

EXCEPTIONAL EATERIES: NEW ON THE SCENE & DISHING OUT DELICIOUS

VAIL

SUMMER 2013

LUXURY

TAKE A BREAK
SPA TREATMENTS FOR
REST AND REJUVENATION

DINING AL FRESCO
TIPS AND TOOLS FOR
OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING

YES, MAESTRO
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC
RETURNS TO VAIL

03
AMAZING
LOCAL
WOMEN



Summer

**SIZZLE, SHIMMER
AND SHINE WITH
THE SEASON'S
HOTTEST MAKEUP,
FASHION AND
ACCESSORIES**

CENTRAL

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FOR DETAILS
ABOUT THIS
SPRING STYLE

*Vail might be a vacationer's paradise,
but it's filled with passionate, successful people
who work tirelessly for their goals.*

Women OF SUBSTANCE

BY BRENDA HIMELFARB || PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

G O FOR IT. The phrase has personal meaning for Sandy Helt, Deb Luginbuhl and Annah Scully. The three women are all driven and determined, and as diverse as they are dynamic. They each march to their own drummer and have always juggled competing demands — be it work or family — to follow their dreams. ¶ You can call them go-getters, movers, shakers — but also call them successful. »

ANNAH SCULLY

Theater Maven and Teacher

Though her love is to shine the spotlight on her kids at the Vail Performing Arts Academy, it's Annah Scully who should take center stage.

But, let's start at the beginning.

Scully grew up in Pueblo, Colorado, which she describes as a "leave it to Beaver bazaar world." "My grandparents, on both sides, came 'off the boat,' from Italy," Scully says with a laugh, "so I had that ethnic thing happening in the middle of Colorado. We had a lot of characters in the family. A lot of musicians, filmmakers, a painter. It was crazy."

When Scully was in the fourth grade, the Catholic school she attended produced a play: the life story of Father Warnot, the pastor of the church. The storyline called for someone dressed as a hobo to "travel" through the pastor's life, to move the tale along. She was picked, says Scully because, in every photo that she was in — even from her first communion — she was always "making a face."

"For whatever reason, they wanted someone 'out there' to play the part of the hobo — who was actually supposed to be Father Warnot. And I was it," remarks Scully.

After that performance, Scully was hooked. Each summer she attended plays put on by the local college and soon began performing in citywide musicals. "It was the best thing I ever did," Scully says. "I looked forward to summers."

After graduating from the University of Colorado in Boulder with a degree in English and a teaching certificate, Scully moved to Vail and taught at Battle Mountain High School. Eventually, she stopped teaching full time to have children.

"When my kids were about eight and ten, I really wanted to have something to do with them in the summer," Scully explains, "and I remembered participating in all of those programs when I was a kid. I knew that there was a need for that in the valley, so I decided to start the Vail Performing Arts Academy. And with the help of some incredible supporters, I was able to do that. Our first production was 'Grease.' We had



ANNAH SCULLY

a full enrollment and, surprisingly, we sold out the Vilar Performing Arts Center, which had recently opened.”

That was 18 years ago. Since then, the group has performed productions that include “Fiddler on the Roof,” “West Side Story” and “Legally Blonde,” to name a few.

Ten years ago, choreographer Colin Mering joined the group as Artistic Director. “I think Colin really transformed the academy with his expertise and his ability to teach and, what’s more, his wonderful personality. He’s just amazing,” lauds Scully. “Since his arrival, we’ve expanded to year-round programs that includes a fall review and a spring showcase. There are about 80 children, ages six to 16 in each show.

“I think so many times communities forget how important it is for kids to have a creative side,” says Scully. “The area is so weighted on sports, that they forget about the creative aspects that have to happen. If one is deprived of being creative, I don’t think one is complete. I believe every child starts off as a star.”

The academy’s motto is “The most

important stage in a child’s life.” However, Scully had another suggestion. “Within every child, there is a ham.” “The board rejected it,” quips Scully.

SANDY HELT

Entrepreneur

Sandy Helt “blames” everyone else for her success. It was the encouragement of her family: a single, hard-working, supportive mother and zany and creative sisters. The business acumen of husband. Her Johnny-on-the-spot staff. This unassuming, rather shy woman just won’t take credit for her accomplishments. And that is probably one of the reasons she’s so successful: She’s kind and very grateful.

Helt, owner of Vallygirl Boutique, grew up on a ranch in South Dakota with her mom and two older sisters. They weren’t what one might call “girly-girls.” They played in mud, rode horses and helped their mother with chores, from painting fences to repairing anything that needed fixin’. They were, according to Helt, “hands on.”

But, these tomboys loved fashion. “Watching my sisters get dressed every day inspired me to put together my little outfits,” Helt lovingly recalls. “They got a kick out of dressing up their little sister. We all loved fashion. ‘Shop ‘til you drop’ was very true of my family.”

Helt’s creative streak began in elementary school when she worked on all types of crafts, making things from odds and ends to Christmas wreaths done with rope and fabric and selling them.

When she got to the University of Wyoming, where she studied biology, Helt began designing jewelry. “I had to fulfill that creative need,” she says. “I took an entrepreneurship class that inspired me to look at my life and at the things I enjoy doing and incorporate them into a business.”

After receiving her degree in biology (gardening is one of her other passions), Helt began making jewelry full-time. She sold to her co-workers and girlfriends and, as she says, “went off instincts to see their reaction.” Soon she was selling at art shows and setting up wholesale accounts with stores in many resort towns.

Eventually, Helt settled in Brecken-



SANDY HELT

ridge. She was exploring the opportunity to rent a retail space and expand into clothing, but was torn as to which way to build the business, until she found a space in Avon, in 2007, where she opened her first Valleygirl Boutique. "I moved into that space and opened up the clothing boutique and had a small selection of jewelry — but soon decided to push more into the clothing aspect of the business," Helt explains.

Over the past six years, in addition to Avon, Helt, who has two daughters, one-year-old Lyla and three-year-old Ava, has opened boutiques in Edwards, Breckenridge and Aspen. Her next venture is to open Ruby Jane, a home décor and gift store, in Breckenridge, that will feature her jewelry, Enolia Designs (named after her mother who passed away), as well as other artists.

"I love business and I love that you can be creative and come up with a concept, put all your energy into it and watch it come to life," gushes Helt. "I have ideas popping into my head daily."

DEB LUGINBUHL

Activist & Mentor

Most sports fans in Long Island, New York are not particularly interested in auto racing. Football? Yes. Basketball? For sure. Maybe hockey. But, auto racing? Fuhgedaboudit.

For Deb Luginbuhl, however, auto racing is three pounds, five ounces of copper, nickel, silver and gold: an Emmy. Nine of them, to be exact.

From the time she can remember, Luginbuhl was attracted to sports. She wasn't the athlete but rather, the cheerleader. "Our family watched tennis and football on television. At the time, Phyllis George, a former Miss America, was a host on The NFL Today, and it opened my eyes that women could actually work in sports television," Luginbuhl says enthusiastically. "The moment I entered college, my goal was to work at one of the three networks. My dad wanted me to study something that would allow me to be financially



“So I say, ‘raise your hand.’ I tell everybody that. Forget about the titles. Forget about what you think you are worth. Just do the job.” — DEB LUGINBUHL

independent, so I had a double major in economics and mass communications.”

While attending the University of Delaware, Luginbuhl was the sports editor of the school's newspaper. She worked in the press box during football season where she met the sports editor of the Wilmington News Journal who offered her a job as a sports writer.

Television, however, was Luginbuhl's goal — and she never wavered. "Two weeks after I graduated, I got a job at Madison Square Garden Network that televised the Knicks and the Rangers," she says. "It was 1981, about a year before ESPN's debut. I worked in the programming department and learned the ropes."

Luginbuhl's professional trajectory was unstoppable. Soon, she got a job with a coordinating producer with NBC Sports World, Linda Jonsson, who was the highest-ranking woman in TV sports. "It was at NBC that I made relationships and met mentors who would take me through my entire television career."

Eventually, Luginbuhl, with Jonsson,

left NBC to join Ohlmeyer Communications, where she became the coordinating producer for motor sports, including the Indy 500, Formula 1 racing and the International Race of Champions. "I was really lucky, as Don Ohlmeyer, who had been president of NBC sports, became my mentor," Luginbuhl reveals. "He was the reason I advanced so quickly. He spent time to teach and to mentor and I was willing to work hard." Hence, the nine Emmys for auto racing production.

Luginbuhl retired in 2001, and is now, herself, a mentor for The Women's Foundation of Colorado.

"Don't let anybody tell you that you can't do something because you are a woman," Luginbuhl advises. "Learn. Listen. Volunteer for every job. Work hard. That's how you get ahead. Once your interest is recognized, people will bring you along because they know that they can rely on you. It's a win-win situation."

"So I say, 'raise your hand.' I tell everybody that. Forget about the titles. Forget about what you think you are worth. Just do the job." ■