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Moving and shaking



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NM InCircle Party



MORE THAN \$64 IN SAVINGS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

# PLANO insider

In the Community. With the Community. For the Community.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10, 2006

DON'T BE LEFT OUTSIDE THE insider

VOLUME 2, NO. 32

## New beginnings

By Liz McGathey  
Staff writer

*Editor's note: Melissa and Tami's last names were not used per Melissa's request.*

After the loss of a husband and the loss of a mother, two Plano women came together to turn their pain into joy to start, Full of Grace Spirited Shopping, an Internet-based gift retail business.

Melissa and Tami set out in January to fill a void in the gift market for spiritual gifts that were still hip and stylish. Both women each have two daughters, all of which are best friends and attend Catholic school together. Melissa and Tami found it difficult to find spiritual gifts that also catered to their daughters' trendy sides.

When Melissa's husband passed away in 2003,



PHOTO COURTESY OF FULL OF GRACE

Full of Grace owners Melissa and Tami with their daughters Mary, Maddie, Sarah Rose and Isabella.

she wanted to find a home-based business to not only support her family to also allow her the freedom to stay home with her young children, then three and seven.

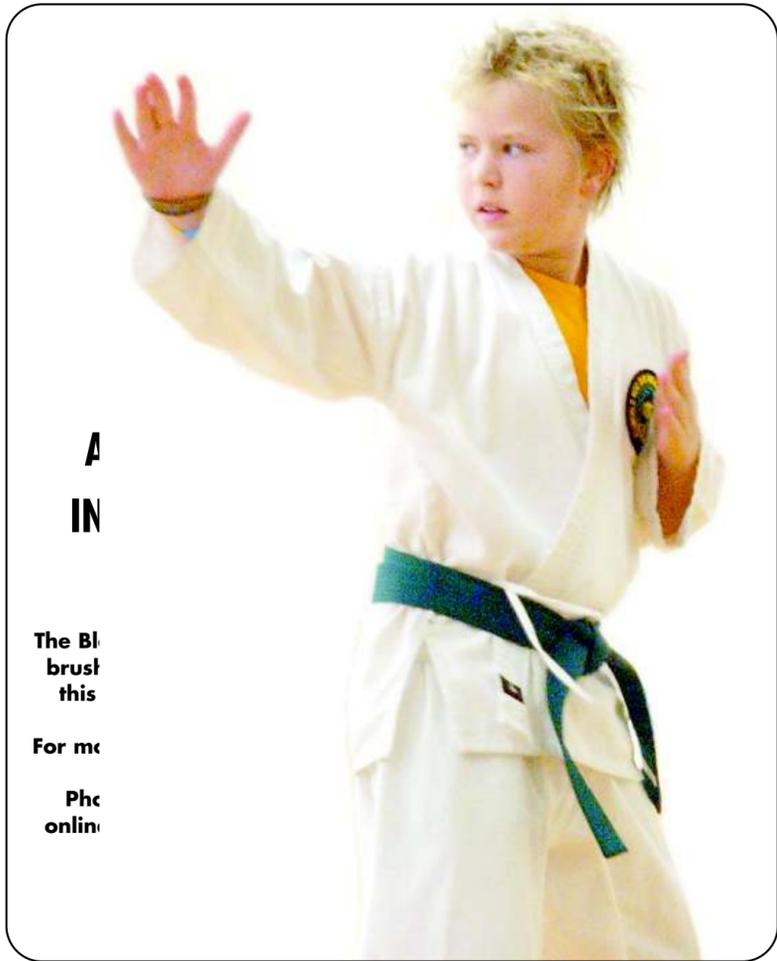
Not long after, Melissa hooked up with Tami, whose mother was battling an illness that eventually took her life in 2004.

"We got to talking and decided it was divine intervention and we

found a need for our children as well as something we would enjoy doing together," Melissa said. "Tami kids about when we found a man that imports Brazilian jewelry that was in some far corner of the trade market, that her mother led us there."

She said she and Tami both knew they weren't interested in owning a tradition retail store. That led them

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## View from the porthole

By Stefanie Ackerman  
Staff Writer

Sixty-five years ago today, 1st Class Petty Officer Anthony Gannarelli was in the sick bay of the U.S.S. Tennessee, docked in Pearl Harbor, about to have a cast removed from his fractured leg. Then sirens went off and Gannarelli, who was 28 at the time, bolted to his gun turret to return fire; although at the time he didn't know at what or at whom he was firing. He searched for his younger brother and found him by his side, firing as well.

At the time, neither knew the Japanese had just declared war on the United States.

On Dec. 7, 1941 the Japanese military's raid on Pearl Harbor was one of the great defining moments in history. A single, carefully planned and well executed strike removed virtually the entire United States Navy's battleship force as a possible threat to the Japanese empire's southward expansion.

America, unprepared and considerably weakened, was abruptly brought into World

War II.

The Japanese attack on the naval fleet caused the United States to go on the offensive with Japan, which ended in defeat of the Japanese and the Germans in 1945.

The results of WWII and the U.S.'s involvement changed the nation and the world. The warfare and human atrocities witnessed during WWII were unlike that ever seen. The near extermination of a people, tanks, bombs and nuclear weapons were new to the world. The depraved acts on humanity were outlawed by a new international community; the Great Depression ended; American companies were run in a military, regimented style by men who returned home from duty – a style that is only now changing; suburbia and the nuclear age were established and the country was thrust into the space age for the second half of the 20th century, led by men and women who had grown together by the rest of the world being ripped apart.

From a generation that asked so little when it returned from the battlefield, so

much was born and given to the country and the world.

Gannarelli, 93, a now resident of Plano, retold the story of the day that changed America from a depressed nation to a nation united under one cause.

"Being from a small town, I just wondered what I was getting into here," Gannarelli said, reflecting on the beginnings of a 25-year career in the Navy.

In 1934, when Gannarelli was 21-years-old, he decided he needed a job, much like everyone else in the small town of Petersburg, Pa. About 108 men applied to join the Navy, said Gannarelli, but the Navy only took eight of them; he was one. He left for duty shortly after receiving his confirmation letter for training and the U.S.S. Tennessee.

After his six-year contract was up in 1940, his brother was drafted into the Navy and he decided to stay in. A year later, he and his brother were part of the most defining moment of the 20th century.

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by Liz McGathey  
staff writer

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## HOLIDAY SPIRIT



MARIA JARAL/STAFF PHOTO

Kimberly Avila gives Buster Bramall, the Signing Santa, her Christmas wish list in sign language.

On Tuesday, more than 150 hearing-impaired children from Plano, Dallas and Mesquite schools gathered at The Shops at Willow Bend to share their holiday wish lists with Santa Claus. As the kids filed past The Shops' life-size snow globes, they watched as their classmates and friends conveyed their deepest desires to Santa in sign language. The Lawrence Elementary signing choir, a 90-plus group of deaf and hearing children from Mesquite, sang and signed holiday songs to kick off the event.

Plano residents, Blair Kaiser and Joyce Crane, took their children, Brayden Baker and Lily Crane respectively, to The Shops.

It was 5-year-old Lily's third visit to the "Signing Santa," to whom she conveyed her Christmas wish for a horse under the tree. She showed her excitement through sign language to her mother about Santa Claus the snowball fight the group had inside the snowglobe.

"She loves Santa," Joyce said.

Three-year-old Brayden, however, was experiencing his first

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## Christmas by Lantern Light



JAMIE MITCHELL/STAFF PHOTO

Welcoming guests to the Lantern Light at Heritage Farmstead Museum, Kristi Bleiler, left, and Rachel deRouen share stories of a 1910 children's holiday party with visiting guest.

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Black Plate