

# The Magnolian

January 2023

## IN THE REARVIEW

This year everything was recalibrating. Not back to what it was pre-pandemic but adjusting to how things are from that point forward.

I don't know how 2022 was for you but looking back at 2022 feels like something was really missing. I really am not one to spend a lot of time navel gazing, I tend to press forward as much as possible.

But 2022 felt more like we spent it catching up for lost time.

2021, groups were still reluctant to gather and that continued to affect our work life as group apparel producers. 2022 hit the accelerator but it had been so long, we forgot how to work at break neck speeds. It felt like we were trying to squeeze in two years of regular life. There didn't seem to be time to realize what was happening.

Even now tho, every fifteenth person I meet is continuing to wear a mask. Which is always a nudge to remember what was in 2020. I know a few people it triggers like ptsd. If it wasn't for their keen hatred for Dr. Fauci, I don't think it would give those folks a second thought.

**HEY! IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS!**



### DRIPPING WITH JUICY DETAILS

Newsletters from home, they're really not all that informative. In fact, if you ask me, they were Facebook before Facebook existed. A snapshot of me living my best life for you to look at while your at home in your sweats on the virge of giving up.

But know this, if I were to be careless enough to reveal to you in writing what was really going on, you would be relieved to know that you don't get first prize for nincompoop.

Seriously tho, if I told you even 15% of the details you'd be bored silly. 10% should do. That said, let us proceed with the usual charade.



### THROUGH NO FAULT OF YOUR OWN



Do you remember the excitement you felt the first time you received your first issue of The Magnolian? It was really a shock, huh? Pictures of me and my family carefully edited, artistically crafted, lovingly photocopied onto tabloid sized paper. I even spring for extra postage to make sure this drivel arrives into your hands! Yes, *through no fault of your own* YOU were plopped onto my subscriber list so I can assault your eyes the way all those other guys abuse you by email. Luckily, only a handful of subscribers since that first mailing have asked to be removed from the list. But that's okay because I still have you. \*hugs\*



It's New Year's Day and I'm thinking back over the year for what to take with me to 2023 and what hard feelings to leave behind. It was a whirlwind year, honestly. Jam packed every moment. We had to make time for fun thanks to our kids. We were gifted the pleasure of tickets to three different comedy shows throughout the year: Sebastian Maniscalco, Tom Pappa and Brian Regan. Do I remember one single joke? No. No I don't, but I remember that I laughed A LOT, especially Tom Papa's show. Four seats together for every show. It was such a thoughtful gift from our son that brought the four of us together for three fun evenings last year.



*I hope this picture is big enough. You must know by the size of this booklet how important that is to me.*

For my birthday in August, Angela gifted me a trip to Tacoma to see Sir Elton John in October. That was pretty hilarious getting ready in the car on an 89° day before the show. We wanted to costume up before entering the Dome. Since it was too hot to wear on the way, together we struggled, shoulder to shoulder in the backseat to get our high waisted big bells, boots and flashy jackets on. I rolled the windows down so we could breathe. We didn't care if anyone saw our underpants. Altho, it was not a nice neighborhood, it was free street parking. Inside the Dome was plenty chilly for costumes. After waiting in a long line for over an hour to enter, we got inside and admired the stage and did the usual selfie routine. Took our bathroom breaks. Opted for no souvenirs and no drinks. Elton famously starts his show with that first bounce on the G major 7 chord, the familiar pause and everyone screams. Suddenly I wonder in my head, very briefly mind you, "Did I lock the car?" Then the most amazing thing. I forgot about it completely until actually seeing my car as we walked toward it after the concert. Not only did I not lock the car, I never rolled up the windows and the sunroof was wide open. My camera and our clothing were in the back seat. No one touched a thing though. Angela said they probably thought it was a trap. Lesson: it really isn't forgetting that is a problem, it's the *remembering* and the reaction that follows.

I traveled to Michigan alone in July to visit family. We just had so much work at Blue Rhino Graphics that Mike could not leave and God knows good help is hard to find. October, Mike and I visited his family in New Smyrna Beach. We visited the Oregon Coast twice last year, once in February and once in August. It's where we go to renew our energy.



# Do Your Thing In 2023



**SEDONA**



**NOV. BUBBLES**



**FAMILY  
4TH  
PARADE**

# What is your thing?

How do you find your passion?

FASHION INSPO





Imagine in 2023 doing with your life something that you care about emotionally and intellectually. That 'thing' to spark your desire to achieve more fulfillment in life. You might call it your life's passion.

Discovering and developing your passions can lead to better career and personal development. But it isn't always easy to find a way to get paid for doing the things you *like to do* let alone *love to do*. You often need to practice imagination. Find the areas of passion that can connect your interests to create a career out of it.



Our culture today seems to be suffering a lack of creativity. We are immersed in so many flows of information with contradictory facts, it's leading to virtual stagnation of imagination. For clarity we need to seek *context* and not just content.

**THOR'S WELL, OREGON**



Get out of your comfort zone and expose yourself to something brand new. A key to this is play. Culture evolves from play. Only by playing with something can you understand. This can relax your mind to start creating ideas and lead to finding what you love to do!



**CAPT'N  
WHIDBEY**

10 steps I found at [betterup.com](https://www.betterup.com)

**1. Create a personal vision statement.** (I've actually done this a few years ago about photography) Include what you want to accomplish personally and/or professionally.

**2. What are your personal values.** The things you regard as important, priorities.

**3. Find your 'true north'** - what motivates you?

**4. List the things you love to do.** Know yourself before claiming or attempting to know anything else. This is a hard one if you are not being true to yourself.

**5. Assess the things you do not love.**

**6. Acknowledge your strengths and achievements.** What comes natural to you?

**7. Practice journaling.** Personally, I hate journalling. I hate reading about myself later and learning I'm not all that. :}

**8. Mindfulness.** Embrace the *moments* of life. Experience while aware of how you feel at those moments. Don't overthink it.

**9. Seek guidance.** We used to turn to our parents or friends for advice or encouragement. Now a lot of people pay for a coach. If you are like me, you still have friends you can confide in.

**10. Surround yourself with people with passions.** People who are inspiring. Find others with similar qualities for seeking out their passions.



Looking back on images of my family, I see how we've all been practicing and developing our passions for decades. We love "doing our thing."

Mike has honed his printing skills and has expanded his screen printing company.

Angela has stepped up her music career by stepping out and becoming involved with more performances and working community events.

Mikey has taken his passion for playing from the video screen to the outdoor fields. Playing scrimmages with air-soft squads has become for him a mission helping young and old, some who are struggling with autism or real battlefield PTSD.

And myself, I have parlayed my enjoyment of photography into a blooming little business.

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL







LIMMER  
PHOTO

Petrucci  
December 27, 2022

Mother's  
Day



Thanks  
giving







Thankfully, we've had a busy 2022 and looking forward to further developing "our thing" through fun and adventure (and hopefully a lot of pictures) in 2023! We wish you all the best and hope you are developing your passions too!

*May the Lord bless your plans  
for the new year 2023!  
Love & warm wishes. Mike & Suzy*



**Book a portrait with me this year!**