

Southbank

LIVING

AUGUST 2026

From Sketch to Sparkle

LESLIE DESIGNS AND CREATES JEWELRY START TO FINISH

POWERED BY



BEST VERSION MEDIA

COVER PHOTO BY: BRITTANY BAYS

ALSO INSIDE:

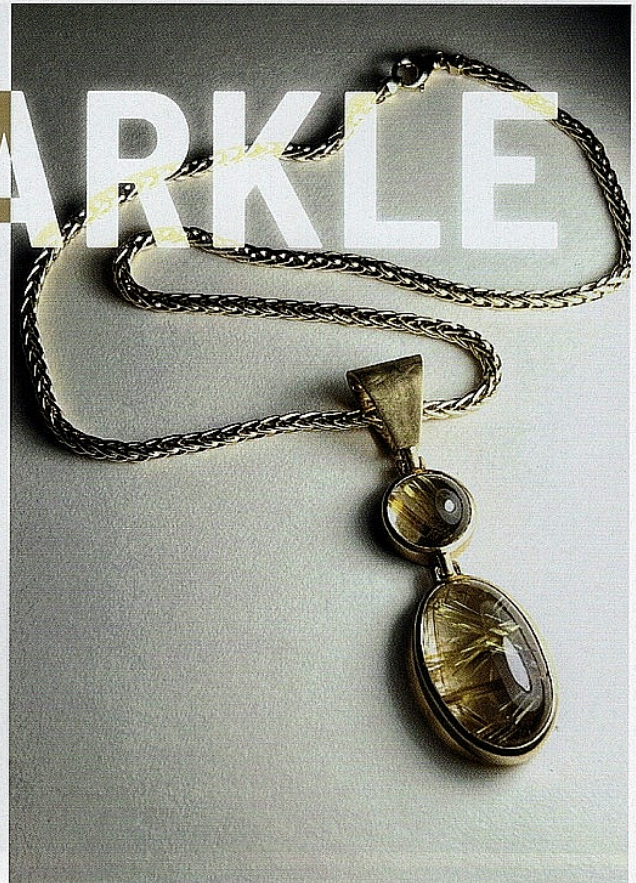
- Make WAVEs Gala
- Navigating Memory Loss
- Grandma Emolo's Homemade Ravioli

resident
FEATURE STORY

FROM SKETCH



TO SPARKLE



RESIDENT FEATURE  *By Elliot Schirmer | Photos by Brittany Bays and Product Photos by Leslie Grant*

Lifelong creative Leslie Grant finds inspiration in people, places, and events. She is focused on creating jewelry to commemorate life's special moments.

Leslie and her husband, Jim, moved from San Diego three years ago and now call Covington home. Between them, they have six grown children and a Newfie-mix rescue dog named Gadara. Their discovery of Covington was a pleasant surprise. Over the years, they had frequently visited Northern Kentucky to spend time with Jim's father in Lakeside Park. The historic homes and buildings, old-world crafts-

manship, charming neighborhoods, friendly residents, and spectacular fall season had drawn them to the area.

Covington has been the setting for many important milestones in their lives, including their engagement and wedding. These events made the community feel like home from the start.

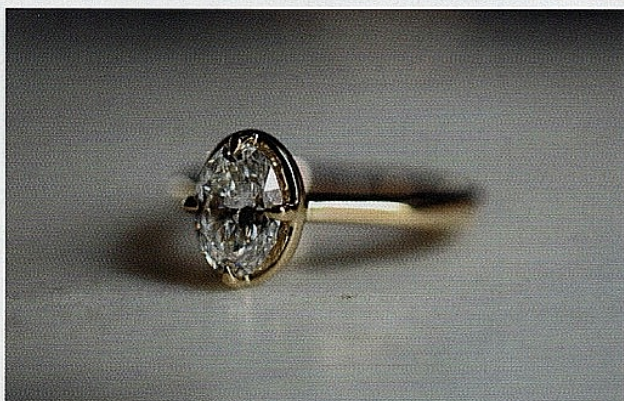
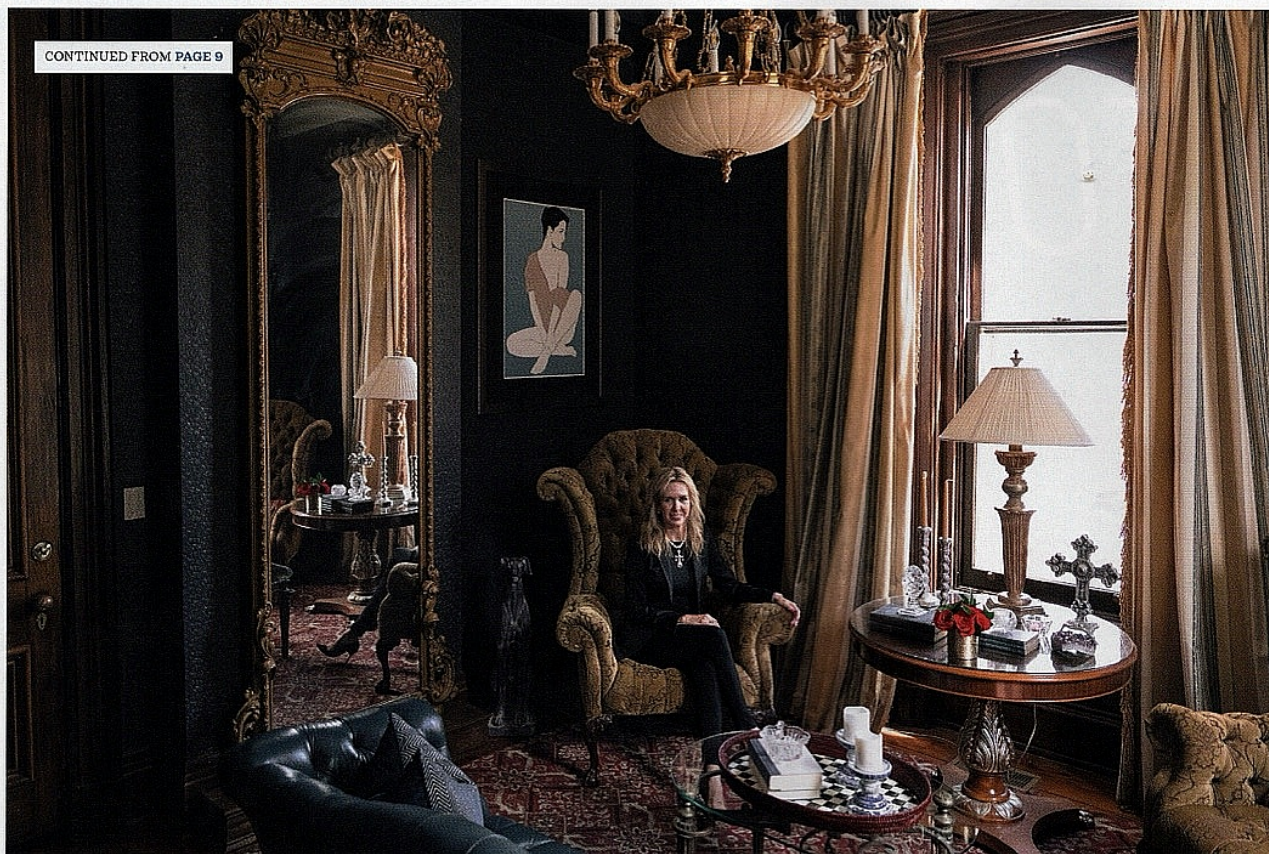
Leslie says, "Every year, our connection to the city grows stronger and we feel fortunate to call Covington home."

MainStrasse Village has become one of Leslie's favorite neighborhoods, thanks to its vibrant community of residents and businesses.

"Leslie's passion for creativity and design began in childhood and eventually developed into a career spanning fashion, interior design, and, most significantly, bespoke jewelry design."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



She loves that the area offers an abundance of restaurants, shops, churches, festivals, and live music venues, all within walking distance.

Among her favorite local businesses are Swayne On Main, Carmelo's, Noche, and Hotel Covington. To Leslie and Jim, MainStrasse represents the best of big-city living combined with the warmth and charm of a small town.

One of the aspects Leslie appreciates most about Covington is the community's respect for its historic architecture. "I am so pleased that people here appreciate the old buildings and homes the way I do. There is a genuine sense of satisfaction in preserving the town's history while continuing to create something new."

She and Jim enjoy watching new businesses emerge and are committed to supporting both newcomers and long-established local institutions. They believe the growth and transformation of the community during their years in Covington have been remarkable and they are excited to see its continued evolution.

Leslie's passion for creativity and design began in childhood and eventually developed into a career spanning fashion, interior design, and, most significantly, bespoke jewelry design. In 2011, she founded Leslie Herbert Jewelry, where she creates custom fine jewelry for clients seeking pieces that are deeply personal and meaningful. Her work encompasses a wide range of styles, including biker jewelry, heirloom redesigns, engagement and wedding rings, gothic, religious, and bohemian-inspired designs, all crafted using natural gemstones and precious metals.

As a jeweler, Leslie is fascinated by the fact that both Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati were important centers of jewelry crafts-

"The most rewarding part of my work is playing a small role in my clients' special moments in life. The stories behind each piece and the reasons for creating it are beyond gratifying to me."

manship during the late nineteenth century. Her love of beautiful gemstones and design evolved into an opportunity to help clients celebrate life's milestones, honor family histories, and express their individuality through custom jewelry. She particularly enjoys collaborating with clients to transform cherished ideas and memories into heirloom pieces and one-of-a-kind creations. Leslie's favorite way to refer to her process is "From Sketch to Sparkle."

Leslie says, "The most rewarding part of my work is playing a small role in my clients' special moments in life. The stories behind each piece and the reasons for creating it are beyond gratifying to me." She loves to help people commemorate significant times with jewelry that can be worn and treasured every day.

When time allows, travel is one of Leslie's favorite pursuits. Visits to thirteen countries have provided countless opportunities to experience different cultures, histories, and artistic traditions.

Leslie also enjoys painting with acrylics and designing and fabricating large-scale mosaics. "Whether creating jewelry, painting, or working on a mosaic, there has always been a deep satisfaction in making something meaningful by hand," she says. Throughout every creative endeavor, Jim has remained an enthusiastic supporter of her work, proudly displaying her artwork throughout their home.

Creative inspiration for Leslie comes from many sources. One of Leslie's recent projects was a small jewelry collection commemorating America's 250th anniversary. Having experienced the nation's Bicentennial celebration in 1976, she vividly remembers the excitement, pride, and sense of unity it inspired across the country. She hopes the 250th anniversary similarly created meaningful memories for a new generation.

Covington has proven to be a wonderful place for Leslie to live and create. The city's strong sense of community, appreciation for craftsmanship, and respect for history continue to inspire both her artistic work and daily life. Leslie and Jim are grateful to be part of the community and are very happy to call Covington home.

DO YOU KNOW A NEIGHBOR WHO HAS A STORY TO SHARE? // Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at: eschirmer@bestversionmedia.com.

