

inside PULSE

FIVE SIMPLE SUMMER SPRUCE-UPS FOR OUTDOORS

Summer is finally here and you plan to spend every spare minute wearing a permanent indentation in the cushion of the patio chaise. But before you kick back and enjoy the lazy days of summer, you know you need to do something to spruce up the outside of your home.

First decide how much time and money you want to invest. Some outdoor improvements offer big bang for not much buck; others may cost more but can still be accomplished with a relatively modest investment of time. Here are five simple summer spruce-ups that can add up to greater outdoor enjoyment without emptying your wallet.

1. Get fresh with your patio or deck. If your deck is looking drab and your patio pallid, it may be time for a power wash and a coat of paint or stain. Simply removing winter dirt and debris will make your outdoor living space look newer and more appealing. Putting a new finish on your existing deck or adding color to your patio with a concrete stain can make your environment feel fresh and updated.

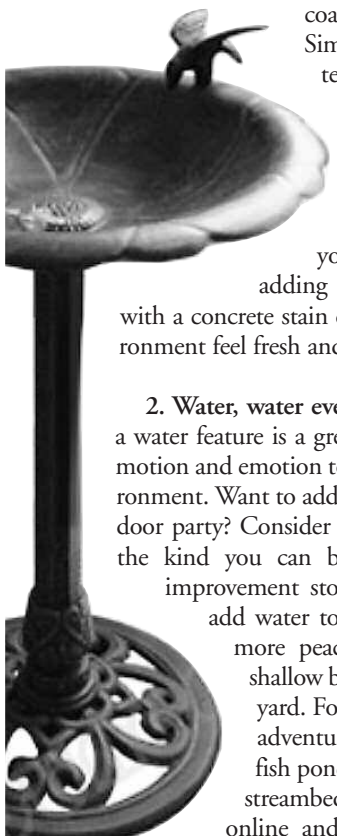
2. Water, water everywhere ... Adding a water feature is a great way to introduce motion and emotion to your outdoor environment. Want to add some fun to an outdoor party? Consider a mirthful fountain, the kind you can buy at many home improvement stores that you simply add water to and plug in. For a more peaceful effect, place a shallow birdbath in your backyard. For the ambitious (and adventurous), do-it-yourself fish pond, waterfall and even streambed kits are available online and from many home improvement stores.

3. Mount a mural. A flat exterior wall, architectural niche or sliding glass door — you can place a mural on virtually any smooth outdoor surface. Not only will the decoration spice up your outdoor décor, a mural can act as a conversation piece for al fresco gatherings and create continuity between your interior and exterior design.

4. Rock on. When it comes to outdoor design, rock may be considered the ultimate homage to Mother Earth. Landscapers use rock to create decorative effects. On the practical side, adding stone or rock to certain areas can aid in drainage. Also, it's a great way to avoid mowing a troublesome spot in the lawn. If you're feeling ambitious, try creating your own rock garden. If your aspirations and needs are a bit more modest, consider adding some colorful stone touches — such as a glass fishbowl filled with polished river stones — around your patio or deck.

5. Refurbish outdoor furniture. Bright, fresh cushions and finishes on patio furniture elevate the impact of your outdoor décor. If a new patio set isn't in the budget right now, it's easy to breathe new life into an old set. Clean cushions with a good quality upholstery cleaner, or, if they're stained and worn beyond hope, visit your local home goods store to pick up some replacements. Refresh finishes with a coat of spray paint. Many manufacturers now offer paints that will mimic finishes popular in outdoor furnishings today.

A few simple spruce-ups can go a long way toward improving the appearance — and your enjoyment — of your outdoor living environment. And get you into that chaise lounge that much sooner. Courtesy of ARA.



MOVERS & SHAKERS

Joy Weaver

Professional Speaker, Author and Certified Etiquette Expert

Full name: Joy Weaver
Job title: Professional Speaker, Author and Certified Etiquette Expert
How long you've been in that position: I launched Protocol Enterprises and Just Ask Joy in 2000.

Favorite part of your job: Regardless if I am speaking to Fortune 500 executives, at a women's conference, on a talk show, or through a magazine column my passion is educating others how to be socially savvy and to use their basic verbal and non-verbal skills to advance personally and professionally.

Favorite part of your day: Sunrise and Sunset — I am amazed how orange and purple look so beautiful together.

What time do you wake up in the morning? Between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. Depends on my schedule.

What time do you go to sleep? Late — about midnight! My creative juices start to flow at night time. Also, I love 10 minute power naps — it is amazing what 10 minutes of sleep can do for you.

Name five things that are in your purse: Treo, mints, mirror, lipstick, my favorite old LV wallet.

Favorite clothing designer: If I must pick just one ... it is the fabulous Giorgio Armani. His designs are classic with a flair.

Name the shade of lipstick you wear: For summer, YSL 22 and 59

Birthday: September 3
Your philosophy on age: Live according to your donation to life, not the duration. One thing I know for sure is if we are still living, God is not through with us.

Place born: Abilene, Texas
Are you a youngest, middle or oldest child? All three. I was raised an only child.

College or university attended: Angelo State University
Favorite home-cooked meal: My friend Beverly (a true Southern Belle) makes the best fried chicken using her grandmother's recipe and iron cast skillet. Oh, so delicious!

Favorite dessert: Dessert is my favorite part of the meal. And, I especially love warm vanilla cupcakes from Celebrity as an afternoon treat.

Vegetable that you won't touch: Brussels sprouts
The last time that you got all dressed up in evening wear: Just last weekend, my husband James and I were in NYC on Broadway seeing "The Color Purple" and "Wicked."

Favorite band when you were 20: The Eagles
Favorite band now: Third Day
Last CD that you bought: "Dreamgirls"

Do you own an iPod? Oh yes, it is loaded down with Rock, R&B, Gospel and Audiobooks (mostly autobiographies).

Something almost nobody knows about me: That I really like basketball, history of our Presidents and First Ladies, and the Law & Order series with Detective Briscoe and Prosecuting Attorney Jack McCoy.

Something I'm known for: Prayer. I believe strongly in the power of prayer.

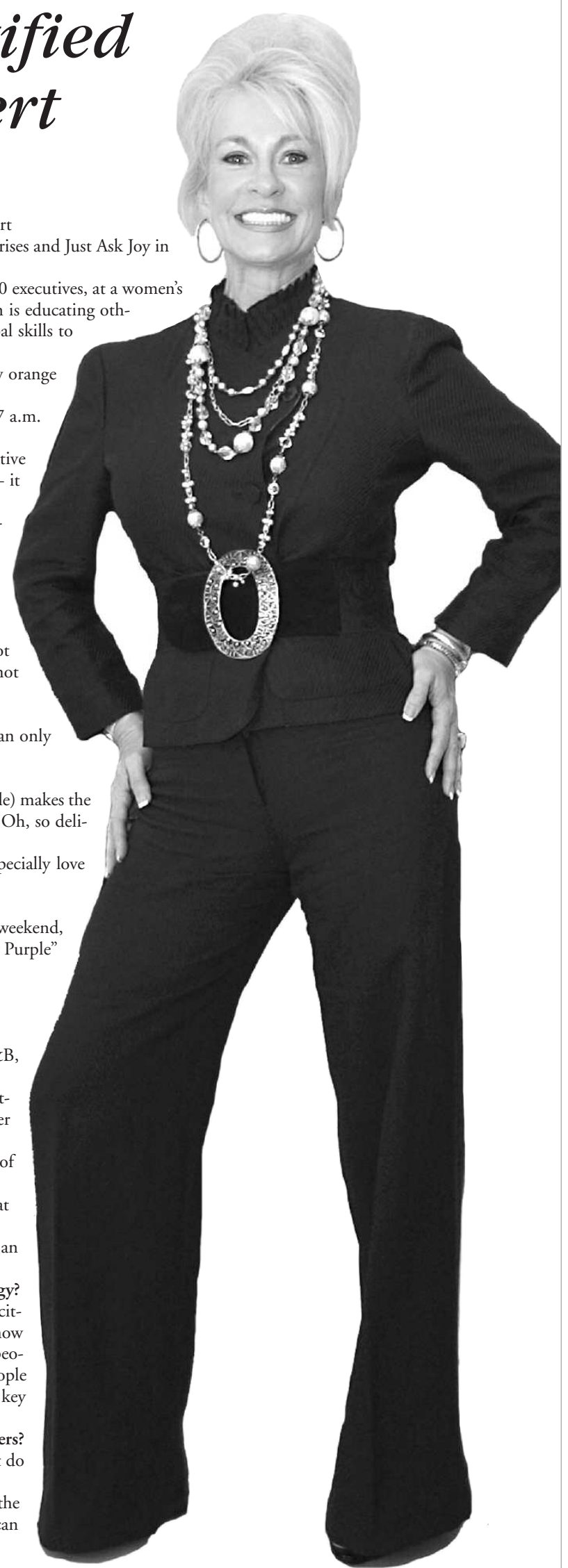
Why is etiquette important in the workplace? Statistic show us that 85 percent of our success rides on our social skills.

What is the most common etiquette faux pas? Parents not setting an example for their children.

How has etiquette changed over the years with modern technology? Technology has created a new platform for modern manners. I get so excited thinking about what is coming next in technology. Regardless of how fast and how far technology advances, we will continue to be in the "people business." We all prefer to work, socialize, and do business with people we like and respect; and our ability to effectively interact with others is key to our success in life.

When is the best time to begin teaching children proper manners? Start teaching manners by example as soon as possible. Children might do what we say, but they are more likely to do what we do.

What is the number one etiquette rule to remember? Treat others the way you want to be treated! (Always ask yourself this question and you can come up with the correct answer for your situation.)



TRACING OUR ROOTS | BRENDA KELLOW

PUBLICATIONS BECOME FAMILY TREASURES

What have you done with your research? Have you submitted anything to your family or a journal? Publishing is a commendable fête to inform your families and the public on your findings.

Make it fun and interesting by using pictures, family stories, or by including an audio or video. A recent find is a picture of my husband's great-grandfather when he was about age 25. By comparing it with my husband's college graduation picture and his father's military picture, the resemblance was startling. Another picture of my spouse, about four years old, in his cowboy outfit, guns and holsters, and a large black cowboy hat is interesting because our oldest child and one grandchild appear almost identical at the same young age.

Males would enjoy pictures of family posing with period cars. Do you have antique maps, histories of an ancestor's town or village, ancestor charts, migration maps, family recipes, or DNA results showing a connection with another continent? Share these. The family will be grateful for your effort. Receiving

these treasures will make them feel anchored to their family's past.

Free lecture on publishing

Gift ideas for the holidays, family gatherings, and reunions abound at this Saturday's free public lecture at the Gladys Harrington Library's Program Room, 1501 18th Street. Two speakers, Jean Funk and Barbara Coakley, address publishing. There is a display of some of their work created from online publishing companies. Funk discusses digital publishing, provides a listing of online companies, Internet addresses, and explains each site's offerings. Coakley addresses techniques for writing your family history.

The lecture is from 9:30 until noon. The program room opens at 9:10 a.m. Genealogy Friends invites you to come, have a cup of coffee, and examine what's available online. Attendees and members retire after the lectures to T.G.I. Friday's for lunch, Dutch.

Challenge

Genealogy Friends is sponsoring a "Challenge" to its members. Those who write a small story including a few pictures and four or five properly cited footnotes can show their effort at the December 15 get-together. An individual promised to make a monetary donation to the genealogy section for each publication written by a member and donated to the library's genealogy section.

For more information, see the Genealogy Friends' Newsletter online at www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl, or e-mail GenFriends@tx.rr.com.

McKinney library's obits online

Collin County obituary indexes published in the McKinney newspapers from 1884-1989 are now online and searchable thanks to the McKinney Public Library. The index, arranged alphabetically by decade, is a plus for Collin County. What a treat for

county researchers living here and in other states!

The library's home page is rather difficult to find, but is located at www.mckinneytexas.org/frameset.asp?aid=144. The deep link for going directly into the obituary index site is also long. It follows: www.mckinneytexas.org/Associations/144/data/forms/1138/Obituary%20Index%201884-.pdf.

Brenda Kellow, certified genealogist, has a bachelor's degree in history and both teaches and lectures on genealogy. Send reunions, announcements, notices of books to review and other queries to: traceroots@tx.rr.com. No research commissions are accepted.

