

## AFFAIRS of the Heart

February is here, the month of romance. And while the weather can still be a little frosty, love is in the air to boost our spirits and warm our hearts.

Many of you may not know, however, that February is also recognized as National Heart Health month, a time when the American Heart Association puts forth extra effort to educate the public about heart disease. Joining the AHA in its cause, Monthly offers "A Healthy Dose of Knowledge" in our cholesterol and blood pressure feature on page 24 and highlights the national "Go Red for Women" campaign and "Flavors a la Heart," a wonderful annual dinner during which top area chefs unite to help raise funds and awareness, on page 122. We are also thankful to Ms. Eva Greer, a heart disease/surgery survivor, who courageously shared her personal experience with this number one killer of women for this month's Last Word on page 160.

Valentine's Day, one of my girls' favorite holidays, is a great day to remember all the loved ones in your life, from kids to grandparents. Turn to page 61 to see how you can show that special someone how much you care.

Because we had so many attractive options, selecting a cover for this month's issue seemed more challenging than usual. But, when we were presented with overwhelming interest in our special wedding section and some breathtaking photos of local nuptials, courtesy Hilton Head newcomer Mark Staff Photography, we knew our decision was sealed. In addition to providing this month's cover, Mark and wife Lisa, relocating here from Toronto, helped us illustrate our annual bridal guide beautifully. One peek and you'll emphatically agree that Hilton Head is an ideal wedding destination! Turn to page 38 for a look at helpful tips, trends and ways to say "I do" in true Lowcountry style.

They say home is where the heart is and this month we show you how to add a little warmth to yours. Whether you are a new couple embarking on joint living arrangements or a single guy with a bachelor pad, our



special "Romancing the Home" section continues this issue's heart/love theme and offers great ways to make your home more cozy and inviting, for both men and women. Check it out on page 86. And don't forget the annual Home Show, courtesy your local Home Builders Association, at the Mall at Shelter Cove. It's a great way to see what the many fine vendors in our area have to offer. Read all about it on page 112.

This February, in honor of Black History Month, we also highlight the annual Gullah Celebration (page 121) and feature talented artist Joe Pinckney as this month's Focus (page 138).

We congratulate Zonta on celebrating 25 years of community service (page 119) and, in honor of our own 20-year anniversary which officially kicks off in March, we offer a look back at some of the top business stories which made headlines during the past two decades. See page 37.

This month, top young amateurs from all over the world will take to the local tee boxes to compete in the 2005 MCI Jr. Heritage. We list the talented golfers who made this year's cut on page 77.

Go Red for Women and have a Happy Valentine's Day!

*Ari Goodridge*



## Photographer Profile



Mark Staff's background as a commercial lifestyle photographer began shortly after attending Brigham Young University in Utah. To take his breathtaking wedding photos, Mark flies across the U.S. and Canada. Some of his corporate clients have included Nortel, Microsoft, Ianywhere, Sybase, Christie Digital Systems, MKS, RIM, Accutane, HSBC Bank, Liquid Snowboards and Subaru as well as fashion and celebrity clients. In addition to national and international magazines and advertising campaigns, his work has appeared in the pages of *Wedding Bells*, *Today's Bride* and other wedding publications. He shares the spotlight in our wedding section with his wife Lisa, also an accomplished photographer. Their work can be seen at [www.markstaffphotography.com](http://www.markstaffphotography.com).