

# COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2006

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NIGHT SKY



CARRIE ZAITZ

## Open your mind

I'm taking a class called environmental interpretation. It's like learning to be a guide at a park. We tramp around in the wet, dark woods of the Henry Ford Estate looking at plants, seeds and berries.

I consider myself an 8 on a scale of 1 to 10 for people who are curious about everything. The only reason I'm not a 9 or 10 is because of plants, seeds and berries. My challenge to myself is to see the beauty in ragweed, the artistry of a thistle and the genius of the black walnut.

When I see a black walnut, all I can think of is how, as kids, we would collect black walnuts from the big trees in our yard and carefully place them in rows on the road. Bud, the driver, would come lumbering down the street in the big yellow school bus and run over the nuts with the giant bus tires. The squishy, popping sound delighted us, and the smelly, greasy black streak they made in the road created a glorious, terrible mess. Our hands were green and smelled like black walnuts for days. It was kid heaven.

Because of that experience, I always chuckle when I see a black walnut. But I don't have any pleasant associations with ragweed or thistle. I don't get a brain tickle when I think of marching through the wet grass to see it.

I think about astronomy and how some people mentally yawn at the very thought of learning about the sky. The folks who are super-enthusiastic about plants must feel the same way I do about the stars. I find it hard to believe, but it must be true. Look how they get giddy talking about endozoochory seed dispersal. (That's when a bird eats seeds and "dispersed" them on your car.) Do I get that giddy when I talk about hydrostatic equilibrium, or the delicate balance in a star between gravity and radiation pressure? Egads, I believe I do!

On our latest march in the woods, we had the good fortune for the rain to stop long enough to see a lovely red-orange sunset in the west, paired with a Barbie-pink rainbow in the east. The sky was raging with color, the perfect antidote for my cold, wet soul.

I'm a sky person. We all have our predilections, our tendency toward liking some things over others. I guess the key is to keep an open mind about subjects that don't necessarily grab our fancy.

Once I decided to enjoy the tramp, I was delighted by the wild orange impatiens, otherwise known as "touch me not," who's spring-loaded seed pods exploded at a mere touch. I loved watching the huge heron glide over the pond in that glorious sunset, and marveled at the bats circling overhead in the

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Chris Rogers (left) and Carole Pfeiffer launched their T-shirt company, Spirituali-T, last year with the help of their spouses, Chevon Rogers and Pete Pfeiffer.

Photo by Sandi Kasha

# Finding Inspiration

## T-shirt company offers inspiring message

By Sandi Kasha  
Heritage Newspapers

Don't get offended when people look down your shirt.

Really! They won't be able to help it because they just might find some inspiration.

At least that's what Carole Pfeiffer of Pittsfield Township and Scio Township resident Chris Rogers believe.

Pfeiffer and Rogers launched Spirituali-T, a clothing line of T-shirts that features unusual designs that look average to the casual observer. The twist is that when the wearer looks down, they'll find an upside-down message of inspiration.

The T-shirts' messages of peace, faith, love, breathe

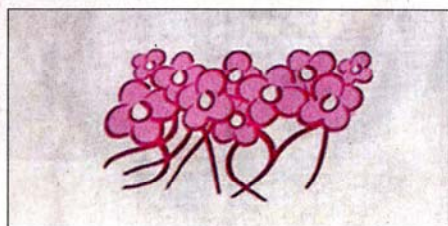
and namaste, which is a Sanskrit greeting meaning "I bow to you," are meant to empower people.

"It's truly interactive fashion," said Rogers, who works full time as an art director in Southfield. "But more important, it's a subtle, positive reminder that creating a better world begins when you're true to yourself."

The 1-year-old company came into fruition following a retreat the Pfeiffers went on two years ago.

"During the retreat, we talked about how to help with inner peace and to stay in the moment," said Pfeiffer, who also teaches pilates three times a week at the Saline Recreation Complex. "They reminded us to take a big breath and be back in the moment."

Pfeiffer thought about



wearing a shirt that reminded her to breathe when she looked downward. She shared her idea with Rogers who, about three months later, came up with some designs.

The rest was history as they started getting positive feedback from buyers and sellers.

Pfeiffer's husband, Pete, and Rogers' wife, Chevon, also lent a helping hand and showed them plenty of support.

"They're really unique and the fabric is good quality and soft," Chevon Rogers said.

Their unisex adult line carries a variety of colors and designs that sell from \$24.99 to \$27.99.

Rogers said that children's shirts could be specially made upon request.

Spirituali-T's next collection of shirts with messages of strength, patience and believe should be in stores in November.

Pfeiffer said the business has been good so far and that she and Rogers hope to expand outside the nine stores that hold their products.

Spirituali-T can be found at Ann Arbor's Suwanee

Springs, 306 S. Main St., and Ypsilanti's Quinn's Essentials, 19 E. Cross St.

The shirts also can be purchased on the company's Web site at [www.spirituali-t.com](http://www.spirituali-t.com) or for more information call Carole Pfeiffer at 1-734-645-7217.

Sandi Kasha is a reporter for Heritage Newspapers. She can be reached at 1-734-475-1371 or [skasha@heritage.com](mailto:skasha@heritage.com).

### How to get 'em

■ Spirituali-T can be found at Ann Arbor's Suwanee Springs, 306 S. Main St., and Ypsilanti's Quinn's Essentials, 19 E. Cross St. ■ The shirts also can be purchased on the company's Web site at [www.spirituali-t.com](http://www.spirituali-t.com) or for more information call Carole Pfeiffer at 1-734-645-7217.