspirations to stay active for as long as she can. "It's encouraging for others to see that there's life down the road, where you're going to be able to achieve and feel a sense of accomplishment if you put yourself out there."



KATIE RICHARD
PHOTOGRAPHY



KTRICHARDPHOTO@GMAIL.COM
(828) 713-4867

SUMMER CAMP!

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

Online on the
We Rock the Spectrum 2.0 app

4 hours \$35 or 6 hours \$50
By the day, week or entire summer!

June 10- August 30
828-505-7556

We Rock The Spectrum®
KID'S GYM
For All Kids



Asheville Handyma'am



Tracy Germer
828 407 1979

We focus on completing tasks to give you back your time.



Have a lingering task or want to finish something you've started? Put it on Tracy's To Do List.



Lynne is keen to note that the performances often make audiences move right along with them, too. "I once had an elderly woman in memory care come up to me after a performance, and she was just so excited. She felt as if she was part of the show. Because music truly brings out the best. People will remember the words to a song or remember dancing to it...and they're moving their feet and truly feeling it. They come alive."

The relationship between performer and audience, after all, is the golden ticket behind it all. Richard also knows this firsthand, having worked as a professional musician for decades, touring in rock, bluegrass, and acoustic groups from the East Coast to the Midwest. He believes that this connection, this ability to intentionally express and share our creativity with others, is a large part of what makes us so special as human beings. It's why he finds himself gravitating to more intimate venues as of late, like the WNC Arboretum and House Concerts.

"I'm never going to do a song the same way twice because I never feel the same way twice. It's a mindful, artful thing," Richard says. "It's part of my personal philosophy. Everybody's into mindfulness, but to me, it's more about artfulness. If you're going to do something, try to put some flair into it. Try and do it a different way. Try and have fun with it. As a teacher, kids would always ask me: *where do you get creativity from?* And I always tried to explain to them that you *already* have it. You just have to learn to tap into it."

So whether orchestrating a tap dance sequence, working on a new oil painting, or redesigning their backyard space, creating beauty, in any capacity and as often as possible, reigns supreme



Richard and Lynne enjoy their musical and dance pursuits and are always open to collaborating with others in the community. If you are looking for a guitarist or tap/Tai Chi enthusiast to work with, let us know.



The Ultimate Backyard Playground!

Want your own little oasis in place by summer? Book your install now.

HOT TUBS & SWIM SPAS. OUTDOOR FURNITURE.
FIRE PITS & TABLES. PIZZA OVENS & GRILLS.
OUTDOOR KITCHENS. FUEL & MORE!

Come check out our Floor Model Specials today!

Outdoor Living 
& more



Just watching Lynne's Tai Chi video was soooooo calming...



for the Gaudettes. They feel grateful to have moved to a city that embraces the arts and the many ways people can grow within that creative space, and look forward to fostering even more opportunities with and for their community. And there's no better time than the present.

"At my age, it's now or never, so don't let fear get in your way," Lynne says of her life motto as of late. That's why she's also inspiring her community to get involved with another longtime teaching passion, Tai Chi, by sharing the art of the practice with residents at Biltmore Lake's Clubhouse. All while signing her dance group up for even more events and competitions. "I'm so grateful that I can tap and move around and do things when I see many people who cannot. But part of my gratefulness is that I can share it with others, too. Dance enables me to meet all these wonderful people, and we share these special experiences of going to nursing homes, doing competitions, or just having fun together. But it's more than just the act of being able to tap: it's being able to do more, and connect with other people."



Lynne's Tip Top Tappers From Asheville Earning The Trophy At The World UCA Championships



Discover exquisite windows and doors
 Design • Innovation • Engineering



**LAUREL
 WINDOWS**

European tilt/turn windows • pivot doors • large-opening sliders & bifolds • entry & patio doors

828.553.7862 | www.laurelwindows.us | Brevard, NC