

# southern NEIGHBOR



Bringing News of Local Business to the Neighborhoods of Greater Chapel Hill

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## The Dance of the Sunflowers

BY LAURA ZAVELSON



Today I was transported to a place where porches are wide and inviting. Where sweet tea is poured out of pretty china pitchers into an eclectic array of wine glasses. Where painted sunflowers shimmy up the walls. And where a picture of a dream house painted by a friend turned from still life to real life.

Marcie Corry, owner of the Sunflower Barn and Gift Shoppe in Apex, was our hostess, the cook and the entertainment. Regaling us with stories of Southern characters and extended family, her energy could power a boat all the way across Jordan lake and back. Within minutes we felt like family, seated around a big farm table enjoying chicken salad, asparagus and dream-like pecan pie for dessert.

Some years ago, Marcie commissioned a painting of an image she created in her mind – a farmhouse full of character with a meandering tree-shaded lane – her

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## Smile and Say Cheese!



BY MICHAEL LACHES

**A**nyone who has children can relate: Any time is picture time. And, with the onset of the holiday season, the photo opportunities come early and often. To ensure you don't shudder when you shutter and to keep everything in focus (boy, those were painful), we've put together some great tips and advice, provided by professional photographers who want to make sure your point and click experience is rewarding.

There are generally two ways to get shots of your kids – you can go it alone (see sidebar) or you can hire a professional photographer.

### HIRING A PRO

If you've decided that a professional is in the Christmas cards this year, consider the following as you embark on that journey:

What do you want? Are you looking for artsy shots or is your goal a formal portrait or perhaps, it's a little bit of both. Do your research, figure it out and find a photographer that excels in the area or areas you want.

Can the photographer work with young children? Set up a meeting between the photographer and the children prior to the shoot. You can save a lot of time and money (and aggravation) if you figure out ahead of time that the pro and the kids don't mesh.

Does the photographer have a portfolio of work and referrals or testimonials to offer?

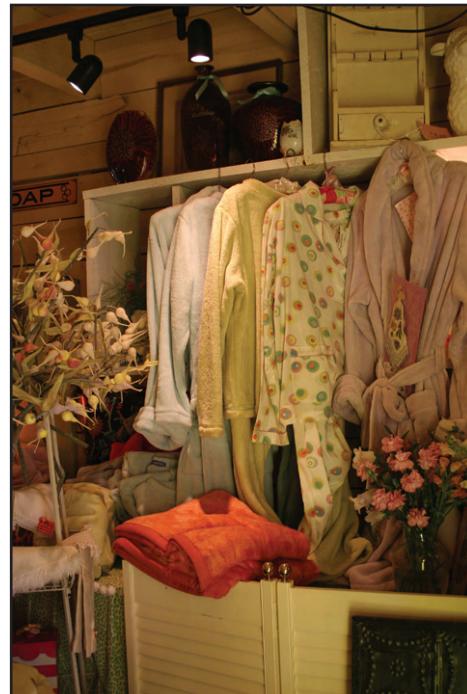
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### Continued from Cover

dream house. She found Sally Sutton, a Pittsboro-based watercolor artist to paint it for her. Then, a few years later, Marcie was driving down Hwy 751 with a friend and saw an old farmer pounding a for sale sign into the ground in front of her dream house. She pulled off the highway for a look and the painting became a self-fulfilling prophecy.

She and her husband, a guitar-playing veterinarian, refurbished the farmhouse (circa 1865) with colorful whimsy. Each room is full of vibrant hue and pattern,

beautifully accessorized down to the last detail, and yet is as comfortable and inviting as a grandmother's quilt.

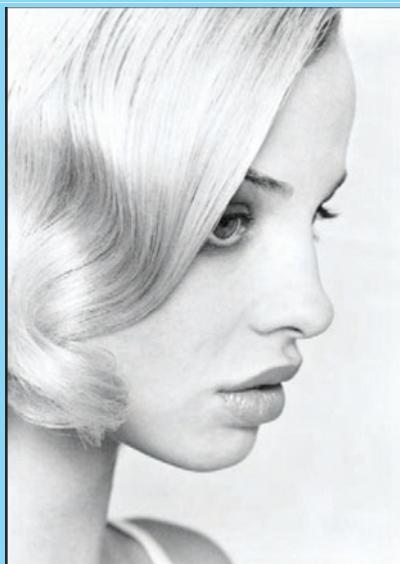
Once the house was done, Marcie and Sally (who naturally became good friends) got together and channeled their energy and artistry into an out building that was once a barn. The result is the Sunflower Gift Shoppe and Sally Sutton Gallery. An intimate shop on the bottom just brims with treasures -- found objects, cozy blankets, soft sweaters, special accessories and anything else that catches Marcie's eye. Some favorites include Pine Cone Hill pajamas, handmade jewelry

and cashmere scarves from England.

Sally's gallery is on the top -- filled with peaceful and scenic watercolor canvases in her signature impressionistic style. The paintings capture the beauty of the local area and beyond. She is also available to do commissions and can put something personal in a painting on request.

And recently, the business has migrated from the barn to the farmhouse itself. It seems that one afternoon while Marcie was hosting a lunch for friends, someone stopped over from the store to use the restroom. Awestruck by the fabulous décor

and welcoming table she asked, "How much do you charge?" and "May I have your card?" and the event side of the business came to life. The story of the fabulous house, ladies lunches and the barn turned shop and art gallery quickly spread. Marcie has hosted about 90 such events since April of this year. And in July 2006, the ladies and their Sunflower Shoppe/Gallery were featured in Southern Living magazine. For those looking for an eclectic selection of gifts and a romantically different shopping experience, a trip to the farm is an absolute must. Once there, you can't help but think



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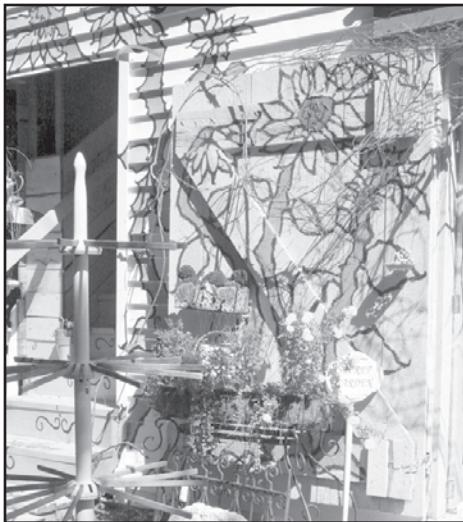
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 4 Silk Painting Class with artist Sally Sutton, 10 a.m. -2 p.m.** Paint a silk scarf and take it home for you or someone special! All materials supplied. Cost: \$70

**November 10 Wine and Cheese, 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m.** Get in the holiday spirit with the opening of new Sally Sutton paintings and new inventory of unique gifts in the Sunflower Shoppe. Free

**November 18 Painting Workshop with Sally Sutton, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Bring your own medium, oils, watercolors pastels, acrylics (watercolor kits available for purchase for \$20) and Sally will demonstrate and work with everyone. This will be a fun day for all levels of skill. Cost: \$70

**December 2 Holiday Open Barn and Gallery Open House, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.** Hot cider, molasses cookies, Door Prize. This is a holiday gathering for newcomers and oldcomers to have holiday cheer. Come see "Art for the Holiday" and many new works by artist Sally Sutton

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up a perfect excuse for an event. For Red Hat Society lunches, bridal showers, corporate gatherings, or holiday teas, the Sunflower Farm is the perfect chance to steal an afternoon to enjoy good stories, good gossip and the kind of Southern hospitality that never goes out of style.

The Sunflower Gift Shoppe and Sally Sutton Gallery are located at 1515 Highway 751 in Apex off Jordan Lake, about 13 miles south of The Streets at Southpoint. November hours are Wednesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. In December, hours will be extended to 6 p.m. Contact Marcie Corry at 919-303-4635 and Sally Sutton at 919-417-8784. ■



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## THREE FABULOUS EVENTS

(One Charming Location:  
Fearnrington Village)

**CHARLES FRAZIER BOOK SIGNING**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND AT 6:00PM**  
Cold Mountain author Charles Frazier will sign his latest work, Thirteen Moons, at McIntyre's Fine Books. Call (919) 542-3030 for details.



**PASTRIES & DESSERTS COOKING CLASS**  
**NOVEMBER 12TH & 13TH**

The Cooking Class Retreat includes reception, dinner, an overnight stay and the hands-on cooking class with Chef Fox. From \$525. Call (919) 542.2121 or visit [www.fearnrington.com](http://www.fearnrington.com).



**HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING SEMINAR**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH FROM 9-2PM**

The seminar package includes the morning's demonstrations, continental breakfast, and a gourmet buffet luncheon. \$85 per person. Call (919) 542.2121 for details and reservations.



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