



Written by: Jordan Peden

Name a small town with more history, arts and culture, fine dining, shopping, recreation, natural beauty, and thriving downtown charm than Saratoga Springs, New York. Go ahead; we'll wait.

Luxuriously tucked into the foothills of the Adirondacks, Saratoga Springs has become one of Upstate New York's premiere destinations. Some are drawn by the town's historical significance (i.e., The Battle of Saratoga and The Saratoga Race Course); some come to bathe in the region's natural mineral springs, touted for their healing powers. Others flock to the local, state, and national parks and museums, the arts and entertainment scene, the five-star food and drink offerings, and the boutique shopping and wellness experiences. And while Saratoga Springs is both alluring and inviting to out-of-town visitors, it's an even better place to call home. "We like to say Saratoga is a great place to live, work, and play," says Richie Snyder, Vice President of Communications for Saratoga County

Chamber of Commerce.

For women like Lisa Munter, Heather LaFountain, and sisters Staci and Amy Snider, that couldn't be more true. But these ladies aren't just on the receiving end of Saratoga's vast and luxurious amenities; they're contributing to them.

When Lisa Munter saw a need for a service that helps local nonprofit organizations with fundraising efforts, she got right to work. It wasn't long before she looped in her longtime friend and neighbor Heather LaFountain, and together they launched Knitt. This revolutionary philanthropy platform connects donors and nonprofits to maximize the giving relationship. With Knitt, users can create a free profile to receive curated networking that aligns with their goals and interests. As Lisa says, "It's match.com for philanthropy." Luckily, Saratoga is the perfect home for a venture of this nature. "We kind of feel like we're in this magic unicorn bubble because there are over 160 nonprofits in this small county, and the amount of philanthropy that happens within this



community is just off the charts,” Lisa shares. According to Lisa and Heather, the giving in Saratoga goes far beyond the dollars and gets to the heart of grassroots organizing, volunteering, and just plain helping out. “It’s a very ‘close-Knitt’ community,” says Heather. “I’m always very proud to tell people that I live here. This is a vacation spot for most, but we get to enjoy it year-round. I just feel very fortunate to be here.” And she’s not the only one.

Staci and Amy Snider grew up in Saratoga Springs, and while their educational and professional endeavors pulled them away from home, they both ultimately landed back where they started. Now, their businesses are part of the beating heart that makes Saratoga Springs special.

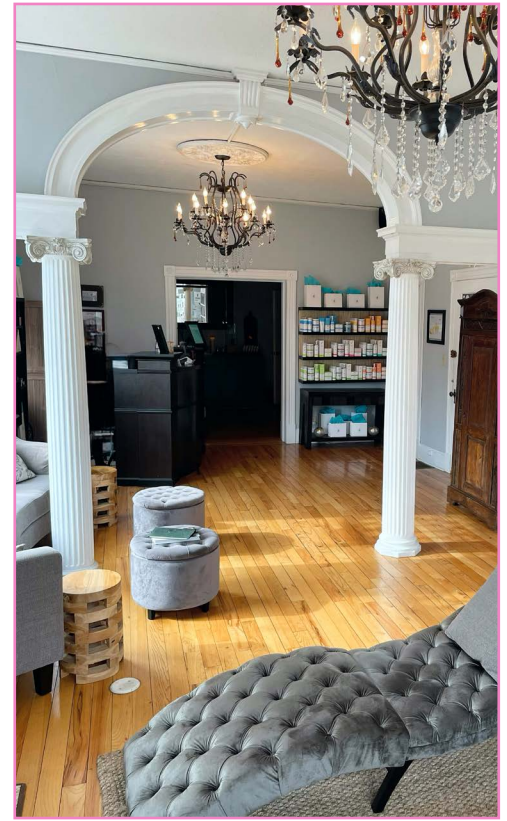
Staci entered the world of fashion after retiring from a professional running career, becoming a world-renowned designer. She opened Snider Fashion, a working atelier, in Saratoga after moving back before the pandemic. In her combination showroom/manufacturing space, Staci creates and produces designs for her namesake brand, which is influenced by her athletic career and sold in retail stores around the country. “My design aesthetic has a lot of athletic components in it, and part of why women love the brand is because they can transfer it from day to night, but there’s a functionality and comfort to it,” Staci says.





Though it's rare for such an acclaimed creator to set up shop in a small town, Staci believes the rich history and nature, thriving downtown, and strong sense of community make Saratoga the perfect place for the boutique. In fact, Staci's work has become a cornerstone of community involvement, as she invites aspiring teen designers into her studio as part of a high school internship program. Living in Saratoga also allows Staci to still participate in NYC's fashion scene, maintain her active outdoor lifestyle, and do what she loves in her hometown, near her sister.





Amy rediscovered her passion for wellness and beauty while living in Mexico by adding kinesiology and dental hygiene to her repertoire. She returned to Saratoga to study esthetics and open a business of her own. Inspired by the Spirit of Life Fountain in downtown Saratoga's Congress Park, Spa Cascada came to fruition with the slogan Rehydrate Your Spirit as the guiding principle. "I really wanted to capture elements of history and my upbringing in a small town to put that into the business model and the business meaning and creation," says Amy. Many years later, with a growing clientele of both locals and visitors, Amy is proud to have kept that mission at the heart of her spa. She's also proud to support the Saratoga community by donating products and services to local fundraising efforts and participating in Dress For Success, a program that helps women feel and look their best when going to job interviews. And let's not forget that Amy and Staci provide their neighbors with the perfect self-care setup in downtown Saratoga Springs. "Our regulars are going to shop at Staci's store and then come in for spa services, and it's so nice that we have that closeness in our community and share so many clients and relationships," Amy shares.

Together, Lisa, Heather, Staci, and Amy help make Saratoga "a great place to live, work, and play."

Visit them online!

Saratoga Springs & Saratoga County

Website: <https://www.saratoga.org/tourism/>
IG & FB: @saratogacountychamber & @saratoga.chamber

Knitt

Website: <https://getknitt.com/>
IG & FB: @getknitt

Staci Snider – Snider Fashion

Website: <https://www.stacisnider.com/>
IG & FB: @stacisnider & @stacisniderfashion

Spa Cascada

Website: <https://spacascada.com/>
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