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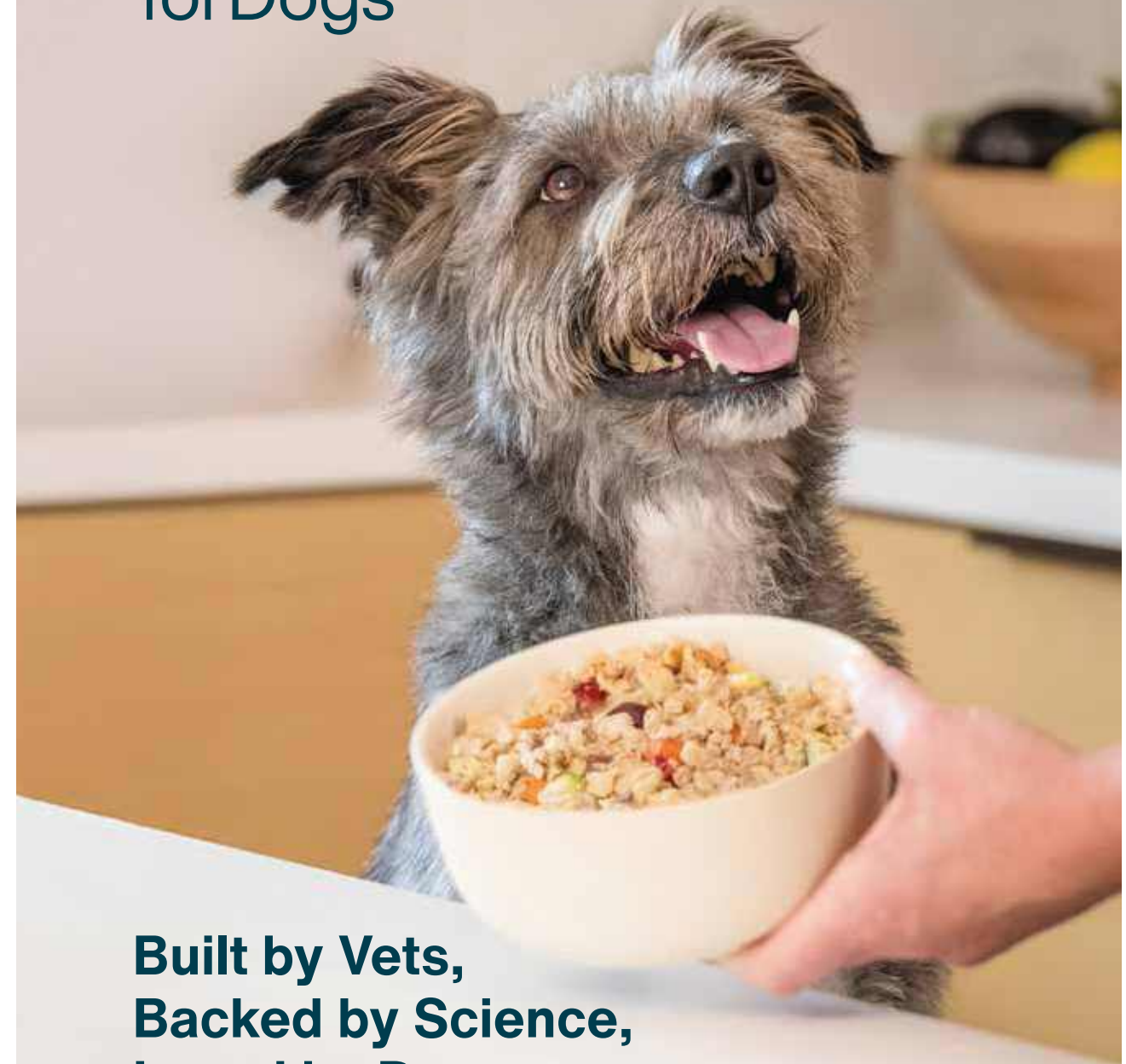


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*The Arizona Women's Board welcomes you to the
Forty-Sixth Annual Friends of Erma Bombeck*

**AUTHORS
LUNCHEON**
twenty twenty-five

Saturday, November 15, 2025
Arizona Biltmore

ADRIANA TRIGIANI, Luncheon Emcee
The View from Lake Como

with

LEIGH BARDUGO
Six of Crows
Crooked Kingdom

GESINE BULLOCK-PRADO
My Harvest Kitchen

LISA GARDNER
Kiss Her Goodbye

JODI PICOULT
By Any Other Name

PETER WOLF
Waiting on the Moon



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WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 46th Annual Friends of Erma Bombeck Authors Luncheon! Today, we honor the legacy of Erma Bombeck who started this fundraising event decades ago to fight kidney disease.

Erma had a gift for finding humor and heart in everyday life. This year's cowgirl motif feels especially fitting—she embodies resilience, independence and a quiet strength. Like Erma, she faces life's challenges with courage, authenticity and a steady sense of hope.

With the same spirit, the Arizona Women's Board proudly carries on what Erma began in 1980—gathering best-selling authors each year to support kidney patients and their families in our community. Due to your generosity, funds from today's luncheon directly support programs that assist dialysis patients, transplant recipients and kidney disease research, and help thousands more through early detection and kidney disease prevention efforts. We thank our Arizona Women's Board Members, Active and Sustaining, for embracing our luncheon traditions and history, with a drive to explore and innovate.

Similarly, we extend a heartfelt thank you to our six outstanding authors and a special thanks to our Honorary Board Member Adriana Trigiani who has kept us laughing for more than a decade as Luncheon Emcee. Most importantly, we thank each of you for joining us. Your community-minded spirit and willingness to help others makes a tremendous difference.

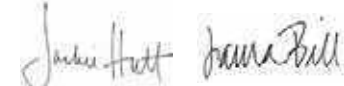
With gratitude,

Susan Doria & Susan Purtill



Co-Presidents, Arizona Women's Board

Jackie Hutt & Laura Bill



Luncheon Chairmen, Authors Luncheon

authorsluncheonaz.org

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Susan Doria and Susan Purtill



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for those suffering from kidney disease.*



LUNCHEON
MENU

First Course

Chipotle Smoked Gazpacho

*Tortilla Crunch, Toasted Pinenuts Cucumber,
Tomato Pico and Fresh Mint*



Entrée

Coriander and Tajin Crusted Seared Salmon

*Fresh Butter Lettuce, Cucumber, Local Baby Heirloom Tomatoes,
Pickled Red Onions, Cilantro Sprigs, Pepitas and Pomegranate Seeds
Served with a Mezcal & Lime Honey Vinaigrette*



Dessert

Creamy Dulce de Leche Cheesecake

*Oreo Crust, Dulce de Leche Sauce, Fresh Raspberry
and Santorini Chocolate Garnish*

Arizona Biltmore Coffee Service

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**Congratulations to the Arizona Women's Board. Thank you for
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The mission of the Arizona Women's Board is commitment to prevent kidney disease through awareness, education and research and to improve the quality of life for Arizonans with kidney disease.

The Arizona Women's Board has raised more than \$14 million since the first Authors Luncheon in 1980. Net proceeds from last year's luncheon enabled the Arizona Women's Board to grant \$545,000 to six kidney health programs in Arizona.

National Kidney Foundation of Arizona

Patient Assistance for Rent, Food and Supplements; The Path to Wellness; Drive for Dialysis; and Camp Kidney

Patient assistance programs support one-time rent payments for kidney patients in an emergency situation; grocery store gift cards; a kidney cookbook; and protein supplements not covered by health insurance. The Path to Wellness program provides point-of-care kidney screenings with on-site results and secure travel cases for expensive equipment. Drive for Dialysis provides 500 care packages for individuals undergoing dialysis. Camp Kidney provides a special weekend away from home for pediatric kidney patients and their families.

Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation

Nephrology Patient Assistance; Blood Pressure Cuffs, Urine Dipsticks

Patient assistance programs provide preventive, financial, psychosocial and ancillary support to pediatric patients receiving dialysis, kidney transplants and treatment for kidney-related illness and disease. This includes infant and child blood pressure cuffs for at-home pressure monitoring to avoid medication; ambulatory blood pressure machines for 24-hour monitoring; 800 urine protein dipsticks for patients with nephrotic syndrome; and funds for emergent situations involving supplies, utilities, rent, car payments, gas and foods.

St. Joseph's Foundation

Kidney Transplant Patient Support Fund

The kidney transplant patient support fund ensures all patients getting a transplant at the Kidney Transplant Program at St. Joseph's Norton Thoracic Institute receive the best care possible. Kidney transplants are expensive and can reach nearly a half-million in total costs, not including the lifetime of immunosuppressant medications needed to ward off organ rejection. Funds will assist transplant patients most in need of financial support with out-of-pocket expenses for medicines, transportation, lodging and food.

TGen Foundation

Leveraging Liquid Biopsies for Early Detection of Diabetic Kidney Disease and Creating Better Reference Genomes for Native American Ancestry

The liquid biopsy study will investigate the protein composition of urinary extracellular vesicles and urinary metabolites in a cross-sectional cohort of 30 patients with diabetic kidney disease. Creating non-invasive diagnostic tools and prognostic markers can help patients better manage their illness, monitor progression and prevent end-stage renal disease. The genome for Native Americans ancestry study will develop Native American reference genomes by aggregating information from multiple individuals (a pan-reference genome) as well as by creating a prospective or de novo assembly of a single individual's Native American ancestry genome. Both genomes will help identify clinical variants in individuals with Native American ancestry.

Transplant Community Alliance

Living Assistance Fund

The living assistance fund provides relief from financial stress caused by a kidney transplant and allows low-income kidney transplant recipients as well as candidates on the donor waitlist to focus on their care and healing. Assistance is a one-time payment to bridge a gap between loss of income from a transplant and living expenses. Eligible expenses include rent payments, utility bills, transportation costs, co-pays for medications and insurance premiums. Payments are made directly to the provider on behalf of the kidney patient.

Valleywise Health Foundation

Arizona Women's Board for Healthier Families Food Pharmacy

The food pharmacy uses food as medicine for diverse, low-income patients and their families to reduce obesity, hypertension, pre-diabetes and diabetes, that left unchecked can lead to kidney disease. Staff at Valleywise health clinics provide healthy food, nutritional counseling, cooking workshops, opportunities for activity and movement, family support, prevention education, health information, and social support to improve patient health outcomes. Valleywise utilizes Farm Express, that operates mobile markets, to ensure medically vulnerable community members have consistent access to affordable, healthy foods at the food markets.



Thank you for your donation in support of Arizona Kidney Patients

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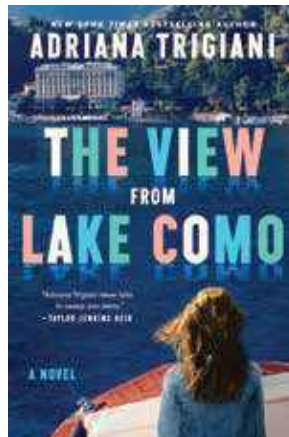
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ADRIANA TRIGIANI

Luncheon Emcee



Adriana Trigiani is the *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty-one books of fiction and nonfiction. Her work has been published in thirty-eight languages around the world. An award-winning playwright, television writer/producer, and filmmaker, Trigiani wrote and directed the major motion picture of her debut novel, *Big Stone Gap*, adapted her novel, *Very Valentine*, for television, and directed the documentary, *Queens of the Big Time*, among others. In 2023, President Sergio Matterella of Italy awarded Trigiani the Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia. The Library of Virginia bestowed their highest honor, the Patron of Letters degree, to Trigiani in 2024. She received the 2025 Ellis Island Medal of Honor for her significant contributions to literature, culture, and community. Trigiani grew up in Appalachia, in the mountains of Virginia, where she co-founded The Origin Project, a year-round, in-school writing program that has served over 25,000 students since its inception in 2014. Trigiani is proud to serve on the New York State Council on the Arts. She lives in Greenwich Village with her family.



The View from Lake Como

Jess Capodimonte Baratta is not living the life of her dreams. Not even close. In blue-collar Lake Como, New Jersey, family comes first. Recently divorced from Bobby Bilancia, “the perfect husband,” Jess moves into her parents’ basement to hide and heal. Jess is the overlooked daughter, who dutifully takes care of her parents, cooks Sunday dinner, and puts herself last. Despite her role as the family handmaiden, Jess is also a talented draftswoman in the marble business run by her dapper uncle Louie, who believes she can do anything (once she invests in a better wardrobe).

When the Capodimonte and Baratta families endure an unexpected loss, the shock unearths long-buried secrets that will force Jess to question her loyalty to those she trusted. Fueled by her lost dreams, Jess takes fate into her own hands and escapes to her ancestral home, Carrara, Italy.

From the shadows of the majestic marble-capped mountains of Tuscany, to the glittering streets of Milan, and on the shores of enchanting Lake Como (the other one), Jess begins to carve a place in this new/old world. When she meets Angelo Strazza, a passionate artist who works in gold, she discovers her own skills are priceless. But as Jess uncovers the truth about her family history, it will change the course of her life and those she loves the most forever. In love and work, in art and soul, Jess will need every tool she has mastered to reinvent her life.

Fed by the author’s cherished Italian roots comes a bighearted, hilarious novel of the moment: the story of one woman’s determination to live a creative life that matters, with enough room left over for love. With a one-way ticket to Italy, Jess is determined to write a new story on her own terms—this time, in stone.

Photo Credit: Tim Stephenson



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LEIGH BARDUGO



Leigh Bardugo is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Familiar*, *Ninth House* and the creator of the *Grishaverse* (now a Netflix original series) which spans the *Shadow and Bone* trilogy, the *Six of Crows* duology, the *King of Scars* duology—and much more. Her short fiction has appeared in multiple anthologies including *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy*. She lives in Los Angeles and is an associate fellow of Pauli Murray College

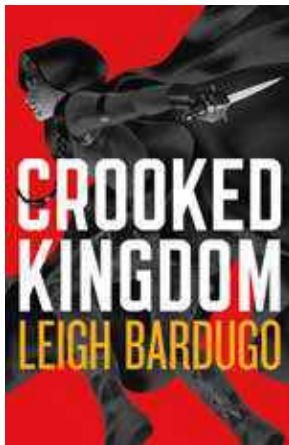
Crooked Kingdom

Kaz and his crew have just pulled off a heist so daring even they didn't think they'd survive. But instead of divvying up a reward, they're back to fighting for their lives. Double-crossed and badly weakened, the crew is low on resources, allies, and hope. As forces from around the world descend on Ketterdam, old rivals and new enemies emerge to challenge Kaz's cunning and test the team's fragile loyalties. A war will be waged on the city's dark and twisting streets—a battle for revenge and redemption that will decide the fate of the world as they know it.

Six of Crows

Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price—and no one knows that better than criminal mastermind Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly job that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone...

Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first.



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GESINE BULLOCK-PRADO



My Harvest Kitchen

Experience the Seasons on Your Plate with *My Harvest Kitchen: 100+ Recipes to Savor Every Season* by New York Times Bestselling Author, Gesine Bullock-Prado. She returns, with a whimsical ode to the seasons in her most delicious cookbook yet.

Step into a world of vibrant flavors, heartfelt storytelling, and seasonal delights. This innovative collection celebrates the joys of cooking with the rhythm of the seasons, blending farm-to-table philosophy with approachable recipes.

With a wink and a whisk, Gesine invites readers into her delightfully imperfect world of “half-assed homesteading,” where compost may fail, but the biscuits never do. With humor and authenticity, the book navigates the ups and downs of gardening, raising chickens, and sourcing local ingredients. The author’s honest reflections invite readers to embrace imperfection, whether they are seasoned gardeners or casual home cooks. Bullock-Prado invites readers to embark on a culinary journey that balances the art of mindful growing, sustainable living, and celebrating fresh, local ingredients.

A Cookbook for Every Season, with a structure reflecting the natural cycle of the year, *My Harvest Kitchen* is divided into three evocative sections:

1. Hope: Spring’s first harvests, including ramps, asparagus, and rhubarb, inspire vibrant dishes like *Zucchini Waffles* and *Creamy Roast Garlic Soup*.
2. Harvest: Summer’s abundance takes center stage with recipes like *Ugly Tomato Cheesy Bean Dip* and *Aunt Sis’ Tomato Sandwich*, celebrating the joy of cooking fresh from the garden.
3. Hibernate: Cozy, comforting recipes for winter, such as *Butter Chicken* and *Sour Cherry Pie*, make use of long-storing vegetables and preserved summer flavors.

Whether you’re a seasoned cook, a curious gardener, or simply someone who likes their kitchen sprinkled with both flour and laughter, *My Harvest Kitchen* offers a generous helping of inspiration with every page.

A Voice Like No Other Bullock-Prado’s signature humor, honesty, and deep love of food come through on every page. More than just a cookbook, *My Harvest Kitchen* tells the story of her journey from Hollywood hustle to Vermont homesteading—complete with chickens, bees, heirloom vegetables, and a kitchen philosophy she calls “gentle harvesting.”

Photo Credit: Raymond Prado

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LISA GARDNER



Lisa Gardner is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling thriller novelist with over 30 million copies of her books in print worldwide and published in over 30 languages. *The Associated Press* has called her “the master of the psychological thriller.” A self-described research junkie, Lisa has transformed her interest in police procedure and criminal minds into a streak of internationally acclaimed novels. She’s also had four books become TV movies (*At the Midnight Hour*; *The Perfect Husband*; *The Survivors Club*; *Hide*) and has made personal appearances on TruTV and CNN.

Her novel, *The Neighbor*, won Best Hardcover Novel from the *International Thriller Writers*, while also receiving the Grand Prix des Lectrices de Elle in France. She was also recognized with the Daphne du Maurier Award in 2000 for *The Other Daughter*. Finally, Lisa received the Silver Bullet Award from the International Thriller Writers in 2017 for her work on behalf of at-risk children and the Humane Society.

For a bit of fun, Lisa invites her readers to enter the annual “Kill a Friend, Maim a Buddy” Sweepstakes at LisaGardner.com. Every year, one Lucky Stiff is selected to meet a grand end in Lisa’s latest novel. Past winners have nominated spouses, best friends and even themselves.

An avid hiker, gardener and cribbage player, Lisa lives with her family in New England. *Kiss Her Goodbye* is her 29th book and part of her Frankie Elkin series. For more information about Lisa, please visit her website at www.lisagardner.com and follow her on Facebook, Instagram, and X at @LisaGardnerBks.

Kiss Her Goodbye

Meet Frankie Elkin, a vigilante investigator who picks up where law enforcement leaves off, going the extra mile to find missing people and bring closure to their families.

In her latest case, Frankie is called to Tucson, Arizona to find a missing Afghan refugee, whose friend suspects she is in grave danger. Sabera Ahmadi is a young mother haunted by war and determined to make a fresh start in the United States before she disappeared. Local police have yet to open a case on her so at her friend’s insistence, Frankie takes up the search through the broiling streets of Tucson. Just in time for a video of Sabera to surface—showing her walking away from the scene of a brutal double murder. When everything is on the line, how far would you go to protect the ones you love?

Photo Credit: Philbrick Photography



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JODI PICOULT



By Any Other Name

Jodi Picoult is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty-nine novels, renowned for combining richly drawn characters with timely and thought-provoking themes. Her books, including *Mad Honey* (co-written with Jennifer Finney Boylan), *Wish You Were Here*, *The Book of Two Ways*, *A Spark of Light*, *Small Great Things*, *Leaving Time*, and *My Sister's Keeper*, have been translated widely and have reached millions of readers around the world. She has also co-authored two young adult novels, *Between the Lines* and *Off the Page*, with her daughter Samantha van Leer.



Picoult's work is celebrated not only for its emotional depth and meticulous research but also for tackling complex moral and ethical issues with nuance and compassion. Whether writing about reproductive rights, racism, school shootings, or end-of-life choices, she invites readers into intimate, often controversial spaces that challenge assumptions and spark conversation.

In addition to her literary achievements, Picoult is a passionate and vocal advocate for intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. She has emerged as one of our nation's most outspoken opponents of book banning, working with organizations such as PEN America and Unite Against Book Bans to defend the right to read. Her essays and speeches on the subject have resonated with educators, librarians, and readers nationwide.

A Princeton and Harvard-educated writer, Picoult lives in New Hampshire with her husband. She is a proud mother and grandmother.

Photo Credit: Tim Lleyellyn



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PETER WOLF



Peter Wolf, born in the Bronx NY, became a rock 'n' roll convert at the age of eleven after tagging along to a Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly and Jerry Lee Lewis concert. The die was cast for good when he ditched art school for his first band, the Hallucinations.

Wolf moonlighted as a DJ on late night radio as the "Woofa Goofa" spinning obscure rock 'n' roll and early rhythm and blues which enhanced the style of his next group, the J. Geils Band, who went on to top the charts with classic hits like "Freeze Frame," "Love Stinks," and "Centerfold."

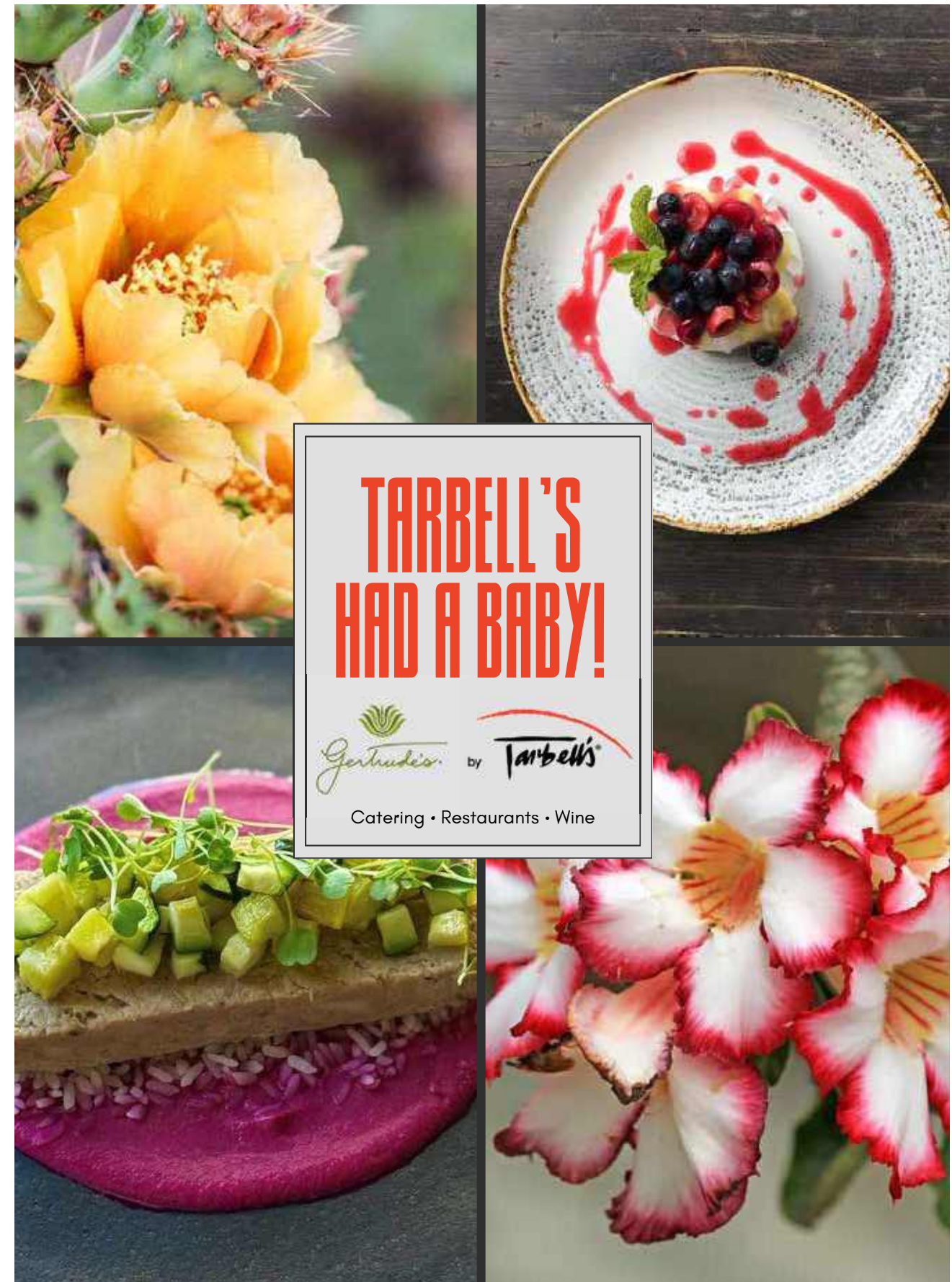
Wolf's equally illustrious solo career is highlighted by collaborations with Aretha Franklin, Merle Haggard, John Lee Hooker, and Mick Jagger, among others. His album *Sleepless* was voted one of the top five hundred albums of all time by *Rolling Stone*. He currently tours with his band 'The Midnight Travelers' and will be releasing his ninth solo album in 2025. He lives and works from his home base in Boston, Massachusetts.

Waiting on the Moon

Endorsed as a "masterpiece" by Bob Dylan, the *New York Times* bestseller *Waiting on the Moon* by first-time author Peter Wolf is a treasure trove of vignettes from a legendary musical figure whose career spans more than six decades and is still going strong.

Told with gentle humor and often heart-rending poignancy, the word portraits in *Waiting on the Moon* provide a revealing glimpse of Wolf's life through his interactions with the artists, writers, actors, and musicians he encountered. The memoir, which received a starred review in *Kirkus*, is an inspiring journey full of empathy and admiration for the cultural icons who shaped the twentieth century.

Photo Credit: Tim Palmer



ERMA'S LEGACY



The life force of Erma Bombeck was always optimism and hope. It inspired her throughout her family life and her career. It sustained her in later years when she was ill.

She was convinced that out there somewhere were people so selfless, and families so compassionate, they would commit to the ultimate act of love – the gift of life.

“The real heroes and heroines are the patients who are hanging tough and the donors who are faced with hard decisions and give humanity a good name. We are about preserving life. It is indeed a gift.”

~Erma Bombeck

Erma had hoped to be able to do even more.

Today, the members of the Arizona Women's Board, the authors who join them, and the incomparable Adriana Trigiani continue Erma's legacy. We honor them for their dedication to patient care, donor awareness, and “preserving life.”

Thank you for surpassing Erma's hope.

~The Bombeck Family

Scan here to learn more about Erma Bombeck or visit ermabombeckcollection.com



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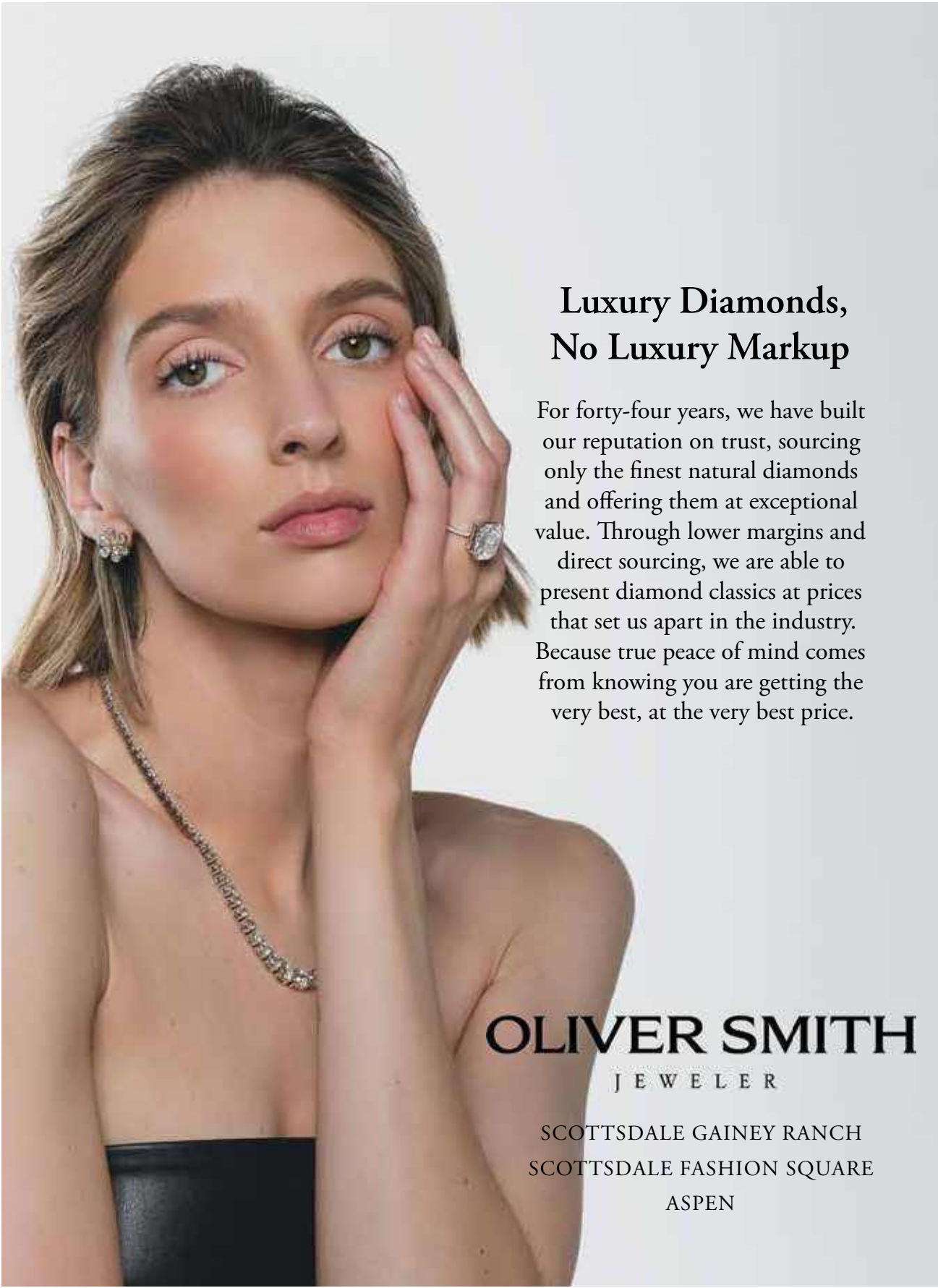
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*The Arizona Women's Board Salutes
Our Founding and Sustaining Members*

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**In memoriam*

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*Our Sustaining Members are former Board Members who actively continue
to support the Arizona Women's Board and the Authors Luncheon.*

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Adriana Trigiani

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1987 Virginia Nosky	2004 Catherine Jacobson	2021 Shaun Bracken
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1989 Linda Nachman	2006 Nancy Hanley	2023 Ingrid Haas
		2024 Susan Purtill

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1981 Betsy Stodola	1996 Dana Jirauch	2011 Carrie Hulburd
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1984 Babs Gordon	1999 Lois Savage	2014 Amy Louis
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1986 Sharon Carlson	2001 Catherine Jacobson	2016 Sandy Kostis
1987 Jamie Lendrum	2002 Gee Gee Entz	2017 Erin Gogolak
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Third row: Melissa Kenly, Nadine Hart, Susan Doria, Lori Roediger, Clarissa Robinson, Catherine Tuton, Suzi Hilton, Amy Slethaug, Megan Hackbarth, Kate Fassett

Not pictured: Kimberly Afkhami, Shaun Bracken, Jennifer Carmer, Karie Dozer, Lisa Ghelfi, Chris Gustafson, Carrie Hall, Sandy Katzman, Marci Symington

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We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to April Ward for her dedicated service as our Board President this year. Her vision and passion for our mission continues to inspire us.



The members of the Arizona Women's Board refer to themselves as Lizzies, an affectionate term that evolved from the use of the lizard as their symbol. The lizard has the world's most efficient kidneys, and symbolizes the desire for healthy kidneys for all individuals.

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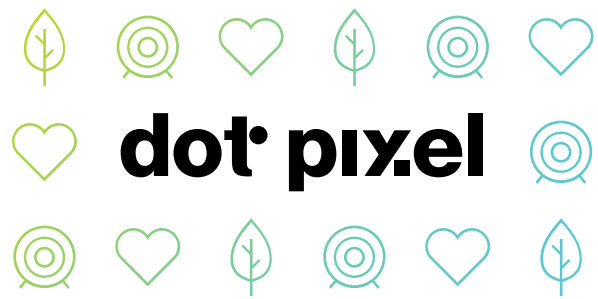
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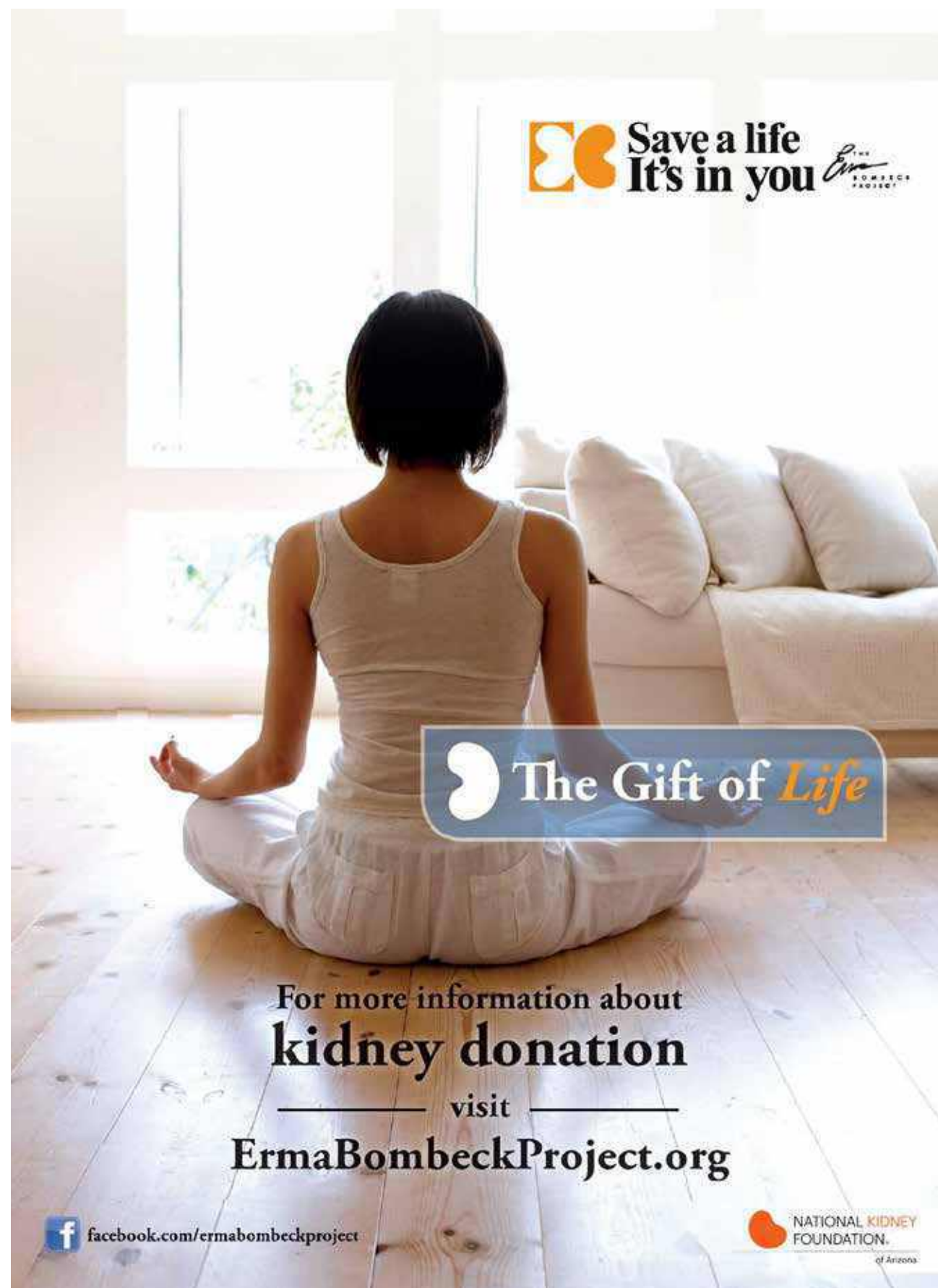
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¹ Brunelli, SM et al. Cluster-randomized trial of devices to prevent catheter-related bloodstream infection. J Am Soc Nephrol. 2018 Apr;29(4):1336-1343.
² Lok CE, Huber TS, Lee T, et al; KDOQI Vascular Access Guideline Work Group. KDOQI clinical practice guideline for vascular access: 2019 update. Am J Kidney Dis. 2020;75(4)(suppl 2):1-S164.



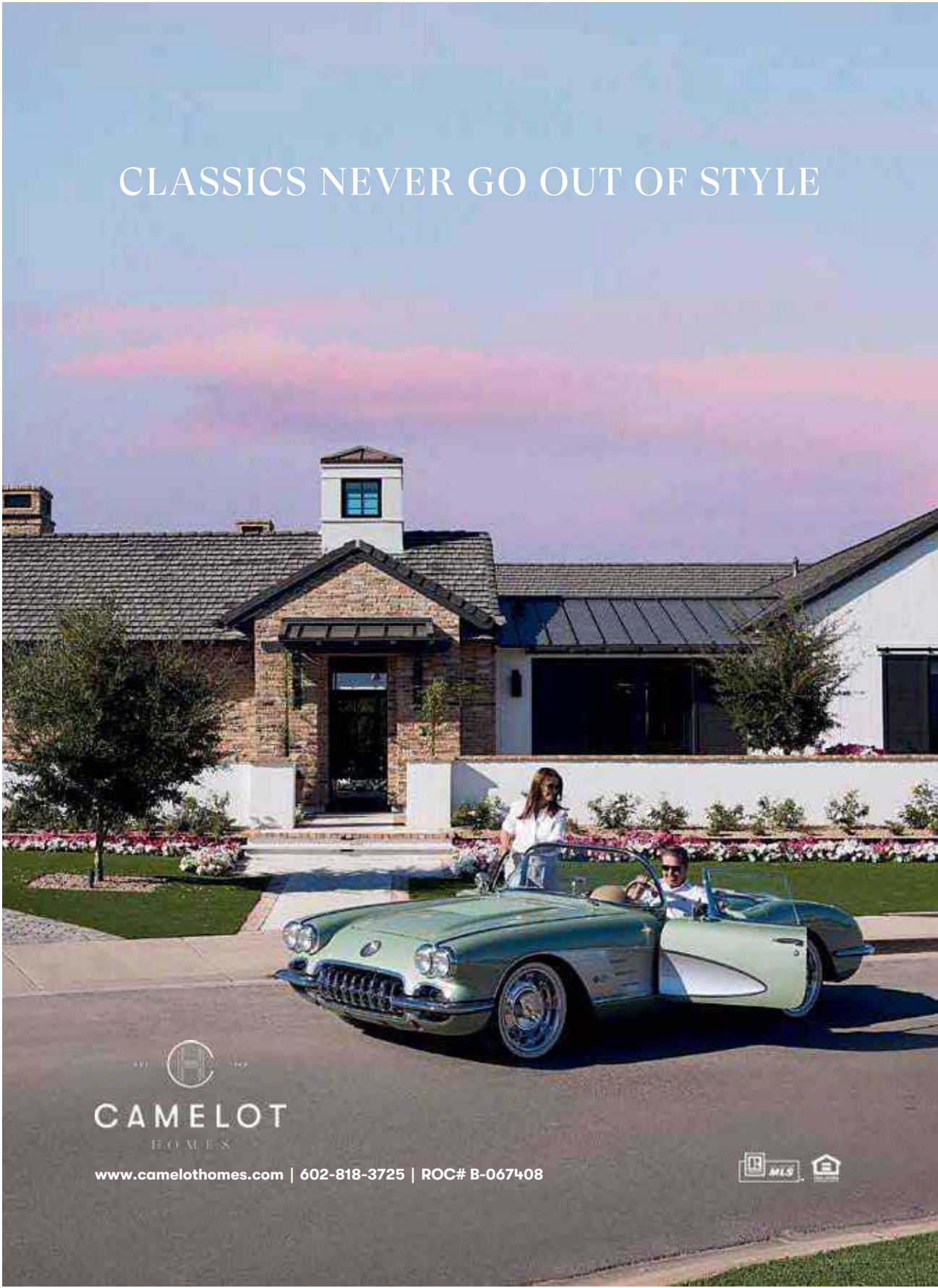
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

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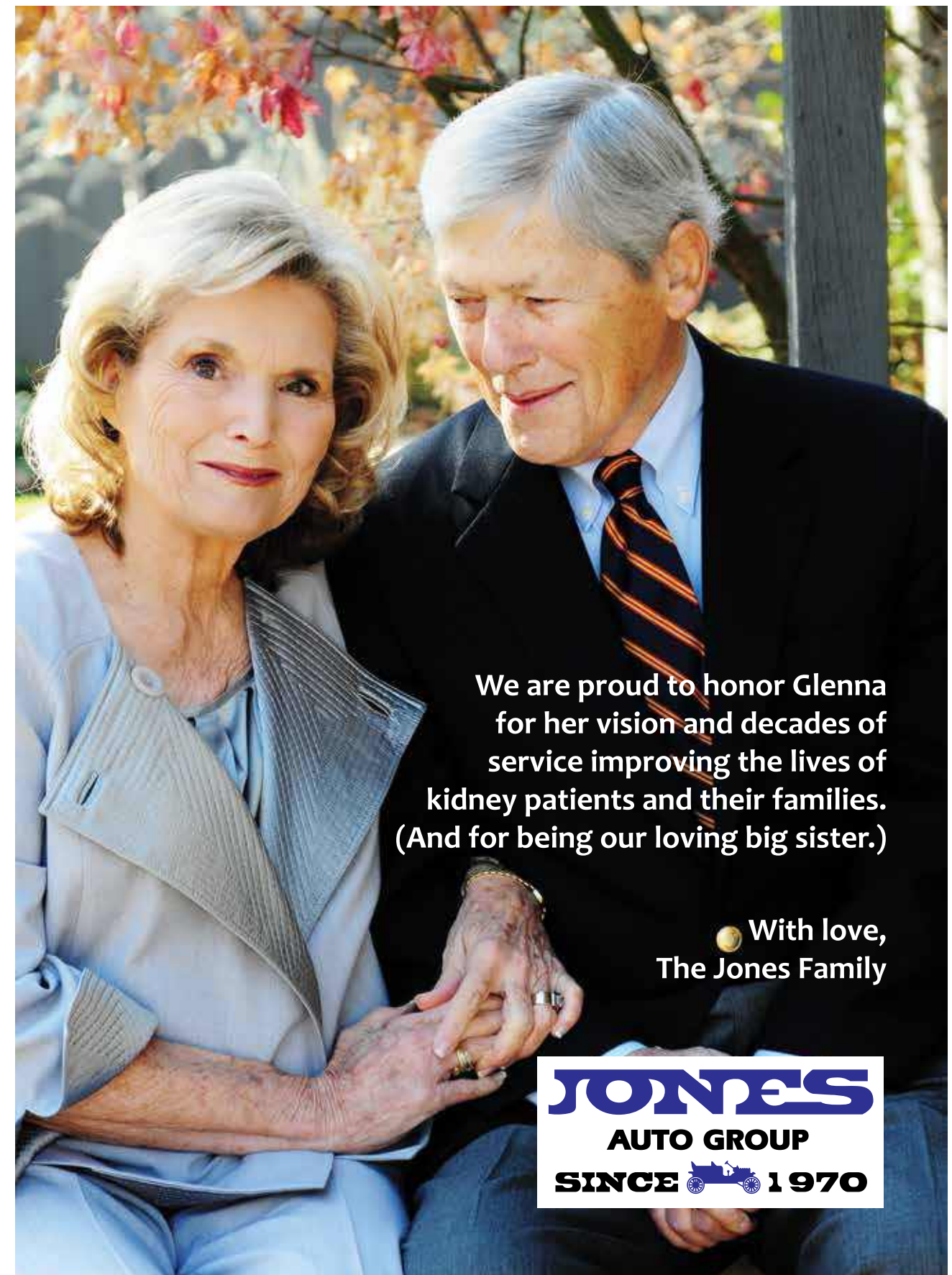
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(And for being our loving big sister.)**

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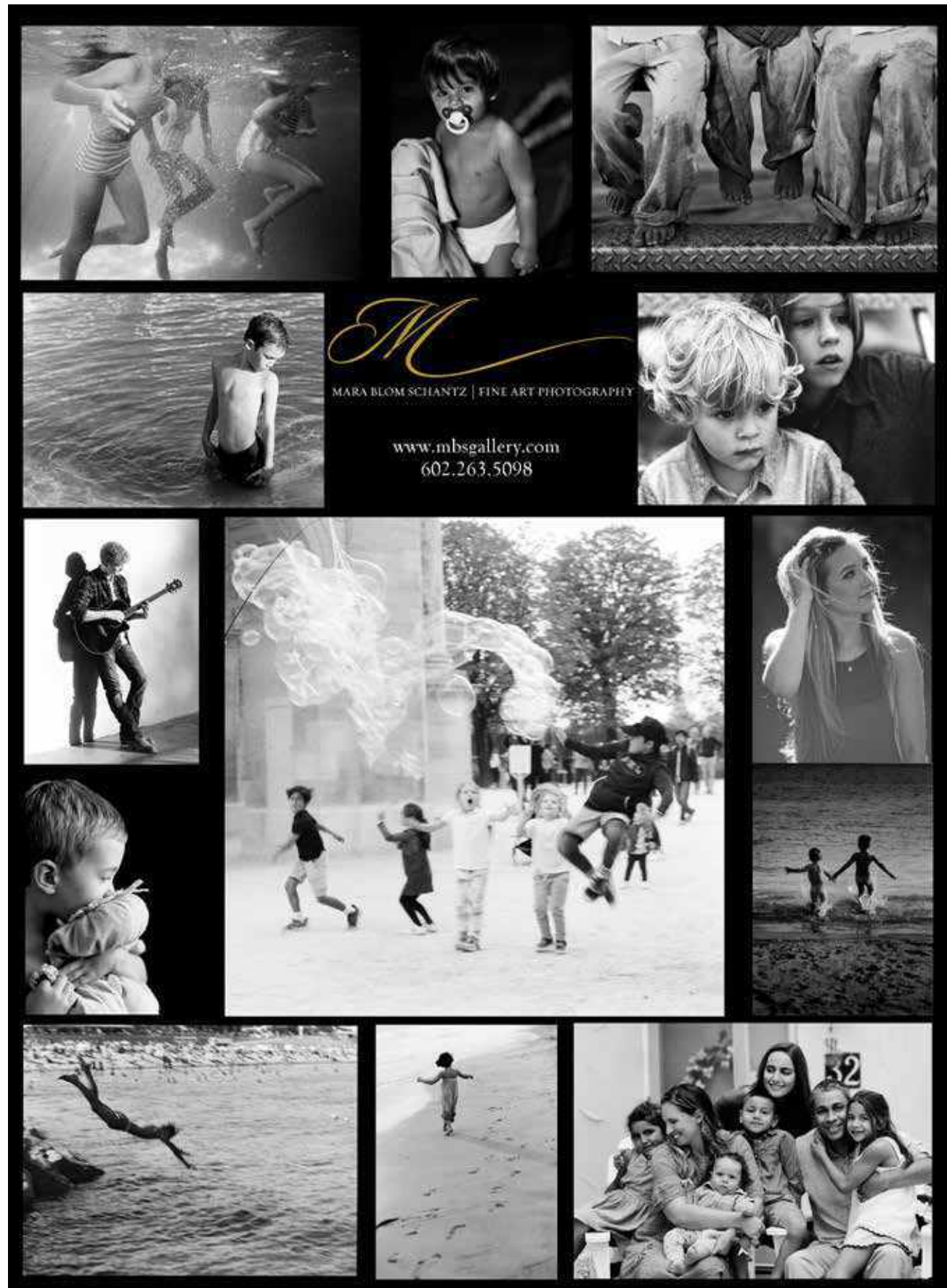
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