



**Sheree Covington Speck**

**M**y father was a Petroleum Engineer and in Texas that meant you followed the oil. I was born in West Texas near an oil camp in Colorado City. We lived in Wichita Falls, Bowie, Dallas, Garland and finally Houston.

I graduated from Klein High School where I helped develop the drama program and one of my classmates was Lyle Lovett. After high school, I attended the University of Texas in Austin as a Fine Arts Major. After the first semester of learning everything you needed to know about nail sizes, saw types and uses, building sets, sweeping floors, and striking sets at 3:00am, I decided if I was going to invest a small fortune in an education, I wanted to at least make that much in a lifetime!

At that point, I transferred to the College of Business and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and Finance. I was fortunate to be recruited right off UT campus by Marsh & McLennan, the worlds largest insurance broker as a trainee, became an officer and enjoyed a 14 year long career there.

All along I knew I was not "Corporate America" material. I have a passion for insurance and a burning desire to own my own business. Since 1994, I have owned and operated several Insurance Agencies with different specialties.

Speck Insurance & Financial Services PLLC has been in existence for the last 12 years. We are a full service agency assisting with all lines of insurance to individuals, families and small businesses. We offer value added personalized risk management analysis and employee benefit services for our clients. This means that we evaluate and educate you on your risk exposure so that you can make informed decisions for yourself, family or company.

My drive and passion for my professional career comes from my deep Christian faith and the love of my family and community. I am very blessed to have 2 beautiful intelligent daughters, Sarah and Hannah, both living in Austin attending college. Sarah attends Austin Community College. Hannah is a freshman at the University of Texas in the Natural Science College.

When I am not assisting clients: you can find me attending church, Sunday school or a bible study, presiding over a Homeowner Association meeting, attending or working on a committee with Houston West Chamber of Commerce, volunteering time on a political campaign, cooking a gourmet meal for friends or traveling to a tropical island.

**Speck Insurance & Financial Services PLLC**  
10190 Katy Frwy., Ste. 250 713-467-1100  
SpeckInsurance.com



**Roxana Nizza**

**I** remember that as a child growing up in Mexico, I was fascinated by all the wonderful artisans working in most shops and markets around town, from glass blowers, stone workers, to leather carvers. I was amazed by the details, patience, and color selection for their crafts. I always wanted to somehow find my way into the art world. Coming from a long line of artists and painters, I felt I wasn't talented simply because I couldn't draw or paint, so I went into the field of engineering for 28 years.

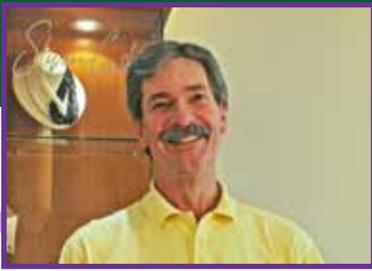
18 years ago during a trip through the Texas Hill Country, I saw and fell in love with a simple mosaic flower pot and was reminded of my childhood days in Mexico. I went home and created my first ceramic tile mosaic and was amazed at the results. Even though my design was so basic, friends and family members wanted me to make them a mosaic and encouraged me to continue. For the past 18 years, I have studied the art of mosaic from the masters and continuously explore and experiment with different materials and techniques.

My mission for the past 6 years as an artist, and now director of Nizza Mosaic Studio and Gallery, has been to not only create mosaic art, but to share my knowledge and love for mosaics with the public. Especially with people who think they have no artistic ability. Seeing my students smile and dance with excitement when they complete their first mosaic project is the most rewarding part of my day. Anyone can create beautiful mosaics, from ages 6 through 99, all that is needed is some guidance.

I invite you to visit Nizza Mosaic Studio & Gallery and join us for a class or two. The staff of enthusiastic artists and instructors will gladly give you a guided tour of the gallery, classrooms and supply store. Our working studio is also always open to the public where you can visit with the artists working on several large-scale mosaic commissions.

I am proud to be part of the Heights community and hope I can introduce and encourage you to discover your inner creativity.

**Nizza Mosaic Studio & Gallery**  
1331 Studewood 281-787-2472  
NizzaMosaicStudio.com



**Steven Cash**

**S**teven Cash, owner of Steven Cash Diamonds by Design. Born and raised in Tulsa Oklahoma, I moved to San Francisco after graduating college and worked as a sales associate at a jewelry store. I got a lucky break when they ended up transferring me to this amazing city. Here I met my beautiful, loving, caring wife, Janet, a first Vice President at Morgan Stanley.

My wife and I have enjoyed fostering dogs for the SPCA. At one point we fostered 16 dogs over a period of two years, most of which we adopted out to our friends. We eventually adopted our dog Biff a Basenji / Rat terrier mix. We like to play golf, and we have particularly enjoyed playing at such nice places like Lake Tahoe, Pebble Beach and Florida.

I opened Aviv, a manufacturing jeweler with two former partners. We became major suppliers to Gordons, Zales and other major chains. We also had a store, New York Gold and Diamond where we sold the public. After 25 years of the manufacturing business, we decided to close down and I opened my jewelry store Steven Cash diamonds by Design in River Oaks. We have been at this location for 12 years, serving the River Oaks and Heights communities ever since.

I am the proud parent of two, Stacy, a lawyer and teacher graduated from Penn State, and Mitchell, a CPA graduated from Baylor. Both of them live in the Heights area and love it! We also have an "adopted daughter", Francesca who works with me at the store.

**Steven Cash Diamonds by Design**  
2043 West Gray 713-626-0800  
StevenCashDiamonds.com



**Susan Whitt Dooley**

**I** have been in Houston from an early age. I graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a BA in Business Administration. After graduation I started a fun and fulfilling career in the non-profit sector. I worked with nonprofits leaders such as, The Ronald McDonald House Houston, Susan G. Komen and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Although I loved working for these dynamic groups and helping people that were experiencing very difficult situations, I knew I wanted to take a leap of faith and open my own business.

I opened Polka Dot Dogs July 4th, 2010. We were a hit from the get go! Our customers love that we have plenty of space for their city dogs to get lots of exercise and socialization. Mostly they love the staff! They just know that when their dog is with us he is getting nothing but love ...and a few belly rubs.

I knew I would love running my own business, but there were a few things I didn't plan on. For instance, I was approached by a local rescue organization, Scout's Honor Rescue, to board some of their dogs that were waiting for homes. I immediately said yes and can say that in the last two years we have seen countless dogs come to us from the shelter and end up in wonderful homes. Being a respite from the anxiety filled shelter has been incredibly fulfilling for both me and the entire staff that also cares for these pups. Another unexpected blessing was meeting my husband, Matt. He was referred to Polka Dot Dogs by a college buddy and happy customer. After signing his hyper Vizsla up for daycare three times a week, we flirted in the lobby for months before he finally asked me out. Only seven months later we were engaged!

Owning my business has been my greatest accomplishment that lead me down wonderful paths I never expected to take. Every day is different and enjoyable. I love chatting with my customers and taking care of the most important creature in their lives.

**Polka Dot Dogs**  
2505 Ella Blvd. 713-677-0701  
PolkaDotDogs.com



**Shawn Manderscheid Team**

**B**eing a fourth generation native Houstonian, my work is also my passion! My great grandfather settled in the Houston Heights around 1917, operating a small dental office out of his home on 20th Street. My grandfather, Dr. Ralph Taylor, later followed in his footsteps by opening his own dental office at the corner of 20th and Ashland across from Heights Hospital, where a parking lot now sits. My mother, Diane Taylor Manderscheid, was raised in Houston Heights at 1648 Harvard Street, now home to the "Pumpkin House", and my family has been active in the area ever since. Being a Real Estate broker for over 25 years, my mother was instrumental in bringing me into the family business that I continue to carry on today with my wife Paula, who is also a Realtor® and the other half of my team.

When not working, I enjoy attending Houston events, working on community projects, listening to live music, playing basketball and pool, visiting Discovery Green Park, traveling the world with Paula, practicing photography, and taking in nature and wildlife. My doggies are a huge part of my life and I'm an avid animal lover. I'm also involved in numerous local clubs including the Houston Heights Association, Downtown Alliance, Bayou Preservation Association, Texas Young Professionals, Houston Emerging Leaders and many more.

As a licensed Real Estate Professional for over 14 years, I offer comprehensive services to both buyers and sellers. I believe in building long term relationships based on honesty and trust, and I'm passionate about providing my clients with a level of service that exceeds their expectations. Please feel free to contact me for any of your Real Estate needs 7 days a week and visit **HeightsHomeValues.com** to keep up with homes sales in your neighborhood. I look forward to serving you!

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