



The
Queen City Corvette
Gazette

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

December 2012



We Are Proudly Sponsored By City Chevrolet



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Please visit the [QCCC web site](#) for previous issues of the Gazette

The Queen City Corvette Gazette is the official newsletter of the [Queen City Corvette Club](#) (QCCC), established in 1968, and is published monthly by volunteers and members of QCCC. Subscription rates are free for members. Guests can receive up to three months of newsletter issues, and then are removed from mailing list if they haven't participated in any QCCC events. Cost for postage and production is paid for through membership dues. Membership list and financial data are not published for guest copies. For change of address and all other QCCC inquiries, write to: **Queen City Corvette Club, PO Box 77153 Charlotte, NC 28271-7002.**

On The Cover:

QCCC's Walt Krupowicz presents one of our many Charity checks to Elynn & Megan of the USO

QCCC is a non-profit club (501-C7) whose members all share a common appreciation and love of America's Sports Car – the Corvette. Dues and donations are not tax deductible. In addition to various social activities for members, QCCC raises money for and participates with various local charities. We strive to promote exciting, safe and fun ways to enjoy our Corvettes. We hold business meetings on the second Saturday of each month. Our monthly business meeting usually incorporates social time. Our socials are always fun and are focused around fellowship, food & drink. We've had swimming parties, bar-b-ques, cookouts, day cruises and weekend trips. We participate in / conduct mountain tours, holiday parades and several homecoming parades at local area high schools. We also support and participate in local auto shows and hold charity Corvette shows each year. After an initiation fee of \$7.00, club dues are only \$8.00 a month, per family, and are to be paid quarterly or annually. These dues go to cover the costs of running the club, mailing newsletters, and subsidizing the costs of our meetings. Club officers and supporting staff serve as volunteers.

To become a member of the [QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB](#), you must own a Corvette and attend at least three (3) monthly business meetings and two (2) events within a six-month time period. *Come check us out – we love to meet fellow Corvette Enthusiasts!* Express your wishes for membership during a monthly business meeting and be voted in, begin paying dues and having fun! If you can't join us, **please WAVE!**



The President's Vault



No Report this month. See you at the Christmas Party on the 15th.

Remember the wave, and let's drive 'em and enjoy them!

Steve Pelchat
President



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the View is Always Nice.*



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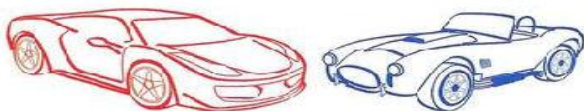
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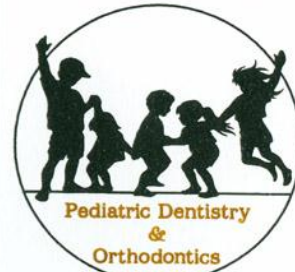
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Members interested in joining the fun should contact the following to be added to the email list:

Nelson Sprague (barnel@carolina.rr.com) – Monthly Men's Luncheon

Peggy Wood (chrisowood@carolina.rr.com) – Monthly Ladies' Luncheon

Eddie & Jane Burt (eddieburt@carolina.rr.com) – Monthly "Up Yonder" Dinner & Weekly Wednesday Dinners

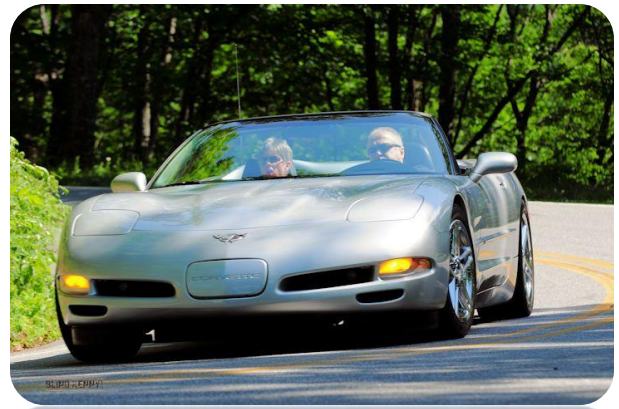
Come see what QCCC is all about and join friends, make new friends, at the dinners and lunches!!!!!!!!!!

Crossroads

With the Vice President Keith Cross

We want to thank again our good friends at AutoBarn Classic Cars for hosting our November Business Meeting. As always, we enjoyed meeting there. Our December Business Meeting/Christmas Party will be held at **Dilworth Neighborhood Grille** located at **911 East Morehead Street, Suite 200, Charlotte, NC 28204** and their telephone number is **704-377-3808**.

If you are curious about Dilworth Neighborhood Grille you can check out their website at - <http://www.neighborhoodgrille.com/>. This should be a great time for all who attend. For more information about our December Business Meeting/Christmas Party, please visit the **QCCC Website** for times, directions, and details. To see the flyer just click on www.queencitycorvette.com and then click on “**View Our Event Calendar**”.



My last “**Did You Know**”.

What is so special about January 13th, 2013? No it is not my birthday. That is actually towards the end of February for those of you that want to send cards and presents. But it could be considered a birthday. It is the unveiling of the long anticipated Corvette C7 model. Just think we have been hearing about this car for several years now. There have been many artist renderings of how it might look. There have been “spy shots” saying this is the car under wraps. There have been many guesses and opinions building up to this one day in January in Detroit. Will this be a body style that will have to grow on you and take a little time for you to fall in love with? How long will this body style stay around? Will there be a C8 or will this be the last body style of this great car? Well there is one thing for sure and that is that the love for a Corvette will never end. Whether it stops with the C7 or if it goes to a C12 the love America has for the Corvette we never end. It has been a lifelong dream for many kids to own their dream Corvette. And as long as kids keep dreaming there will always be a passion to own one of the America’s Sport Car, the Chevrolet Corvette.

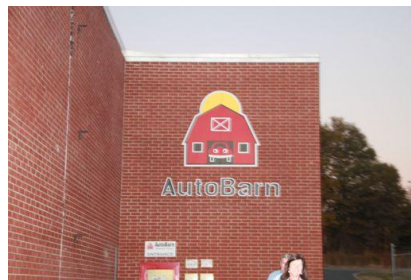


To see more go to: <http://www.chevrolet.com/one13thirteen.html> and scroll down the page to see several videos as they are unlocked on a countdown to 1-13-13.

On a personal note I would like to say a big **THANKS** to all of you that have helped me this year as I served as Vice President of QCCC. This year seems to have gone by so fast. And it should have since they say "Time flies when you're having fun".

Lastly Kelly and I want to wish each of you and your families the very best during this holiday season. So have a safe *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year* and I hope to "See you at the Crossroads" in 2014.

Keith Cross



Queen City Corvette Club Minutes

November 10, 2012

6:00PM – 7:00PM

Meeting Held at: Auto Barn

BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

Board Members: Steve Pelchat, President; Keith Cross, Vice President; John Walton, Automotive Director; Laura Pelchat, Social Director; Florence Prather, Treasurer; Chris Wood, Membership Director; Boyd and Susan Kurt, Newsletter Editor; Bob and Marilyn Becker, Webmaster; Bob Denny, Club Photographer; Paul Pelkey, Database Manager; Paul Mariano, NCM Ambassador.:

DISCUSSION

President:

Thanked Tom Marshall from the Auto Barn for hosting our meeting. Membership approved the minutes.

We reached our goal to buy an acre at the Museum.

2014 Board voted in by the membership are as follows: Keith Cross, President, Bill Rambo Vice President, Jim Weisberg Treasurer, Carolyn Zimmer, Secretary, Laura Pelchat Social Director, Automotive Director Tommy Loftin, Membership Chris Wood.

Membership:

288 Members and 154 Families

New Members: Donna Rice, Sandy Spencer, David Poindexter, Karen Day, Tracy Nisley, Elaine Laurent Jack and Linda Rossette.

Prospective Members: George and Allison Ganzhorn, Zoe Poindexter, Neal Roseele, James Ford, Guy and Jean Bissing.

New sponsor: Albertine Florals in Denver NC.

Vice President: Steve Pelchat for Keith Cross

December 15th meeting is at Dilworth Neighborhood Grill for the Christmas party. Dirty Santa gift exchange. Bad Santa and take gift back from another member \$10 to \$15 per gift please. \$7.50 per person.

January 12th meeting is at the Boys Scout Camp at Mint Hill. We are going to have a chili cook off.

Raffle winners were Catherine Appleyard and Debbie Rockhold

Automotive:

November 11th-- Motor Cross was finally a success Awards at the next meeting

November 17th--Corvette Angels Toy Drive at Hendricks Motor Sports and Concord Parade

November 18th-- Monroe Parade

December 1st --Street Side Classic open house.

December 2nd-- Indian Trail Parade

Treasurer: Bank Balance

Social Director:

December 15th--Christmas Party with presents. 5pm to 10pm \$7.50 per person
Money is due by December 1st.

February 2nd-- Banquet at the Vintage Motor Club in Concord.. Plans for a silent auction. Bring your corvettes to park in the banquet hall. \$50 per coupe with a DJ for music. Catered meal.

December 8th-- Old Salem trip and lunch. Restaurant TBD.

Secretary:

November Birthdays: Forrest Kelly, Walt Krupowicz, Walter Ahrens 98 years old, Sue Stickels, Patti Koski, Debbi Lisi, Gerri Kessell, Rita Schultz, Fred McCoy.

Corvette Museum:

April Bash events and the 2014 Caravan information is on the website. Join the Museum.

Other Business:

Charity Committee donations to Pilgrims Inn, National Corvette Museum, Matthews Help Center, Hope Cancer Center and the USO.

Dues will be \$100 this year and By Laws have changed due date to January 15th.

Members will be receiving an email.

Nelson Sprague is handling the food donation of the Matthews Help Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lewis, Secretary

QCCC Board Minutes 11-05-2012

Meeting 6:00

Board Members and Staff: Steve Pelchat, President, Keith Cross Vice President, Linda Lewis, Secretary; Florence Prather, Treasurer; John Walton, Automotive Director; Laura Pelchat, Social Director; Chris Wood, Membership Director.

President:

The Charity Committee will present their recommendation at the November meeting.

Membership:

New advertiser Albertine Floral we now have 9.

Donation for Phil McGwier of \$100 to MS Foundation

283 members and 151 families. Added 39 this year and lost 35.

Food drive will be handled by Nelson Sprague.

2013 dues email to be sent out this month.

Vice President:

November 10th meeting is at Auto Barn in Concord. Check the website for information.

December 15th meeting is at Dilworth Neighborhood Grill for the Christmas party.

Automotive:

November 10th possible Auto Cross \$40

November 17th and November 18th parades. We still need cars.

November 17th Hendricks Shriners Car show

December 2nd Indian Trail Parade

Treasurer: Bank Balance

Social Director:

December 15th--Christmas Party with presents \$10 to \$15 per gift.. 5pm to 10pm \$7.50 per person.

February 2nd Banquet Vintage Motor Club in Concord . We have plans for a silent auction.

New Business: Keith Cross discussed club sponsorships.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lewis, Secretary

Route & Track



Why do they call it a “Swan Song”? Well (Honk!), here goes (Honk!).

The November 10th SCCA autocross did, in fact, take place at ZMax Dragway. Unopposed winners were Darrell Kirkley in the unlimited class and Larry Miller in Class I. Carl Metz also drove in the event but was disqualified for driving a F**d product. Awards will be presented at the December meeting. This completed the

QCCC Sportsman of the Year competition and the results are in, but will not be disclosed until the Awards Banquet, unless significant money changes hands.

Thanks to Tom Cramer for driving in the Concord Holiday Parade and Jim Appleyard, Al (and Gerri) Kessel and Jim Ramandanes for driving in the Monroe parade. They did so well that two additional girls signed up to do the Indian Trail Parade 12/2. QCCC took care of business at the Hendrick/Shriners Christmas for Kids car show.

Taking home hardware were Karl Slavetsky, Robert Morgan, John Meadows, Tommy Helms, Jim and Beth Cerniglia, Darrell Kirkley, and Larry Miller. (There was some sort of accounting abnormality that prevented me from winning. It turns out that 1 + 1 does in fact equal only 2).

Final 2012 Automotive Events are the Streetside Classics Toys for Tots Open House on 12/1 and the Indian Trail Holiday Parade on 12/2. So...

Good Night Mrs. Kalabash, where ever you are

John





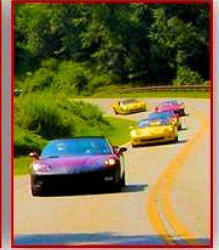
The holidays will be here before you know it. Two important dates to put on your calendar:

1. Saturday, December 15th is our December meeting and Christmas party.
2. Saturday, February 2nd will be our Awards Banquet.

The Christmas Party is at a restaurant this year, The Dilworth Neighborhood Grill, at the corner of East Morehead and McDowell. We are catering the party, so you won't have to bring any food, but there will be a slight charge to cover some of your meal. You can pay at the November meeting, or send me a check made out to QCCC by December 1st. The cost will be \$7.50 a person and covers appetizer, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages, and a meal of Penne pasta, grilled chicken skewers, garlic mashed potatoes, mixed green salad, sautéed mixed vegetables. We will be having a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange, so if you want to take part, bring a gift costing between \$10.00-\$15.00.

Laura





National Corvette Museum Corner

Well Corvette lovers, another year has gone by the wayside and I guess, by most standards, it was a very good year.

First, the National Corvette Museum remained on a sound financial footing thanks, in the most part, to the outstanding support of the new Corvette raffles. QCCC has done their part in ticket purchases for the \$10.00 raffles and here's hoping that next year one of our members actually wins one.

NCM membership now stands at over 36,000 and yearly visitors exceed 150,000. Our museum is sustained by its members and all the support they pour into it. QCCC is above and beyond in its support and 2012 has been exemplar. We became a member of the "One Acre Club" for the Motorsports Park, had our banner displayed in the parking lot, paid the yearly club dues and made a donation from our Charity Fund. With our museum membership approaching 50%, not many Corvette clubs can claim NCM support that QCCC does.

So, before the end of the year occurs, I remind you that all donations and ticket purchases are tax deductible and we can all use those little benefits. And don't forget your Christmas shopping at the Corvette Store. With free shipping on orders above \$100.00 and with your member discount, how easy can it get?

Let's set some goals for next year by making some resolutions early and firmly. First, let's get the club membership well above 50%. Vow to make one trip to the museum for either the NCM Bash or the Anniversary Celebration. And finally, maybe we can consider buying a lifetime membership for QCCC and save the yearly dues we now pay.

Thanks to everyone for making 2012 such a special year and bringing publicity to QCCC, of which we all can be proud; now onward and upward to 2013.



Paul Mariano,
NCM Ambassador



Save the Wave!

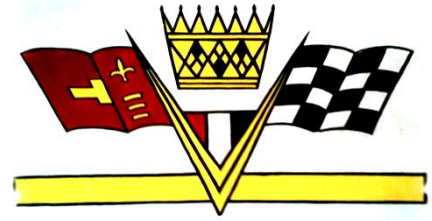
Have great and happy holidays. See everyone soon at the outstanding parties planned and executed by your board members. *HO-HO-HO!*

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Richard Craig, Darrell Kirkley & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



A Flash of Red

Those of us who know Darrel Kirkley well are encouraging him to write a book about the adventures in his life. He may be the most street smart person we know, a real alley fighter. Due to his abundance of skills in a variety of endeavors, just when you think he is falling, he latches onto a new adventure. Actually part of it is that he just gets bored and wants a new challenge. So when he tells the story of his first Corvette he starts by saying he was between fortunes, all very true.

Now we go back to the fall of 73 and Turkey is between fortunes. A wife expecting to deliver his son in December, he latches onto a one day job with Kelly Tire on Central Avenue where, in exchange for a set of recaps, he agreed to load old used tires on a box truck and take them to the dump on York Road for disposal. This is not a job you seek but one of necessity. On a September afternoon he has loaded up the box truck with the tires and old tires lying outside do what old tires do. Stink and splash smelly mosquito infested water all over you as you load them. Finally with the truck bulging he heads down trade street to Tryon to York Road. Those who have been here awhile remember Lapoint Chevrolet just down a block from the courthouse. Lapoint was the birthplace of Brillo's 85). So in heavy traffic, as Turkey blasts past Lapoint, he naturally always glances at the showroom, and there he spies a 74 red/red/white top roadster. Wow. Darrel loves red corvettes. Around the block several times trying to find a place to park the big truck (traffic around the courthouse always impossible.) The truck parked he goes in and, out the blue, asks a salesman what they would take for the car. That would be the second salesman. You see the first one looked at a 25 year old with nasty water and stains down his shirt and blew him off. Offer made Turkey put down a deposit, called the bank and borrowed the rest, then went home at the end of the day and asked his wife to drive him to Lapoint Chev. When they got there she wanted to know why and he said he bought the red corvette. Darrel was divorced a couple years later. (Been there done that) Darrel drove that car hard, as he does all of them, and we have video of him auto-crossing the car in the 70's. After 10,000 miles, a new front end and several repairs he sold the car---- to his boss and owner of Kelley Tire who still owns it today and has 30,000 miles on it. Of course Darrel moved on seeking other fortunes.

We all started Corvettes somewhere. This is when Turkey joined QCCC late 73 a few years after Trav, one year before Brillo and 2 years before Richard. So write the darn book Darrel we only want 20%, enough for a C-7 for each of us.

QCCC Newest Members November 2012

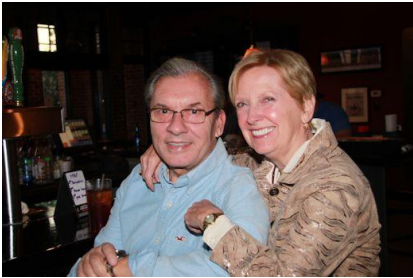


Karen Day
2013 Crystal Red Coupe



Linda & Jack Rosette
1999 Red Coupe

QCCC Members Caught on Film. See QCCC Website for more photos.





From Track to Street

NEXT EVENT

Corvette Racing's next event is the 12-hour at Sebring, FL March 16th, 2013. Come see Boyd & John at the start finish line.

Other Corvette Related Items of interest.

Info about the C7: http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.lanereport.com/15563/2012/11/corvette-plant-temporary-workers/&ct=ga&cad=CACQAhgAIAAoATAIOAhA2IzehQVIAVA AWABiBWVuLVVT&cd=vNs4kxEu_Dw&usg=AFQjCNH43-bUq3A_8V38M33d6SOOY7CQRQ

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Thank you Wade Stickle.

From Phillip Lewis:

Thanks for all the cards of sympathy and prayers in the lost of my sister the club has been very supportive. Phillip

Keep those C7 rumors coming. Before you know it , IT will be here.

Is This It???



“Heads-Up”

Join the Queen City Corvette Club
for our December Meeting and Christmas Party
Saturday, December 15, 2012

at :

The Dilworth Neighborhood Grille
911 E Morehead
Charlotte, NC 28204

www.neighborhoodgrille.com

Doors will open at 5:00 pm

The meeting will run from 6:00 – 6:30 pm

Dinner will be after the meeting

After dinner we will have a gift exchange game for anyone that
brought a present

Please stick around even if you don't participate in the exchange,
there will still be time to socialize

Dinner is \$7.50 a person, including non-alcoholic beverage

Cash bar is available

RSVP to Laura Pelchat asap

704-806-1113

Lspelchat@yahoo.com

Call or email any questions



Matthews Free Medical Clinic

Amy Carr, Executive Director
113 N. Ames Street • Matthews, NC 28105
Phone 704-841-8882 • Fax 704-841-8879
acarr@matthewsfmc.org



Matthews Free Medical Clinic
113 North Ames Street
Matthews, NC 28105
(704) 841-8882

November 21, 2012

Mr. Nelson Sprague
Queen City Corvette Club
1028 Holleybank Drive
Matthews, NC 28105

Dear Mr. Sprague:

Thank you very much for The Queen City Corvette Club's donation of \$700.00 to the Matthews Free Medical Clinic. As you know, uninsured individuals in our community go without access to affordable healthcare every day due to a variety of factors.

With the generous support of people like you, we will be able to help many of these individuals with obtaining primary healthcare and medicines. The clinic can also refer them to other specialists if necessary.

For more information on how this donation is helping to make a difference in the lives of so many in our community, we invite you to visit our Web site at www.matthewsfmc.org. You can also find information there on our upcoming events for this year and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you again, and we look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Christy Story
Office Manager

Matthews Free Medical Clinic is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Federal ID# 51-0468874. Your entire donation of \$700.00 is tax deductible as no goods or services were exchanged. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Licensing Branch at 888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the state.

Dear Nelson and the entire Queen City Corvette Club, Thank you so much for your very generous donation! Your support impacts so many lives in our community and enables us to provide the care to people that would otherwise go untreated. Thank you from all our staff, volunteers, and patients! Amy



The mission of Matthews HELP Center is to care for those in the community by providing programs and services that meet life's basic needs and by connecting those in need with resources that improve quality of life.

- Executive Director: Kim Rhodamer
Development Manager: Barbara Dement
Business Manager: Sue Oxley
Social Workers: Molly Kennedy, Kelly Trott
Social Services Assistant: Koreen Marx
Backporch Treasures: Tracy Doyle, Manager; Bonita Simers, Asst. Manager; Irene Kilzer, Asst. Manager
Hours of Operation: Social Services (Monday-Friday 9am-4pm), Backporch Treasures (Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm)
Contact Information: Phone: 704-847-8383, Location: 119 N. Ames St., Matthews, NC 28105, www.matthewshelpcenter.org

Send all Correspondence to: PO Box 91, Matthews, NC 28106

November 16, 2012

Nelson Sprague
Queen City Corvette Club
7028 Holleybank Dr
Matthews, NC 28105

Dear Nelson and The Queen City Corvette Club,

Thank you for your generous donation to Matthews Help Center. Your contributions are greatly needed and will make a tremendous difference in our food pantry. We appreciate all donations and support from the community. Our mission is to care for those in our community by providing programs and services that meet life's basic needs and by connecting those in need with resources that improve quality of life.

Enclosed you will find a flyer that details our programs and services that we offer to the community. Also, please note our "measures of success" that we had in the Matthews community and surrounding areas. It takes a tremendous amount of resources to have the daily impact we have on this community. My staff of eight and I could show up for work every day, our 300+ volunteers could work weekly, our board could meet monthly, but without community commitment from you, it would be for naught. Simply put, needs would go unmet without your support!

Please visit our website (www.matthewshelpcenter) for information in a full range of programs and services we offer the Matthews community. I would consider it an honor to speak on behalf of Matthews HELP Center to any group to which you have association. I can be contacted at 704-847-8383 extension 222 to schedule a speaking engagement. Again, thank you for partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of so many people.

The "House with a Heart"

Kim Rhodamer
Executive Director
kim@matthewshelpcenter.org

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Success

a BLOOMING career

BY: MARIA CELENZA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY: CHELSEA BREN

***a* LONG OUR CAREER PATH** sometimes we forget to stop and smell the roses. But Judy Armstrong, owner of Albertine Florals in Denver, knew to adjust her settings until her path—and her destination—were joyous. Growing up in the small midwest city of Clinton, Illinois, her first job was with the Department of Veteran Affairs where she worked for 18 years.

Wanting to start her own business, Judy left her government job and entered into a partnership with a steel manufacturing company. Although now in charge of her own destiny, steel was not something that she was passionate about so her interest quickly waned. “I’m naturally more creative,” Judy explains, “and I wanted to be around something more beautiful than cold, hard steel.” Judy left the steel industry and opened a bed and breakfast in small-town Athens. Opportunity presented itself when the local florist went out of business; and Judy instinctively knew she wanted to open a floral shop inside her B&B.

Weeding out the things that she was less passionate about, Judy continued to move forward. She credits her mother for the most inspiration because “she was supportive and encouraged me to be a free-thinker and follow my heart.”

Such independence allowed Judy to take risks, not only in changing career paths and as a single parent, but as a florist, too. “A client requested a massive horseshoe floral arrangement for a funeral. I even created a cowboy hat and tie on it; it was pretty out there.” More confidence in her choices also led Judy to be able to expand her current store, doubling its size.

Judy also learned important lessons about business from her father. He taught her that businesses that start with the letter A are more successful because they show up first in the telephone book. As adults, her brother gave her an Albertine rose bush. Once planted, it burgeoned, growing in every direction. She knew she had found the name of her company, hoping to inspire her business to blossom just like the beautiful rose. She moved to the Lake Norman area several years ago, opening Albertine Florals in Denver.

Judy has passed along her entrepreneur gene to her son, Shon, who still lives in Illinois. His steel fabrication company customizes motorcycles and race cars. As a single mom, Judy had juggled work and motherhood, but she quickly declares, “I had an amazing network of people that helped me with Shon. He had the best nanny who was like a grandmother to him.”

Judy’s most important lesson in her four years is, “to know what people want and what the latest styles are. It can be difficult to predict what people will want and to foresee future trends.” One way Judy’s team has tapped into trends is adding in-home holiday decorating to their list of services. This service, one Judy hopes to extend even after the holidays, allows clients to freshen up their style (Judy’s staff will even come back and take it all down!). Certainly, Judy understands the importance of keeping her ideas, as well as her services, fresh. She isn’t afraid to think outside the box and extend from her own initial comfort zone to continue to grow and to flourish. After all, where flowers bloom, so does hope! 🌸