

Dallas/Back Mountain Life

The key to your community



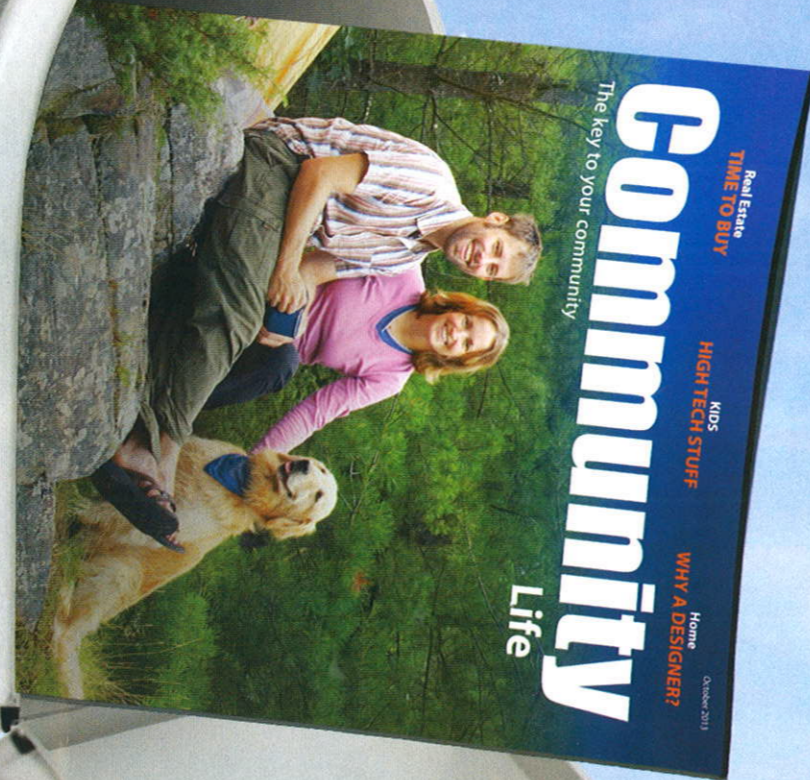
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February 2014

The Boys & Girls

Local Branch Helps Area Children

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On the Cover

The Boys & Girls Club of NEPA aims to help children grow and learn through structure and mentorship. Development Director Julianne Kalasinski tells us how and why.

Photo courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club of NEPA



You could be a community contributor!

Priscilla Bonilla is a junior Communication Studies major at Wilkes University, with concentrations in Broadcast Media and Public Relations. Bonilla is a Dean's List student. Becoming a contributor is easy, just e-mail us.

Get involved! Send your photos, stories or events to:

dallasbackmountain@hibu.com

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Photo courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club of NEPA



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Photo courtesy of Priscilla Bonilla



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Michele Geiser

"Creativity allows me to breathe, if I can't create I feel smothered." This piece, titled Moon is one of Geiser's.

Photo courtesy of Priscilla Bonilla

From Behind the Artist's Camera Lens

by Priscilla Bonilla
Community contributor

Bepa roughly translated means faith. Faith is what defines Michele Geiser, proud owner and founder of Bepa Studio Nature Photography & Unique Art, and her artwork.

Geiser was born and raised in Northeastern Pennsylvania and currently resides in the Shavertown area. Growing up, she has always seen life through the lens of her camera. As a child she always had her hands tied up in all kinds of artistic projects. "I love to create and most importantly share my creations," said Geiser.

Both her parents were artistic and creative. Thinking outside of the box is a lifestyle she grew up in, and is something that comes naturally to her. Her photography primarily focuses on nature with some architectural pieces. The passion and love she has for her artwork comes from within, and is clearly seen when she describes her artwork.

"Every piece is unique," said Anthony Bartoli, Wilkes University student who is familiar with Geiser's work. "Another thing that is so striking about Michele and her work is her extraordinary passion which she shows in every photograph."

Geiser's passion was apparent when she explained her artwork: "Desiring to preserve life's moments that slip away never to exist again is part of who I am," Geiser said. "Photography gives me the opportunity to allow these moments to survive endlessly."

Bepa Studio opened in October of 2012 and recently celebrating its one-year anniversary. Geiser's artwork has been recognized by the U.S. National Weather Service in Binghamton, NY; ABC News Affiliate WNEP-TV; the Office of the President of Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre; and by Cameras for a Cure.

"Michele not only captures some of the most beautiful local images and scenes I have ever seen, but she truly captures the essence of each of her subjects, and why they are the way they are."

Anthony Bartoli

Geiser also contributed some of her pieces to Embrace a Child in Tanzania, Scranton First Friday Art Charity Auction, AFA Gallery and Scranton Prep High School. She was also personally selected by Healing Photo Art Organization to donate her artwork to the organization. These organizations and exhibits, as well as future galleries, that will exhibit her work can be found on Bepa Studio's website, bepastudio.com.

Geiser is a member of the World Photography Organization, the AFA Gallery of Pennsylvania, Arts and Hearts International and is featured on Houzz.

"Michele not only captures some of the most beautiful local images and scenes I have ever seen, but she truly captures the essence of each of her subjects, and why they are the way they are," said Bartoli.

Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall, professor of communication studies at Wilkes University owns several of Geiser's photographs. "I am especially moved by the artistic perspective she brings to the natural life of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Her artwork is a precious gift. Bepa's website gallery is a showcase for the natural beauty of this region," said Crahall.

Since her childhood, Geiser remembers creating leaf piles and then reorganizing the leaves into different designs. She continues to demonstrate her love for nature and God's creations through her artwork. She has grown to appreciate the beautiful seasons, and learned that with seasons comes change. Her goal is to capture these moments before they disappear forever. "Creativity allows me to breathe, if I can't create I feel smothered," said Geiser.

On Bepa's webpage you can order regular photographs in all sizes and styles. Specials such as Christmas/holiday cards are available upon request, as well as greeting cards.

If you are further interested in Geiser's photography or are



Fountain of Survival is a piece of art by Michele Geiser.
Photo courtesy of Priscilla Bonilla



Twirl is a photograph by Michele Geiser.
Photo courtesy of Priscilla Bonilla

looking for something specific, you can contact her for more photos. Specific nature shoots can be made by appointment.

You could find her work at bepastudio.com; [facebook.com/bepastudio](https://www.facebook.com/bepastudio); or contact her for further information at 570-814-0036 or bepastudio@yahoo.com.

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Photo courtesy of Priscilla Bonilla

Know What Time It is Dallas/Back Mountain?

Priscilla Bonilla contributed a feature this month on local artist Michele Geiser. Geiser is a northeastern Pennsylvania native, who, according to her website “wanted a way to share my intimacy with nature in a way that others may also come to appreciate the beauty and splendor of Earth’s elements, God’s creations.”

We liked this image and wanted to show it to you in a larger space. The piece is titled Drunken Clock, More like it can be viewed on Geiser’s webpage, bepastudio.com.

We like to use this page to show the interesting photos, and art, that are sent to us. What do you have that we could publish?

—Justin McAneny