



GOODBYE

THEY COULDN'T SEE IT, BUT THE CARPATHIA WAS COMING.

For the surviving Titanic passengers, the terror must have been palpable as they clung to the inside of the small wooden lifeboats that bounced and crashed upon the waves of the dark ocean on that cold night in April 1912. Though they were safe from the grand sinking ship, they had no idea of what, if any, hope or future there was for them, alone out on the ocean. They couldn't see it, but the Carpathia was coming.

They were frightened, which makes sense, considering that even the relative safety of a lifeboat is still a scary place to be. While safely off the ship that you are trying to escape, waves still crash around and threaten to overtake you, tipping is a possibility, the cold air and icy water sting your face, and as you look at an uncertain future on the horizon, you don't always see a rescue boat.

Writing had been my passion for as long as I could remember when I left my grand ship — a job with a fabulous company, but a position that was not focused on writing — and climbed into a lifeboat, uncertain of my future. I had faith God would send a rescue boat, directing me to the right spot. When I accepted the job as editor-in-chief of this magazine it seemed like both a dream come true and an answer to prayer. I felt the sturdy deck under my sea legs as I stepped up and took over at the helm of *Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living* in 2004.

The magazine that I took over on that first day looked much different from what it has become today, 12 years later. Half as many issues produced per year, stapled and with no set, regular content when I started, the future of the magazine was wide open for me to craft and put my mark on. This magazine is my baby. For the past 12 years, I have poured my heart and soul into this publication, thinking of and caring for it daily — and many nights too — always wanting it to be an accurate representation of our great community, and something on which I could be proud to have my name and reputation staked.

I have discovered the incredible depth and breadth of beauty in our community through the people I have met and the stories I have told in these pages. Interviewing local celebrities like Patty Duke and Cheyenne Jackson was fun, but even more meaningful was the opportunity to tell the stories of those whose names may not be well known, but whose impact on the city is deep. These stories and topics include the mission of Safety Net, which supports and saves children after they age out of the foster care system at age 18; Three Squares, about Northwest Harvest's dedication to fighting childhood hunger in our community; A Life Redeemed, about local agencies helping those in our community overcome addiction, abuse and struggles, and to put their lives back together. Perhaps the story I am most proud of is my embedded media coverage of deployed Fairchild Airmen who were stationed at Manas Transit Center in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Lying in the boom pod of a KC-135, interviewing boom operators as they refueled F-15s during a live combat mission over Afghanistan, opened my eyes to the reach and impact of people and events in Spokane. It was a reminder that we as individuals and as a community do not live in a bubble; our lives have great impact on those near and far.

For the last 12 years, I have been so grateful and happy to work as editor-in-chief of *Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living*. The people I've met, the stories I've written and shared, and the great enjoyment and pride I've had in doing it, has made each day seem more like play and less like work. I want to thank all of you who have played an important role in the development of my career, the quality of the magazine and the support that was provided to me to make these 12 years so great. Because of that, I want to let you know that the March 2016 issue was my last issue, and I am no longer hunched over the printing press, working at *Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living*. This April issue does not bear my mark at all. Aside from this page, I have not touched any part of this issue.

Life throws us unexpected and unwelcome wrenches sometimes, and circumstances change, as they have for my time here. As I leave the magazine though, in my suitcase I have packed all I brought with me to this publication: my style, my tone, my writing and storytelling skills, and the focus and the mission I chose for within the pages of each issue. Moving forward, it will be a different publication. It is not an easy thing to see something, which you have dedicated so many years and so much love and energy toward, go.

Still a writer and editor, I will be working with freelance and long-term writing and content projects, and would be so happy to work with you in any writing and editing capacity you or your businesses have. You may continue to follow my writing, and to connect with me, at blythe@blythethimsen.com, or through my website www.blythethimsen.com.

I find myself in another lifeboat now. I am off of the ship, looking to the horizon for what is next, but I know my Carpathia is coming!

Goodbye.

Blythe