



Lavender Fields Forever

by Ali Spahn

Every generation has its share of successful young entrepreneurs. According to an article in Forbes magazine by Bryce Welker, “These next-generation innovators are typically driven by a vision to create meaningful change and are unafraid to challenge the status quo.” And these two young entrepreneurs you are about to meet, **Stacey and Nitin Aggarwal**, are



Stacey, Nitin and baby Kian

unbelievably brave, dedicated, hardworking and successful. They are the owners of **Blooming Fields Farm**.

Attending college in Seattle, WA, Stacey received a PHD in Molecular Pharmacology and was working in breast cancer research. Nitin was an engineer at Boeing. “Neither of us felt really connected in Seattle. We didn’t like the city or corporate life. We really wanted to do something related with nature and more in touch with our beliefs, so having a farm was always on our mind and I always loved lavender,” Stacey explains.

In 2018, the couple purchased 10 acres of raw land in Athol. They had to commute from Seattle every weekend to farm the fields and then go back to school and work for the week. “It was adventure, and we were determined to get the farm up and running. We had to sleep in the little shed on the



weekends because there were no buildings on the property,” laughed Stacey.

“Neither of us had any agricultural background, but we did plenty of research from other farms, online and a LOT of YouTube. We experimented before we started planting plants in the ground,” she explains. Their patience paid off and every year they expand more in terms of planting, profit, and awareness in the local community.

The fields grow 14 different varieties of lavender with the majority being English lavender and includes a few French lavender. There are a lot of random “volunteer” lavender that pop up on their own. Most of the time they leave them be. “It will be fun as they continue to grow to see what color they are. They tend to be the most winter hardy because they’ve grown up knowing this area,” said Stacey.

Each lavender harvested has a different purpose. The first part of the season harvest is to dry the lavender which is hung upside down to help preserve everything inside the buds and to dry the lavender evenly. During the second part of the season, as the flowers continue to bloom and open up, the couple harvests the plants for essential oils.

“We do all our processing with this large Olympic solid copper still from Portugal. The technique has been used for centuries. It is used for distilling essential oils. We can get a mixture of both essential pure oils and recondensed steam which is distilled floral water called hydrosol. You can get hydrosol water from any plant and it contains medicinal properties. Lavender tends to be calming especially for anxiety which we use in some of our products. You can inhale the aromas, or you can drink it. Some lavenders are great for essential oils, and some are great for culinary use as an herb seasoning for baking or to make savory dishes.”



Their biggest season for sightseers is in July when they have freshly cut flowers. Large tours such as homeschool and church groups flow through all month.

Many want to know how long lavender keeps its fragrance. “If you bring one of the drying bouquets home it will hold its fragrance for up to three years, however, the more the lavender moves around the more the bouquet will lose its scent,” she clarifies.

The charming venue is designed for visitors to sit, relax, and enjoy the view. The food trailer on site is still a work in progress, however, soon they will start offering guests lavender coffees, lemonade slushies, teas and gradually add lavender season popcorn and waffles.

In addition, Stacey hosts workshops in tea and wreath-making. Andrea of Sweetsong Flower Farm of Cocololla, ID instructs the wreath-making class.

No doubt Stacey and Nitin have the determination and that can-do attitude to continue to grow their business, farm, and dream!

Blooming Fields Farm is located at 34391 N OLD HIGHWAY 95

To book a tour go to: <https://www.bloomingfieldslavender.com/book-online>

For more info go to: <https://www.bloomingfieldslavender.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/bloomingfieldslavender/>

Nana's Place *by Sheryl Puckett*

Dianne Strobel is happy to announce that **Nana's Place** is opening this Fall for 4 year-olds preparing for kindergarten. Several years ago, Dianne created a stimulating and inspiring learning environment for her grandchildren that she wishes to share with other children in our area. "I am so excited to be able to offer this warm, happy, safe place for children to develop the educational and social skills essential for their success in entering kindergarten," says Dianne.



Nana's Place is focused on the 4-year-old age, the critical year of development before kindergarten. Studies show 40% of children are not prepared for kindergarten, which affects them not only K-12, but into adulthood. Also, a child's capacity for learning and brain development is at its peak from 2-5 years old.

According to Dianne, "The benefits of an extraordinary Pre-K experience can make all the difference in their lives. With a 4 to 1 student-teacher ratio, Nana's Place is committed to each child receiving the optimum attention he/she deserves to attain their fullest potential." With this low ratio, space is limited.

"My state-of-the-art classroom is filled with stimulating learning centers that make learning fun, inspire creativity, and encourage exploration. The day includes circle time, nutritious snacks, multi-sensory lessons interspersed with active play periods, and much more. All toys, games, and activities are thoughtfully chosen for their educational value and also include motor skill development," explains Dianne.

The curriculum includes language arts, math, science, social studies, health and safety, social skills and character-building, the arts (visual arts, dance, music), physical education, and STEAM activities. Dianne's unique learning program is key to success and combines the best of teaching/learning models to achieve the best results while instilling a joy of learning that lasts a lifetime.

Nana's Place classes will begin in September, following the local school district schedule, and will be open Monday – Friday. Hours are 9-1, with early-outs on Wednesday at noon.

If you're interested in a tour and an information packet to learn more, please call Dianne. "I am excited to meet you and your special 4-year-old and get acquainted."

Enrollment is open now.

To contact Dianne Sparks Strobel call 208-660-7566 cell or 208-561-5006 landline. Or email Dianne at: dianne218@msn.com

Meet Pastor Carlson

by Pastor Carlson

Bayview Bible Church extended a warm welcome to their new pastor, **Joel Carlson**. The following are his answers to my questions:



Jessica and I were both raised in western Montana, though her family comes from southern Idaho and mine comes from North Idaho. After serving a church in Bozeman as the Senior Pastor for the last seven years, an increasing desire to relocate back to a small town began to grow in us. We watched,

waited, made phone calls, and prayed. Eventually, the opportunity at Bayview was made apparent, and we investigated it, quickly realizing it would be an excellent match for our family.

I have completed roughly seven years of formal, theological education, and the benefits I have received are numerous. The most positive aspect of my training has been seeing Jesus as the glorious centerpiece of God's revelation to people. Without Jesus, we have no need for Christian ministry. I would also emphasize that I have had some great mentors - men who have decades of pastoral experience who have been eager to pass on their wisdom and knowledge.

I preach in what is called expositional fashion. Simply put, I preach my way through an entire book of the Bible (or large portion of Scripture) over the course of weeks and months. Rather than choosing a topic on which to preach, expositional preaching journeys through the text as it was given, allowing the message of the text to become the message of the sermon.

My vision for the congregation at Bayview Bible Church is twofold. First, I hope to see the church grow in Christian maturity as we believe God's Word and follow after Jesus in every aspect of life. Second, my hope is that Bayview Bible Church will increase both in capacity for ministry and influence in the community as we minister to the Bayview-Athol-Careywood area with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

My wife, Jessica, and I were married in 2008, while I was serving in the US Navy. We now have five children who range from age 13 down to seven months old. We love good books, good food, and spending time outside. We are so grateful for the warm welcome we have received in Bayview, and we are looking forward to meeting more of you and building our lives in this community in the weeks, months, and years to come.

Council's Address: P. O. Box 112, Bayview, ID 83803
Council website: <https://bayviewcommunitycouncil.org/>

Ideas? Suggestions? Email sherylpp@gmail.com
Shore Lines' is available at Bayview Post Office all month