



The Skinnie

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THE SKINNIE VOL. 23 ISSUE 14 – 3

upfront

"You should write a book."

I think I've heard these words, though it might be my aspirational imagination's voice. There's a part of me that believes I'm capable, and a part that subconsciously dreads the potential failure as much as the laborious slog.

Few vocations have a lower barrier-to-entry than writing. If you have a language and a pen or a laptop, or – perhaps – a chatbot, you've got everything you need. But do you have a thought or a story that anyone wants or needs to hear?

A combination of unabashed ego, untainted naivete, and a love for creating something from nothing shape the nascent writer's mind. But the fear mountain demands an incredibly steep climb.

I craft this column in about an hour and a half, maybe two. From ideation (the hardest part, by far) to edited copy. But I can't sit still much longer than that. (And sometimes the two hours include a couple of away-from-the-keyboard breaks.) This page runs between 800 and 1,000 words (today it's 950), give or take a few. Per Google, "the average length of an American novel usually falls between 70,000 and 100,000 words. The character development, complex story arcs, vivid description, and soul-mining self-examination that are novel-writing musts are a lot more demanding than the work that goes into a stand-alone essay. So, the pace will be slower if I do it. Thus, for a 100,000-word book, with a 400 words-per-hour best case, it's 250 hours for the first pass. Fifty full days, if you do 5 good hours a day...which might not sound like a lot, but it is.

After that, what do you have? Maybe it will be terrific; but, perhaps, it will mercilessly suck. And your grossly inflated self-worth will crumble beneath the weight of your disappointment and shame. The thing you have always quietly believed you were destined to do is a thing you should never have considered at all.

On the other side of the what-if coin...you're 60. Who knows how many good years you have left? Your mind seems as sharp as ever, but what about next year, or five years from now, or 10? When you "have more time." Which you will and you won't. After all, your schedule is ultimately your choice. It is now, and it will be then. And there are plenty of things you can pretend are life-dependent essential to perpetually forestall this daunting pass/fail lifetime-achievement final exam.

A book. An essay. Just words, nothing more. How does one maintain the arrogance to believe they matter, even a little bit? For me, it's

down to a couple of things, and how not having or experiencing those things would lead to a less-than life.

I'm not great at opening to people in real time. If I didn't write, I'd be socially and spiritually isolated. Writing is my gateway to humanity, one that other people – most people – have without having to look for it. I often find that link to the rest of the world in the text on a page I've produced.

Writers like metaphors. Here's one. I own a rental house. I'm selling it. During due diligence, the buyer's inspection noted that the house is missing a roof vent. The house is 70 years old. It has never had a vent. So, the air in the attic hasn't circulated as well as it would have otherwise done. It's been stagnant up there for decades. Dark, damp. It's fine, but it could have been better. No leaks. No obvious problems. The roof was not going to fail. Nevertheless, the vent is important, and we installed one. Writing is a vent for me. There's a lot inside my head and it would probably be okay if it remained there, but I'm structurally better off if there's an outlet through which I can flush my festering thoughts.

For a fundamentally shy person, it's very rewarding to discover that I've connected with somebody. I was in my coffee shop with Jenna. We were meeting with somebody and doing a little work. While Jenna and the other person were exchanging words, I heard a whisper from a couple tables away. "I read his stuff all the time. I love it. He's really good." Is it bad that such a moment provides me joy...makes me feel better (about myself, perhaps, if I'm being honest) than I otherwise would?

Twenty-two years ago, it was excruciating to hit "send" and commit this column to print. For the next several days, I would agonize over how you or others would interpret my words. Nowadays, the process is relatively sweat-free. When my mom tells me she likes my column (which she does almost every two weeks), I often respond by asking her what it was about...and I'm not being cute. Like the air in the newly vented roof, it has benignly floated away.

I still have worries, though. The people I love – do I write about them too frequently? Or not enough to reflect how much they truly mean to me? Do I share things they have not sanctioned? (Yes.) Do they realize it's my most natural way of professing my love, even if it's a little awkward? (I hope so.) They are the characters in my story, without them my autobiography would be a massive blank page.

It comes down to this conclusion...an action item, of sorts. If one or more of you tell me I should write a book, I'm going to do it. And I'm starting right away. I might begin compiling and reworking a collection of essays, selected from a couple decades' output. But the novel will be right behind it. Got any good ideas?

Scott A. Lauretti

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on the cover:

A Buddha on the grounds of the Senso Ji Temple in Tokyo, Japan

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background image by Maria Fernandez

JOURNEY TO JAPAN, PT 2

Osaka and Tokyo

Our Osaka hotel was in the Dōtonbori area, a tourist hub running along the Dōtonbori Canal. Historically a theater district, the character of Dōtonbori became defined in 1621 when the ruling Shogunate instituted urban planning and designated Dōtonbori as the city's entertainment district. Many restaurants and cafés were established to cater to the flood of tourists and entertainment-seekers pouring into Osaka. The area is now a popular nightlife and entertainment zone area characterized by its eccentric atmosphere and large illuminated signboards – equal parts carnival midway and *Blade Runner*.

One of the area's most prominent features is an illuminated billboard for the Glico Candy Company, which many regard as an Osaka icon. Dating back to 1935, the sign has had several overhauls and been altered to celebrate various sporting triumphs through the years. For example, temporary alterations occurred when Japan hosted the soccer World Cup and in support of Osaka's baseball team, the Hanshin Tigers. The current sign, recognized as the sixth generation, was installed in 2014, the first to use LED technology.



ABOVE: Osaka's Ebisu Bridge in Dotonbori, with the iconic Glico Man in the foreground (image courtesy of Wikipedia)

BELOW: Tokyo's Senso Ji Temple is the most widely visited religious site in the world, welcoming more than 30 million visitors annually.

Our first morning in Osaka, we chose a nearby diner for the novelty of a robotic server. Customers place their orders using a tableside tablet. When it's ready, the kitchen

puts your items on a tray on a four-foot-high robotic cart with a screen for a face. The cart brings your food to your table. Domo arigato, Mr. Roboto.



BY PHILIP SCHWEIER • PHOTOS BY HEIDI SCHWEIER

After breakfast, we headed to the Umeda Sky Building, the 15th-tallest in the prefecture. Completed in 1993, it consists of two 40-story towers interconnected at their uppermost floors via glass bridges, with escalators that cross an open atrium. The towers reach a height of 557 feet while the overall height of the building including its spires is 623 feet. The structure includes the rooftop Kuchu Teien Observatory, also known as the Floating Garden Observatory. The two-floor attraction features Café Sky 40 and the Fence of Vows. The base of the towers contains the Island Garden and the Vegetable Garden, with walking trails and water features. The building has an underground market that strives to recreate the atmosphere of Osaka in the early 20th Century.

Our second day began rainy, but after lunch the sun came out, and we headed to Osaka Castle, one of Japan's most famous landmarks. Built in the 16th Century, the castle grounds cover approximately 15 acres. The inner keep is five stories on the outside and eight stories on the inside, built atop a tall stone foundation to protect its occupants from attackers. In the 1860s, Osaka Castle became part of the Osaka Army Arsenal, manufacturing guns, ammunition, and explosives for Japan's expanding Western-style military. During World War II, the arsenal was one of the largest military armories, making it a frequent target of Allied bombing raids. On August 14, 1945, 90 percent of the arsenal was destroyed. In 1995, Osaka's government approved a two-year restoration project, intending to return the main keep to its Edo-era splendor. The keep is a modern reproduction (with elevators) of the original, and the interior is a functioning museum.

Perhaps it was the morning rain that put moisture in the air, or perhaps it was the eight-story altitude, but as we climbed higher inside



Osaka Castle, rebuilt after its destruction in 1945.

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A giant red lantern hangs under the center of the Kaminarimon. The lantern measures 13 feet tall, 11 feet wide, and weighs approximately 1,500 pounds.

the humidity increased, along with our discomfort. Overall, Japanese weather in the areas we visited was comparable to Savannah's, though it should be noted that the main island of Japan stretches the equivalent of the area from southern Georgia to northern Maine.

TOKYO

Our journey to Tokyo, approximately 300 miles away, literally sped by in about two hours aboard one of Japan's famous bullet trains. After checking into our hotel in the heart of the Ginza district, we visited the Senso Ji Temple. With more than 30 million visitors annually, it is the most widely visited religious site in the world. The temple is dedicated to the bodhisattva Kannon. According to legend, a statue of the Kannon was found in the Sumida River in 628 AD by two fisherman. The chief of their village recognized the sanctity of the statue and enshrined it by remodeling his own house into a small temple so the villagers could worship Kannon. The first temple was founded in 645 AD, making it the oldest-established temple in Tokyo.

The Kaminarimon ("Thunder Gate") is the outer of two large entrances to the Sensō-ji (the inner being the Hōzōmon). Originally built in 941 AD, it has been destroyed many times throughout the ages, and was reconstructed in its current location in 1635, when statues of the gods of wind (Fujin) and thunder (Raijin) were first placed on the gate. Dedicated in December of 1960, the Kaminarimon's current structure stands 38 feet tall, 37 feet wide, and covers an area of 746 square feet.

Upon entering the temple grounds, the street leading to the temple – the Nakamise-Dori – is congested with small shops selling souvenirs

including fans, kimonos and other robes, Buddhist scrolls, traditional sweets, Godzilla and manga toys, t-shirts, and mobile phone accessories. These shops are part of a living tradition since the early 12th Century of selling to pilgrims who travel to Sensō-ji.

During World War II, the temple was destroyed in an air raid on Tokyo. The main hall was rebuilt in the 1950s, and is regarded as a symbol of rebirth and peace by Japanese people. In the courtyard there is a tree that was hit by a bomb in the air raids, and it had regrown in the husk of the old tree and is a similar symbol as the temple itself. Formerly associated with the Tendai sect of Buddhism, the temple became independent after the war.

For dinner that evening we visited Rare Tendon Ginza Mitsuyoshi, a tempura restaurant that was unequivocally the best meal of our trip. Reservations are required; upon entering, we understood why. The eatery consisted of a compact cooking area surrounded by a U-shaped counter with seating for nine. The tempura was excellent, the batter very light. Even the lettuce tempura was a surprising treat. I had a mix of beef, fish, and vegetables, while my wife enjoyed rare beef with vegetables. A second visit was added to our itinerary.

The following morning, we hoped to tour the Imperial Palace, the main residence of the Japanese Imperial family. It hosts ceremonies and receptions, as well as an archive, museums, and administrative offices. Unfortunately, tickets are available through a lottery system, which we should have signed up for several days in advance. Instead, we toured the palace's East Garden (for free).

The garden was built on the grounds of Edo Castle, dating to the 15th Century. In 1868, the emperor moved to Tokyo and the castle became an imperial palace until it was consumed by fire five years later. What few buildings remained were demolished in 1888 to make way for the new Imperial Palace. The building of the modern gardens – more than 50 square acres – began in 1961 and was completed in 1968.

That evening, (following our second tempura dinner) we had tickets for the TeamLab exhibit, *Borderless*. It's an immersive experience of light and sculpture, with interactive imagery (abstract and animated). Projected images move out of rooms, relate to other works, and intermingle without boundaries. One projected display featured a group of frogs marching along the wall, which was interactive. Touch the image of any frog and it turned its head toward you.

We were about to leave when we discovered another corridor we hadn't explored, discovering fresh exhibits. Sketch Ocean projected hand-drawn animated images on the walls, as if you were inside an aquarium. In an adjacent room, visitors were invited to color a fish drawing, which would then be scanned, and you would see your picture swim out into the ocean in front of you together with sea creatures drawn by other people. If you touch the fish, they will swim away. A delight for children of all ages.

Eventually, our journey to Japan came to an end, and the time had come for us to say, "Sayonara." To paraphrase an old song, I'll remember our journey until the day that I die, and I encourage others to experience the culture, the food, and the people of one of the world's oldest civilizations.



A tempura meal of rare roast beef, chicken, vegetables, and a soft-boiled egg, served on a bed of rice.

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19 VILLAGE GREEN CIRCLE

Charming 3BR, 2BA patio home on a private lot with open floor plan, vaulted shiplap ceiling, & updated kitchen with barn-door pantry. Features include engineered hardwoods, remodeled primary bath, covered patio, spacious yard, & newer mechanical systems. \$599,000.

Jill Brooks, Ginna Carroll



3 TAPESTRY LANE

A rare find! This 2BR/2.5BA townhome offers low-maintenance living with stunning marsh and river views. Enjoy a private courtyard, sunroom, updated baths, and a detached 2-car garage with golf cart bay. All this in a "lock-and-leave" home that's truly one of a kind! \$649,000.

Ginna Carroll, Jill Brooks



3 SKIMMAR CIRCLE

Beautifully updated and filled with natural light, this move-in ready 3BR/2BA Oakridge patio home overlooks the #13 fairway with tranquil lagoon views. Enjoy soaring ceilings, a new roof, and chic outdoor spaces—all just steps from golf, fitness, and more. \$799,000.

Cathryn O'Neill



OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY, 2-4PM

4 HEDGEWOOD LANE

Don't miss this compelling offering! Wonderful Tony Reardon-built 3BR, 2.5BA island home features golf views, an open layout, one-level living, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, a wrap around screened porch, fenced side yard, and a flexible office, den or gym space. An amazing opportunity! \$869,000.

Angela Sauers



OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY, 2-4PM

2 FRANKLIN CREEK ROAD S

Elegant 3BR/3.5BA patio home near Franklin Creek's Main Gate, offering shimmering lagoon views, reclaimed heart pine floors, a spacious layout, ensuite guest rooms, and 400 sqft. of bonus space. New roof and HVAC. Stylish, flexible, & made for Lowcountry living. \$895,000.

Wendy Reed



6 SCHROEDER COURT

Sleek, stylish, and move-in ready! Don't miss out on this 3BR/2.5BA patio home with expansive golf and lagoon views, wide oak floors, marble finishes, and a chef's kitchen with 36" range. Designer living, effortless upkeep. Seller holds a GA Real Estate license. \$869,000.

Skyler Frazier



1 CHRISTIE LANE

Fall in love with this beautifully renovated home featuring an open layout, vaulted Great Room, sleek kitchen, and elegant White Oak floors. Enjoy a large yard, charming patio, and peace of mind in an X-500 flood zone. Perfect inside and out! \$949,900.

Pat Ewaldsen



5 WINDLASS COURT

This 4BR, 3.5BA gem, near Landings Harbor Marina, features stunning lagoon and river views, open living spaces, a main-floor primary suite, and timeless charm. Move-in ready and offered at an improved price. Your next chapter is here! \$995,000.

Susan Connelly, Eileen Galves



3 COTTON CROSSING

Charming all-brick ranch in The Landings' Palmetto phase. This spacious 3BR/2BA home features 9'+ ceilings, formal living & dining, an updated kitchen with gas range, cozy den, office with brick floors, and walk-up attic ready for expansion. A rare find! \$995,000.

Jill Brooks, Ginna Carroll

HE SERVED BY RON LAURETTI

JOE CONNERS

Joseph Connors was born February 12, 1931, in Savannah, where he was raised and graduated from Benedictine Military School in 1949. Soon after, Connors joined Dog Company, the local Marine Corps Reserve unit. He enlisted for two reasons – patriotism, and the extra cash he received for attending the monthly drills.

The men of Dog Company enjoyed peacetime training until June 27, 1950, when they were ordered to active duty. The U.S. was leading a coalition of free nations to assist South Korea against the invasion of communist North Korea. A month later, Connors was among the 182 Marines who enjoyed a Hollywood-style sendoff at the Central

of Georgia railroad station. Bound for Camp Pendleton, California, the men boarded the train to a chorus of cheers from the assembled crowd. Sadly, five of the departing Marines would not live to see Savannah again.

Connors settled in best he could for the cross-country journey. Unlike many of his fellow Marines, he did not drink any of the available alcoholic beverages on board, nor join in the card games. When Dog Company arrived at Camp Pendleton, each man was assigned one of three classifications: needs more basic training, or needs more advanced training, or combat ready. Since Connors had good attendance at monthly Marine Reserve meetings and had completed a summer camp session at Parris Island Marine Depot, he was classified as a qualified Marine ready for deployment to Korea.

Assigned to the 2nd Replacement Draft, Connors boarded the USS Jackson on October 15, 1950, and stowed his gear on the third level of one of the six-level-high sleeping racks stacked close together in the crowded ship. The head (bathroom) was always occupied and there was a long line for each of the two daily meals.

The Marines arrived in Japan on October 29, 1950. After two weeks in a temporary camp, they were issued rifles (M1 Garands) and cold-weather gear. Very soon, they would need both. Connors was re-assigned to the 1st Marine Division just before its advance deep into North Korea. In bitterly cold weather, American troops pushed as far north as the Chosin Reservoir, just 40 miles shy of the Chinese border. When more than 100,000 Chinese troops swept across the border, the Marines retreated southward, suffering numerous enemy ambushes and freezing weather along the way. Reaching the coastal North Korean city of Hamhung, they were evacuated by the U.S. Navy.

After filling its ranks with much needed replacements, the 1st Marine Division assumed a defensive position along the 38th parallel dividing North and South Korea. For three years, the Chinese sacrificed many soldiers to gain just a few yards of contested turf. The fighting was a back-and-forth stalemate.

Connors was assigned as a listening post sentry during the final six months of his deployment in Korea. Listening posts were small two-man foxholes about 100 yards in front of the MLR (main line of resistance). Connors was paired with another Savannah Dog Company Marine named Corley, who became a lifelong friend. The job was dangerous, especially at night when the Chinese often launched surprise attacks. Connors said they could hear the Chinese approaching and sometimes smell them. More than once, they saw Chinese to their rear flank, meaning they were surrounded. Yet somehow, with a little luck and adequate support, Connors and Corley made it through without being wounded. Undoubtedly Connors' naturally calm nature was a valuable asset under the circumstances.



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When his tour in Korea ended, Conners enjoyed a troop ship cruise home, where he was honorably discharged and returned to his hometown. In 1956, he met and married the love of his life, Martha Ward. The happy marriage produced three children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was a devoted Catholic and lived his life accordingly.



Conners enjoyed a happy and full life in Savannah, where for 18 years he was a warehouse manager for John Travis Company. His sense of humor won the hearts of many good friends, and he enjoyed traveling, playing golf, and carpentry.

Though Conners seldom spoke of his experience in Korea, he became a lifetime member of Dog Company and very active in local military and veterans' affairs. In 2000, he served as chairman of the Savannah Veterans Council and was honored as Veteran of the Year in 2011.

On July 10, 2025, Joseph Lamont Conners passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family. Like the saying goes, another Marine just reported to St. Peter for guard duty at the Pearly Gates. Or, in Joe Conners' case, heaven's listening post.



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Stay Safe This Summer

Combat Stubborn Wounds

The summer has brought its share of sweltering heat and harsh storms, but there have been some perfect days for the beach, the garden, or a family cookout. The only thing that might spoil one of these fun days is getting ill or injured. Wounds can be a very common experience in the summer, but there are ways to prevent or minimize the risk.



Shandresa Moore,
RN

“When skin is broken or compromised by a bug bite, burn, or cut, germs can enter the body,” explains St. Joseph’s/Candler nurse Shandresa Moore. “An open wound, even a small bug bite, could become infected and cause serious complications.”

Check yourself as means of proactive prevention. “Especially if you have diabetes, you should look at your feet every day and make sure there are no sores,” Moore says.

If you’re injured, help is available. Wounds happen. Most heal quickly, but if you suffer from a persistent wound, St. Joseph’s/Candler

has a specialized wound care center in Savannah, and two others in Hinesville and Bluffton, South Carolina.

“We are an advanced wound care provider,” Moore explains. “We have learned that when you start getting ulcers or wounds that are not healing, there may be some other issue going on. We get patients here and evaluate the totality of their condition.”

The wound care team consists of nurses and doctors who are specially trained in wound care and hyperbarics. They examine underlying issues, such as blood flow, compression, inappropriate shoes, and sleep patterns to determine why a wound might not heal properly. They have numerous ways to treat a wound and address the underlying causes if it’s not healing. This helps prevent future wounds in addition to expediting healing for existing problems.

If you experience a wound this summer – or anytime – talk to your physician about a referral to the Center for Hyperbarics and Wound Care.

“We are here to treat patients in a timely fashion so they can get back to living their lives,” Moore says. “That’s our mission here at the wound care center.”

A SUMMER FLOP

Sandals, flip-flops, thongs, slides, “slippahs” ... They have different names but were designed for a similar purpose – protecting your feet from hot sand or pavement on the short trip from your chair to the water. In fact, most podiatrists recommend these types of shoes for a public pool or beach, where walking barefoot can make your soles susceptible to plantar warts, athlete’s foot, glass, and other hazards.

Problems arise, however, when you leave flip-flops on as you spend the afternoon shopping or going about your daily routine. Our Southern coastal weather inspires residents to wear such footwear throughout the year, more so than people in – say – Michigan would.

Prianka Sharma, DPM, who treats patients at St. Joseph’s/Candler’s Physician Network – Podiatry, understands that area residents are going to wear flip-flops. She notes the lack of support in most flip-flop-style footwear and cautions that too much time in them will be taxing on your feet.

“You’re not helping yourself by wearing flip-flops,” Sharma says. “There is no arch support, no shock absorption, and no heel cup, so you’re not stabilizing the heel in any way. If you know you are going to be walking for more than 10 minutes, put on a pair of tennis shoes.”

The local podiatrist wants patients to understand that it’s not just about this summer, but all the summers to come. “Everyone’s feet are different, and we all have varying levels of arthritis and foot issues, but our goals are the same,” Sharma says. “You want to keep what you have; you want to keep your tendons preserved. And if something is already bad, you need support to keep it from getting worse.”

You might believe that if all the bones and muscles in your feet are in working order and you can get from point A to point B, that’s the end of the story. But proper support and shock absorption prevent podiatric problems down the road. Poorly supported feet can tire stressed feet can lead to stressed knees and hips.



Take Healthy Steps

- Look for high-quality, soft leather sandals. Soft leather helps lower the chance of irritated or blistered skin.
- Before buying, very gently bend flip-flops to ensure they flex at the ball of the foot. They shouldn’t fold in half.
- Don’t wear flip-flops for yard work. This leaves your feet exposed to potential injury.
- The toe thong in many flip-flops can lead to blisters. Don’t ignore irritation developing between your toes.
- Don’t play sports in flip-flops. You could twist your ankle.

Poor foot support is no day at the beach. With painful feet, you risk losing enjoyment associated with healthy activities like walking, playing a sport, or travel. If you become increasingly sedentary, your risk for diseases like obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes increases.

“There are some brands such as Orthofoot and Vionic that engineer arch support within their sandals and other products,” Sharma notes. “So not all flip-flops are created equal. However, in general, there’s no support, and as podiatrists we typically don’t like them.”

Sharma is also a realist about women’s shoe options. In terms of foot function and health, many women’s shoes simply aren’t very good, but sandals and flip-flops are among the worst. Sharma educates patients on support and shock absorption, but she won’t dictate what you can and can’t wear.

“As long as you wear flip-flops for a short period of time, you can avoid damaging your feet,” she says. “And I understand that sometimes we just want to look good.”

PREVENT WOUNDS

- Wear protective clothing outdoors.
- Use bug spray.
- Apply sunscreen regularly and limit sun exposure.
- Wear appropriate shoes and try not to go barefoot on hot surfaces, including sandy beaches.
- If you have a history of falls or dizziness, use supportive equipment when walking around.
- Consider skin-protective garments such as DermaSaver if you have thin skin.
- Check your legs and feet often for cuts and scrapes.

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Like Sunday

All Up In My Grill

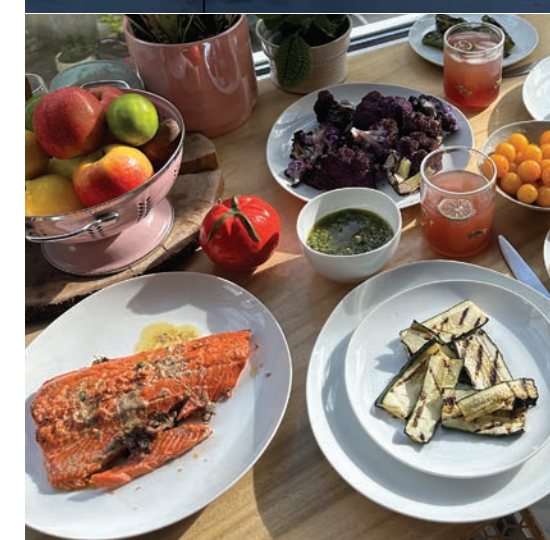
G uys like toys. Cars, boats, tractors — some of the most extravagant examples of this kind of obsession. When we get one, we manically use it with unsustainable frequency. To a guy, a great grill is pure joy.

You remember the child at Christmas who played with his new gadget for hours before changing out of his pajamas and never touched the thing again after his mom put it in the toy chest when the morning turned to afternoon? You probably were that kid, at least once. When considering purchasing “toys” as a grown-up, we must convince ourselves that our attention spans have lengthened vis-à-vis our little-kid selves. So far — granted, we're only about one month into it — such has been the case with my new grill.

It took hours of assembly and some last-mile help from a professional, which intensified the anticipation around its first use. About midway through cooking a steak that night, I pressed a button, not sure what it was. Suddenly, cobalt-blue LED lights blazed circles from behind six burner knobs. A show to accompany flame-kissed meat.

The next day, I rigged the rotisserie, which was included with the Monument 77352. The piercing implement is as long and dangerous as a medieval lance. I threaded a tightly tied lamb shoulder with its point and set the rod in place, sticking the pointed end into a motorized box. Pushing another button, the box began to generate a low hum, and the skewered lamb started spinning. Success! I walked away, to return later to discover an unmoving chunk of animal protein dripping fat into fire, over-roasted on one side, nearly

By Scott Lauretti





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raw on the other. I consulted printed directions written by somebody (or AI) for whom English is a second (at best) language. I checked the Internet. Finally, I stared at the contraption until I noticed a nut for a fitting that would prevent future rod-slippage and rotisserie ills. I was effusively proud of my handiwork.

You can grill anything, pretty much. It's fun to cook things using different techniques and heat intensities on one machine at the same time. And the kitchen remains relatively mess-free. In a few weeks, I've prepared whole fish and chickens, various lamb parts, at least four steak cuts, a farmer's-market-range of vegetables, and a pair of lobsters from Maine.

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Lid down. Lid up. Direct and indirect heat. All six burners raging. Or just one or two. On the spit and on the grates. In a basket, so the little bits don't fall into the flaming abyss. It's all good.

One night I made purple cauliflower, green peppers, little yellow tomatoes, a Vidalia onion, radicchio, eggplant, zucchini, and half of a fresh Sockeye salmon. These things are so nice on their own, they don't require accompaniment, but an all-purpose condiment doesn't hurt. This is my favorite. It works on almost anything. Play with the ratios, depending on your preferred flavor profile. I avoid the food processor for this one; I chop each element finely by hand, but you can use the mechanical help if you like.

SALSA VERDE

- 1 bunch flat-leaf Italian parsley
- 4 cloves garlic
- Zest and juice of a lemon
- 1 jar best-quality anchovies
- 1 generous pinch of red pepper flakes
- Salt
- Best-quality extra virgin olive oil

Chop garlic, parsley, and anchovies together and scoop the resultant mixture into a bowl. Add lemon zest, juice, red pepper flakes, and salt, and mix well. Slowly add olive oil to reach your desired consistency (I prefer a thick, "dry"-ish salsa), and continue to stir well to incorporate everything. Let sit for at least 30 minutes to marry the elements. Spoon on top of grilled anything.



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island hopping

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Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.

HEAR GREAT SPEAKERS

WHAT: Kiwanis Club of Skidaway

WHEN: Thursday mornings at 8 a.m.

WHERE: Palmetto Club

HOW MUCH: Free to attend, including any refreshments, which includes coffee/tea (compliments of Morgan Stanley) and occasional pastries from Auspicious Bakery.

CONTACT: Michael Klavon, 912.306.0474 for gate pass

WHAT ELSE: Membership is open to Savannah/Chatham area residents. Visit www.kiwanisofskidaway.com for more information.

WHO NEW?

WHAT: New Neighbors

WHEN: Visit www.landingsnewneighbors.com to see our calendar

CONTACT: Visit our website or contact Jody at nnnewmember@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: The club offers more than 250 different activities from biking, golf, pickleball, walking groups or fishing to Mahjong, Bridge, Needle-arts and Canasta. We have exciting military tours and special events for you to enjoy right here on Skidaway Island.

FLAGGING IT

WHAT: 2025 CURE Childhood Cancer awareness flags sale

WHEN: Flags are on sale now; pickup begins in August

WHERE: Order online at cureflags.org

HOW MUCH: \$30/flag, pole not included

CONTACT: makenzie@curechildhoodcancer.org

WHAT ELSE: All proceeds from the flag program benefit CURE's pediatric cancer research initiatives and family support programs. Flags begin going up in September in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and we encourage everyone to proudly display them year-round. Each flag features original artwork by a child currently in treatment for cancer.

CLEAN COAST

WHAT: Marine Debris Cleanup on Wassaw

WHEN: Monday, July 28, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

WHERE: Depart from UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium

HOW MUCH: \$15

CONTACT: gacoast.uga.edu/event/ or Cindy Lingebach at calingeb@uga.edu or 912.598.2344

WHAT ELSE: Travel by boat to clean the north end of Wassaw Island – identifying, sorting, and recording collected trash.

DOUBLE PLAY

WHAT: AmiciMusic presents "Four Hand Fireworks"

WHEN/WHERE: Tuesday, July 29, 6:30 p.m. – the home of Maaja Roos, 252 Wiley Bottom Rd.; Wednesday, July 30, 6:30 p.m. – the sanctuary of Skidaway Community Church

HOW MUCH: July 29 – \$35/person with light food and drinks; June 30 – free with donations gratefully accepted

CONTACT: Please visit AmiciMusic.org for full details

WHAT ELSE: Enjoy a fun and virtuosic program featuring exciting four-hand piano works by Mendelssohn, Moszkowski, and a fantastic arrangement of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. You will love watching the beautiful ballet of 20 fingers on a single piano.

DONATION DAY

WHAT: The Landings Company and Goodwill of Southeast Georgia collaboration

WHEN: Friday, Aug. 1, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WHERE: Back parking lot, The Landings Company, 1 Landings Way North

CONTACT: Goodwill of Southeast Georgia, 912.856.4418 or The Landings Company, 912.598.0500

WHAT ELSE: Making giving easier than ever. Just load your car and swing by. TLC agents will be on-site to help. No mattresses, boxsprings, pillows, cribs, car seats, paint, or building supplies will be accepted.

MUSIC AT MESSIAH

WHAT: The Arts at Messiah

WHEN: Friday, Aug. 8, at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 West Ridge Rd.

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public, but donations for the concert series are appreciated.

CONTACT: MLC at 912.598.1188, weekday mornings

WHAT ELSE: Duo Arpeggione will feature two internationally acclaimed musicians – pianist Catherine Lan and cellist Claudio Jaffé. The performance will demonstrate some of the best works for this winning combination, including Beethoven's A major sonata and Grieg's masterpiece Sonata no. 3.

CARING WITH CASSEROLES

WHAT: Landlovers Safe Shelter Casseroles

WHEN: Friday, Aug. 15

WHERE: Volunteers will be notified of drop off locations in the Landings



SMILES AND TILES

WHAT: Mahjongg Day at the Landings

WHEN: Tuesday, Sep. 30, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WHERE: Palmetto Clubhouse

HOW MUCH: \$52 for casual play and lessons; \$64 for tournament play; Includes lunch

CONTACT: Linda Brownlee, mahjongg-yall@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: Registration opens Aug. 1. Club membership not required. All level players are welcome. Silent auction fundraiser for Skidaway Island First Responders.

FRIENDLY WORDS

WHAT: Skidaway Scrabblers

WHEN: Every Thursday afternoon

WHERE: Members' homes

CONTACT: Cathy White, cathy77024@yahoo.com

WHAT ELSE: We are a happy group of dedicated Scrabble players who enjoy a social game. Join us for a game or two and discover that you, too, may want to be a Skidaway Scrabbler.

BUNCO BABES

WHAT: A fun and easy dice game with friends

WHEN: 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Second Tuesday of the month starting Aug. 12

WHERE: The Landings Association Building, Landings Way South

HOW MUCH: \$6 to cover room rental and prizes.

CONTACT: Wendy Crowell, Wendyl-wc68@gmail.com

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THE SKINNIE VOL. 23 ISSUE 14 – 25

ISLAND HOPPING

CONTACT: Carol Stiles or Sue Souls, LLComm-Service@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Learn more details at the Community Service page at landingslandlovers.com

FEELING CRABBY

WHAT: "Crabbing 101"
WHEN: Saturday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
WHERE: UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium
HOW MUCH: \$25
CONTACT: gacoast.uga.edu/event/ or Cindy Lingeback at calingeb@uga.edu or 912.598.2344
WHAT ELSE: See different species of crabs up close, then head outside for a crabbing lesson.

SHELL GAMES

WHAT: Release of turtle hatchlings
WHEN: Tuesdays, Aug 19, Sep. 2, 16 and 30 at 5 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 12 at 1 p.m.
WHERE: Sunset Park, Landings Way South
HOW MUCH: free, donations appreciated
CONTACT: friendsofskidawayaudubon@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Participation is limited to Landings residents with gate passes. Please pre-register at skidawayaudubon.org beginning Aug. 1. Attendees will learn how volunteers rescue Diamondback terrapin eggs from the golf course sand traps, and how they are incubated, and then will help release the hatchlings into the marsh. Limited to 60 attendees per session. Children must be at least six years of age to participate. Golf carts recommended as parking is limited.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

WHAT: Skidaway Island Democrats social gathering
WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.
WHERE: Landings Harbor Marina, 600 Priest Landing Dr.
CONTACT: If you don't live in the Landings, email Rosemary Mackey (rwmackey1@gmail.com) for a main gate pass; Anyone needing a ride from the Marshes or Thrive should contact Mitzi Toth at mlanetoth38@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: The executive committee will provide wine, beer, water, and soft drinks. Please feel free to bring an appetizer, if you feel so inclined.

BEHIND THE SEA-NS

WHAT: Behind the Scenes Aquarium Tours
WHEN: Wednesdays in June and July, 2 to 3 p.m.
WHERE: UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium

HOW MUCH: \$15
CONTACT: gacoast.uga.edu/event/ or Cindy Lingeback at calingeb@uga.edu or 912.598.2344
WHAT ELSE: Learn what it is like to care for our ambassador animals during tours led by aquarium staff. Participants will be able to access areas that are not typically open to the public.

HABITAT HELPERS

WHAT: Habitat for Humanity volunteers wanted
WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays, possibly Thursdays
WHERE: locations vary
CONTACT: Mark Piven, 912.598.0323
WHAT ELSE: Prior experience is not necessary. Many volunteers learn on the job and only do whatever they feel comfortable with. Tools are provided.

TAXATION REPRESENTATION

WHAT: Opportunities for volunteer income tax assistance with Neighborhood Improvement Association
WHEN: starting in January, flexible hours from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
WHERE: Several sites in Savannah, Pembroke, Rincon, Richmond Hill and Hinesville
CONTACT: Tiffany Carter, tcarter@niacdc.org or 912.447.5577
WHAT ELSE: This program helps underserved communities by offering free tax preparation. No experience necessary. Volunteers include greeters/screeners and tax preparers

FINANCIAL AID

WHAT: AARP Tax-Aide Program needs volunteers
WHEN: Training in Dec. and Jan.; Tax preparation starts Feb. 3 for 10 weeks; hours and days are flexible
WHERE: Chatham SW and Bull Street Libraries
CONTACT: Volunteer coordinator John Gerardi, 912.661.8705 or johngerardi@hotmail.com
WHAT ELSE: This program provides free tax preparation for low- to moderate-income families, as well as the elderly and people with disabilities. AARP Tax-Aide saves underserved individuals/families millions in preparation fees and helps taxpayers claim millions in refunds, which can be used to reduce poverty. Tax preparers will be trained to become IRS-certified. Volunteers are also needed to help with intake/front desk.

WELCOME MAT

WHAT: Learn to create sleeping mats for the

homeless from discarded plastic bags
WHEN: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon
CONTACT: For project information, DIY videos or to schedule group workshops call Carol Greenberg at 912.355.1238 or MStarArts@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: These mat and pillow sets help divert plastic bags from landfills and waterways while providing comfort to the homeless. All ages can learn to cut the bags into ribbons, tie these together to make plastic yarn. No tools are needed for braiding, crochet hooks cost less than \$5 and looms about \$10 to make.

MATERIAL GIRLS

WHAT: Skidaway Quilters, to learn, share experience and complete projects
WHERE: Skidaway Community Church
WHEN: 3rd Thursday of each month, 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: Judy Davis, 912.319.2865
WHAT ELSE: Whether you are an experienced quilter or new to the craft, please join us for some handwork, conversation and networking. Bring a project you are working on, show and tell, or just plan to socialize. Learn about quilt shops in the area and local quilt guilds. All members of Land-lovers who are interested in quilting are welcome.

STARTING WITH SARAH

WHAT: Jewish Women of the Landings (JWOL)
WHEN: Various social and educational events throughout the year
CONTACT: For more information regarding JWOL, contact Carla at 845.216.1543 or crsblumenthal@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: JWOL is open to Jewish women as well as those connected to someone Jewish through marriage or kinship. We provide opportunities for members to develop new friendships, enjoy a wide range of social activities, educational engagements, and connect with women who share similar interests.

HORSE SENSE

WHAT: Pegasus Riding Academy volunteers needed
WHERE: Old Roberds Dairy, 2500 Tennessee Ave., Savannah
CONTACT: For information and directions, visit www.prasav.org or call 912.547.6482
WHAT ELSE: Pegasus Riding Academy is a therapeutic riding program providing safe, professional and ethical equine-assisted activities for individuals with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. Volunteers are needed to assist these special children. Horse experience not necessary.

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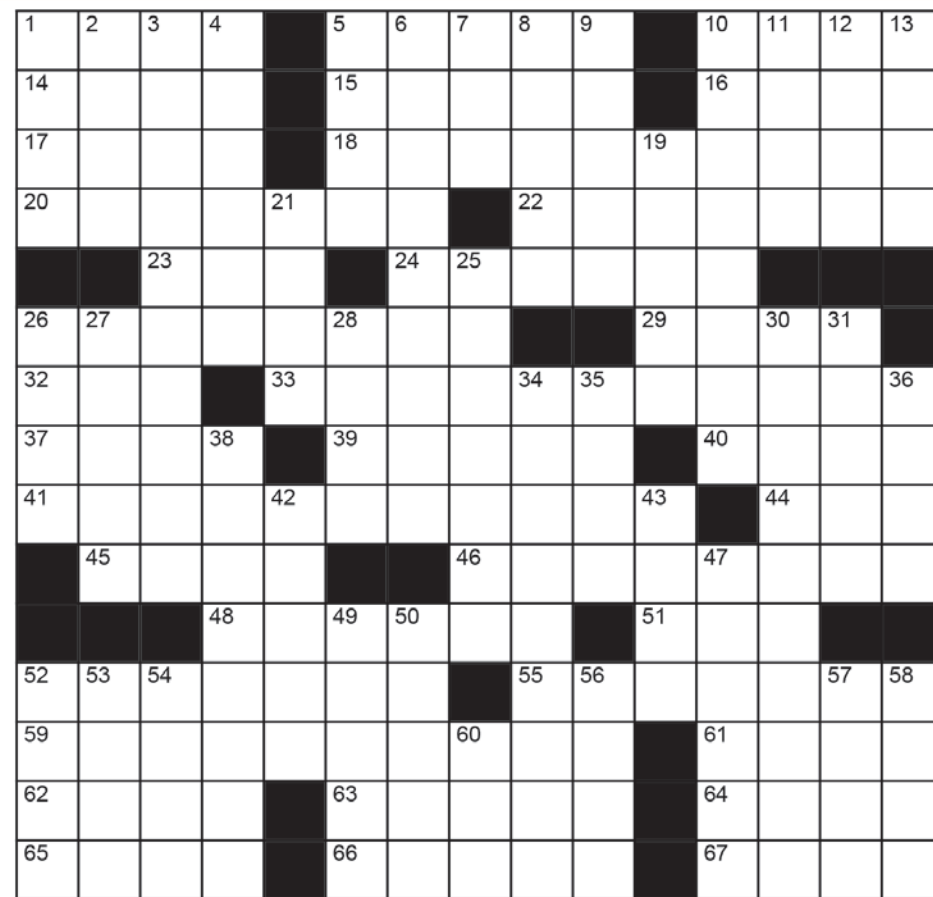
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ACROSS

1. Pesters
5. Bathroom item
10. Left on board?
14. Fairytale villain
15. Biscuit topper
16. Caesar's 57
17. Change direction
18. Braid, as a rug
20. Not budging
22. Drove round & round
23. Lonely place?
24. Fix, as leftovers
26. Movie double, often
29. Educator, briefly
32. Barley bristle
33. Confident
37. Impressionist ____ Little
39. Absconded with
40. Drone, for one
41. Incompatible
44. AAA service
45. Former *Tonight Show* host
46. Formal ritual
48. Driller's dream
51. The Regal Beagle, e.g.
52. Heart of the matter
55. Zilch
59. Dry white wine
61. Superfruit berry
62. Angelic feature
63. Done to death
64. Anagram for "nail"
65. Black cat, to some
66. Varieties
67. Cutlass, e.g.

DOWN

1. Astronomer's sighting
2. Got on
3. Lionel, to Drew Barrymore
4. Sunday delivery



5. Tibia locale
6. Lowest female voice
7. Crumb carrier
8. Bloodsucker
9. Lofty nest (var.)
10. Guitar pick
11. Cameo shape
12. Tear to pieces
13. In a dead heat
19. Finishes filming
21. Places for rent, briefly
25. Uphold, as the law
26. Wrapped garment
27. Ribbed fabric
28. State of disorder
30. Like a long speech
31. Convict

34. Substitute delegate
35. Oracle
36. Like morning grass
38. Parasitic person
42. Speaker output
43. It's outstanding
47. Hawaiian "thank you"
49. Rag composer Joplin
50. One of the Fondas
52. Say again
53. Pillow covering
54. Red-tag event
56. Court cry: Var.
57. Freshwater worm
58. Martini liquors
60. Bite

Puzzle answers, page 31

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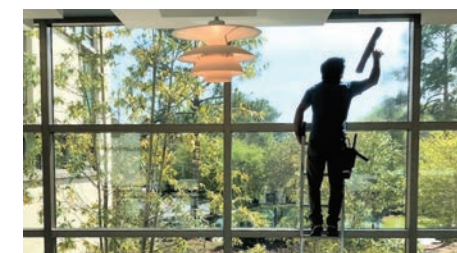
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